Contribution of CEI to UN Agenda 2030 and its implementation in CEI Member States

BRIDGING
EUROPE
SINCE 1989

CEI
CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

This Study was requested by the CEI-Executive Secretariat.
It is composed of:

Part 1:   **Contribution of CEI to Agenda 2030**
            and implementation of SDGs
Authors: **Ingeborg Niestroy & Sally Nicholson,**
            Public Strategy for Sustainable Development

Part 2:   **SDG implementation in CEI Member States:**
            analysis of governance elements and recommended steps ahead
Authors: **Ingeborg Niestroy & Gaetane Charlier,**
            Public Strategy for Sustainable Development

Contribution of CEI to UN Agenda 2030 and implementation of SDGs

Table of contents

List of tables

List of Figures

Executive Summary

Introduction

Five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Secretary General has called for a decade of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals requiring action from all sectors. The Central European Initiative (CEI) has a key role as an important regional intergovernmental organisation with 17 Member States from EU and non-EU countries in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The CEI is already contributing to Agenda 2030 through its current Plan of Action and has committed to accelerating the integration of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in its work and strengthening relationships with the UN. To this end, in 2020, the CEI has commissioned this study to analyse the contribution of its activities to SDG implementation and to provide recommendations for future steps as it develops a new Plan of Action for 2021 onwards. Part 1 of the study provides an SDG mapping of the CEI activities between 2016 and 2019. Part 2 looks at the CEI Member States and presents an overview on the governance arrangements introduced for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The reviewed activities are categorised in: Institutional Activities, Cooperation Activities (financed out of the CEI Cooperation Fund, to which all Member States contribute), Technical Cooperation Programme and Know-how Exchange Programme (both funded by the CEI Fund at the EBRD) as well as EU-funded Projects on transnational and regional cooperation.

Methodology

An introductory workshop was held with the CEI-Executive Secretariat to heighten the understanding of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, followed by interviews and exchanges about the different types of projects and work areas.

Summaries of 307 activities between 2016-2019 were provided for review by the CEI. These were mapped, per type of activity, against the SDGs at target level in order to achieve the most accurate reflection of alignment. A quantitative analysis was then done at SDG goal level to get an overview of the spectrum of the CEI activities across the SDGs – without weighing according to the size of the project. Given the important principles of indivisibility and integration in Agenda 2030, the mapping was also analysed from the perspective of the numbers of SDGs to which a project contributed. For 15 of the EU projects a second round of "deeper dive" mapping was carried out for illustrative purposes: using the actual project proposals of these more complex

projects resulted in a more comprehensive picture of SDG coverage. Good practice projects were identified on the basis of the number of SDGs and the dimensions of sustainability addressed, assuming more synergy and coherence in these cases.

Findings: Overview of SDGs in CEI Activities

1. The mapping shows that the CEI activities 2016-2010 contributed to all of the SDGs.

2. CEI activities contribute to anywhere from one to eight SDGs (or in a few cases, none):

   » The largest numbers of activities (40%) contributed to SDG 17 Means of Implementation, followed by SDG 16 Governance and SDG 8 Economic Development and Jobs at 29% and 28% respectively.

   » Next in the ranking are SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (19%), SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation (18%) and SDG 10 Inequality (17%).

   » The middle range has SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production and SDG 4 Education (both 12%), followed by SDG 13 Climate (9%) and SDG 7 Energy (8%).

   » The weakest goals in terms of numbers of activities are SDG 3 Health (7%), SDG 1 Poverty (6%), SDG 2 Food and Agriculture (5%), SDG 14 Oceans (5%), SDG 15 Land Ecosystems (5%), SDG 6 Water (4%) and SDG 5 Gender (2%).

3. Although the CEI activities contribute to all of the SDGs, there is room for improvement in terms of current weight given to certain SDGs and consequently the lack of attention given to others. This has led to an imbalance in the overall contribution of the CEI to the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Highlights of Findings: SDGs in the different types of activities

Institutional Activities

Agenda 2030 and SDG implementation have been on the agenda of several Ministerial and Expert meetings resulting in commitments to strengthen their integration into the work of the CEI as well as the establishment of a permanent CEI mechanism at UN level to coordinate actions towards SDG

implementation. Discussions on Agenda 2030 did not feature, however, in the Inter-parliamentary or Economic meetings. Overall, the SDGs for Economic Development and Jobs, Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation, Governance and Means of Implementation were the most numerous.

Cooperation Activities

Contributions to SDGs were evident throughout the many Cooperation Activities mapped. Although usually small in size and duration, these activities present real potential for promoting SDG implementation through their flexibility, scalability, leverage and often innovative character. Of particular highlight was SDG 4 (Education) which was mapped more frequently for Cooperation Activities than any other type of activity, reflecting the organisation of many trainings, seminars, workshops and policy exchanges. On the other hand, environmental SDGs (6, 14, 15) were poorly reflected.

Technical Cooperation Programme

The SDGs most prevalent in the mapped TC activities were SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities, SDG 8 Economic Development and Jobs, SDG 12 Sustainable Production and Consumption, SDG 13 Climate Change and SDG 7 Energy. These fit the priorities of the CEI Fund at the EBRD. It is notable that the number of projects contributing to climate change has increased over time demonstrating the implications of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Know-how Exchange Programme

The overall picture shows that KEP activities contribute to all of the SDGs. Of particular highlight, while SDG 6 Water is poorly represented overall in the totality of the CEI activities, the KEP stands out with the largest proportion - 19% of KEP activities contribute to SDG 6. Means of Implementation (SDG 17) is also particularly strong amongst the KEP activities with their focus on knowledge transfer in science, technology and innovation as well as building partnerships for sustainable development.

EU-funded Projects

The largest number of SDGs covered are SDG 11 Sustainable Cities, SDG 17 Means of Implementation, SDG 8 Economic De-

velopment and Jobs and SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry & Innovation. The 11 projects contributing to SDG 11 Sustainable Cities comprise almost half of the total number of EU projects: the highest proportion of any other type of activity. For the most part, transport-related projects within SDG 8 and SDG 11 demonstrate a good spread across the three dimensions of sustainable development as they focus on public transport, intermodality and mobility.

EU-funded Projects - a "deeper dive"

Recognising the differences in size and complexity of the types of activities, a more detailed analysis for 15 EU-funded Projects was carried out using the actual approved application forms. Between one and seven additional SDG targets were identified for each of the projects resulting in an increase in the number of SDGs to which each project contributes and in many cases to a broader capture of all the dimensions of sustainable development.

Synergies: multiple goals and integration

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance to their realisation. Projects with multiple goals are considered to also better link different SDGs, and addressing the three sustainable development dimensions (environment, economic social) as important for integration.

The CEI activities which have contributed to four or more SDGs were selected as good examples and those which have contributed to five or more SDGs are described in more detail. Although the majority of activities contribute to one or two SDGs (205 in total), there are 60 activities contributing to three SDGs, 26 activities to four SDGs, 8 activities to five SDGs, 4 activities to six SDGs, 1 activity to seven SDGs and, at the top, 3 activities to eight SDGs. The EU-funded Projects with the "deeper dive" approach resulted in a few more SDGs addressed in these multiple goal categories.

As the CEI develops a new plan of work which is even more aligned with the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 there is a real opportunity to increase the number of activities contributing towards multiple goals.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the mapping, the analysis and staff interviews, the study provides a SWOT analysis of the CEI's readiness to mainstream the SDGs in its work, as well as recommendations to mainstream the SDGs in its five types of activities, for the work areas and a number of strategic recommendations.

In the SWOT analysis the number and weight of strength and opportunities clearly dominates over the weaknesses and threats. For the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs the CEI has a number of particular strengths, which could be enhanced to sharpen its profile (while the weaknesses should be tackled):

» **Governance:** working on governance as DNA and a core asset of the CEI could be shaped more explicitly for SDG governance

» **Transfer of knowledge:** the particular focus on means of implementation through projects which share and transfer knowledge and expertise

» **Network building:** identifying and connecting partners as strong asset for building cooperation, in particular in the East-West relation, due to long-standing experience in its geographical situation

» **Multi-level:** unique knowledge about countries provides first-hand knowledge about transferability of good practice and lessons learned in SDG implementation, and capacity to connect to the sub-national level strongly supports SDG implementation

» **Multi-actor and science-policy interface:** experienced in applied research, multi-actor settings, and science for policy, which could be sharpened for sustainable development

» **Multi-sector:** the CEI-Executive Secretariat already quite successful in working across silos and holistic thinking.

The 25 recommendations for the five types of activities show a lot of potential for each type to improve the mainstreaming of the SDGs.

The recommendations for the eight work areas are developed taking the model of the GSDR (2019) into account, with its six entry points for transformations and four levers. While these areas are defined for the EU projects only, they have been generating thematic expertise and capacity in the CEI-Executive Secretariat, and are hence interesting to be built upon. All areas have a

potential to be developed in a direction to serve transformations to sustainability, and these seem also feasible when taking other strategic considerations into account (like specific strengths of the CEI compared to others):

- » **Transport** as signature work area can be further sharpened to **sustainable mobility.**

- » **R&I and Energy & bioeconomy** would both best be developed to a profile on **circular economy.**

- » **Environmental** pr**otection** needs to be sharpened in general – best by making sure to mainstream environment in all activities (and in combination with circular economy, resource efficiency and alike).

- » **Social innovation** is an area essential for sustainability transformation and should be further geared in this direction, - including to pay more attention to the environmental dimension.

- » Similarly cross-cutting is **culture**, which could also be developed to a "unique selling point", when connecting it to sustainable development.

With respect to the CEI's strategy ahead, three opportunities and action areas can be distinguished, for which altogether more than 20 recommendations are developed:

1 > *Creating the strategic basis for mainstreaming SDGs in current and future activities*

2 > *Striving for organisational excellence: leadership, skills, training, learning and co-creation*

3 > *SDG-proofing of ongoing and already planned activities.*

List of abbreviations

ASGS .... Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (EU)
BSEC .... Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CBSS .... Council of the Baltic Sea States
CEI .... Central European Initiative
CSDS .... CEI Sustainable Development Strategy
DG .... Directorate General (EC)
DG RTD .... Directorate General for Research and Innovation (EC)
EBRD .... European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC .... European Commission
EEA......................... European Environment Agency
EGD .... European Green Deal
EU .... European Union
GIZ.......................... Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSDR...................... Global Sustainable Development Report
HDI .... Human Development Index (UN)
HLPF....................... High Level Political Forum (UN)
JRC.......................... Joint Research Centre (EC)
KEP......................... Know-how Exchange Programme
MAPS...................... Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (UN)
MFA .... Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoI .... Means of Implementation
MSME..................... Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
OECD...................... Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PoA .... Plan of Action (CEI)
PPP......................... Public Private Partnership
R&I.......................... Research and Innovation
RIA.......................... Rapid Integrated Assessment (UN)
RIO .... Regional International Organisation
SCP......................... Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG .... Sustainable Development Goal
SIGMA .... Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (OECD)
SME .... Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SWOT .... Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis
TAIEX .... Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (EU)
TC .... Technical Cooperation
UfM......................... Union for the Mediterranean
UN .... United Nations
UN DESA .... United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP...................... United Nations Development Programme
UNECE.................... United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP .... United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO................. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNITAR................... United Nations Institute for Training and Research
VNR .... Voluntary National Review
WHO....................... World Health Organisation
WWF....................... World Wide Fund for Nature

1

Introduction

1.1 Setting the scene

We are at an important moment in time with regard to making our countries sustainable. Five years after the adoption in September 2015 of the UN Agenda 2030, there are only ten years left. In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilise for a decade of action on three levels: global action to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals; local action embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities; and people action, including youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations.[1] At the same time, the world is facing a global health crisis unlike any other. COVID-19 could either delay the SDGs or be a reason to accelerate and make us more resilient to such pandemics. The UN and the EU have left no doubt: investment in the recovery of national economies after COVID-19 should not weaken but strengthen the pathways to a sustainable 2030.

What could the role of the Central European Initiative (CEI) on this joint road to 2030 be? As an intergovernmental forum for regional cooperation with 17 Member States (MS)* of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe since 1989, the CEI could become an example and accelerator of SDG mainstreaming in its 17 countries, by integrating the SDGs in an ambitious way in all activities.

Republic of Albania, Republic of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italian Republic, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Poland, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia and Ukraine. [3]

The CEI is already contributing to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and is committed to integrating it further in its activities and instruments. To show-case the commitments, the Executive Secretariat and the Italian Presidency 2019 of the CEI organised a side-event at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2019 and reported about the CEI objectives and activities contributing to the focus of SDGs of 2019.[2] The CEI MS had also beforehand presented joint views on the SDGs during past UN summits.

Commitments are an essential beginning, but the proof of the pudding is in the implementation. The CEI-Executive Secretariat and the Italian Presidency had the ambition to expand and deepen the involvement of the CEI in the SDGs by mainstreaming them in the strategy and activities of the Organisation.

---

1   https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action
2   https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=1857&menu=3170;
    Report on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16
3   As stated in the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure.

When commissioning this study, the Secretariat considered that taking into account the CEI activities at UN level - and even more the joint activities, programmes and projects, as well as the activities of its MS in support of the common goals of the CEI - a more systematic look into the mainstreaming Agenda 2030 within the activities of the Organisation would be useful for its future development.

This study comes at a time when the CEI is developing its new Plan of Action as of 2021. It analyses how Agenda 2030 had already been taken up in actions under the current Plan of Action 2018-2020 and it gives recommendations about further mainstreaming. This is the subject of Part 1 of the study.

For the Italian CEI Presidency 2019, enhancing the activities of the Organisation within the UN, with Agenda 2030 being considered of particular relevance was a key priority. This dedicated study on the contribution of the CEI to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and its SDGs is building on previous activities of the Italian CEI Presidency and earlier MFA meetings, and can be considered as a follow up to the side event in New York. The current Montenegrin CEI Presidency is also very committed to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, inter alia, reflected in its Voluntary National Review (VNR) as early as 2016 (see Part 2), and fully supports the idea of a stronger connection between the CEI's objectives and activities, and the 2030 Agenda.

Given the interlinkages between the activities of the CEI and its MS towards the attainment of Agenda 2030, it is furthermore considered useful to get an overview of SDG implementation efforts of its MS (i.e. at national level). The study of the European Parliament from February 2019 on SDG implementation in all 28 EU MS is deemed as a valuable role model (Europe's approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: Good practices and the way forward[4]). The study is currently the main reference for the EU MS with respect to governance for SDG implementation[5].

Such a stock-taking and preliminary analysis, which is the subject of Part 2 of this study, also matches the UN's work on the overviews of all VNRs delivered so far (last published in March 2020[6]), and to conduct further work on the approach for the VNRs. It will likely be welcomed if regional organisations such as the CEI contribute to this with analyses as the one in Part 2, thus contributing to the overall efforts of improving the governance of implementation in MS and the monitoring thereof.

4   https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EXPO_STU%282019%29603473
5   Next to the country profiles on the ESDN website, which are updated occasionally
6   https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25839Compendium_of_National_Institutional_Arrangements.pdf

Both Parts are meant to present the state-of-play and, through developing recommendations, enhance internal collaboration among CEI members and activities as to Agenda 2030 is concerned. In an EU perspective, this might also contribute to the accession process of the countries with a candidate status or working for a candidate status, as well as to the rapprochement to the EU for countries not in the accession process. In this context, the study is also timely.

In December 2019, the new European Commission took office with the presentation, within two weeks, of the European Green Deal (EGD)[7] – an ambitious policy programme which connects environmental, social and economic objectives and is the no. 1 priority of the new Commission. The European Green Deal is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use." (Green Deal, 2019: 1). The Green Deal is an integral part of this Commission's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals (Green Deal, 2019: 2), and the aim is to put the sustainable development goals at the heart of the EU's policymaking and action (Green Deal, 2019:3).

One week later, on 17 December, the Commission adopted the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS) 2020[8]. This document is the first step of the European Semester: the annual cycle for economic coordination in the EU. The ASGS states that Economic growth is not an end in itself. An economy must work for the people and the planet (ASGS, 2020: 2). The new growth model should respect the limitations on our natural resources and ensure job creation and lasting prosperity for the future.

Refocusing the European Semester into an instrument that integrates the SDGs is one of the key measures of the Commission to follow their commitment, next to tasking each Commissioner to ensure the delivery of the SDGs within their policy area. Against this background the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi, addressed the CEI summit on European integration, regional cooperation and business opportunities just days later in Rome, on 19 December 2019, referring to the CEI:

7   COM (2019) 640 final
8   COM (2019) 650 final

> *The Central European Initiative is one of the best examples of regional cooperation, addressing themes such as economic development, interconnected transport networks, knowledge-based society and civil society - all of which are key to our work.* **He also pointed at some important challenges:** *as regards stronger governance, there is more to do, especially on rule of law, fight against corruption and the role of independent media and civil society. Further progress in these areas is crucial as it is the only way to create jobs, growth and opportunities for all.*

The strong EU commitment to Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be seen as an important support to all CEI countries, who had already signed up to the SDGs at the September 2015 United Nations summit. The new EU approach makes the analysis and recommendations in this study report even more topical and should be welcomed as support for the objective to mainstream the SDGs fully in the activities of the CEI. In an EU perspective, this might also contribute to the accession process of the countries with a candidate status and working for a candidate status, as well as to the rapprochement to the EU for countries not in the accession process. In this context, the study is also timely.

The study also clearly supports the aim of CEI to collaborate more systematically with the UN. The CEI holds the status of observer at the UN General Assembly by Resolution 66/111. The study is in line with the emphasis expressed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CEI MS, who gathered in Trieste on 12 June 2019, on the importance of strengthening relations between the CEI and the UN, based on the above-mentioned observer status at the UN General Assembly. Moreover, the study supports the Ministers in charge of Science and Research of the MS of the CEI, who gathered in Trieste on 13 December 2019, for *a stronger connection with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while welcoming the presentation of the CEI at the margins of the High Level Political Forum (New York, 17 July 2019) as a valuable step.*

The important role of CEI as a regional organisation promoting

cross-collaboration, transfer of experience and good practice be-tween EU and non-EU MS[9] is emphasised in paragraph 65 of the 2030 Agenda: *We recognise that middle-income countries still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development. In order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination, and better and focused support of the UN Development System, the international financial institutions, regional organisations and other stakehold-ers.*

1.2 Objectives and scope of the study

The overall aim of the study is to attain an overview of the con-tribution of the CEI to Agenda 2030 and the implementation of the SDGs as well as to develop recommendations for further im-provement. The core objectives are twofold:

1 > *to present a state of play of the contribution of the CEI in its own activities and develop recommendations for the CEI-Executive Secretariat (Part 1);*

2 > *to present a detailed but aggregated overview on the governance aspects related to the SDG implementation in the CEI Member States (MS), i.e. how the CEI MS have integrated the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs into their strategies and institutional arrangements, aggregated in country profiles for each CEI MS (Part 2).*

In order to achieve these objectives of Part 1, we studied relevant CEI documents such as the current Plan of Action and Annual Reports. We analysed the activities, programmes and projects of the past years, and mapped them with the SDGs (at target level), also according to the different types of activities and funding streams. The analysis is presented, on the one hand, with the perspective of all SDGs (section 3.1) and, on the other, per type of CEI activity (section 3.2). Furthermore, through the mapping we were able to point to activities with synergistic effects as well as missed opportunities (section 3.3) - filling this gap brought us a step closer towards a future effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The ultimate goal of Part 2 is that this structured and condensed information establishes a common knowledge base for future

---

9   The non-EU CEI Member States are considered middle income countries (OECD DAC).

cooperation. With this, it links back to the recommendations of Part 1 for the steps ahead, as - for future collaboration on Agenda 2030 - the implementation will follow the functioning of the CEI and consider both supply and demand aspects. On the supply side, the mission of the CEI is to support its MS, hence also in the SDG implementation. It can do this in a better way if there is a better common information basis on SDG implementation, and if there is a work programme of the CEI-Executive Secretariat that has the 2030 Agenda well anchored and mainstreamed. Member States might demand and/or welcome such support. Further details on the country-specific methodology can be found in the introduction to the country sheets (Part 2, Chapter 1).

Scope of the study

Part 1 of the study provides a mapping of CEI activities against SDG targets from 2016 until 2019 (including some projects approved in 2019 but not yet started or finished). The empirical basis for the CEI activities was a short description of the activities provided by the CEI - Executive Secretariat, which had roughly the same length for all projects (about 10 lines), independent of the type of activities, different in size. Due to the given scope of the study, it was necessary to stay at such a level of analytical granularity. A wider scope of the study would have allowed differentiating between different sizes of projects, which would have increased the complexity of the analysis. In order to test and illustrate the difference, at a later stage one "deeper dive" exercise was performed for some EU-funded Projects, using as a basis a more detailed project description (see section 3.2.5). However, the approach was appropriate for the main purpose of the study to get an overview on the spectrum of CEI activities across the SDGs.

The mapping was done at SDG target level in order to achieve the most accurate reflection of alignment. Looking at the SDGs as topics or themes is just too coarse and results in a 'catch-all' picture. For the main purpose of the study, to get an overview on the spectrum of CEI activities across the SDGs, the quantitative analysis then was done at SDG goal level.

In order to increase the understanding of the different CEI activities, interviews were conducted with the staff of the CEI-Executive Secretariat. A basis for this exchange was created through an introductory workshop on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which also served as capacity building in light of the plans for better mainstreaming of the SDGs in the CEI programming, design and management of projects.

1.3 Overview: CEI's mission, structure, PoA, types of activities

Mission and membership

Founded in Budapest in 1989, the Central European Initiative (CEI) is a regional intergovernmental forum designed to support European integration and sustainable development as well as foster cooperation among its Member States[10] and with the European Union, other international and regional organisations, public institutions and civil society. It combines multilateral diplomacy and fund, programme and project management as both donor and recipient. [11]

The 17 MS from Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe comprise both EU countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and non-EU countries (Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine), of which 4 candidate countries, 1 potential candidate country and 3 countries covered under the European Neighbourhood Policy. The CEI-Executive Secretariat is based in Trieste, Italy.

Strategic Goals

The strategic goals of CEI are described as the following:[12]

» a united Europe without dividing lines, with shared values embracing all countries, regions, peoples and citizens;

» strong capacities of MS towards good governance, rule of law and sustainable economic development for stability, social cohesion, security and prosperity.

through

» people-to-people mobility in the framework of short-term activities such as seminars workshops and trainings;

» capacity building and best-practice transfer from institutions in CEI-EU countries to benefit recipients in non-EU CEI MS;

» technical support for investment projects in CEI non-EU MS;

» implementation of EU-funded projects focusing on transnational and regional cooperation.

10   CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure
11   https://www.cei.int/about-us
12   https://www.cei.int/about-us

Structure

The CEI promotes cooperation through three dimensions:

At the intergovernmental level, the Heads of Government of the CEI MS meet annually at the CEI Summit and take decisions on, inter-alia, the political and economic orientation of the cooperation, the principles and objectives, and furthermore adopt the Plan of Action. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs also meet annually to take decisions on political cooperation, organisational and operational structures, budgetary matters, approval of the Annual Report and participation in CEI activities. The Committee of National Coordinators is responsible for the definition, co-ordination, management and implementation of CEI cooperation as well as the implementation of CEI projects through the relevant structures. The CEI Presidency rotates annually.

For the inter-parliamentary dimension, there are three bodies through which the CEI representatives of national Parliaments are meeting and cooperating: the Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Committee and the three General Committees (on Political and Home Affairs; on Economic Affairs; on Cultural Affairs). The chair of the Parliamentary Dimension rotates according to the annual Presidency.

The Economic Dimension promotes economic cooperation and active participation of the business communities through its own structures. This dimension largely consists of meetings with the Chambers of Commerce of the CEI MS and an annual CEI Economic Forum convened by the Presidency.

Plan of Action 2018 – 2020

The goals and sub-goals (objectives) of the current CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020[13] are organised under two overarching strategic objectives: Connectivity and Diversity. Within these, there is set of six goals and 19 objectives (see Table 1). The next Plan of Action, as of 2021, is currently being elaborated.

Type of activities

The different types of activities carried out by the CEI are described as Institutional Activities, Cooperation Activities, Know-how Exchange Programme, Technical Cooperation Programme, EU-funded Projects.[14]

---

13   https://www.cei.int/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/PoA%202018-2020%20FINAL%20web.pdf

14   The Information on the different types of activities is based on:
     CEI website, CEI Plan of Action 2018-2020, Annual Report of the Secretary General 2019, Annual Report of the CEI Fund at the EBRD 2019

Institutional Activities provide a peer-to-peer environment to address transnational governance, removing obstacles and barriers to integration. They contribute to strengthening the political, economic and social systems of the CEI MS. There are three main dimensions - intergovernmental meetings, inter-parliamentary assemblies and business or economic forums. These are described above (under Structure).

Cooperation Activities are projects of small scale and limited duration, which mainly take the form of seminars, workshops, short training courses or other kinds of meetings, aimed at fostering mobility and people-to-people contacts in the CEI region, in particular of the non-EU CEI MS (Western Balkans and the three Eastern Partners – Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine). They are financed out of the CEI Cooperation Fund, to which all MS contribute, and are selected through annual calls for proposals.

The **Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)** co-finances projects and programmes focused on the transfer of know-how and best practices from EU to non-EU CEI MS. It operates through annual calls for proposals. The Programme's objectives are to promote the alignment of CEI MS to EU standards, capacity building and transfer of good practices for the economic and social advancement of non-EU MS. The KEP priority areas are: European Integration, Capacity Building and Market Economy, Infrastructure Planning and Development, Agriculture, Energy, and Environment.

The **Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme** offers grant-type assistance to specific components of investments and operations of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), such as feasibility studies, project implementation, management training, capacity building. The priority areas include agribusiness, business and finance, energy, institutional development, municipal infrastructure and services, support to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and transport.

The KEP and the TC Programme are both funded by the CEI Fund at the EBRD, financed by the Italian Government.

EU-funded Projects: The CEI-Executive Secretariat collaborates in the design, management and implementation of projects co-financed by the European Union under its sectoral, structural and external programmes. The CEI may take the lead or may take the role of a partner in these projects. EU co-financed projects represent a major tool for attaining the goals outlined in the CEI Plan of Action and to fulfil the CEI core mission of promoting "regional cooperation for European integration and sustainable development"[15].

15 https://www.cei.int/about-us

Table 1:
Goals and objectives of the CEI Plan of Action 2018 - 2020

CONNECTIVITY

Goal 1
GOOD GOVERNANCE

1.1 Processing and exchanging experience on large scale migration
1.2 E-government solutions
1.3 Strengthening institutional capacity, promoting anti-corruption and open data

Goal 2
ECONOMIC GROWTH

2.1 Strengthening transport networks
2.2 Improving research and innovation systems
2.3 Transition to circular and bio-economy and promoting blue growth
2.4 Strengthening rural and area-based development

Goal 3
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

3.1 Fostering adaptation to climate change
3.2 Promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency
3.3 Preserving natural capital, especially biodiversity

DIVERSITY

Goal 4
INTERCULTURAL COOPERATION

4.1 Intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity
4.2 Safeguarding cultural heritage and supporting creative industries
4.3 Fostering cultural diplomacy
4.4 Improving social integration of people from groups at risk of exclusion

Goal 5
MEDIA FREEDOM

5.1 Media pluralism, transparency and independence
5.2 Enhancing quality journalism

Goal 6
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION/ EDUCATION AND TRAINING

6.1 International scientific cooperation and science diplomacy

1.4 Agenda 2030: from principles to mainstreaming

At the time of writing this report, the world is facing a global health crisis unlike any other. COVID-19 is spreading human suffering, destabilising the global economy, exacerbating inequalities and shaking the lives of most people around the globe – and in the CEI Member States (MS) as well. It has become very clear that to deal with this crisis and to plan and implement recovery measures, we need integrated, comprehensive policies, programmes and projects. Instead of short-term oriented, these should be focused on achieving the SDGs by 2030. Only then would post-COVID recovery result in societies and economies which are more resilient to future pandemics and other disasters.

Achieving the SDGs should be inspired by a small number of principles and through mainstreaming the Goals into the work of public sector organisations.

Principles & SDGs

Agenda 2030 is a holistic policy programme that covers the range of human activity and addresses the greatest challenges of our time in a coherent way, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 more concrete targets. The Agenda was agreed by all United Nations MS in September 2015.

Five guiding principles are steering the mainstreaming of Agenda 2030 in public and private policies and actions. The two most important ones for mainstreaming it in CEI activities are universality and indivisibility (and thus the need for an integrated approach). In addition, shared responsibility, inclusiveness (leave no one behind) and accountability are cross-cutting principles (see Figure 1).

Universality is a key principle for the CEI activities. Agenda 2030 is about universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. It means that the SDGs apply to all countries – unlike the Millennium Development Goals which focused on developing countries. Each member country has to attain the same goals, but it has to be recognised that countries have different starting points. This applies to policies but also to governance – how to achieve the goals – where "common but differentiated governance"[16] could be the recommended implementation principle.

16   Meuleman & Niestroy (2015): Common but differentiated governance. A metagovernance approach to make the SDGs work.
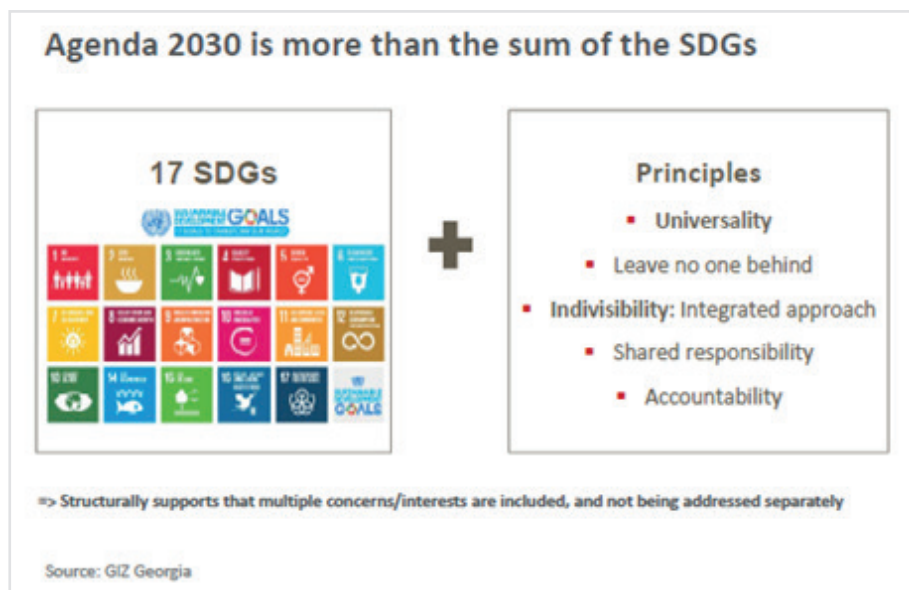
The fact that countries have different starting points and trajectories can be illustrated with a graph (Figure 2) which combines the Human Development Index (HDI) with the ecological footprint. In the 2019 UN Global Sustainability Report, a similar concept was used, with "Planetary boundaries overstepped" and "Social targets achieved" as the axes.

The integration principle is probably the most important for the mainstreaming of the SDGs in the activities of the CEI as an intergovernmental platform. The SDGs and their targets are designed to be indivisible: they cannot be seen in isolation but only as a whole. Global challenges such as climate change, the eradication of hunger, and ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being are closely interwoven. The 2030 Agenda attaches great importance to ensuring that the social, economic and ecological dimensions of sustainability go hand-in-hand and that they are not weighed against each other.[17] This means working towards synergies and making trade-offs transparent, for example between climate action and economic growth. No goals or targets must be pursued at the expense of another. No goals or targets should be singled out when considering the SDGs in the context of analysing, assessing or designing a programme of actions – but they may have a different relevance depending on the scope and function of an organisation or institution.

17   See, for example, how the development cooperation agency GIZ is addressing an 'integrated approach

Figure 2:
Agenda 2030 principles:
Universality – SDGs as framework
for the different pathways

(Niestroy (2016), after Global Footprint Network (online data, and provided), graph: WWF, UNDP)
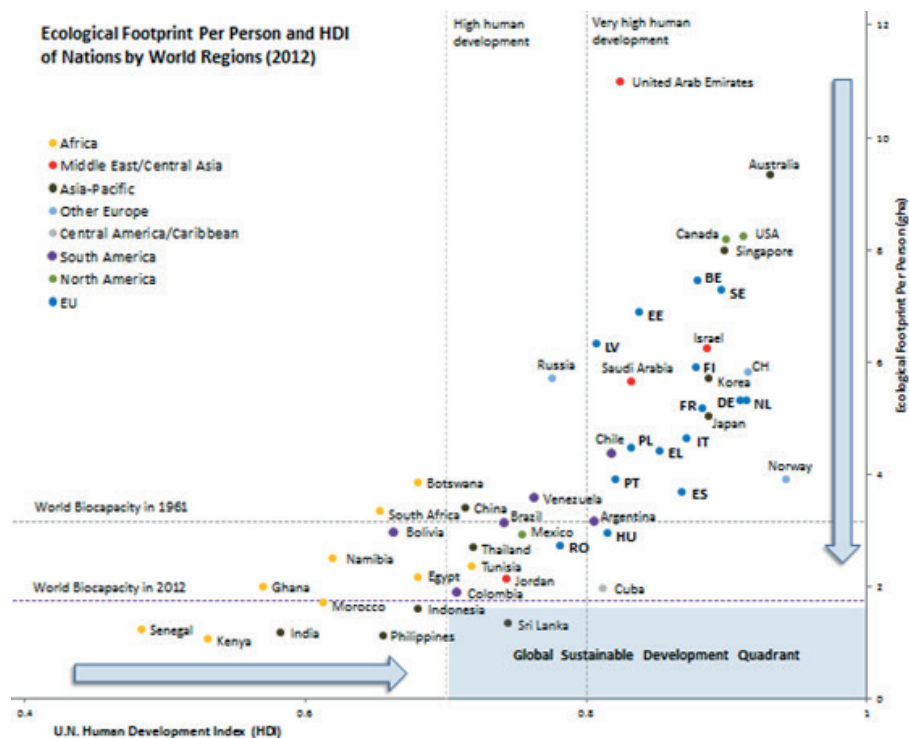
The indivisibility of the SDGs is well illustrated with the graph in Figure 3, which is a simplification of a more complex reality. Cross-cutting issues such as education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5) and inequality (SDG 10) have links to all other Goals. But the linkages also help to illustrate that without decent jobs (SDG 8) even an economy fully based on sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12) is still not sustainable; or that a focus on food production without considering water, energy, ecosystems, pollution, health, gender and decent jobs is not a sustainable option.

Beyond this simplified structure, there are other models that address the connection between the SDGs, showing that they require system thinking (Figure 4).
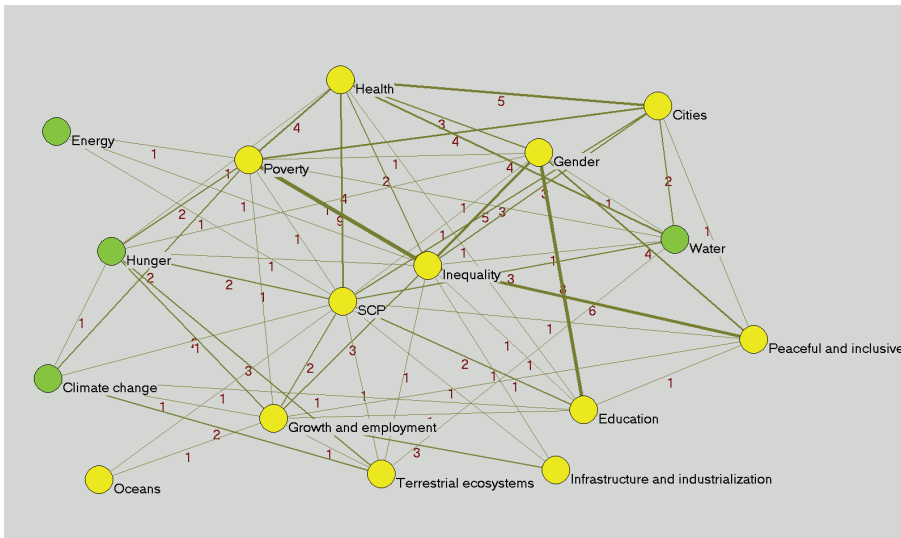
Figure 3:
The SDGs as a network of targets
(Le Blanc, 2015)
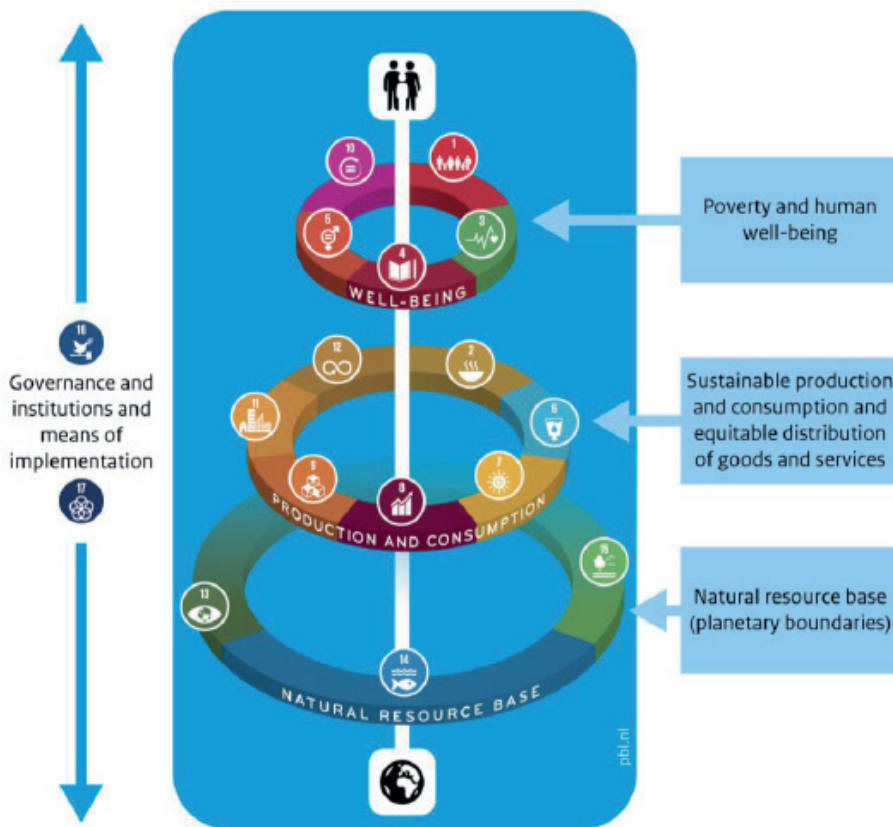
Figure 4:
Framework for clustering
the SDGs (see PBL (2018),
Niestroy (2016), based on
Waage et al. (2015), as well
as Folke et al. (2016))

The SDGs balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, people, planet and prosperity, supported by peace and justice and partnerships (Figure 5).

Any clustering of the SDGs is only a rough indication: the individual goals have targets that go across the different dimensions. The targets per Goal are numbered – but at the end 1-3 targets are marked with a, b, c: these targets make the connection with the means of implementation put together in SDG 17.

Mainstreaming

One of the most important strategies for the implementation of the SDGs is "mainstreaming": the integration of the SDGs into all policies and actions of governments, regional intergovernmental platforms, business and civil society. There is no one-size-fits-all method or tool to mainstream the SDGs. For the CEI, mainstreaming is about integrating the SDGs where possible into the programmes and activities. This is not the same as mainstreaming at national level, where e.g. mainstreaming in (new) legislation is part of the work. However, much can still be learned from tools for SDG mainstreaming which are designed for national governments and the UN system.

Mainstreaming is the first of the three steps of the MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) approach which the UN developed in 2015 for the implementation of the SDGs in the whole UN system[19], and for their support to national and subna-

---

18   Dept. of the Chancellery & Public Governance, Flanders (2019): SDG Manual for government organisations.
19   UN Sustainable Development Group (2015)

tional implementation efforts. MAPS has been one of the earliest attempts to facilitate coherent, integrated UN support to countries in pursuing the SDGs. An online database shows the activities of all UN bodies on mainstreaming the SDGs in their work.[20]
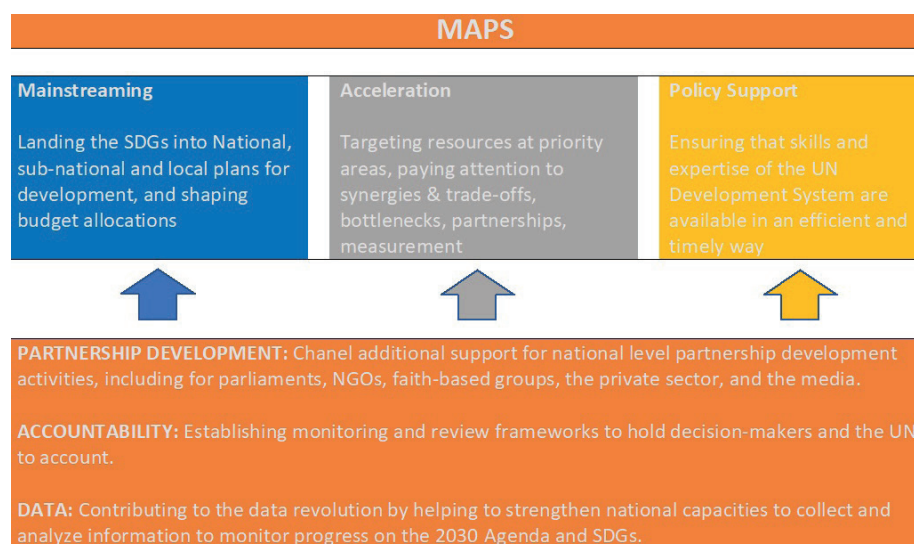
Figure 6:
The MAPS approach

The UN has also designed a 'Rapid Integrated Assessment' tool (RIA) to help the mainstreaming of the SDGs in national and local plans (see example in Figure 7). RIA consists of four steps[21]:

» **Step 1**
Technical analysis of the relevance of the SDGs (goals and targets) for the country at national and subnational levels

» **Step 2**
Understanding options for applying an integrated approach

» **Step 3**
Assessing existing SDG monitoring capacity

» **Step 4**
Developing an SDG Profile (national or subnational)

20   UN system SDG implementation
21   UNDP (2017)

Figure 7:
Example of the use of a RIA template: RIA SDG Alignment for Guyana (2017).

Another relevant report for mainstreaming is the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). It presents four 'levers' and six 'entry points' for the big transformations that are needed to achieve Agenda 2030 (Figure 8).
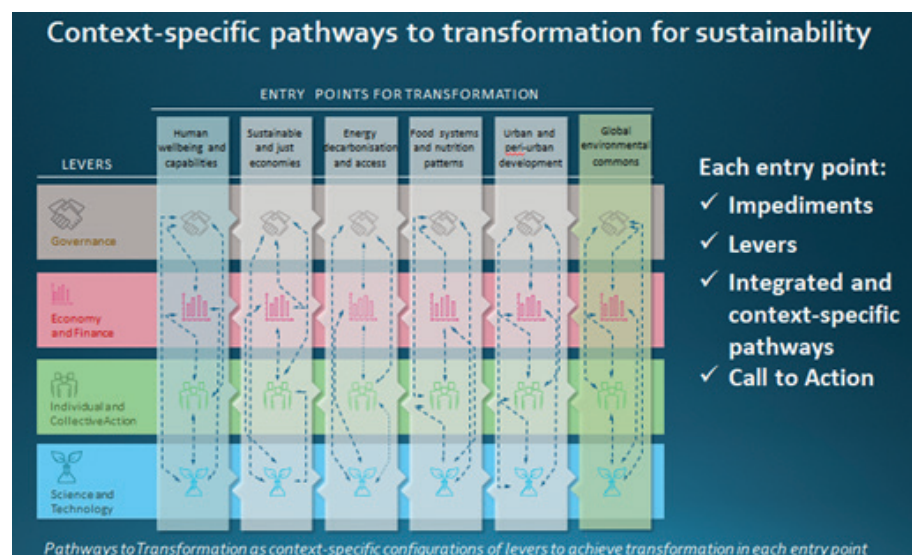
Figure 8:
Methods and tools to support SDG implementation: Levers and entry points (GSDR 2019)

The UN is not the only organisation mainstreaming the SDGs in all its work. The new European Commission, who took office in December 2019, has also put the SDGs "at the heart of the EU's policymaking and action". The Commission states in the European Green Deal that the SDGs "will guide our work across all sectors, both in our internal and external action, and will show our

commitment to sustainable development at home and abroad." Moreover, the Green Deal is the EU's "new growth strategy". This is an important opportunity for the CEI's ambition to step up the mainstreaming of the SDGs in its activities. The European Green Deal announces a series of concrete strategies and plans, some of which have already been published and others will be issued in the course of 2020, and a few in 2021 (see Figure 9).
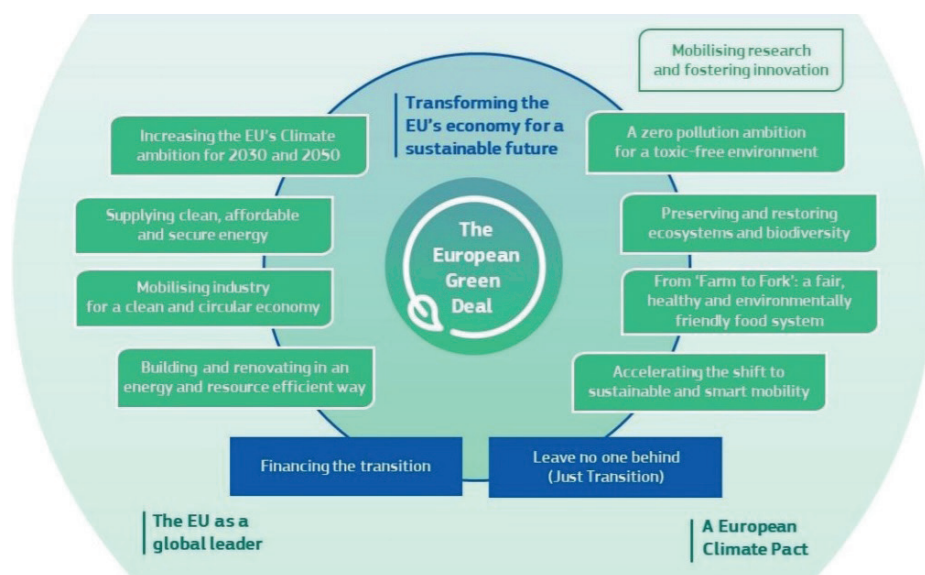
Figure 9:
The European Green Deal.

1.5 SDG implementation in other Intergovernmental Regional Organisations

A brief study of the approach to the 2030 Agenda by three comparable intergovernmental regional organisations was made based on information available on their websites. These are the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), organisations with whom the CEI has been cooperating. In this brief analysis we looked at the kind of approach taken and what kind of activities have been undertaken in governance terms, i.e. how these organisations have integrated the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs into their strategies and institutional arrangements (using similar criteria to the country level analysis in Part 2).

The findings indicate that the Council of the Baltic Sea States has made the most progress in this respect, with a high-level commitment reflected in political statements, roadmap, implementation and monitoring plan as well as a dedicated expert group responsible for the follow-up. The Union for the Mediterranean has a political commitment and has mapped its work against the SDGs in its latest annual report. The Organisation for the Black

Sea Economic Cooperation has yet to make a dedicated effort to pursue SDG implementation.

This CEI study provides an excellent opportunity to exchange experience with the other Regional International Organisations on their SDG implementation efforts, also in the course of forthcoming meetings.

Further analysis would be recommendable on the EU Macro-Regional Strategies with respect to SDG mainstreaming and links to CEI activities, taking into account that the CEI membership bridges all existing EU Macro-Regional Strategies, having countries in common with EUSDR (12), EUSAIR (7), EUSALP (2) and EUSBR (1).

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) [22]

Members: EU MS, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, UK.

The Member States of the UfM have committed to contributing to the implementation of the SDGs in the region through their work, which is asserted in the Roadmap for Action 2017.[23] The UfM framework shall be used to better highlight the Euro-Mediterranean region's contributions to the global agenda and interlink Mediterranean regional action with the global Sustainable Development Goals, taking fully into account also the contribution that this work can make in addressing the current global challenges facing the region. The Roadmap does not provide a strategy or implementation plan to achieve this.

However, the UfM Annual Report for 2019[24] is organised around their contribution to the SDGs in relation to their own areas of work: Improving the Quality of Life and Responding to Basic Needs; Providing Equal and Fairer Opportunities; Enhancing Environmental and Climate Responsibility. Thus, a mapping of their contributions to the SDGs has been developed.

It is not known whether the UfM has a tool or plan for mainstreaming the SDGs in its work. If it exists it may be an internal document. The criteria and guidelines for project proposals do not specifically mention the SDGs – there is, however, a requirement under "cross-cutting" issues in the proposal template[25] to

22 https://ufm.org/
23 UfM (2017): Roadmap for Action
24 UfM (2019): Annual Report 2019,
25 https://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/how-to-submit-a-project/

indicate, where applicable, any linkages of the project objectives to the SDGs.

Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) [26]

Members: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden. The EU has a special status.

The Baltic 2030 Action Plan[27] adopted in 2017 presents a new, common vision and roadmap for sustainable development for the Baltic Sea Region applying the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in the macro-regional context. The priority focus areas are: Partnerships for Sustainable Development; Transition to a Sustainable Economy; Climate Action; Equality and Social Wellbeing for All; Creating Sustainable and Resilient Cities; Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All.

Implementation is done through six activation areas, or tools, which are: establishing a common vision and framework; stimulating private sector networking; promoting educational engagement; empowering civil society and addressing demographic shifts.

Monitoring takes place through assessment, both quantitative and qualitative, of how widely the plan is used and how many partnerships and initiatives are stimulated, but not by replacing national level monitoring of SDG implementation. An expert group on sustainable development comprised of ministries and agencies from Member States facilitates and supports macro-regional engagement in the 2030 Agenda and operationalisation of its goals and targets. To this end, there is also the Baltic Leadership Programme on the 2030 Agenda in place, as well as the Baltic 2030 Capacity-Building Programme - Localising the SDGs.[28] Inter alia workshops are conducted on localising the SDGs.[29]

The Project Support Facility Manual 2020-22[30] explains that proposals must address the priority areas of the CBSS but does not mention a requirement to address the 2030 Agenda or SDGs specifically.

26   https://www.cbss.org/

27   Baltic 2030 Action Plan: https://www.cbss.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Baltic-2030-AP-Final-approved-by-the-CBSS-Foreign-Ministers-20.06.2017.pdf *

28   https://cbss.org/our-work/sustainable-prosperous-region/sustainable-development/

29   The second one took place in May 2019

30   PSF Manua: https://www.cbss.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/PSF-Manual-2019.pdf *

this link was functioning when study was carried out

Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)[31]

Members: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.

There is little information to be found on the BSEC's approach to the SDGs. The Deputy Secretary General attended the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018[32], and a conference on the EU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda on the topic of Sustainable Development in the Black Sea region was held in Bucharest in May 2019[33], but no details of the outcome are noted.

The standard project application form[34] does not require any links to be made to the SDGs.

31   Black Sea Economic Cooperation Forum
32   Press release 1-2 March 2018
33   http://bsec-organization.org/events/7117conference-on-the-eu-strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda-in-the-black-sea
34   Project Development Fund

2

Methodology

Part 1 of the study examines the contribution of CEI to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in its own activities. The core objectives were to present a state-of-play of the CEI activities in relation to the SDGs and to develop recommendations for enhancing the SDG mainstreaming in future work programmes and the way of operating in general (Part 1). To do so, we mapped the CEI activities with the SDGs (at target level) and performed the analysis from different perspectives.

The work was conducted in the following three steps; the mapping of Step 1 is described in more detail further below:

Step 1   Desktop research

A. Overview: the relevant CEI activities, programmes and projects, as well as the CEI work programme (Plan of Action), including the activities on Agenda 2030 so far were studied, as well as the functioning of the organisation.

B. Mapping: the relevant CEI activities were mapped with the SDGs (at target level), taking into account completed, ongoing and planned projects and other activities, also in relation to the different funding streams (i.e. type of activity). To this end, the CEI - Executive Secretariat provided a list with short descriptions of these CEI activities, structured by type of activities. The descriptions had the same length for all types of activity, regardless of the size of the project. The information originally provided was updated and completed four times[35], and the mapping repeated, extended and/or adjusted accordingly. Further details of the mapping and analysis are provided below.

Step 2   Work at the CEI-Executive Secretariat (online, due to the Covid-19 restrictions)

A. Workshop: a 1/2 day workshop for all staff/programme managers was conducted with the objective to enhance the understanding of the principles of Agenda 2030 (universality, indivisibility, integrated approach, leave no one behind..) and the system of the SDGs (embedded areas, inter-connectedness ...), for awareness raising and capacity building: to improve the capacity for:

- Recognising in their own spheres of responsibility the relevance of the SDGs;

- Identifying inter-connectedness, synergies and trade-offs.

---

35   Original list amended with: additional cooperation activities 2016, an additional list of institutional activities, amendments to the EU-funded Projects delivered, additional KEP and TC Projects approved in 2019.

B. Interviews: 11 semi-structured interviews were conducted with programme staff and executive leadership, with the objective to gain more insights about the characteristics of the project/programme area:

- on SDG alignment and integration so far, using the preliminary mapping as basis;

- exploring future potentials for improved mainstreaming of the SDGs, synergies and trade-offs, as well as untapped areas and feasibility within the organisational structure.

C. Group meeting with CEI leadership and key programmme staff.

Step 3   Analysis and recommendations

A. Analysis of information gathered in Step 2 (workshop, interviews, group meeting): insights gained were used in the continued analysis of the mapping and for developing recommendations.

B. Continued mapping and analysis were performed:

- across the spectrum of SDGs and per individual SDG, as well as by type of activity; the SDG targets not addressed by CEI activities were also identified;

- good practice projects with synergies were identified as well as with missed opportunities, on the basis of the number of SDGs and the dimensions of sustainability addressed;

- a "deeper dive" in EU-funded Projects was performed, using a broader project description as empirical basis.

C. Recommendations were elaborated for a closer alignment between CEI activities and Agenda 2030 as possible, both for mainstreaming the SDGs in the five types of activities as well as strategic recommendations, also for the next work programme (Plan of Action).

D. A few other Regional International Organisations were briefly analysed with respect to their approaches for mainstreaming the SDGs.

Details on the mapping

The 307 activities were reviewed according to type: Institutional activities, Cooperation Activities, Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP), Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme, and EU-funded Projects. An additional 23 activities were not considered to be relevant to any of the SDG targets. Whenever a second

project was a continuation or extension of another, it was counted as one project only.

According to the project characteristics as described in section 1.3, the Cooperation Activities are the most abundant with 171 out of 307 mapped. The following Table shows the numbers of the CEI activities according to type:

	Number of CEI activities
Institutional Activities	46
Cooperation Activities	171
Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme	34
Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP)	32
EU-funded Projects	24
Total number of activities mapped	**307**

1. Empirical basis

Given the granularity of the study the empirical basis of the mapping could only be made up of short descriptions of the projects and activities. Weblinks had been included in many cases, but as they did not provide additional information, these could not be added to the empirical basis due to lack of consistency.

All activities were considered equally, i.e. in principle no difference was made according to the financial size or complexity. As the short project description can obviously not reflect the whole spectrum of a project, especially in the case of the more complex projects, there will be omissions of SDG targets they are in reality addressing. In order to illustrate the difference and to serve the more complex projects to some extent better, in a second round in the form of a "deeper dive" was performed for 15 of the 24 EU projects.

The project descriptions were delivered in a few steps: an initial list for illustration (December), revisions of the EU-funded Projects (March), an amended full list with Cooperation Activities of 2016 (which had not been previously included) as well as Institutional Activities added, and finally KEP and TC Projects added that were approved in 2019, but have not yet started.

2. Mapping at target level

The mapping was based on a strict interpretation of the SDGs at

target level. This is because the targets are, in most cases, quite specific and a review at target level provides the most accurate picture of alignment. Looking at the SDGs as "topics" or "themes" and mapping at that level would have provided less defined results. For example, an activity might be construed as "education" or "environment" but does not necessarily correspond to UN targets under goal 4 or goal 15. Or, there are many mentions of energy connectivity which do not relate directly to goal 7 energy targets but could be more broadly classified as "energy".

However, there were a few exceptions to the use of the target-level lens. In some cases, it was clear that an activity made an overall contribution to an SDG goal such as education or health and in these few cases, the overall goal number was attributed.

All mapped activities were reviewed a second time for consistency, for example, where activities such as trainings or youth parliaments are similar year on year, and to check all appropriate targets included.

The mapping captured either direct links to wording in SDG targets, or qualitative judgements were made as to whether the activity would make a concrete contribution to the SDGs. For example, a regional tourism entrepreneurship conference held in Serbia in 2018 did not specifically mention sustainable tourism topics but it was assumed that this was the case and, therefore, the relevant target on sustainable tourism (8.9) was included. Or, there were many mentions of activities to encourage infrastructure development. Although the descriptions did not include any mention of green investment, it was assumed that some sort of sustainability criteria would be included in any such new investment and, therefore, target 9.1 was allocated. However, in these cases, since there were no specific references to low carbon or environmental factors, a target on climate change (from goal 13) was not allocated. Some of the targets are identified with a letter (a, b, c) instead of a number and these are designated Means of Implementation targets specific to the SDG in question and in some cases these "a, b, c" targets are aimed to benefit developing countries. Nevertheless, whenever there were activities which matched these targets very well, it was decided to include them in the mapping where otherwise a contribution to an SDG might not have been recognised.

A review of all of the SDG targets was also undertaken to identify which targets are not (currently) covered by CEI activities.

3. Analysis at goal level

Having mapped each activity at target level to ensure accuracy,

the targets were then rolled up to goal level in order to establish the contributions of all the CEI activities to the SDGs, i.e. the end purpose of the study. For example, targets 8.3, 10.7 and 13.1 were counted as 8, 10 and 13 respectively.

The numbers of activities were counted for each goal. Each activity may contribute to more than one goal. Activities which contribute to one, two, three, four, five or more goals were noted. Where one activity contributes to several goals, in particular four or more, these are considered to be good examples of maximising synergies (see section 3.3).

The results are captured in tables and depicted in graphs: the results of the mapping per SDG (Table 2) and per type of activity (Table 4, 5, 6). The latter was feasible for those activities with a relatively smaller number of projects, namely for KEP, TC and EU-funded Projects. The outlier of the CEI actions in this respect are the Cooperation Activities, which are by far the most numerous (with 194 in total and 171 mapped; 23 projects could not be mapped against any targets).

3

Findings:
SDGs in CEI activities

The CEI has delivered an impressive number and range of activities during the period 2016-2019. This chapter presents the results of reviewing and mapping of 307 activities undertaken or planned by the CEI between 2016 and 2019 against the SDGs, in order to see whether and how they contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

The CEI Plan of Action (PoA) 2018-2020 lists its six goals as Good Governance, Economic Growth, Environmental Protection, Intercultural Cooperation, Media Freedom, Scientific Cooperation/ Education and Training. The goals and sub goals ("objectives") of the PoA represent a quite good spectrum of the SDGs and targets, according to an analysis performed by the CEI Secretariat[36], but it should be noted that CEI activities were not yet systematically linked to the objectives of the PoA in that first analysis, at least not in the information provided for the mapping in this report. However, based on this first view, the PoA can already be considered as relatively well aligned with the SDGs.

Five types of CEI activities were researched: Institutional Activities - as overarching actions supporting the three dimensions of the CEI and referring to the Plan of Action, as well as Cooperation Activities, Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects, the Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) Projects and the EU-funded Projects. Firstly, we will present an overview across all types of activities of the CEI (section 3.1) and then look at each type of activity (sections 3.2). In addition, a separate section on EU-funded Projects presents the results of a "deeper dive" of mapping and analysis. Section 3.3 reviews the activities contributing to multiple goals.

3.1 Overview of SDGs in CEI activities - Activities contributing to individual SDGs

The results of the mapping show that the CEI activities 2016-2019 contributed to all of the SDGs. Each CEI activity (of any type) may contribute to anything from one to eight SDGs (or in a few cases, none). Therefore, the total number of activities contributing to all SDGs in Figure 10 and Table 2 is higher than the 307 activities provided by the CEI for analysis in this study. As already addressed in section 2, the numbers of activities per type of activity do not equate to the financial size of an activity nor to its importance to the Organisation's strategy.

---

36   This document is available at the CEI-Executive Secretariat.
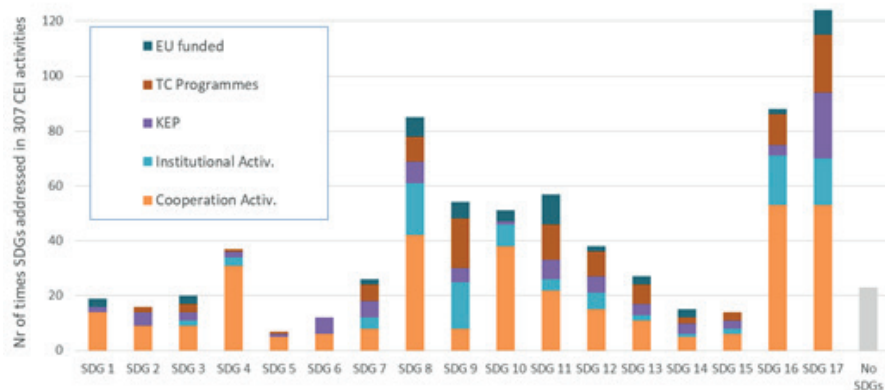
Figure 10:
Number of SDGs addressed in 307 CEI activities (2016-2019) per type of activity

When we rank the SDGs from the least to the most 'popular' in the CEI activities, the picture confirms what could have been expected (Figure 11): The two cross-cutting, 'enabling' SDGs 17 and 16 are clearly the most often identified, immediately followed by SDG 8 on economic development and job creation. In 8% of the activities, no contribution to the SDGs could be identified.

SDGs	CEI Type of Activity				
	Cooperation Activities	Institu-tional Activities	KEP	TC Programme	EU-funded Projects
SDG 1 Poverty	14	0	2	0	3
SDG 2 Food & Agriculture	9	0	5	2	0
SDG 3 Health	9	2	3	3	3
SDG 4 Education	31	3	2	1	0
SDG 5 Gender	5	0	1	1	0
SDG 6 Water	6	0	6	0	0
SDG 7 Energy	8	4	6	6	2
SDG 8 Economy & Jobs	42	19	8	9	7
SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry & Innovation	8	17	5	18	6
SDG 10 Inequality	38	8	1	0	4
SDG 11 Cities	22	4	7	13	11
SDG 12 Sust. Consumption & Production	15	6	6	9	2
SDG 13 Climate	11	2	4	7	3
SDG 14 Oceans	5	1	4	2	3
SDG 15 Land Ecosystems	6	2	3	3	0
SDG 16 Governance	53	18	4	11	2
SDG 17 Means of Implementation	53	17	24	21	9
No SDGs	23	0	0	0	0
total	**358**	**103**	**91**	**106**	**55**

Table 2:
Number of SDGs addressed by each group of CEI activities: detailed overview
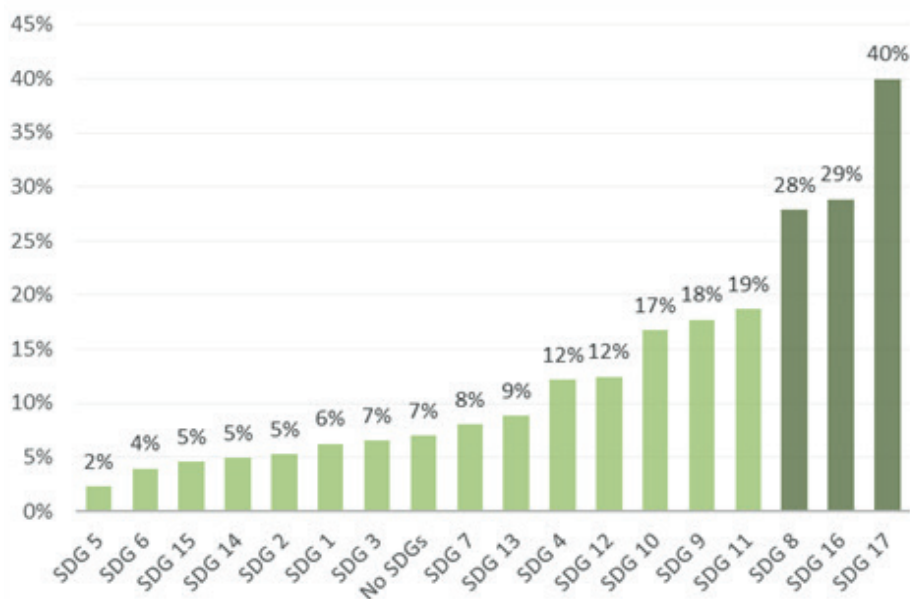
Highest range

Looking at the totality of activities (independent of type) it can be seen that the largest number of activities (124 or 40% of the 307 analysed actions) contributes towards the important SDG 17 Means of Implementation. This is understandable given the role of the CEI as a funder (of Cooperation, TC and KEP activities) and thus helping other organisations and entities to create and realise projects which contribute to sustainable development. SDG 17 covers a wide range of implementation measures, such as budgeting, technology, policy coherence and promoting partnerships for sustainable development. Partnerships are something which the CEI promotes throughout its work.

The second most frequent is SDG 16 Governance with 88 activities (around 29%) contributing towards this SDG. This is not unexpected because of the nature of the CEI as an intergovernmental organisation pursuing and promoting good practice in governance and the rule of law, providing training to public officials on governance topics on a regular basis and supporting youth parliaments. Moreover, Good Governance is the first of the six Goals of the CEI in the 2018-2020 Plan of Action (PoA).

The next SDG that recurs most often is SDG 8 Economy and Jobs (**85** activities or around 28%), which is almost as frequent as SDG 16. **SDG 8** is a broad SDG which includes targets on, among others, natural resource efficiency (8.4), decent work and equal pay for women and men, including youth and people with disabilities (8.5), forced labour (8.7) labour rights (8.8), sustainable tourism (8.9), and access to financial services (8.10). Thus, while a large number of the CEI's activities contribute to economic development and jobs, some of those activities are also addressing

aspects of equality, human rights and environmental sustainability (see SDGs as system of goals, section 1.4).

The following example illustrates how Targets of SDGs 8 have been integrated in CEI activities. The 2019 TC project *Increasing Market Opportunities for High-quality Food Product* contributes to SDG 8 Economic Development and Jobs through three Targets: Target 8.2 (economic productivity through diversification, technology and innovation), Target 8.3 (support to decent job creation, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises) and Target 8.6 (youth in employment and training). The same project also contributes to SDGs 2, 12 and 17.

Next in the ranking are SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (57 activities or 19%), SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation (54 activities or 18%) and SDG 10 Inequality with 50 activities (17%). As regards SDGs 11 and 9 these numbers are to be expected given the importance of economic development, employment and upgrading of infrastructure to many of the regions involved and the needs of those regions to improve the lives of their citizens through access to jobs, transport, energy, health and other services. The themes of SDGs 9 and 11 are, together with SDG 8, also given prominence in the CEI PoA where Goal 2 Economic Growth includes objectives on transport networks, research and innovation, rural and area-based development and a circular and bio-economy.
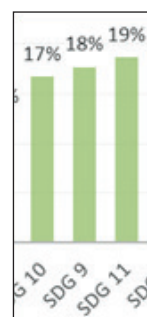
An example demonstrating the scope of SDG 11 Sustainable Cities is the 2017 Cooperation activity *Building more sustainable and green cities in Central Europe* (mapped against SDGs 11, as well as SDGs 6, 7, 13, 15 and 17). Within SDG 11, the activity contributes to three targets: 11.6 (air quality and waste management), 11.7 (universal access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces) and 11b (plans for climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience).

The high number of activities contributing to SDG 10 Inequality is because many of them contribute to Target 10.7 – the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. This comparatively high number is most likely due to the so-called migration crisis during the period covered by this study (2016 – 2019) and the attention paid to it by CEI member governments. Of course, it is also an objective (1.1) under the Governance goal in the current CEI Plan of Action.

In addition to the emphasis on migration in SDG Target 10.7, the CEI has supported some other valuable elements of this SDG, including the rights of ethnic minorities, disabled people, children and the elderly (Targets 10.2, 10.3, 10.4 and 10.5). Examples in-

clude the 2017 Cooperation Activity*: Mutual Learning Seminar for social and work integration of disadvantaged people, in particular people with mental, physical and psychosocial disabilities in CEI countries,* the 2017 Cooperation Activity*: Professional Standards in Media – Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities,* the 2016 Cooperation Activity *Gender sensitive labour migration policies: awareness raising in the Mediterranean region and Eastern Europe and the EU project Cooperating for Open Access to Museums – towards a wider inclusion (COME-IN!).*

More projects of this latter type, based on SDG 10, could be supported in the future to strengthen the human rights aspects of the CEI portfolio and link the portfolio to one of the key principles of the 2030 Agenda - as mentioned in previous chapters - to "leave no-one behind".

The social dimension features to some extent also in SDG 9 and SDG 11 in the form of affordable and equitable access to infrastructure (Target 9.1), resource-use efficiency (9.4), access to public transport (11.2), resilience to natural disasters (11.5) and green spaces (11.7).

Middle range

The middle range has SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) with 39 activities (12%). These are followed by SDG 4 Education with 37 activities (also 12%), SDG 13 Climate with 27 activities (9%) and SDG 7 Energy also with 26 activities (8%).

The fact that about 12% of the activities contribute to SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production is positive and an encouraging sign that environment and resource use are being given consideration, not quite hand in hand, but alongside activities which focus mainly on the economic dimension. SDG 12 includes targets to reduce waste and pollution, to achieve the sustainable and efficient management of natural resources, to promote sustainable public procurement and to encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices. It is a key SDG for industrialised countries to get on a sustainable pathway, and for low- and middle-income countries to help prevent them from developing in a resource intensive economy.

In terms of SDG 4 Education and Lifelong Learning, there is a particularly interesting target (4.7) on acquiring the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, cultural diversity, human rights, peace and global citizenship. The CEI activities include a few projects which were mapped against this target within the overall total of 37 SDG 4
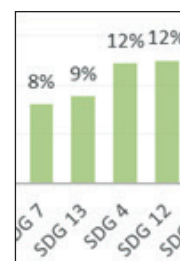
activities. For example, the 2018 Cooperation Activity: *Young Bled Strategic Forum BSF 2018 – Sustainable security: the role of youth in bridging the divide* and the Institutional activity in the form of the international conference on *Cultural Routes of the Olive Tree.* Along with the more traditional access to education and vocation skills activities it would be interesting to incorporate more of such education activities with a broad sustainability scope in the future planning of CEI activities on lifelong learning and in training objectives.

Activities which contribute to SDG 13 Climate equal 27, which is 9% of the total number of activities. This seems very low given the fact that climate change is already impacting on all aspects of life in the CEI region – just as elsewhere. Although only 27 activities are directly mapped to SDG 13, there are targets within other SDGs to support disaster risk reduction and resilience (targets 1.5, 11.5 and 11b within SDG 1 and SDG 11) and, therefore, relevant CEI activities are mapped to those SDGs. For example, the 2019 Cooperation Activity *Geosciences applied to solve humanitarian problems all over the world,* is mapped as contributing to target 1.5 which aims to reduce exposure of the poor and vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks.

It is interesting to note that the number of annual activities contributing to climate change has increased over the years as governments and others began to take action to implement the 2015 UNFCCC Paris Agreement. This was particularly evident in Technical Cooperation Activities.

26 Activities contribute to SDG 7 Energy, again a comparatively low figure. These include, however, many projects across all types of the CEI activities covering energy efficiency and renewable energy which of course will also have co-benefits in terms of addressing pollution, climate change, health and the economy. Examples include the 2016 Cooperation Activities *Modelling Energy: Macro-regional cooperation for a decarbonised future* and *Improving Energy Efficiency in SMEs* and the 2018 Institutional *Ministerial Conference on Energy Efficiency in Buildings.* However, during the mapping it was also noted that several of the activities which focused on different types of infrastructure and connectivity did not include aspects of decarbonisation. An example is the 2016 Institutional activity *Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on the subject of energy and transport infrastructure.*

The analysis shows that there is scope to do more with regard to climate and energy. The global climate crisis has such cross-cutting environmental, social and economic impacts that it would be desirable if every project or activity were viewed through a climate change lens. Climate change aspects deserve a place in

all activities which contribute to economic development, jobs, industrialisation and infrastructure; likewise, it would seem beneficial to include the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in all energy-related projects and programmes.

Lowest range

The weakest goals in terms of numbers of activities are SDG 3 Health with 20 (7%), SDG 1 Poverty with 19 (6%), SDG 2 Food and Agriculture with 16 activities (5%), SDG 14 Oceans (15; 5%) and SDG 15 Land Ecosystems (14; 5%), SDG 6 Water (12; 4%) and SDG 5 Gender (7; 2%).
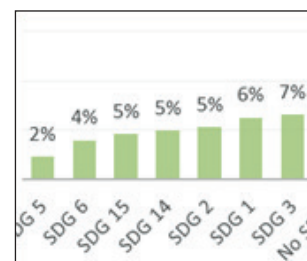
SDG 3 Health mainly features in the current PoA within e-government solutions (Objective 1.2) and support for social integration (Objective 4.4) but not as a higher-level objective. A number of Cooperation Activities contribute to SDG 3 in the form of e-health initiatives; an example is the 2018 *CEI–HECE Spring School on economic and management challenges for e-health integration in the enlarged Europe,* as well as the EU project *Digital Health Europe.* Other activities contribute to SDG 3 through the reduction of air pollution or road traffic accidents, for example the TC project *Albanian Railways assistance with civil society engagement.* The SDG mapping found the coverage of SDG 3 Health at 8.5% comparatively low although this is set to change in the near future with a new CEI call for proposals under the Cooperation Activities focused on some of the challenges Member States are facing from the COVID-19 pandemic. The provision of small grants will support initiatives in healthcare and telemedicine, education and e-learning and smart working in MSMEs, therefore already contributing to at least three SDGs. The 2017 Cooperation Activity: *Conference on problem-based learning for cooperation and knowledge transfer in emergency management on public health issues* will provide some useful learning on which to build.

SDG 2 Food and Agriculture does not feature highly in the CEI activities although agriculture is found in the PoA under Objective 2.4 Rural and Area-based development. An interesting 2019 Cooperation Activity under SDG 2 is *AgriDo – how to mitigate the impact of agricultural droughts in CEI countries* because it demonstrates the clear interlinkages with SDG 6 Water, SDG 13 Climate Change and SDG 17 Means of Implementation. Agriculture is an important economic activity for rural communities in the region, for employment including women and youth and equally important for food provision in urban areas. The publication of the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy by the European Commission

on 20.05.2020[37] in the context of the European Green Deal aims to begin a systemic change process to make food and agriculture more sustainable; the CEI could benefit from this momentum.

SDG 1 Poverty is covered by 21 activities and these mainly concern Targets 1.3 on social protection measures, 1.4 on rights and access to resources and services and 1.5 on resilience to environmental shocks. In the PoA, Objective 4.4 – improving social integration of people from groups at risk of exclusion in the most relevant objective. Examples of activities are the Cooperation Activities: *2019 Conference on Children left behind* and in 2018 *Fostering social inclusion and integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Western Balkan region and other CEI countries.* Both these activities are also relevant for, and mapped against, SDG 10 Equality.

Overall, SDGs 14 and 15 on ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater, along with SDG 6 Water, receive comparatively little attention in the activities mapped. This is somewhat surprising as there is a goal on environmental protection (Goal 3) in the PoA which includes the preservation of natural capital, especially biodiversity (3.3) as well as an objective on blue growth in Goal 2 (2.3). An example of an activity that addresses both coastal and terrestrial ecosystems is the 2018 KEP project *We4Nature & Nature4us: Enshrined Ecosystem Services based approach to local environmental management of Lower Nistru.* Another example is the 2019 KEP activity*: Promoting geological, ecological and cultural heritage through sustainable development and creation of geo-parks – GECCOSPARK.*

On the flipside, the Institutional activity – the CEI Business Forum in 2016 *Driving Forces and Perspectives for the Development of the CEI Wood Sector* seems an example of a missed opportunity to include dimensions of ecosystems, biodiversity and sustainable forest management amongst the largely economic objectives.

The 2030 Agenda recognises that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet's natural resources.[38] The whole region has some very important habitats and biodiversity and, therefore, more activities related to their conservation would bring benefits to many areas such as rural development, jobs, culture, tourism, climate mitigation, resilience to environmental disasters, health, wellbeing and agriculture. On the same day as the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy, the European Commission published an ambitious new Biodiversity

37 https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/f2f_action_plan_2020_strategy-info_en.pdf
38 UN GA 2015, para 33

Strategy[39]. Also here, the CEI might benefit from this political momentum when preparing its future activities.

Gender (SDG 5) is covered in very few activities, only seven out of 307 (or 2%). On the one hand it might well be that the only short descriptions of the activities do not capture gender elements, because they are of a cross-cutting nature. On the other hand, the CEI Plan of Action mentions gender briefly under Goal 4 – Intercultural Cooperation - but not as a higher-level objective, which is perhaps another reason why SDG 5 is poorly represented. Examples of activities under SDG 5 are the Cooperation Activities: *Second International Conference on Women in Energy (2018)* and *Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policies (2016).* Attention to gender-related aspects would be relevant to all of the activities the CEI chooses to support and likely to improve the outcomes to better align with the 2030 Agenda.[40]

Many targets not included in CEI activities are targets on means of implementation.

All SDGs can be identified when looking at the total of the CEI activities. Based on the mapping, there are **59** SDG targets not covered by CEI activities (Table 3).

SDGs		Total targets: 169	(126 in SDG set)	(43 in SDG set)		
SDG 1	Poverty	1.1, 1.2		1a	2	1
SDG 2	Food & agriculture	2.2		2b, 2c	1	2
SDG 3	Health & wellbeing	3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3.7		3a, 3b, 3c	4	3
SDG 4	Education			4a, 4b, 4c	0	3
SDG 5	Gender	5.2, 5.3, 5.6		5a	3	1
SDG 6	Water	6.1, 6.2			2	0
SDG 7	Energy				0	0
SDG 8	Economy & jobs	8.1		8a, 8b	1	2
SDG 9	Infrastr., industry & innov.	9.2		9a	1	1
SDG 10	Inequality	10.1, 10.5, 10.6		10a, 10b, 10c	3	3
SDG 11	Sustainable cities	11.1		11c	1	1
SDG 12	Consumption & production			12c	0	1
SDG 13	Climate			13a, 13b	0	2
SDG 14	Oceans	14.3, 14.4, 14.6		14b	3	1
SDG 15	Land ecosystems	15.6, 15.7, 15.8		15b, 15c	3	2
SDG 16	Governance	16.9			1	0
SDG 17	Means of implementation	17.2, 17.4, 17.5, 17.8, 17.11, 17.12, 17.13, 17.14, 17.15, 17.18, 17.19			11	0
	SDG targets not covered:	59			36	23
			% of targets not covered:		61%	39%
			% of target type (in SDG set):		29%	53%

Table 3:

Targets not covered in the mapping of 307 CEI activities

It should be noted that 38% of the targets not covered are identified with the letters a, b, or c and refer to aspects of means of

39   COM (2020) 380
40   UN GA 2015, para 20

implementation (MoI) of the individual SDG. Of the total of 169 targets, these MoI targets account for only 25%.

The targets not covered can be clustered in the following way.

I. Targets which rely on international agreements and action such as eliminating trade barriers, regulating global financial markets, developing a global strategy for youth unemployment.

II. Some targets designed to benefit developing and least developed countries and their inhabitants, e.g. Aid for Trade, scholarships, debt relief, development aid and climate finance, even though the action would also be relevant to some CEI activities.

III. Targets which do not fall under specific objectives (at present) of the CEI, e.g. sanitation, safe and affordable housing, violence against women and girls.

IV. Targets which might be politically sensitive for some member countries, e.g. sexual and reproductive health rights, fossil fuel subsidies.

V. A few targets which are certainly relevant for the CEI but are not, so far, covered by activities, e.g. reducing the costs of remittances, addressing overfishing, tackling poaching and wildlife trafficking, managing invasive species.

As well as some of the targets under (ii) as explained below, the targets included under iii), iv) and v) are all very relevant for the CEI and could be considered in future actions.

It should be noted that during the mapping exercise, some of the CEI activities were designated MoI targets primarily aimed at developing countries because the content was an exceptionally good match with the description of the activity. Thus, a little flexibility was allowed in order to recognise the particular contribution to an SDG of a CEI activity which otherwise would have gone unrecognised. Ten of the MoI targets were counted this way out of the 29 MoI targets aimed at developing countries and included in individual SDGS and in SDG 17. For example:

» *Fellowships in Sustainable Blue Growth (Coop)* was mapped against SDG target 14a: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries.

» *Support to small business initiatives in Belarus (TC)* was mapped against SDG target 12a: Support developing

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

» *Preserving Kotor Bay Montenegro (KEP)* was mapped against SDG target 6a: Expand international cooperation and capacity building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalinisation, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

3.2 Analysis of the five types of CEI activities

Of the total amount of activities mapped (307), Institutional Activities represent 15%, Cooperation Activities 56%, Technical Cooperation and Know-How Exchange 11% and 10% respectively, and EU-funded Projects 8%. No weighting was applied during the mapping, in other words, each individual activity was mapped against SDG targets in an identical way regardless of its size in terms of funding or duration or its importance in terms of political influence and the organisation's priorities. Percentage figures do not imply a greater or lesser value of the type of activity to the organisation, they are purely quantitative.

3.2.1 Institutional Activities

The activities mapped in this study highlight the value of the CEI's role in multilateral diplomacy and the promotion of political cooperation through its intergovernmental, inter-parliamentary and economic dimensions. Annual priorities for the intergovernmental meetings are decided by the Presidency in line with the CEI Plan of Action, taking into account actions from the previous Presidency and in close collaboration with the National Coordinators and the Secretariat.

The topics for the Inter-Parliamentary Dimension are chosen by the Committee and Assembly of the Parliamentary Dimension in coordination with the Presidency.

The CEI Economic Dimension mainly consists of meetings between the Chambers of Commerce of the CEI Member States and an annual CEI Economic Forum convened by the Presidency.

Specific topics may be featured such as energy efficiency, youth, migration, corruption, public health and science, or the agendas may be more wide ranging. The high-level and political nature of the meetings and their potential influence and impact gives

the institutional activities a critical role in intergovernmental action for SDG implementation.

Thirteen out of 17 SDGs feature in the Institutional Activities. The four SDGs not covered are SDG 1 Poverty, SDG 2 Food and Agriculture, SDG 5 Gender and SDG 6 Water. The most prevalent SDGs covered are SDG 8 Economy and Jobs (19), SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation (17), SDG 16 Governance (18) and SDG 17 Means of Implementation (17). These were followed by SDG 10 Equality (8), SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production (6) and SDG 7 Energy (4) and SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (4) and SDG 4 Education (3).

The SDGs to which the least number of institutional activities contributed are SDG 3 Health, SDG 13 Climate Change (2), SDG 15 Land Ecosystems (2) and SDG 14 Oceans (1).

Governance (SDG 16) and Means of Implementation (SDG 17) are high, which is a typical result for high level intergovernmental meetings where policy decisions are made. SDGs 8 and 9 are also high reflecting the number of agendas focusing on infrastructure, transport, connectivity, competitiveness, boosting the economy. However, there were also meetings on specific topics such as energy efficiency (SDG 7), migration (SDG 10), public health (SDG 3), youth employment and empowerment (SDG 8), sustainable tourism (SDG 8) and cultural underwater heritage (SDGs 11 and 14).

However, many of the Institutional activities are clustered around the economic dimensions of the SDGs, whereas the social and environment dimensions are weaker, in particular the latter. As noted in section 3.1 of this chapter, a number of meetings, most notably the Inter-Parliamentary meetings, focused on energy connectivity and infrastructure, but did not cover energy efficiency, renewable energy or decarbonisation. For example, the 2019 Parliamentary Assembly which discussed developing infrastructures for more competitive businesses in the CEI region, covered SDG9 Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation but could also have touched on the competitive advantages to business from sustainable production and working practices.

In terms of multiple SDGs, three activities contributed to four SDGs, one activity to five SDGs and one activity to six SDGs (see section 3.3). This latter is the Ministerial meeting on Science and Research 2019 which contributes to Education, Cities, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Climate, Governance and Means of Implementation (SDGs 4, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17).

Ministerial meeting on Science and Research (2019)

Ministers of higher education, research and innovation from the CEI MS adopted the Trieste Declaration on Science in December 2019 with a commitment to regional collaboration in science and technology to further sustainable development in the region. Actions include trainings, capacity building, cross-border cooperation on preventing and mitigating natural disasters and promoting sustainable development knowledge in education systems. The Ministers also agreed to set up a CEI Network on Science Diplomacy to take these issues further. This type of collaboration at intergovernmental level will boost the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

The 2030 Agenda was the topic of one Experts' Meeting organised by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016 looking at the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals and the future prospects for achieving the SDGs in the CEI region. It was concluded that *what was very important was to share experiences among countries and joint work, also in the framework of the CEI, to the Sustainable Agenda*. A side event at the UN High Level Political Forum in 2019 under the Italian Presidency of CEI focused on *The contribution of regional cooperation and partnerships to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: the experience of the Central European initiative (CEI)*. Also in New York in 2019, an informal meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the CEI MS took place where it was agreed to establish a permanent mechanism to coordinate actions at UN level towards SDG implementation. These three meetings demonstrate the commitment of the CEI to the 2030 Agenda and should provide the impetus for future discussions at Ministerial, Expert, Inter-Parliamentary and Business levels on experiences to date and to identify specific joint actions for the implementation of the SDGs.

Many Ministerial Meetings and Conferences have focused on knowledge sharing towards EU integration, building stronger partnerships and enhanced regional cooperation. Such meetings can form the basis for strengthening collaboration on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example, the MFA meeting held in Split in 2018 discussed strategies to further enhance the role of the CEI as a forum to promote political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation among the countries of the region as well as an instrument to support European integration and sustainable development. Meetings of this type help setting the stage for the CEI to become a hub of excellence on SDGs across all areas of collaboration.

3.2.2 Cooperation Activities

The activities financed by the Cooperation Fund are generally

small-sized projects, such as seminars, workshops, conferences, training courses, aimed at fostering mobility and people-to-people contacts in the CEI region, in particular of the non-EU CEI MS. Although small in terms of funding and duration, they nevertheless present very important channels for SDG implementation in terms of their flexibility, scalability, leverage and potential for innovation. Just a few examples are:

» *Going local – ground-up support for diversity, integration, social care of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants (2019);*

» *Advanced Training on Sustainable Blue Growth in the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries (2019);*

» *CEEweb Academy: Building more sustainable and green cities in Central Europe (2017)* and

» *Professional Standards in Media – Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2017).*

While the totality of mapped activities saw that 23 activities were judged not to be relevant to any of the SDGs, in the case of the Cooperation Activities, all of the SDGs are covered.

SDG 16 Governance and SDG 17 Means of Implementation are the most numerous with 53 activities each, followed by SDG 8 Economic Development and Jobs (42 activities), SDG 10 Equality (38), SDG 4 Education (31 activities) and SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (22 activities). There is an equal mix here between economic-related activities (SDGs 8 and 11) and those relating to the social dimension (SDGs 4 and 10), complemented by governance and means of implementation (SDGs 16 and 17). However, there is a striking lack of environment-related SDGs featuring in this top set of activities.

In the middle range are SDG 12 Sustainable Production and Consumption (15 activities), SDG 1 Poverty (14 activities), SDG 13 Climate (11 activities), SDG 2 Food and Agriculture (9 activities), SDG 3 Health (also 9 activities), SDG 7 Energy (8 activities) and SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation (also 8 activities). This middle cluster of activities has a fairly even spread across the economic, social and environmental aspects. The 2017 activity *Water Footprint: Transferring Knowledge into Action* combines Food and Agriculture, Water, Sustainable Production and Consumption and Means of Implementation, thus including economic and environmental issues and contributing to societal needs.

The least covered are SDG 6 Water (6 activities), SDG 15 Land Ecosystems (6 activities). SDG 14 Oceans (5 activities) and SDG 5 Gender (5 activities). This is not to say that ecosystems, biodiversity and gender are completely ignored but there is clear scope to in-

crease the number of activities aimed at these issues, in particular for the environment since environmental protection features as a Goal in the PoA.

Given the large number of Cooperation Activities (171), it is not possible to do a fair comparison with the other types of activities, but it is notable that SDG 4 Education features more distinctly in the Cooperation Activities. 31 of the Cooperation Activities (18%) contribute towards SDG 4, whereas only three out of 46 of the Institutional Activities and two out of 32 of the Know-how Exchange Projects (both around 6%) contribute to this SDG. The high number of activities related to SDG 4 is due to the valuable nature of many Cooperation Activities such as summer schools, trainings, seminars and youth conferences.

Amongst a large number of film festivals and events there are perhaps some missed opportunities in terms of contributing to the SDGs. One event in particular is noticeable for its attention to sustainability: *FESTIVAL IDENTITY 2019 – workshops for film professionals from across Europe.* The event looked at both the practical side - how to reduce the environmental impact of the festivals and to act as role models, as well as at the communication and policy side such as stimulating public debate and helping shift the social norms, as drivers of change towards a more sustainable world. The conclusions, including those on how to reduce the environmental impact, may be useful for other similar events supported by the CEI.

As regards which Cooperation Activities contribute to multiple SDGs, nine activities contribute to four SDGs, two activities contribute to both five and six SDGs and one activity to both seven and eight SDGs. An example of an activity contributing to five SDGS is *Building More Sustainable Cities* and one contributing to seven SDGs is the *EIAT Conference: Education and Industry Advancing Together (see boxes below)* which contributes to the SDGs on Energy, Economy & Jobs, Sustainable Production & Consumption, Climate, Oceans, Land Ecosystems and Means of Implementation. A Cooperation Activity contributing to eight SDGs is *Infrastructure development on Virtual Western Balkans Centre for Hydrometeorological Services and Climate Change 2016.* This activity includes Poverty, Food and Agriculture, Water, Energy, Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation, Sustainable Cities and Climate, illustrating a well-integrated approach across economic, environmental and social dimensions.

This is a positive finding in the context of interlinkages within activities, particularly when considering their small size and duration. It is easier to integrate different SDGs and maximise the linkages in larger projects in some of the other types of CEI activities.

EIAT Conference – Education and Industry Advancing Together (2016)

The conference is an excellent example of how different perspectives and knowledge can be brought together to explore the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Actors from local government, state institutions, business, academia and international organisations addressed the challenges facing sustainability in the tourism industry, in this case combining local economic development with carbon neutrality and biodiversity protection. These sort of events, looking for sustainable development solutions from many perspectives, are good models for future Cooperation Activities to follow.[41]

Building More Sustainable and Green Cities (2017)

This event brought together experts from Central Europe to discuss environmental, climate and sustainability issues in an Urban Green Infrastructure Conference. It was one of a regular annual events, which focused on the SDG implementation in a very practical manner for the future of urban development in the region. It linked the SDGs on water, energy, climate change, sustainable cities and land ecosystems.

Looking at some of the regular activities supported through the Cooperation Fund, one can identify possible ways to develop these in the future in the context of Agenda 2030:

SME and Business networking events are ideal environments to look at aspects of sustainability in business practice, particularly sustainable consumption and production, energy efficiency and the use of renewables, labour rights, gender and equality.

European Youth Parliaments. These regular events would provide an excellent opportunity in the future to discuss the role of parliaments in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and how to engage with civil society and citizens in holding governments to account for the delivery of sustainable development strategies and plans.

The annual EU and Legal Reform Summer Schools co-financed by the CEI present interesting opportunities to mainstream SDGs throughout the programme topics. Sessions covering enlargement, the future of the EU, democracy, rights, justice and so forth can all be conceptualised to capture SDG implementation opportunities and challenges.

Meetings of experts. Many Cooperation Activities as well as KEP events bring together different actors including government officials, local government, academia, business and civil society groups. These usually have a focused topic for discussion, exchange of information and expertise. These topics could also be discussed in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and focus on how they can maximise interlinkages amongst the SDGs and contribute to sustainable development.

41   For SD and technology see also G-STIC (Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Community)

Sustainable event management / Greening events. A requirement could be that all events and meetings supported through the CEI fund should be organised in a sustainable manner, for example reducing paper use, local and organic catering, accessibility through public transport.

Stimulate creativity and sustainability. A question in the calls for proposals might ask how the activity can be linked to the SDGs. Can the topic be framed in the context of the SDGs or what links are there to the SDGs?

A note on intercultural cooperation

Intercultural cooperation - respect for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue as well as for equal opportunities - is one of the goals of the CEI Plan of Action and many activities are devoted to this. Most of the activities for this goal are found in the Cooperation Activities, but some are also found in Institutional, Know How and Exchange and EU-funded Projects. The majority of the cultural-type activities were allocated relevant targets under different SDGs, for example targets 4.7 (access to knowledge including cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development), 8.9 (sustainable tourism for jobs and local culture), 11.4 (safeguard cultural and natural heritage), 12b (monitor impacts of sustainable tourism) and 16.10 (public access to information and fundamental freedoms). However, some activities such as concerts, writers' retreats and some film shows were not judged to be directly relevant to any SDG targets. This of course is not meant to imply that they are not valuable activities for the people in the region (and everywhere). In Agenda 2030 culture does not feature specifically, but it is identified by some actors (e.g. UNESCO[42] or the New Urban Agenda[43]) as a cross cutting issue or even a particular dimension of sustainable development. To conclude, given the particular relevance of cultural projects in the CEI's activity spectrum, including Agenda 2030 aspects in all such projects might support the CEI's overall contribution towards sustainability. This might entail, for example: how to reduce the environmental impact of the event, how to ensure inclusion, how to use the occasion to raise awareness of sustainable development.

42   https://en.unesco.org/themes/culture-sustainable-development, with links to other publications
43   UN Habitat III 2016, New Urban Agenda

3.2.3 Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme

TC Projects provide grant-type assistance in support of specific components of investments and operations of the EBRD, for example, feasibility and pre-feasibility studies, sector and environmental engineering, management training, capacity building, pre-loan audits.[44] These activities target a number of priority areas, including agribusiness, business and finance, energy, institutional development, municipal infrastructure and services, SME support, and transport.[45] The TC Projects are larger than the Cooperation Activities or KEP Projects in terms of length of implementation and level of funding. Table 4 shows the mapping of the TC Projects.

The 34 mapped activities contribute to almost all the 17 SDGs - only SDG 1 Poverty, SDG 6 Water and SDG 10 Equality are missing.

The most prevalent SDGs to which the TC activities contribute are SDG 9 Infrastructure (18), SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (13), SDG 16 Governance (11) and SDG 17 Means of Implementation (21). These are followed by SDG 8 Economic Development and Jobs (9), SDG 12 Sustainable Production and Consumption (9), SDG 13 Climate Change (7) and SDG 7 Energy (6). These most numerous SDGs fit closely with the priorities of the TC programme.

SDG 3 Health (3) and SDG 15 Land l Ecosystems (3) are the next in line followed by SDG 2 Food and Agriculture (2) and SDG 14 Oceans (2). The least number of activities contribute to SDG 4 Education (1) and SDG 5 Gender Equality (1).

The prevalence of SDGs for Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation, Sustainable Cities, Economic Development and Jobs, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Climate Change and Energy is related to the nature of the CEI fund at the EBRD, providing grant support to facilitate the implementation of larger programmes and to its priorities (see above). However, one would expect SDG 6 Water also to feature in some of the activities, but it is absent. There are two TC Projects which refer to managing flood risk for transport infrastructure but these do not relate to specific SDG 6 targets and are mapped under SDG 13 Climate.

---

44 https://www.cei.int/cei-fund-ebrd
45 CEI (2019b): Annual Report 2019 CEI Fund at the EBRD

Table 4:
Mapping of the CEI Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects

Year	Table 4: Technical Cooperation (TC) projects	SDG targets	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	no.
2016	Implem. Corporate Governance Action Plan for KESH	7.1, 16.6, 17.6							1									1	1	3
2016	Investment Silk Road Infra corridor: Western Balkans Router	8.2, 8.3, 9.1								1	1									2
2016	Albania Secretariat to the Investment Council	8.2, 8.3,9.1,16.5,16.6								1	1							1		3
2016	Silk Road in CSEE - Obstacles to Infra Investment in the Region	8.2, 8.3, 9.1								1	1									2
2016	4th Internat. Master in Public Procurement	12.7, 16.6												1				1		2
2016	5th Internat. Master in Public Procurement	12.7, 16.6												1				1		2
2016	Climate resilience Bosnian Road Network. Flood repair and upgrade	13.2, 13.3, 16.7, 17.7													1			1	1	3
2016	Assessment of env hotspots and review of remed. investment opportunities in low Adriatic	14.2, 15.5														1	1			2
2017	FBIH Roads: Flood repair and upgrade - Quality mgt systems	9.4, 11.2, 17.6									1		1						1	3
2017	Supporting PPP in transport sector in Belarus: Road sector reform	9.1, 9.4, 11.2, 17.6									1		1						1	3
2017	Preparation of Study on improvement public transportation Montenegro	9.1, 11.2									1		1							2
2017	Albanian Railways - Asset Management Plan and Track Access Charges Methodology	9.1, 9.4, 11.2, 16.6. 17.6									1		1					1	1	**4**
2017	Albanian Railways - Dev. of Acc. and Rep.Systems for Full International Financial Reporting Compliance	9.1, 9.4, 11.2, 16.6, 17.6									1		1					1	1	**4**
2017	Public Procurement capacity building programme	12.7, 16.6												1				1		2
2017	CEI support to SBI capacity programme in Belarus	8.3, 8.10								1										1
2017	Corridor VC in Rep. Srpska - Quality mgt system	16.6, 17.6																1	1	2
2017	Albanian Railways - Assistance with Civil Society Engagement	3.6, 9.1, 9.4, 11.2, 17.6			1						1		1						1	**4**
2017	Green Economy Transition	2.4, 7.3, 7a, 8.4, 9.1, 11.2, 12.1, 12.2, 12.6, 15.9, 17.6		1					1	1	1		1	1			1		1	**8**
2018	Miravci wind power project preparation	7.2., 7a, 17.7							1										1	2
2018	Energy Efficiency in public buildings	7.3, 7a, 11.3, 13.2							1				1		1					3
2018	Prep. Corporate Plan for Public Enterprise for State Roads Nor Macedonia	9.1, 17.6									1								1	2
2018	Investment Climate and Gov expert Bosn and Herz, Serbia and Montenegro	9.3, 16.6, 17.6									1							1	1	3
2018	Capacity building progr. Public Procurement Master - 6th generation	12.7, 16,6												1				1		2
2018	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism Capacity Building (missed off)	12.7, 16.6												1				1		2
2018	CEI support to SBI capacity programme in Belarus - phase 2	8.3, 8.10, 12.6, 12a								1				1						2
2019	Serbia Route 7 Highway, Lender's Monitor	3.6, 9.1, 11.2, 13.1, 17.6			1						1		1		1				1	**5**
2019	Serbia Voz Rolling Stock Aquistion, Lender's Monitor	7.3, 9.1, 11.2, 13.2,17.6							1		1		1		1				1	**5**
2019	Renewable Energy Auctions Support to Moldova - Policy Dialogue	7.2.7a, 9.1, 13.2, 17.6							1		1				1				1	**4**
2019	Analysis of climate change risks to critical infrastructure in Ukraine	9.1, 9.4, 11b, 13.2, 17.6									1		1		1				1	**4**
2019	Climate resilience Assessment for Belarus - regional bridges and M3 road rehabilitation	9.4, 11.5, 11b, 13.1, 17.6									1		1		1				1	**4**
2019	Enhancing Public Procurement Professionalism Capacity Building (missed off)	12.7, 16.6												1				1		**2**
2019	Advice for small businessed in Moldova - Youth and Skills	4.4, 5.5, 5a, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 17.6				1	1			1									1	**4**
2019	Increasing Market Opportunities for High Quality Food Products	2.3, 2.4, 8.2, 8.3, 8.9, 12b, 17.6		1						1				1					1	**4**
2019	Sustainable and Eco-Tourism programme - Albanian national and regional roads	3.6, 8.9, 9.4, 11.4, 11.7, 12b, 14.1, 14.2, 15.1, 17.6			1					1	1		1	1		1	1		1	**8**
		total activities per SDG:	*0*	*2*	*3*	*1*	*1*	*0*	*6*	*9*	*18*	*0*	*13*	*10*	*7*	*2*	*3*	*13*	*20*	
		SDG	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	

There is a notable increase over time in the number of projects relating to SDG 13 Climate Change. During the three years of 2016-18, there are two projects for SDG 13 while in the year 2019, five climate change projects were approved for example, *Renewable Energy Auctions support to Moldova (see box below)*. This demonstrates a definitive shift in the importance of climate related programmes following the Paris Agreement 2015 (taking into account that institutional changes take a while to become apparent in funding cycles).

Renewable Energy Auctions support to Moldova - Policy Dialogue (2019)

The 2019 project Renewable Energy Auctions support to Moldova - Policy Dialogue is a case in point. Here support is provided to the authorities in Moldova to devise appropriate tenders for investment in renewable energy. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan of Moldova has a target of at least 10% electricity generation from renewable sources. The project contributes to SDGs 7 (Energy), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation).

The mapping of many TC activities contributing to SDG 16 and SDG 17 is a result of the financial and technical support to projects and support for governance programmes in the beneficiary countries.

Looking at multiple SDGs gives the following picture: 8 TC activities contribute to four SDGs, 2 activities to five SDGs and 2 activities to eight SDGs (see also Section 3.3). An example of the latter is *Green Economy Transition*, approved in 2017:

Green Economy Transition (2017)

This programme is a top runner among the TC Projects contributing to eight SDGs: Food and Agriculture, Energy, Economic Development and Jobs, Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation, Sustainable Cities, Sustainable Production and Consumption, Land Ecosystems and Means of Implementation (SDGs 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17). It provides a myriad of opportunities to contribute to Agenda 2030. The focus is on the industry, power, agri-business, tourism, property, transport, natural resource and municipal sectors with a view to achieving resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy efficiency and security, reduced environmental pollution and so forth. Thus, the programme will make a major contribution to the economy and the environment. It is missing the social dimension as direct objective but nevertheless it will have health and employment benefits at least.

In terms of balance, the social dimension of sustainable development is the weakest of the three dimensions in the TC activities during this study period 2016-2019, reflecting the priorities of the programme as described above. Although there will be a requirement for both social and environmental standards in design and implementation, these issues are not necessarily target-

ed directly. This is the case for example in the project *Investment in the Silk Road Infrastructure Corridor: the Western Balkans Route.* However, the project *Albanian Railways – Assistance with Civil Society Engagement is an exception – see box below.* Thus, there seems room to incorporate social issues more in Technical Cooperation Activities in the future.

Albanian Railways - Assistance with Civil Society Engagement (2017)

A good example of a TC project meeting four SDGs and including a strong social dimension is *Albanian Railways - Assistance with Civil Society Engagement (2017).* Here the focus is on improving safety and promoting the benefits of rail transport. The approach is through strengthening the capacity of local civil society organisations to reach out and raise awareness of important safety measures as well as the benefits of train use. The project contributes to SDG 3 (Health), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation).

There are a number of governance-related projects (SDG 16) focusing on training and capacity building on public procurement for public administration officials, including a Master's course now in place in its 6th year. The programmes seem much in demand and cover many topics under the overarching principles of accountability, transparency, ethics and professionalism. In terms of potential for even greater sustainable development impacts, the modules could be expanded even further: green and ethical public procurement can have great leverage in encouraging sustainability in business and in supply chains.

There is clear potential to develop some of the projects relating to SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs) towards a broader approach to the SDGs. For example - *Advice for Small Businesses in Moldova (Youth and Skills)* is already quite well-conceived in terms of support to SMEs with a focus on women and youth. It aims at having young people develop and scale-up their businesses by addressing critical challenges, from equipping them with entrepreneurial skills, to enabling them to navigate their business development in an ever changing and competitive business environment. By including tools, knowledge and capacity building for sustainable production and consumption, energy and water efficiency and addressing climate change, young people could be even better equipped for both sustainability and profit and the move to a circular economy.

The nature of the CEI fund at the EBRD in providing grant-assisted technical cooperation for feasibility studies and preparation for implementation of large projects offers an excellent opportunity to shape the large projects in the best possible way for delivering the SDGs. The pre-project phase is an ideal time to

look at the missing opportunities for sustainable development, to strengthen elements for improved sustainability and to explore interlinkages for potential negative impacts of the project's objectives on other SDGs in order to reverse or minimise these before full implementation stage.

Looking at some of the activities supported by TC (and also KEP) there are good opportunities to develop these further taking an SDG perspective. In particular, the regular trainings for public officials are valuable for improving governance and means of implementation. It would be highly desirable if trainings also developed to include policy-making for sustainable development, for example: how to design, implement and monitor a sustainable development plan for the country, region or local community. Capacity building and training is typically needed for all aspects of governance for sustainable development (see also Part 2 of this study), such as how to organise processes for horizontal and vertical coordination within the government, how to organise stakeholder participation, how to organise scientific input for policy making, and all including the introduction of tools such as sustainability impact assessment, SDG budgeting and similar concepts.

3.2.4 Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

The Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP) aims to support the transfer of experience from the EU to the non-EU countries within the CEI region and offers grants to institutions from EU countries willing to share their experience with their partners in the non-EU CEI countries in Southeastern and Eastern Europe. The Programme operates through calls for proposals and is funded through the CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The KEP is focused on areas of intervention where CEI-EU countries demonstrate strong-rooted experience, and where beneficiary states exhibit the strongest need for assistance. Project proposals are required to address at least one of the KEP priority areas, namely: European Integration, Capacity Building and Market Economy, Infrastructure Planning and Development, Agriculture, Energy, and Environment.[46] KEP provides co-financing. The priority topics of the KEP fit with many of the SDGs except for the social dimensions, namely the Goals on Poverty, Education, Health, Gender, Equality (see Table 5).

----

46   Annual Report of the CEI Fund at the EBRD: (2019)

Table 5:
Mapping of the CEI KEP Projects to SDG targets and goals

Year	Table 5: Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)	SDG targets	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	no.
2017	Support anti-corruption capacity building in Albania	16.5, 16.6																•		1
2017	Dams safety: a new approach for the monitoring of the dams with the use of remote sensing	6.5,7.3,7b,13.2, 17.7						•	•						•				•	4
2017	Know-how exchange - GIs non-wine food products: Exchange & boost partnerships-based rural development	2.3, 8.2, 9.3, 17.6		•						•	•								•	4
2017	Development & regulation of University of Belgrade laser-laboratory infrastructure for education and research	9.5, 9b, 17.6									•								•	2
2017	Preserving Kotor Bay natural / historical heritage - Analysing sea pollution sources & raising ecol. awareness	6.3, 6a, 6b, 14.1, 14.2						•								•				2
2017	Prof. Intergovt. know-how exchange implem. large scale Sec.School Scholarship & Mentoring for Roma Students	4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 5.5, 10.3				•	•					•								3
2017	Innovation Vouchers scheme for resource efficiency technologies & services Serbia	7.3, 8.4, 9b, 12.1, 12.2, 12.6, 13.3							•	•	•			•	•					5
2017	Strengthening governance through public procurement in Western Balkans - WB Master Programme in PP Mgt	12.7, 16.6												•				•		2
2017	Strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans	7.1, 17.6							•										•	2
2017	Capac.build. PPPs for road construction & exploit. for Albanian authorities with Serbia & other WB countries	8.2, 9.1								•	•									2
2018	HERITAGE FIRST AID: cultural tourism in support of Heritage Conservation	8.9, 11.4, 17.1								•			•						•	3
2018	WASTEOILFREE Integrated Waste-Oils Management System - Transfer Best Practices for Sust. Transport Serbia	6.3, 12.4, 12.5, 14.1, 17.7						•						•		•			•	4
2018	SAFEMEAT - easy and accurate monitoring of gas in meat products system during storage and distribution	3.9, 17.6			•														•	2
2018	SMART RIVER GOVERNANCE 2.0	6.5, 6b, 17.6, 17.17						•											•	2
2018	Improving Disaster Risk Reduction skills and Resilience-building Practices in the Western Balkans: EMS WeB	1.5, 11.5, 11b, 13.1 17.6	•										•		•				•	4
2018	Sustainable Approach to Managing Construction and Demolition Waste (SAMCODE)	11.6, 12.5, 17.6											•	•					•	3
2018	We4Nature & Nature4us: AAs Ecosystem Services local env. mgt. Lower Nistru Cross-border Area MD & UA	14a, 15.9, 17.6														•	•		•	3
2019	CEI Support to Strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans – Second Phase	7.1, 17.6							•										•	2
2019	Capac. building program for extension services in the Western Balkans to support participation in IPARD calls	2a, 8.2, 8.3, 17.6		•						•									•	3
2019	Training dietary assessm. & platforms to monitor popul. food consumpt. Habits (long-term) (TRAIN-DIE)	2.1, 17.6		•															•	2
2019	Capacity Building for Implementing Innovative EU Monitoring Tools for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption	16.5, 16.6, 16.10, 17.9																•	•	2
2019	BE.ST. (BEst practices exchange to STimulate Serbian SMEs growth	8.2, 8.3, 12.6, 17.6								•				•					•	3
2019	INNOVA.tion to prev.& protection from natural & envir. RISKS: from Italy to Moldova (INNOVA.RISKS)	1.5, 6.5, 11.5, 11b, 13.1, 15.2, 17.6	•					•					•		•		•		•	6
2019	Composite persistent materials for solar concentrators	7.2, 7.3							•											1
2019	CEI support for strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans - Third phase	7.1, 7.2, 9.1, 9.4, 17.6							•		•								•	3
2019	MEAT BIOHAZ	2.4, 2a, 3.9, 17.6		•	•														•	3
2019	INNOKEP-FEED: Innovative Know-how Exchange Programme in Animal Nutrition and Feed Technology	2.3, 2.4, 2a, 12.6, 17.6		•										•					•	3
2019	Vardar River. Flood Risk Management for Skopje	6.5, 6b, 11.5, 11a, 17.6						•					•						•	3
2019	Capacity Support of Regional Cooperation in Mine Action	3.9, 16.1, 17.6			•													•	•	3
2019	Promoting geol., ecol. & cult.heritage throughSD & creation of geo-parks – GECCOSPARK	8.9, 11.4, 14.2, 15.1, 17.6								•			•			•	•		•	5
2019	Introducing modern learning methods in Macedonia using Italian experiences - INLEARN	4.3, 4.4, 8.6, 17.6				•				•									•	3
2019	Non-invasive and multi-analytical approach of VETKA Museum (Gomel Region, Vetka) - ICONS	11.4											•							1
		total activities per SDG:	2	5	3	2	1	6	6	8	5	1	7	6	4	4	3	4	24	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	

As a programme which focuses on knowledge transfer, KEP is prime candidate for supporting SDG implementation through this exchange of expertise and experience. 32 Know-how Exchange projecs were mapped; they contribute to all the SDGs.

The largest number of activities (24) contribute to SDG 17 Means of Implementation reflecting the approach taken in KEP Projects to transfer knowledge and good practice, and to encourage partnerships. The next most numerous SDGs account for a similar number of activities: SDG 8 Economy & Jobs (8), SDG 11 Cities (7), SDG 6 Water (6), SDG 7 Energy (6), SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption & Production (6), SDG 2 Food & Agriculture (5) and SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry & Innovation (5).

The SDGs that feature the least, although the difference in number of activities is small, are SDG 13 Climate (4), SDG 14 Oceans (4), SDG 16 Governance (4), SDG 15 Land Ecosystems (3), SDG 3 Health (3), SDG 4 Education (2), SDG 1 Poverty (2), SDG 5 Gender (1), and SDG 10 Equality (1). The last five SDGs are not included in the priority topics of the KEP, mentioned above. However, an activity which contributed to education, gender and equality SDGs is the 2016 project *Professional intergovernmental know-how exchange on the implementation of large scale Secondary School Scholarship and Mentoring Program for Roma Students.*

Although SDG 16 is not particularly high in number here, good governance is critical in facilitating sustainable development and the KEP Projects 2016-2019 include some interesting actions which could be replicated in the future. For instance, *Capacity Building for Implementing Innovative EU Monitoring Tools for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption* is a project which aims to support civil society to engage in public decision-making with tools such as evidence-based advocacy, monitoring, watchdog roles and engagement in structured dialogues.

Of particular note in comparison with the other types of activities is that in KEP, SDG 6 Water features more often than any other type of activity except for the cluster of Cooperation Activities (which of course has far more activities). KEP has six activities out of 32 (19%) contributing to SDG 6 while Cooperation also has six activities for SDG 6 out of 171 (3.5%). Examples of KEP activities contributing to SDG 6 are the 2017 project *Smart River Governance* and in 2019 *On the Flood Wave of Vardar River, Flood Risk Management for Skopje.*

In terms of multiple SDGs, 4 activities contribute to four SDGs, 2 to five SDGs, and 1 activity to six SDGs. The latter project is *INNOVA.RISKS (2018) – Protection and prevention from natural and environmental disasters contributing to Poverty, Water, Cites and*

Human Settlements, Climate Change, Land Ecosystems and Means of Implementation. The one with 5 SDGs is *GECCOSPARK* (for both see Box).

INNOVA.RISKS (2018)

This project on *Protection and Prevention of Natural Disasters* is a good example of an action integrating six different SDGs. The project involves a mirror exchange between the civil protection authorities in Italy and Moldova to learn and promote best practice and the use of new technologies in the prevention, protection and emergency management of environmental risks such as floods, landslides, earthquakes and forest fires. It thus supports SDGs concerning vulnerable communities at risk (SDG 1), water management (SDG 6), planning for disaster risk reduction (SDG 11), mitigation of the impacts of climate change (SDG 13), sustainable management of land ecosystems (SDG 15) and means of implementation through transfer and sharing of knowledge (SDG 17). These kinds of twinning activities are a valuable model, already demonstrated in the KEP, for future projects.

GECCOSPARK (2020) (Italy – North Macedonia)

"Promoting geological, ecological and cultural heritage through sustainable development and creation of geo-parks" is another KEP project that makes a good contribution to the 2030 Agenda (as well as Goals 3 and 4 of the CEI Plan of Action). The notion of Geoparks (UNESCO[47]) combines conservation with economic development and importantly with the involvement of local communities. This project supporting local municipalities in North Macedonia demonstrates contributions to Economic Development and Jobs (SDG 8), Sustainable Cities (SDG 11), Oceans (SDG 14), Land Ecosystems (SDG 15) and Means of Implementation (SDG 17). To be precise, within SDG 11, the project relates to Target 11.4 – strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

The overall picture shows that the KEP Projects contribute to all the SDGs. There is room for improvement in the design and choice of activities which contribute to multiple SDGs. In terms of balance of the dimensions of sustainable development, the results above show that the economic dimension is slightly larger than the social and environmental dimensions. In some of the energy-related projects, for example the *CEI support to strengthening Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Western Balkans,* there is a missed opportunity to broaden the sustainability of the programme through the inclusion of energy efficiency and renewable energy topics.

The approach taken in KEP Projects to sharing experience and knowledge between EU and non-EU countries is ideal for learning from different contexts and starting points and developing good practice through this comparison for SDG implementation including the opportunities (and challenges) of taking an inte-

---

47 http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/

grated and coherent approach. In this respect, the KEP Projects are an excellent match to SDG 17 (Means of Implementation) with a focus on knowledge transfer in science, technology and innovation as well as building partnerships for sustainable development. This approach could be continued and built upon in the future.

The good governance projects are a very important contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2030 as a whole, as well as of SDG 16, and should be expanded if possible in future plans.

3.2.5 EU-funded Projects

The CEI Secretariat is a beneficiary of EU funds, designing and managing EU-funded Projects focusing on transnational and regional cooperation for European integration (typically Interreg projects, as well as projects managed by DG ECHO and DG JUST) and EU research projects (currently called Horizon 2020). The EU-funded Projects largely address the strategic priorities encompassed in the CEI PoA goals and objectives. During the period of study (2016 – 2019) there have been 24 projects, partly completed, partly ongoing. The projects are covering the sectors transport & mobility, blue growth, bio-economy, health, social inclusion, migration, tourism and culture. They are grouped in eight thematic areas: Transport (9), Research & Innovation (3), Energy & bioeconomy (3), Health (2), Social Innovation (2), Culture (2) and Justice (1).

Again, EU-funded Projects are larger than Cooperation Activities or KEP Projects in terms of funding, length of implementation, dimension of partnerships, number and complexity of tasks and sub-tasks.

Table 6 shows the mapping of the EU-funded Projects to SDG targets and goals, including the "deeper dive" (see section below). The 24 projects contribute to 12 of the SDGs. The SDGs not covered are SDG 2 Food & Agriculture, SDG 4 Education, SDG 5 Gender, SDG 6 Water and SDG 15 Land Ecosystems.

The greatest number of EU-funded Projects contribute to SDG 11 Sustainable Cities (11) and SDG 17 Means of Implementation (9). These are followed by SDG 8 Economic Development and Jobs (7) and SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry & Innovation (6).

Table 6:
Mapping of the CEI EU-funded Projects to SDG targets and goals

Table 6	EU projects 2016-2019, and under implementation 2020	Main project focus (abbreviated title)	SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	no.	total	no. of SDGs comb.
1	4helix+	Empowering 4 helix of MED maritime clusters	8.3, 14.2, 17.6								1						1			1	_**3**_		
Interreg			2.3, 8.9, 9.3		1						1	1					1				4	7	**5**
2	ACSELL	Accelerating SME innovation capacities with living lab approach	8.3, 17.6								1									1	_**2**_		
Interreg			3.8 & 3.d			1															1	3	3
3	BLUE_BOOST	Boosting innov. potential of blue economy in Adriatic-ionian region	8.3, 14.2, 17.6								1						1			1	_**3**_		
Interreg			2.3, 8.9, 9.3, 14.b		1						1	1					1				4	7	**5**
4	ADRIPASS	Integrating multimodal connections in the Adriatic-ionian region	9.1									1									_**1**_		
Interreg			3.9, 11.a, 13.2			1								1		1					3	4	4
5	CONNECT2CE	Improved rail connection & smart mobility in Central Europe	9.1, 11.2									1		1							_**2**_		
Interreg			3.9, 11.a, 13.2			1								1		1					3	5	4
6	ICARUS	Intermodal connections in the Adriatic-Ionian region - seamless solutions for passengers	3.9, 11.2, 11.3, 11.6, 13.2			1								1		1					_**3**_		
Interreg			3.6, 8.9, 11.a, 12.b, 13.2, 14.2			1					1			1	1	1	1				6	9	**6**
7	INTER-CONNECT	Intermodality promotion and rail renaissance in Adriatic-ionian region	9.1, 11.2, 17.6									1		1						1	_**3**_		
Interreg			3.9, 11.a, 13.2			1								1		1					3	6	**5**
8	ITHACA	Innovation in Health and Care for all	3.4, 3.8, 17.16			1														1	_**2**_		
Interreg			(8.2 & 8.3), 10.4								1		1								2	4	4
9	SENTINEL	Advancing Social Enterprises in Central Europe	1b, 8.3, 10.2, 17.6	1							1		1							1	_**4**_		
Interreg			4.4 & 4.7), 8.5, 12.6				1				1				1						3	7	**6**
10	TAAFE	Towards an Alpine Age-Friendly Environment	1.3, 10.2, 10.3	1									1								_**2**_		
Interreg			1.4, 3.4, 5.b, 11.2, 17.6	1		1		1						1						1	5	7	**6**
11 DG	NAMIRG	North Adriatic Maritime incident response group	14.1														1				_**1**_		
ECHO			3.9, 8.8, 12.4			1					1				1						3	4	4
12	SUSTOURISMO	Sustainable tourism and mobility hand by hand development	8.9, 9.1, 11.2, 12b, 13.2								1	1		1	1	1					_**5**_		
Interreg			3.9, 7.3, 8.3, 11.4, 12.5, 13.3, 15.5			1				1	1			1	1	1		1			7	12	**8**
13	COME-IN!	Cooperating for Open Access to Museums	8.9, 10.2, 11.4								1		1	1							_**3**_		
Interreg			12.8												1						1	5	4
14 DG	PRE-RIGHTS	Preventive measures to fight radicalisation	16.1, 16.3, 16a																1		_**1**_		
JUST			10.3										1								1	2	2
15	CELEBIO	Central European leaders of bioeconomy network	12.1, 12.2, 12.8												1						_**1**_		
Horizon			7.2, 8.3, 8.4, 13.3, 17.6							1	1	1				1				1	5	6	**6**
		total projects per SDG:		2	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	4	3	5	2	2	3	0	1	6	36		
		with deep dive:		3	2	10	1	1	0	2	14	7	5	11	7	8	6	1	1	8	87		
Horizon	ETIP-SABS	European Technol.&Innov. Platform Bioenergy - support stakeholder								1										1	2		
Horizon	ETIP-B-SABS-2	European Technol.&Innov. Platform Bioenergy - support stakeholder 2								1				1						1	3		
Interreg	FORTIS	Institutional cooperation for improving cross-border public transport services				1						1		1		1					4		
ESPON	MIGRATUP	Territorial & urban potentials - migration and refugees flows											1	1							2		
Interreg	SECNET	Cross-border institutional coopera- tion for enhancing port security																	1		1		
Interreg	SULPITER	Sustainable urban logistics - enhance regional freight transport									1		1							2		
Interreg	SUMPORT	Sustainable urban mobility in MED port cities												1							1		
Horizon	DIGITAL HEALTH EUROPE	Digital transformation in health and care				1														1	2		
Interreg	TARTINI	Promoting cultural heritage of Giuseppe Tartini									1			1							2		
24		_total projects per SDG (without deeper dive)_		3	0	3	0	0	0	2	7	6	4	11	2	3	3	0	2	9			
			SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			

1	SDG targets in original mapping (based on short description)	**Work areas**	
1	Additional SDG targets identified in full project proposal	R&I · Health · Environm. · Energy & Bioeconomy	
1	Additional target under same SDG	Transport · Social Inn. · Culture, Justice	

Four EU-funded Projects contribute to SDG 10 Equality and three each to SDG 1 Poverty, SDG 3 Health, SDG 13 Climate and SDG 14 Oceans. The least represented SDGS are SDG 7 Energy (2), SDG 12 Sustainable Production and Consumption (2) and SDG 16 Governance (2).

The 11 projects contributing to SDG 11 Cities is almost half of the total number of EU-funded Projects, which represents the highest proportion of any other type of activity. In comparison, Co-operation Activities for SDG 11 amount to 22, which is just over 12% of their total. SDG 11 demonstrates a good mix of economic, environmental and social dimensions. This is one hint already that the EU-funded Projects applied for and approved are in general more complex, and at least half of them quite a good spread across the sustainable development dimensions.

Of the nine transport projects (SDGs 9 and 11), which would largely be subsumed as economic dimension, the large majority focus on public transport, intermodality and mobility. Hence the social and environmental dimensions are well represented here. Examples are the projects *FORTIS (Institutional cooperation for improving cross border public transport services), ICARUS (Intermodal connections in Adriatic-Ionian Region)* and *INTER-CONNECT (Intermodality Promotion and Rail Renaissance in Adriatic – Ionian Region),* with FORTIS featuring in the 'good practice' category (see Table 8).

FORTIS (2020-22)

Institutional cooperation for improving cross border public transport services – FORTIS. This project aims to develop innovative solutions to facilitate access to public transport services in cross border regions and contributes to several SDGs. The project involves sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9) and sustainable cities (SDG 11), but also makes a contribution to the mitigation of climate change (SDG 13) due to the promotion of public transport. And fourthly, it addresses the needs of citizens for access to basic services thus fulfilling the target 1.4 in SDG 1 (Poverty).

Oceans (SDG 14) is one of the least well represented SDGs overall in the CEI activities but there are two EU-funded Projects contributing to this SDG *(BLUE BOOST* and *4helix+).* They combine ocean management with economic development and jobs, supporting both communities and SMEs.

The EU-funded Projects aiming at social inclusion or equality (SDG 10) feature to a greater extent than either KEP or TC Projects (four projects in total compared with one in KEP and none in TC). For example, the EU-funded Projects *Towards an Alpine Age – Friendly Environment (TAAFE), Innovation in Health and Care for All (ITHACA)* and *Cooperating for Open Access to Museums – towards a wider inclusion (COME-IN!).*

In terms of multiple SDGs, two projects have contributed to 4 SDGs (FORTIS and SENTINEL) and one project to 5 SDGs (SUS-TOURISMO). SENTINEL and SUSTOURISMO were also included in the "deeper dive"[48] and have confirmed their broad scope across the SD dimensions and SDGs. They are clearly "best practice" of the EU-funded Projects, and of all CEI activities when considering their degree of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development (see also below).

SUSTOURISMO - Sustainable Tourism and Mobility (2020-2023)

At the first mapping, the project was found to contribute to Economic Development & Jobs, Infrastructure, Industry & Innovation, Cities, Sustainable Consumption and Production and Climate Change (SDGs 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13) but the "deeper dive" identified an additional three SDGs – Health, Sustainable Cities and Land Ecosystems (SDGs 3, 11 and 15). The project has been designed to integrate many aspects of sustainable development, combining tourism for local economic development and jobs with the protection of environmental and cultural sites and the use of accessible public transport to reduce climate and pollution impacts. It also aims to promote ecological awareness and even lifestyle shifts towards sustainable development amongst visitors. The project tackles the potential trade-offs between economic development and the environment by focusing on innovative ways to encourage sustainable tourism.

SENTINEL – Advancing Social Enterprises in Central European countries 2020-2022

A project originally mapped with poverty, economic development and jobs, equality and governance targets (SDGs 1, 8, 10 and 16) was also found to include education and sustainable production and consumption targets (SDGs 4 and 12). Thus, the project addresses all 3 dimensions of sustainable development. It is a nice example of tackling social exclusion and unemployment in marginal regions while encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, decent work and sustainable business practices. The elements of training and mentoring and provision of toolboxes to support social enterprises offer long term sustainability and potential for replication.

ICARUS - Intermodal Connections in Adriatic-Ionian Region to Upgrowth Seamless solutions for passengers (2019-2021)

This is one of the transport-related projects, which tackles the heavy dependence on car use and brings innovative solutions to mobility, pollution, land degradation and climate change. Originally mapped with SDGs for Health, Sustainable Cities and Climate Change (3, 11 and 13), a "deeper dive" found that the project also contributed to economic development and jobs through local tourism, sustainable production and consumption and the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems (SDGs 8, 12 and 14). The project thus addresses all three dimensions of sustainable development and through encouraging cycle, bus and train use in intermodal transport systems reduces air pollution and energy use, supports climate change mitigation and takes pressure off natural and cultural sites. The project also has social gains through increased and easy access to public transport and the health benefits of less air pollution.

48   FORTIS not, as more detailed project information are only available in Italian and Slovenian.

The type of EU-funded Projects will be largely dependent upon the EU funding source and the criteria for the calls for proposals. Nevertheless, there will likely be opportunities within the development of the proposal to integrate sustainable development issues which are not the main focus of the call, as indeed has happened already with gender and environmental sustainability addressed as horizontal principles.

EU-funded Projects - a "deeper dive"

The original mapping exercise of all CEI activities and projects was based on short descriptions from which relevant SDG targets were identified by key words. The limitations of this approach are evident when a project can be examined in more detail. Given this and the methodological situation that all projects "counted" equally in the mapping, an additional analytical step was introduced after the first round of mapping. This was meant to do justice to the fact that the larger projects tend to be more complex, which presumably applies more to the EU-funded Projects than to the TC Projects: the latter might have a larger volume, but not a higher complexity, while the KEP Projects often cover many SDGs, but there was no reason to believe that they would render more when looking more closely.

For 15 out of the 24 EU-funded Projects the application forms were therefore examined, and as a result of the detail provided, in all cases more SDG targets could be identified from the descriptions, objectives and workplans.

Between one and seven additional SDG targets were identified for each of the EU-funded Projects in question. This second step is shown in Table 6 as well as in Table 7, which also included the description of the SDG targets for better illustration. The column 'total' has the total of the first and second step, while the column "no. of SDGs combined" follows the general approach in this study to count at SDG goal level, i.e. more than one targets per SDG is disregarded.

Table 7:
A deeper analysis of the CEI EU-funded Projects

PROJECT ACRONYM	SDG TARGETS IN ORIGINAL MAPPING based on short descriptions	ADDITIONAL SDG TARGETS FOUND IN FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL
4HELIX+ (INTERREG MED)	8.3 Promote productive activities, decent jobs, entrepreneurship 14.2 Sustainably manage marine and coastal ecosystems 17.6 Regional and international cooperation on science, technology	2.3 Double productivity of small scale food producers 8.9 Sustainable tourism for jobs and local culture 9.3 Integration of small scale enterprises into value chains 14b Access for small scale fishers to marine resources and markets
ACSELL (INTERREG Europe)	8.3 Support productive activities, decent jobs and entrepreneurship 17.6 Regional and international cooperation on science, technology	3.8 Universal health coverage 3d Capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of health risks
BLUE BOOST (INTERREG Adrion)	8.3 Promote productive activities, decent jobs, entrepreneurship 14.2 Sustainably manage marine and coastal ecosystems 17.6 Regional and international cooperation on science, technology	2.3 Double productivity of small scale food producers 8.9 Sustainable tourism for jobs and local culture 9.3 Integration of small scale enterprises into value chains 14b Access for small scale fishers to marine resources and markets
ADRIPASS (INTERREG Adrion)	9.1 Sustainable and accessible infrastructure	3.9 Reduce deaths and illness from pollution 11a Positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas 13.2 Integrate climate change measures
CONNECT 2CE (INTERREG Central Europe)	9.1 Sustainable and accessible infrastructure 11.2 Safe, accessible, sustainable transport	3.9 Reduce deaths and illness from pollution 11a Positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas 13.2 Integrate climate change measures
ICARUS (INTERREG Italy-Croatia)	3.9 Reduce deaths and illness from pollution 11.2 Safe, accessible and sustainable transport 11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and integrated human settlement planning 11.6 Reduce adverse environmental impact of cities including air quality 13.3 Improve human and institutional capacity for climate change mitigation and adaptation	3.6 Halve deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents 8.9 Sustainable tourism for jobs and local culture 11a Positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas 12b Tools to monitor sustainable impacts of tourism 13.2 Integrate climate change measures 14.2 Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
INTER-CONNECT (INTERREG Adrion)	9.1 Sustainable and accessible infrastructure 11.2 Safe, accessible, sustainable transport 17.6 Regional and international cooperation on science, technology and innovation	3.9 Reduce deaths and illness from pollution 11a Positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas 13.2 Integrate climate change measures
ITHACA (INTERREG Europe)	3.4 Reduce premature mortality and promote mental health and wellbeing 3.8 Universal health coverage 17.16 Multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge and expertise	8.2 Productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation 8.3 Support productive activities, decent jobs and entrepreneurship 10.4 Policies to achieve greater equality
SENTINEL (INTERREG Central Europe)	1b Policies to accelerate investment in poverty eradication 8.3 Support productive activities, decent jobs and entrepreneurship 10.2 Social, economic and political inclusion 17.6 Regional and international cooperation on science, technology	4.4 Youth and adults with relevant skills for decent jobs and entrepreneurship 4.7 Acquire knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development 8.5 Full and productive employment and decent work 12.6 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices
TAAFE (INTERREG Alpine)	1.3 Social protection schemes and measures 10.2 Promote social, economic and political inclusion 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome	1.4 Equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services 3.4 Reduce premature mortality and promote mental health and wellbeing 5b Enhance use of enabling technology to promote empowerment of women 11.2 Safe, accessible and sustainable transport 17.6 Regional and international cooperation on science, technology
NAMIRG (DG ECHO)	14.1 Prevent and reduce marine pollution	3.9 Reduce deaths and illness from pollution 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe working environments 12.4 Environmentally sound managements of chemicals and wastes
SUSTOURISMO (INTERREG Adrion)	8.9 Policies to promote sustainable tourism – local jobs and culture 9.1 Transborder infrastructure, affordable and accessible 11.2 Safe, affordable and accessible public transport 12b Tools to monitor sustainable development impacts of sustainable tourism 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national planning	3.9 Reduce no of deaths and illnesses from pollution 7.3 Improvement in energy efficiency 8.3 Support productive activities, decent jobs and entrepreneurship and MSMEs 11.4 Protect cultural and natural heritage 12.5 Reduce waste generation 13.3 Education, awareness raising on climate change 15.5 Reduce degradation of habitats and loss of biodiversity.
COME-IN! (INTERREG Central Europe)	8.9 Sustainable tourism for jobs and local culture 10.2 Promote social, economic, political inclusion of all 11.4 Protect cultural and natural heritage	12.8 People have relevant information on sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
PRE-RIGHTS (DG JUST)	16.1 Reduce all forms of violence and related deaths 16.3 Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice 16a Strengthen institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and reduce inequalities of outcome
CELEBio (Horizon 2020)	12.1 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP 12.2 Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources 12.8 People have information for sust. dev't. and lifestyles in harmony with nature	7.2 Increase share of renewables in energy mix (biomass in this case) 8.3 Support productive activities, decent jobs, innovation and entrepreneurship and MSMEs 8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production 9.4 Retrofit industries for sustainability, resource efficiency and clean technologies [*questionable] 13.3 Capacity and awareness on climate mitigation, adaptation, etc 17.6 Regional cooperation on science, technology and innovation
FORTIS (INTERREG Italy-Slovenia)	1.4 Ensure all have equal rights to basic services 9.1 Transborder infrastructure, affordable and accessible 11.2 Safe, affordable and accessible public transport 11a Positive economic, social links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national planning	PROJECT PROPOSAL available in Italian and Slovenian only

The results give an interesting picture:

» The transport projects all hit more SDGs in the "deeper dive": the qualitative interpretation from above is confirmed here, as these "deeper dive" projects are the ones with a public transport-intermodal-mobility focus. Among them *ICARUS* clearly becomes the top runner with altogether 9 targets and 6 SDGs covered, across all SD dimensions: Originally mapped with (SDGs 3, 11 and 13) and now also including SDG 8 Economy as well as SDG 12 and 14 (SCP and Oceans).

» Similarly, but more surprisingly, confirmed are the social innovation projects: *SENTINEL* already featured as good practice in the first round, and got more SDG hits in the "deeper dive": it was mapped with (SDGs 1, 8, 10 and 16) and also included SDG 4 Education and SDG 12 SDP. *TAAFE* on the other hand only with the deeper look scored more SDGs, but quite many (SDG 1, 3, 5, 11 and 17). However, *SENTINEL* remains the top runner, as it is spread across all dimensions while TAAFE is missing out on environment.

» Among the projects classified as 'environmental protection' (which is somewhat questionable by itself), *NAMIRG* was originally mapped with one SDG 14 target now shows additional 3 SDGs, which looks like a few, but is nicely spread across the SDG dimensions (SDG 3 Health, SDG 8 Economy and SDG 12 SCP). The top runner in this field (and of all projects) remains the project that was already high in the original mapping with 5 SDGs: *SUSTOURISMO* hit the whopping number of 8 SDGs covered with an additional 3 goals found in the "deeper dive".

» Out of the three "R&I" (Research & Innovation") projects there are two very similar blue economy projects: *BLUE-BOOST* and *4helix+*. They have an identical SDG mapping picture and also increase quite nicely in the number of SDGs mapped in the "deeper dive". The third project on SME innovation (*ACSELL*) remains narrow also in the "deeper dive". Overall, there is quite a good sustainability potential in this area.

» Less difference between the first and second mapping was shown in the case of the health project *ITHACA*: originally mapped with SDG 3 and 17, now also included economic and equality targets (SDGs 8 and 10). And the least difference appeared in the case of the culture and justice projects respectively (*COME-IN!* and *PRE-RIGHTS*). It might in general remain limited to get projects of these areas more geared towards SD –with the cultural projects

having somewhat more potential. The justice project also seems, compared to the overall activities of CEI, rather an exception anyhow.

» A surprising case is the "deeper dive" into the bio-economy project *CELEBIO*. Like all the projects of this area, the scope is very narrow, reflected in only one, two or three SDGs being mapped (and not much difference at target level). *CELEBIO* is even the lowest, covering only SDG 12, which, however, is in itself a relatively broad SDG (stretching from economy to environment). The "deeper dive" rendered five additional SDGs, hence altogether scoring high with 6 SDGs. However, they are in the economy and environmental dimension only, - and it is a case where the project description matches the targets, but altogether the project does not really seem to tackle sustainability aspects. A case of the limits of the rather simplified methodology. In any case – this area has good potential to be developed further in the direction of green and circular economy, and may also include social aspects, for example rural development (see Ch. 4).

The results of the Social Innovation and Environmental projects let us assume that the original framing and conceptualising of a project is very key to anticipate how broad the sustainability approach will be. Therefore, the initial mapping of CEI activities to show the contribution of CEI to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs is only a snapshot and should be treated as such. More time to examine every activity and project in depth, in particular the larger projects, would undoubtedly provide a fuller picture.

One interesting point for future project development concerns projects where there is an application process with specific criteria and requirements. The EU project application forms require the applicant to explain how the project contributes to sustainable development (without any further clarification as to what this means). In the project applications analysed for the purpose of this study it seems that this requirement has so far been mostly interpreted as environmental sustainability or greening aspects of project implementation and delivery. It would be very desirable if the analysis of the CEI activities in this report could lead to more reflection about the multiple aspects of sustainable development. This would then ideally be included in the future project concepts and designs, and the 'sustainability box' could also be filled in with a fuller picture.

3.3 Synergies: multiple goals and integration

As introduced in section 1.4, the SDGs are not only universal but also indivisible. Actions towards one goal can positively reinforce the impact of actions towards other goals. And on the flipside, actions in one area might negatively impact the sustainable development outcomes in other goal areas. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development makes this clear in the preamble where it states that the interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the Agenda is realised. The indivisibility principle requires actively dealing with synergies and trade-offs.
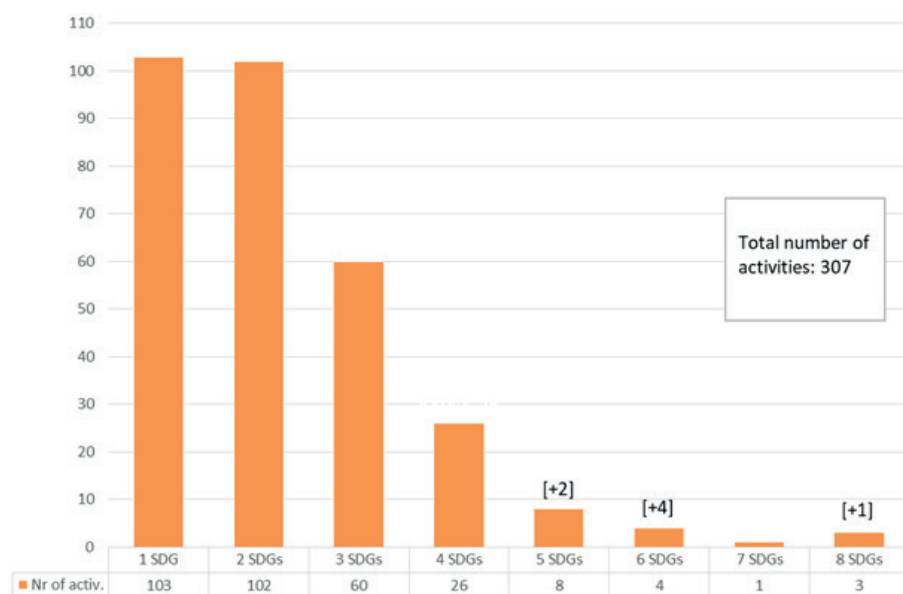
As a general rule, if one activity is from the onset designed to contribute to several or many goals it is more likely to create positive results. Not only synergies but also possible trade-offs should be tackled in the design of activities. Of course, this might not always be feasible; it could pose more difficulties than solutions in the scope of a project. Projects with multiple goals are considered one element of an integrated approach, and addressing the three sustainable development dimensions (environment, economic, social) as a second important one.

In order to identify good practices of activities contributing to multiple goals, the mapping was also analysed from this perspective.

If one activity contributes to several SDGs, it indicates that the links between different SDGs are made and it is an example of integration. If the SDGs cover all three dimensions of sustainable development, then it is a good example of an integrated approach.

As Figure 12 shows, the majority of activities contribute to one or two SDGs – 103 and 102 activities respectively. An improvement can already be seen with 60 activities contributing to three SDGs. A real advancement is demonstrated by the number of activities contributing to four SDGs (26) and then by a step-change towards an integrated approach with 8 activities contributing to five SDGs (plus 2 from the "deeper dive"), 4 activities contributing to six SDGs (plus 4 from the "deeper dive"), one activity to seven SDGs and finally 3 activities contributing to eight SDGs (plus 1 from the "deeper dive"). The results from the "deeper dive" exercise of the EU-funded Projects are added here only for the categories of five or more SDGs (also in Figure 12).

Figure 12:
The number of SDGs to which
CEI activities contribute [49]

	1 SDG	2 SDGs	3 SDGs	4 SDGs	5 SDGs	6 SDGs	7 SDGs	8 SDGs
■ Nr of activ.	103	102	60	26	8	4	1	3

Total number of activities: 307

This is already a good start and in the future, a shift towards a workplan even more aligned with the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 should see a greater increase in the number of activities contributing towards multiple goals.

Looking at the tabulated results of the mapping in Figure 11 one can see in Table 8 that the CEI activities mapped contribute to all the SDGs. In other words, all the SDGs are covered to a greater or lesser extent. However, there is room for improvement in terms of current weight given to certain SDGs (as explained above) and consequently of the lack of attention given to others. This has led to an imbalance in the overall contribution of the CEI to the three dimensions of sustainable development - which could be remedied in the future – while maintaining a sound basis in governance and means of implementation activities.

Table 8 shows these good examples of an integrated approach (without the EU "deeper dive" results).

In the following we are describing the activities which demonstrate integration and contribute to five, six, seven and eight SDGs.

---

49 The additions deriving from the "deeper dive" exercise of EU-funded Projects would have to be subtracted from the other categories, but for reasons of readability of the graph, and the relation to the text this was not done.

Table 8:
Good examples of activities related to four or more SDGs

Table 8		Good examples of projects related to 4 or more SDGs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	no.
year	15	**Cooperation Activities**																		
2016	CA	Mental Health, Mass People Displacement and Ethnic Minorities	•		•						•							•		4
2016	CA	Modelling Energy – Macro-regional Cooperation for a Decarbonized Future							•	•					•				•	4
2016	CA	Prepared as civil society for the challenges of EU Membership (Nature Directives)														•	•	•	•	4
2016	CA	Adaptation to Climate Change in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina - Natural and Anthropogenic Hazards	•				•						•		•		•			5
2016	CA	EIAT Conference: Education and Industry Advancing Together							•	•			•		•	•		•	•	7
2016	CA	Gender sensitive labour migration: awareness raising in the Mediterranean region and Eastern Europe				•				•			•						•	4
2016	CA	Infrastr. Developm.Virtual Western Balkans Centre for Hydromet.Services & Climate Change	•	•									•		•	•	•		•	8
2017	CA	Water Footprint - Transferring knowledge into Action		•				•						•					•	4
2017	CA	Building more sustainable and green cities in Central Europe						•	•				•		•	•			•	6
2018	CA	Building sust.links in the Danube region - citizen participation local, national, macro-regional & EU level	•								•								•	4
2018	CA	Conference on European and Cultural Heritage – a sustainable way / best practice within the CEI								•			•	•					•	4
2018	CA	ICARDA - Increased Cooperation amongst Rural Development Actors in Central Europe		•	•					•			•		•					6
2019	CA	High level Conference on interbasin cooperation on marine litter in Danube region					•						•		•	•				4
2019	CA	How to mitigate agricultural droughts impact in the CEI countries? (AgriDro)		•			•						•						•	4
2019	CA	Conference on geoscience applied to solve humanitarian problems globally	•										•		•	•	•			5
	7	**KEP (Knowhow and exchange program, EBRD)**																		
2017	KE	Dams safety: a new approach for the monitoring of the dams with the use of remote sensing						•	•					•			•			4
2017	KE	Know how e1change - GIs for non-wine food products: partnerships-based rural development in Moldova		•						•	•							•		4
2017	KE	Innovation voucher schemes for resource efficient technologies						•	•				•		•		•			5
2018	KE	WASTEOILFREE Integr.Waste-Oils Mgt System - Transfer Best Pr. Safe Sust Eco-friendly Transport in Serbia								•			•		•				•	4
2018	KE	Improving disaster risk reduction and resilience in the Western Balkans	•										•		•			•		4
2019	KE	GECCOSPARK-geological, ecological and cultural heritage through sustainable development								•			•		•	•	•			5
2018	KE	INNOVA.RISKs – Protection and prevention from natural and environmental disasters	•			•							•		•	•			•	6
	12	**TC - Technical cooperation (EBRD Fund)**																		
2017	TC	Albanian Railways - Asset Management Plan and Track Access Charges Methodology								•			•						•	4
2017	TC	Albanian Railways - Dev. of Acc. and Rep.Systems for Full International Financial Reporting Compliance								•			•						•	4
2017	TC	Albanian Railways - Assistance with Civil Society Engagement			•					•			•						•	4
2017	TC	Green Economy Transition		•						•			•	•	•	•	•		•	8
2019	TC	Serbia Route 7 Highway, Lender's Monitor			•					•			•	•					•	5
2019	TC	Serbia Voz Rolling Stock Aquistion, Lender's Monitor							•	•			•						•	5
2019	TC	Renewable Energy Actions Support to Moldova - Policy Dialogue						•					•		•				•	4
2019	TC	Analysis of climate change risks to critical infrastructure in Ukraine								•			•		•				•	4
2019	TC	Climate resilience Assessment for Belarus - regional bridges and M3 road rehabilitation								•			•		•				•	4
2019	TC	Advice for small businessed in Moldova - Youth and Skills				•	•			•									•	4
2019	TC	Increasing Market Opport.'ies for High Quality Food Products		•						•			•						•	4
2019	TC	Sustainable and Eco-Tourism programme - Albanian national and regional roads			•					•			•	•	•	•	•		•	8
		EU Funded projects																		
2017	EU	Advancing and Strengthening Social Enterprises (SENTINEL) 2017-2020	1							1	1								1	4
2020	EU	Cross border public transport services (FORTIS) 2020-2022	1								1		1	1						4
2020	EU	Sustainable Tourism and Mobility (SUSTOURISMO) 2020-2023								1	1		1	1	1					5
		Institutional activities (Presidencies)																		
2016	IA	MFA meeting 2016 (BiH)								1	1							1	1	4
2017	IA	CEI Summit 2017								1	1	1						1		4
2018	IA	Conference on Energy Efficiency in Buildings 2018							1		1		1						1	4
2018	IA	CEI Summit 2018								1			1	1	1			1		5
2019	IA	Ministerial meeting on Science and Research 2019				1							1	1	1			1	1	6
		total activities per SDG:	*8*	*7*	*3*	*3*	*2*	*9*	*10*	*16*	*20*	*5*	*22*	*12*	*20*	*6*	*8*	*10*	*34*	
		SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	

The 3 prime examples that address eight SDGs (plus 1 from the "deeper dive") are:

» The Cooperation Activity for *Infrastructure Development in the Western Balkans: Virtual centre of Hydrometeorological Services and Climate Change.* It contributes to SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 2 (Food and Agriculture), SDG 6 (Water), SDG 7 (Energy), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). It not only contributes to multiple SDGs but is also a good example of integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

» The TC Project on *Green Economy Transition.* It contributes to SDG 2 (Food and Agriculture), SDG 7 (Energy), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 9 (Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Cities and Human Settlements), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). It is a good example of contributing to multiple SDGs but in terms of integrating SDGs across the economic, social and environmental dimensions, it is missing the social elements.

» The TC Project: *Sustainable and Eco-Tourism Programme: Albanian National and Regional Roads.* It addresses SDG 3 (Health), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Oceans), SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). Again, a good example of contributing to multiple SDGs as well as a project that integrates SDGs across the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

» The EU-funded Project *SUSTOURISMO: Sustainable Tourism & Mobility Hand by Hand Development* which had addressed five SDGs, but after the "deeper dive" it contributes to eight SDGs, namely SDG 3 (Health), SDG 7 (Energy), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems). This project balances the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, with positive social benefits in terms of jobs and mobility, and hence demonstrates a broad approach across all three dimensions of sustainable development.

One activity that addresses seven SDGs:

» A Cooperation Activity addresses 7 SDGs which is the *EIAT Conference: Education and Industry Advancing Together.* This activity addresses SDG 7 (Energy), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 12 (Sustainable Production and Consumption), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 14 (Oceans), SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This activity integrates a very strong environmental dimension with the economic dimension.

There are 4 activities that address six SDGs (plus 4 from the "deeper dive")

» An Institutional Activity - *Ministerial Meeting on Science and Research 2019.* This meeting covered SDG 4 (Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 16 (Governance) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This meeting therefore covered the three dimensions of sustainable development

» A Cooperation Activity - *Building more sustainable and green cities in Central Europe.* This addresses SDG 6 (Water), SDG7 (Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems) and SDG 17 Means of Implementation. This integrates SDGs from the environmental and economic dimensions but is weak on the social dimension.

» A Cooperation Activity - *Increased Cooperation Amongst Rural Development Actors in Central Europe (ICARDA).* This addresses SDG 2 (Food and Agriculture), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems). This addresses all 3 dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

» A KEP Project - *INNOVATE* - *Protection and prevention from natural and environmental disasters.* This addresses SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 6 (Water), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This activity integrates social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Taking the "deeper dive" results into account, also the following 4 EU-funded Projects contribute to six SDGs (see Table 6):

» *ICARUS - Intermodal Connections in Adriatic-Ionian Region to Upgrowth Seamless solutions for passengers,* was originally found to contribute to three SDGs, which increased to six after the "deeper dive", namely: SDG 3 (Health), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 14 (Oceans). The project covers all dimensions of sustainable development and is strongest on the environment.

» *SENTINEL - Advancing and strengthening Social Enterprises to maximize their impact in the economic and social sector of Central European countries* originally contributed to four SDGs (see Table 8), which increased to six, namely: SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 10 (Equality), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This is a good spread across all dimensions.

» *TAAFE - Towards an Alpine Age-Friendly Environment* originally contributed to two SDGs only, and with the "deeper dive" approach to six, namely: SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 3 (Health), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 10 (Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This project is particularly strong in the social dimension.

» *CELEBIO - Central European Leaders of Bioeconomy Network* originally contributed only to one SDG, with the "deeper dive" to six, namely: SDG 7 (Energy), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This shows an emphasis on the economic and environmental dimensions.

8 activities contributing to five SDGs (minus 1 (SUSTOURIS-MO) plus 2 from the "deeper dive")

» The Institutional Activity - *CEI Summit of 2018* - addressed SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 10 (Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 16 (Governance) thus covering all dimensions of sustainable development.

» The 2016 Cooperation Activity – *Adaptation to Climate Change in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina – natural hazards and anthropogenic hazards.* This addresses SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 6 (Water), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG

13 (Climate Change) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This is strong on the environmental dimension and, on the face of it, weaker on the economic side but the results of adaptation measures will of course bring economic and social benefits.

» The 2019 Cooperation Activity – *Conference on geoscience to solve human problems globally* – contributes to SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). Again a strong environmental focus but again associated social and economic benefits from proposed solutions.

» A KEP Project in 2017 – *Innovation vouchers scheme for resource efficient technologies and services* which contributes to SDG 7 (Water), SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Change). Economic and environmental dimensions are the main focus.

» A KEP Project in 2019 called *GECCOSPARK – geological, ecological and cultural heritage through sustainable development.* This project addresses SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 14 (Oceans), SDG 15 (Land Ecosystems) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation. Economic and environmental dimensions in this project covered as well as the social dimension through the promotion of cultural heritage.

» A TC Project in 2019 called *Serbia Route 7 (Highways Monitor)* which addresses SDG 3 (Health), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). A project with both economic and environmental dimensions and complemented by social (health) benefits.

» A TC Project in 2019 – *Serbia Voz Rolling Stock Acquisition (Lender's Monitor)* – which contributes to SDG 7 (Energy), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This project comprises the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

With the "deeper dive" results taken into account, also the following 3 EU-funded Projects contribute to five SDGs (see Table 6):

» *4Helix+ - Empowering the 4 helix of MED maritime clusters through an open source/knowledge sharing and community-based approach in favour of MED blue growth* with originally three SDGs addressed, now to five, namely: SDG 2 (Food and Agriculture), SDG 8 (Economic development and jobs), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 14 (Oceans) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). A project with both economic and environmental dimensions, and complemented with a community-based approach that captures the social dimension.

» *Blue Boost - Boosting the innovation potential of the triple helix of Adriatic-Ionian traditional and emerging BLUE growth sectors clusters through an open source/ knowledge sharing and community based approach* contributes to the same SDGs as *4Helix+ (see above,* SDGs 2, 8, 9, 14 and 17). It also has a community-based approach thus bringing the social elements to the economic and environmental dimensions.

» *INTER-CONNECT - Intermodality Promotion and Rail Renaissance in Adriatic – Ionian Region* also contributes to three SDGs originally, and after the "deeper dive" to five, namely: SDG 3 (Health), SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Change) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). This is a good mix of economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Activities contributing to only one or two SDGs

The majority of activities contribute to only one or two goals (205). These are missed opportunities to strengthen the contribution of the CEI to the 2030 Agenda. In the future these activities could be conceptualised to include more sustainable development dimensions. For example, transport projects which look at public transport, access for people living in rural areas, safety and health issues, environmental impacts, climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainable energy sources, reduced road traffic and less air pollution. The EU-funded Projects (both mentioned in the section "Deeper Dive"): *ICARUS to improve the quality, safety and environmental sustainability of marine and coastal transport services* and the EU-funded project: *Sustainable Tourism and Mobility (Hand) (SUSTOURISMO)* are good examples of this multi-dimensional approach.

There are several Cooperation Activities involving training for young public professionals which have been mapped with one SDG, SDG 16 (Governance). This is based only on the short description and if more information were known on the training programme and topics, more SDGs would undoubtedly be included. Certainly, these trainings do provide an excellent opportunity in the future for training on aspects of sustainable development policies and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The many activities that focus only on economic development (SDG 8) may, nevertheless, include social and environmental SDG 8 targets, such as the ones on jobs and decent work or resource efficiency, respectively. The activities may, therefore, include social and environmental dimensions to a limited extent but by not taking into account the potential impact of the project on SDGs connected with ecosystems and biodiversity, equality or gender fail to take a fully integrated approach covering all dimensions of sustainable development.

One example is the KEP 2017 Project: *Capacity building on PPPs (Public Private Partnerships) for road construction and exploitation for Albanian authorities with the participation of Serbia and other Western Balkan countries.* This is mapped against SDG 8 Economy and Jobs and SDG 9 Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation but does not mention any environmental or social conditions that would need to be taken into account in a PPP for road construction.

Another classic example is SDG 7 (as one goal covered), where many activities focused on energy infrastructure (target 7.1) fail to include efficiency and renewable energy options (targets 7.2, 7.3, 7a). An example is the TC Project approved in 2016: *Implementation of the Corporate Governance Action Plan (CGAP) for KESH (Korporata Elektroenergjitike Shqiptare.* This project of governance support to energy in Albania does not mention renewables or energy efficiency. While a later 2018 TC project: *Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings. Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia* addresses energy efficiency in SDG 7 as well as SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 13 (Climate Change).

"Investment in the Silk Road Infrastructure Corridor: the Western Balkans Route" and *"Project Preparation along the Silk Road in CSEE: Assessing and Tackling Policy Obstacles to Infrastructure Investment in the Region"* are two large Technical Cooperation Project which each contribute to two SDGs – SDG 8 (Economic Development and Jobs) and SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation). These stand out in terms of their lack of attention to social, environmental and even governance aspects. Of course, since the funding is from the EBRD there will be relevant impact

assessments in place but nonetheless, the projects would ideally be conceived from their inception onwards to fully embrace the 2030 Agenda and all the dimensions of sustainable development.

The majority of the Institutional activities covered address one or two SDGs. In the future, coherence for sustainable development could be considered in every agenda. For example, if a meeting is on improving infrastructure, the environmental impact should also be considered along with mitigation and adaptation to climate change and how to improve social inclusion and access to those likely to be left behind. To give just one example, the Ministerial Conference and Workshops - Fostering Cohesion and Competitiveness through Regional Cooperation" in June 2018 could have taken the opportunity to look at both social and environmental impacts of policies under discussion.

4

Conclusions
and recommendations
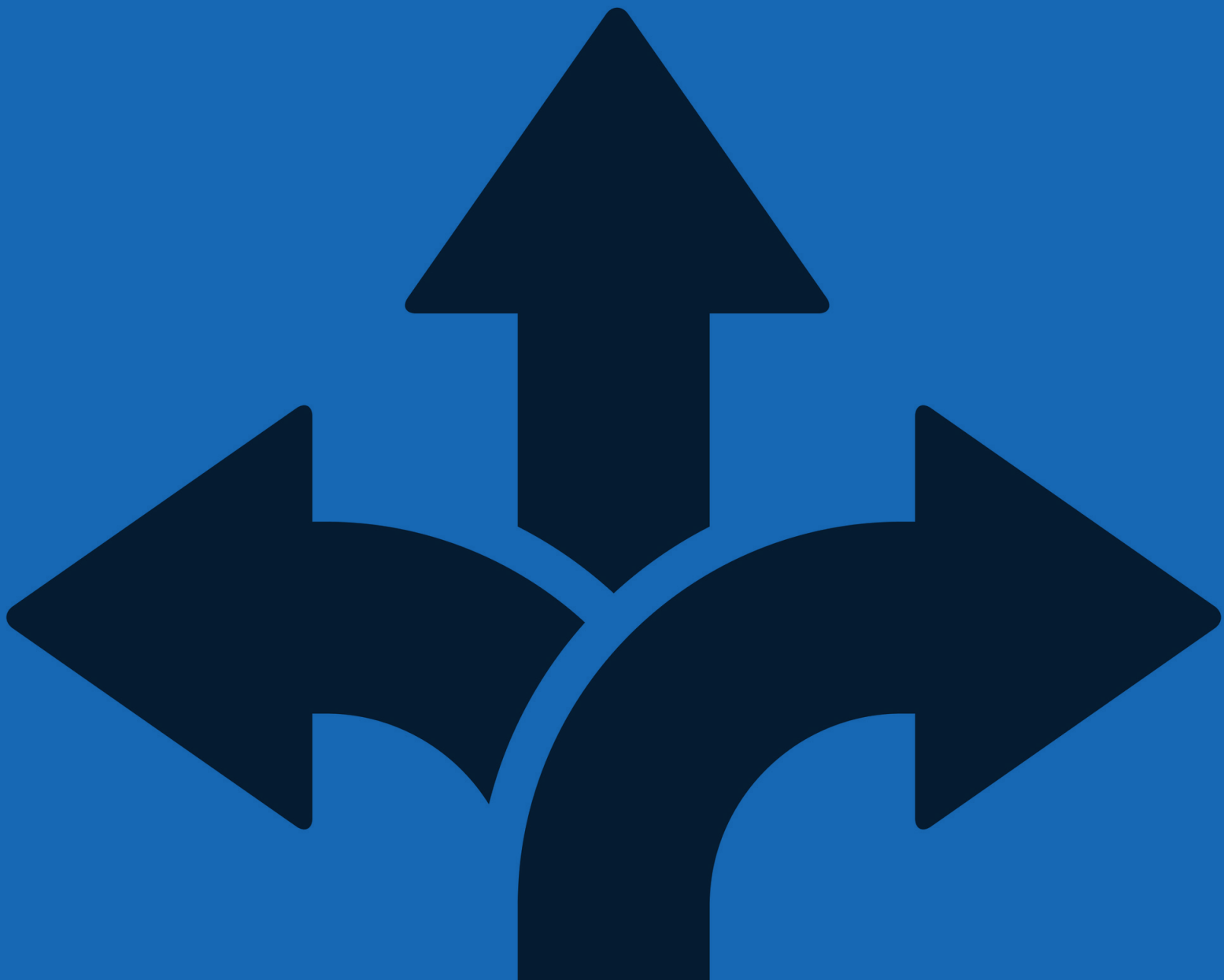
After having set the scene and introduced the key principles of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals in Chapter 1, the method used for this survey in Chapter 2, and the overview of findings in Chapter 3, this last chapter brings conclusions and concrete recommendations.

Section 4.1 is an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the CEI as an actual and potential multiplier of the efforts in its Member States, to implement the 17 SDGs by 2030. This SWOT analysis is based on the analysis of the around 300 activities and on interviews with CEI staff members. In Section 4.2, specific recommendations are formulated for the five types of activities of the CEI, followed by recommendations for specific work areas / themes in Section 4.3. The last section, 4.4, takes again the broader view and formulates a few key recommendations about mainstreaming the SDGs in the CEI at a strategic level.

4.1 SWOT analysis

A SWOT analysis is a popular management tool to help identify the main internal and external factors which are important to achieve an objective. On the internal side, this is about the *strengths* and *weaknesses* of the organisation. The flipside of this is the external environment in which the organisation operates; this is about *opportunities* and *threats*.

The SWOT analysis (Table 9) of the CEI's readiness to mainstream the SDGs in its work gives a diverse picture with many options for further improvement. The recommendations are elaborated further in the next sections of this Chapter.

Table 9:
SWOT analysis: Strength and weaknesses (internal), opportunities and threads (external)
for mainstreaming Agenda 2030 in the work of the CEI [1/2]

STRENGTHS

S1. Mainstreaming works through governance, and governance is the DNA and core asset of the CEI (improving transnational cooperation, - multi-actor, -sector, - level: all is covered).

Rec: Use and shape this more explicitly for SDG governance.

S2. A particular strength of the CEI is on "Means of Implementation" due to the focus on projects which share and transfer knowledge and expertise (particularly in Coop. activities and KEP, but also in EU projects, and TC to some extent).

Rec: Promote this more as "unique selling point" (USP) of the CEI.

S3. Identifying & connecting partners: strong asset for building cooperation, and a particular one East-West.

Rec: Build different formats: Establish an SDG Peer2Peer learning and Twinning tool (maybe as a special programme under the EC's TAIEX P2P and Twinning tools).

S4. Unique knowledge about countries:

• first-hand knowledge about transferability (of good practice between countries);

• knowledge from on the ground & capacity to connect to the sub-national level: good for improving multi-level governance.

Rec: Make this more explicit and systemise the knowledge (e.g. build an own database of country-level information, to be shared with CEI countries; start from Part 2 of this study plus more background information).

S5. Wide experience in science-policy interface: applied research, multi-actor projects, and typically the role as connector.

Rec: build on this and expand (see below); check feasibility of establishing a CEI SDG Knowledge Hub with universities in the member countries.

S6. Committed and skilled staff for the type of activities, and readiness for a new pathway.

Rec.: Start internal "Teaching silos to dance" activities to further increase the level of holistic thinking, which is part of SDG mainstreaming; also in institutional activities with members.

S7. Flexibility in Cooperation activities and KEP to shape calls for proposals .

REC: Maximise this as opportunity to shift closer to integrated SDG projects.

WEAKNESSES

W1. Inner coherence of the CEI strategy & activities is weak.

Rec: SDGs as framework will help.

W2. Cohesion is an aim, but participation of countries in the CEI activities is rather unequal.

Rec: Put more efforts in this cohesion issue to reduce the inequalities.

W3. No specific capacity building program for this, e.g. for how to write successful project applications, build organisations, strategies, business cases, cooperation etc.

Rec: Start a capacity building program (*maybe as pilot), especially for the cooperation activities, and KEP; training only, no technical cooperation (make clear the difference).

W4. Multi-actor (and multi-sector) knowledge relatively weak: Little knowledge about other policy areas and actors, most notably environmental sustainability.

Rec: Gain knowledge, e.g. through involvement in multi-stakeholder processes on Agenda 2030 and fora of the UN (UN DESA, UNEP), EU (JRC, EEA) and/or a broader spectrum of projects.

W5. EU policies: little knowledge and activities in EU policy-developments.

Rec: Spend more capacity for becoming an actor at EU level (advocacy in EU enlargement and neighbourhood policies).

W6. Very large number of projects means that secretariat staff cannot devote adequate time to shaping activities towards SDG delivery.

Rec: (possibly) More staff to manage projects, in particular the Cooperation activities which are the most numerous. Or reduce the number of calls for proposals although this of course would mean fewer activities with high potential could be supported.

1/2

Table 9:
SWOT analysis: Strength and weaknesses (internal), opportunities and threads (external)
for mainstreaming Agenda 2030 in the work of the CEI [2/2]

OPPORTUNITIES

Thematic / policy priorities

O1. Agenda 2030 as universal roadmap until 2030, i.e. for all countries of the CEI, even if they are not oriented to the EU.

Rec: Build or improve cooperation with UN organisations; special attention to be given to UNECE .

O2. Priorities of the current European Commission are most relevant for the existing scope of activities, and the intended mainstreaming of Agenda 2030: European Green Deal, an economy that works for the people, and others.

Rec.: Use this momentum to discuss projects/financing with long-term structural benefits.

O3. Recovery after COVID-19 to get on sustainable pathways: a lot of funds will be available.

Rec: Use the SDGs to reframing the activities in the health area (*see current COVID-19 call).

Politics / external affairs

O4. New impetus of the EU for Western Balkan accession (and Eastern partnership).

Rec.: Use this for additional co-financing of projects on pathways to sustainability, e.g. using Green New Deal to get ahead of the game in terms of accession.

Governance

O5. Need for non-partisan information from the ground / The CEI as non-partisan information provider for EU institutions.

Rec: Build or improve relation to EU institutions (DGs and others, e.g. EEA, JRC, [see also O7 below].

O6. For sustainable transition pathways: more need for linking the multi-sectors, - level and actors; more cooperation between countries, including peer learning is beneficial.

Rec: *build and expand capacity as "unique selling point".

O7. Need to improve the science-policy interface: both domestic and international – opportunity for science diplomacy.

Rec: Build or improve relation to related EU institutions (DG RTD, JRC, agencies like EEA).

THREATS

T1. Potential for political influence to shift focus to short-term priorities and away from A2030.

Rec.: Ensure multi-annual (financial) commitment for x% of CEI activities (+ label this % also to SDGs?).

Rec: Better utilise the institutional activities towards SDG diplomacy and implementation. Ensure SDGs on every ministerial, parliamentary and business forum agenda.

T2. Shift of EU policies away from sustainability due to the COVID-19 crisis (currently this does not seem to apply).

Rec.: Address COVID-19 through SDG lens – contribute with proposals and projects to a sustainable pathway. This is currently strongly promoted by the European Commission. The CEI could support this in its EU member countries.

T3. EU External affairs / neighbourhood policies fall back into security issues only.

Rec.: Build and maintain holistic multi-level/-sector/-actor approaches as "unique selling point" for a resilient pathway. DG Near also needs to implement the SDGs in its activities – the CEI can support and advocate.

T4. The establishment of EU Macro-Regional Strategies challenges the role of, and interest in, Regional International Organisations (RIO).

Rec: Increase capacity for international cooperation with other RIOs – increase visibility, of added value of activities, especially in the context of sustainable development & Agenda 2030.

T5. The strengths of CEI are considered as less significant .

Rec: Work with other RIOs ... (see T4).

T6. Constraints due to criteria and guidelines by external funder.

Rec: Work with EBRD within the CEI fund to shape criteria towards SDGs; also with the EU Funders.

2/2

4.2 Recommendations to mainstream the SDGs in five types of activities

Each of the activity types of the CEI has specific opportunities to integrate the SDGs. The following recommendations are based on the findings in Chapter 3, in particular section 3.2.

4.2.1 Institutional Activities

1. **High-level joint actions:** high-level meetings organised by the CEI at the 2019 High Level Political Forum on the SDGs at the UN Headquarters in New York have demonstrated the commitment of the CEI to the 2030 Agenda. It is recommended to use this impetus for future discussions at Ministerial, Expert, Inter-Parliamentary and Business levels on experiences to date and to identify specific joint actions for the implementation of the SDGs. It would also be useful if the institutional activities systematically addressed the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the CEI MS (see Part 2 of this study), and how the CEI activities could support it.

2. **SDG agenda-setting:** it is recommended to consider sustainable development within all Institutional Activities, by, for example, making sustainable development or Agenda 2030 implementation a regular point on the agendas, to not miss out the synergies and trade-offs between different SDGs and/or dimensions of sustainability. A practical measure could be to organise sustainable meetings (in terms of catering, transport etc.), which is an element of public procurement and has good communication effects.

3. **The Economic Dimension,** or meetings of business actors and Chambers of Commerce, provide a good opportunity to look at issues of circular economy, resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, youth employment, gender and health in the workplace, as well as competitiveness, economic development, corporate social responsibility and governance issues like due diligence, and sustainable business models in general.

4. **Inter-parliamentary meetings** could build upon work that Parliaments are already doing at the national level on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and share peer-to-peer experiences of how they are promoting and legislating on the SDGs within their national parliamentary activities, as well as inter-parliamentary cooperation with the European Parliament (see European Parliament 2019).

4.2.2 Cooperation Activities

1. **Strengthen environment & gender:** the category Cooperation Activities addresses the dimensions of sustainable development in an asymmetrical way, with the environmental dimension being the weakest. SDG 6 Water, SDG 14 Oceans and SDG 15 Land Ecosystems are almost absent (6 activities). Also hardly featuring is SDG 5 Gender. This could be improved, in particular, for the environment, supported by the fact that environmental protection already features as a Goal in the PoA. Also gender equality would need to be streamlined more.

2. **SDG training for young public professionals:** use the existing and future Cooperation Activities involving training for young public professionals which have been mapped with SDG 16 (Governance) as an excellent opportunity for training on aspects of sustainable development policies and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3. **Make sustainability an item in all SME and Business networking events:** good examples in Cooperation Activities to date include topics of sustainable consumption and production, energy efficiency and use of renewables, labour rights, gender and equality.

4. **European Youth Parliaments** provide excellent opportunities to discuss the role of parliaments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how to engage with civil society and citizens in holding governments to account for the delivery of sustainable development strategies and plans. A similar principle can apply to other Youth Forums and Networking events where the SDGs might be a topic to stimulate some innovative thinking about how to create synergies.

5. Integrate SDG implementation and governance issues in the annual **EU and Legal Reform Summer Schools** and mainstream SDGs throughout the programme topics. Sessions covering enlargement, the future of the EU, democracy, rights, justice and other aspects of governance for SDG implementation can all be conceptualised to capture SDG implementation opportunities and challenges.

6. **Meetings of experts:** many Cooperation Activities as well as the Know-How Exchange events bring together different actors including government officials, local government, academic, business and civil society groups. These usually have a focused topic for discussion, exchange of information and expertise. These topics could also be discussed in the context

of the 2030 Agenda, and how the topic can maximise inter-linkages amongst the SDGs and contribute to sustainable development.

7. **Greening all CEI events**: all events and meetings supported through the CEI fund should be organised in a sustainable manner, for example by reducing paper use, local and organic catering, by increasing accessibility through public transport. The conclusions from the activity FESTIVAL IDENTITY 2019 (workshops for film professionals from across Europe) on how to reduce the environmental impact of the festivals and to act as role models, may be useful for other similar events supported by the CEI. Calls for proposals should include the requirement for sustainable event management.

8. **Stimulate creativity on sustainability** by including a question in the calls for proposals about how the activity can be linked to the SDGs. Can the topic be framed in the context of the SDGs or what links are there to the SDGs?

4.2.3 Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme

1. **Social challenges** - In terms of balance, the social dimension of sustainable development is the weakest of the three dimensions in the TC Projects during the study period 2016-2019. It is recommended to incorporate social challenges more in Technical Cooperation activities in the future.

2. **Mainstreaming road transport projects** - As some Technical Cooperation Projects in the field of road infrastructure stand out in terms of their lack of attention to social, environmental and even governance aspects, it would be advised to earmark such projects for special attention on mainstreaming Agenda 2030, from their very inception onwards.

3. **Capacity building and support for SMEs** could include issues of resource efficiency, energy efficiency, climate change, pollution and waste reduction to help a shift towards a circular economy.

4. **Trainings for public officials** are valuable for improving governance and means of implementation. It would be highly desirable if trainings also developed to include policy-making for sustainable development, for example: how to design, implement and monitor a sustainable development plan for the country, region or local community. Capacity building and training is typically needed for all aspects of governance for sustainable development (see also Part 2 of this study),

like how to organise processes for horizontal and vertical coordination within the government, how to organise stakeholder participation, how to organise scientific input for policy making, and all including the introduction of tools such as sustainability impact assessment, SDG budgeting and similar concepts. Similarly, the regular trainings **in public procurement** could benefit from modules on green and ethical procurement to trigger sustainability benefits in businesses and supply chains.

4.2.4 Know-how Exchange Programme (KEP)

1. **Trainings for public officials and professionals** can be good opportunities to include sustainable development policy and practice adapted to their line of work (see also above Technical Cooperation).

2. The KEP Projects are an excellent match to SDG 17 (Means of Implementation) with a focus on **knowledge transfer in science, technology and innovation** as well as **building partnerships for sustainable development.** It is highly recommendable to continue this approach in the future and build upon it.

3. **The good governance** projects are currently quite few in number but are a very important contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole, as well as to SDG 16, and should be expanded if possible in future plans.

4. The **spectrum of SDGs addressed** in the KEP Projects, and the degree of integration of the dimensions, is already quite positive and can be built upon, e.g. by systematically addressing sustainability issues in all areas. For example, including issues of energy efficiency and renewable energy where possible in all energy-related projects.

4.2.5 EU-funded Projects

The EU-funded Projects is one of the type of activities that has a largely externally-driven agenda (similar for the TC Projects) and they cannot be shaped from the onset – the calls for proposals are designed by the European Commission. However, there is some manoeuvring space:

1. **SDGs in project design** - The level of sustainability of EU-funded Projects largely depends on the EU funding source and the criteria for the calls for proposals. However, the pro-

posals developed by the CEI can be designed with a sustainability lens, i.e. addressing the problem in an integrated or nexus approach etc., and with the objectives to serve SDG implementation. With the current European Commission's focus on the SDGs as being 'at the heart' of its policies, such proposals seem more successful than in the past.

2. **Selections of calls to apply for** – A strategic orientation of the CEI towards the SDGs, and work areas in particular (see next section 4.3) will sharpen the profile and make the selection of calls for proposals more effective.

3. **Education for Agenda 2030** - Activities supporting SDG 4, Target 7 on acquiring the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, cultural diversity, human rights, peace and global citizenship can be excellent carriers for the creation of ownership of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Therefore, it would be recommendable to incorporate such education activities with a broad sustainability scope in future CEI activity planning. With respect to EU-funded Projects, a co-creation approach could be tried more often, also building on the CEI's assets of being well connected to multiple actors.

4.3 Recommendations for work areas

Both the mapping of the EU-funded Projects, comparing with the thematic structure as used by the CEI, and the "deeper dive" in the mapping already point to ways of streamlining the existing areas of work and developing them into a sustainability direction. Such tracks had also been discussed in the interviews (see Step 2 in Chapter 2).

A classic model to develop strategic tracks for sustainability is the nexus approach – linking and clustering issues that are most intensely connected. Most prominent is the food – water – energy nexus. Agenda 2030 and the SDGs pick up this thinking and underline the need to take an integrated approach for development pathways and in tackling problems. It also added the notion of transformation or transition. Both aspects are combined in the model developed in the GSDR 2019 (Global Sustainable Development Report) for transformation pathways: with six "entry points for transformations" and four "levers", as depicted in section 1.4 (*Figure 8).

This model would be very suitable as an orientation for developing the CEI work areas, - in particular in combination with the levers, which are a particular asset of the CEI, as pointed out

throughout this report.

Table 10 captures a first attempt for streamlining the existing themes, also referring to the GSDR model. For a future CEI strategy, a settling of areas should be combined systematically with the levers the CEI provides, or could provide in an improved way. It does work on and with the four levers (governance, economy & finance, individual & collective action, science & technology), but there is room for improvement – again more on the strategic side, i.e. systemising this.
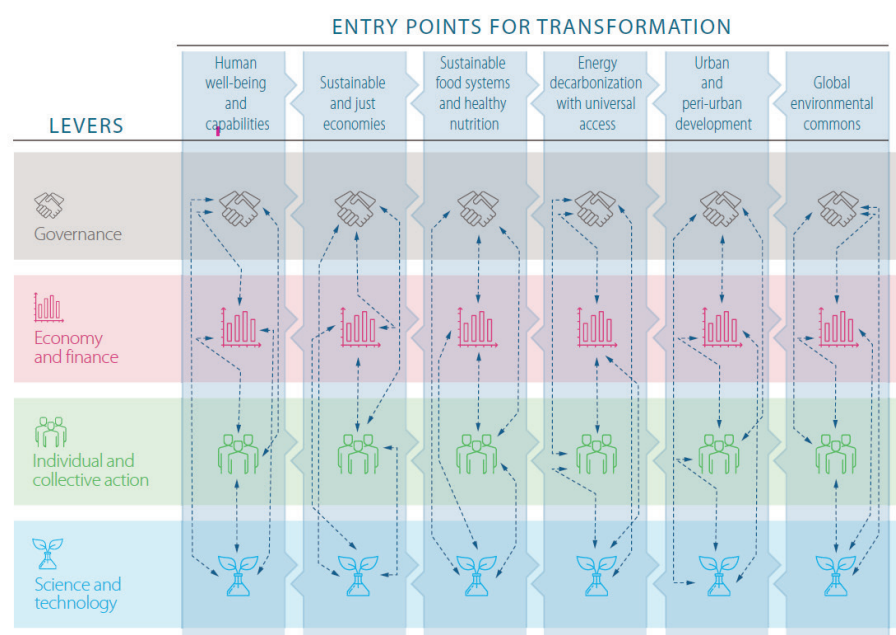
Figure 13:
Interactions of four levers and six entry points for transformation pathways (GSDR 2019)

In general, it would be useful to bear in mind for future strategy development:

SDG 13 Climate and energy – The global climate crisis (SDG 13) has such cross-cutting environmental, social and economic impacts that it is recommended to do a climate proofing test before its adoption and during its evaluation. Climate change deserves a place in all activities which contribute to economic development, jobs, industrialisation and infrastructure. Promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency should be integrated in all energy-related projects and programmes.

SDGs 14 and 15 Oceans and Land ecosystems are particularly weak in CEI activities, either as the objectives or as an integral part. The 2030 Agenda recognises that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of

our planet's natural resources.[50] The whole region has some very important habitats and biodiversity and, therefore, more activities related to their conservation would bring benefits to many issues such as rural development, jobs, culture, tourism, climate mitigation, resilience to environmental disasters, health, wellbeing and agriculture.

4.4 Strategic recommendations

Besides the concrete recommendations for each of the types of activities and themes, the SWOT analysis and other information sources also lead to key recommendations about how the CEI organisation could mainstream Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in its work and organisation.

Three opportunity/action areas can be distinguished:

1 > *Creating the strategic basis for mainstreaming SDGs in current and future activities*

2 > *Striving for organisational excellence: leadership, skills, training, learning and co-creation*

3 > *SDG-proofing of ongoing and already planned activities*

4.4.1 Creating the strategic basis for mainstreaming SDGs in current and future activities

1. **Develop a longer term CEI Sustainable Development Strategy (CSDS) for 2030**. Such a strategy can include a relatively short document providing a framework that guides SDG mainstreaming, and map the most important current and foreseen actions. The CSDS is at the same time an authoritative document and an inclusive process. Strategic planning for the SDGs needs to be effective, accountable, and inclusive, and the CSDS would be about 'strategising' (thinking and acting strategically about mainstreaming) as well as 'planning'. In this way, the Strategy will already have an impact when it is still in its inception phase. This would make the CSDS a conceptual frontrunner as regards SD strategies.

2. **Alternatively, the longer-term strategic planning for 2030**

50   UN GA 2015, para 33

Table 10:
Development of CEI work areas in a sustainability direction

Themes as currently used by CEI for the EU-funded Projects	GSDR entry points for transformation or lever	Recommended development of CEI work areas
Transport	Energy decarbonisation / sustainable and just economies / urban & peri-urban development	A signature area / well developed thematic area ⇒ Continue and sharpen the profile of sustainable transport, inter-modality etc.
R&I	Sustainable and just economies	Two projects are on blue economy, and one on SME innovation ⇒ develop both into circular economy (very much needed and missing in the case of the blue economy projects, strong opportunities and guidance in both)
Energy & Bioeconomy	Energy decarbonisation ⇒ Sustainable and just economies	⇒ Drop the energy area (as too competitive and the added value of CEI is difficult to be played out) and develop the bioeconomy field into circular economy (with much potential) ⇒ Consider developing in the agriculture – food system – health direction (incl. links with the health projects)
Environmental Protection	Sustainable and just economies / urban & peri-urban development	The existing projects are de facto circular economy projects, or with relation to energy / transport / tourism ⇒ Expand the environmental aspects of these projects; develop truly sustainable projects in terms of balancing the SD dimensions (as a few good practice examples show) ⇒ Make sure that environment is always mainstreamed
Health	Human well-being and capabilities	Appears so far rather as exceptional projects: scrutinise existing knowledge and capacity (and potential) ⇒ If continued, develop a profile for the health – environment link, and most desirably together with the bioeconomy area also in the direction of food systems
Social Innovation	Human well-being and capabilities	A potential signature area: not yet many projects, but the existing ones are good practice ⇒ Continue and sharpen the profile for social innovation, and expand on the side of environmental aspects (and economy where applicable)
Culture	Lever: Individual and collective action	⇒ Keep and develop this further as "unique selling point", link more to the other types of activities (in particular Cooperation)
Justice	Lever: Governance	Appears so far rather as an exceptional project: scrutinise existing knowledge and capacity (and potential) ⇒ Develop this area further into a work area governance, also more systematically throughout the types of activities (see also recommendation for a regional SDG Governance hub) ⇒ The more narrow justice projects might be discontinued (if not: match capacity development with the governance development)

(and beyond) could be developed in a 'chapeau' chapter of the Plan of Action which only covers three years.

3. **Leave no one behind** - One of the key principles of the 2030 Agenda is to "leave no-one behind". In the future, more projects could be supported in the CEI portfolio to strengthen human rights, including the rights of ethnic minorities, disabled people, children and the elderly or other vulnerable groups, as promoted in the SDG 10 Targets 2, 3, 4 and 5.

4. **Use the UN's capacity building mechanisms** - Refocus CEI institutional activities towards SDG diplomacy and implementation; develop or improve cooperation with UN organisations, including UN DESA, expand to the STI activities (science technology and innovation), and UNECE: explore common interests against the background of similarities in area of constituency and hybrid membership.

5. **Use the EU's sustainability momentum** - Use the momentum of the European Commission's stronger-than-ever focus on the SDGs, to discuss projects/financing with long-term structural benefits for the CEI countries. Use this also to link better the multi-sector, multi-level and multi-actors dimensions of sustainable transition pathways.

6. **Use 'green' Covid-19 recovery funds** - Make use of the fact that Covid-19 has liberated huge funds that could be used to support the SDGs, if CEI activities in the health area could be reframed towards long-term sustainable investments.

7. **Use the EU's interest in Western-Balkan & Eastern Partnership** - Use the new impetus in the EU for Western Balkan accession and Eastern Partnership, for additional co-financing of projects on pathways to sustainability, e.g. using Green New Deal to get ahead of the game in terms of accession.

8. **Get involved in the OECD's activities on governance and in Western-Balkan countries** - Explore opportunities for cooperation in the OECD/UNDP Global hub on the governance for the SDGs[51] and with the OECD/EU SIGMA initiative (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management). In both cases the CEI's country specific knowledge on context is a clear asset, which could be enhanced, also through such a partnership (see point on Governance hub).

9. **Make the CEI a trusted science-policy interface** - Strengthen the role of the CEI as a non-partisan information provider towards EU institutions (funders, research (RTD, EEA, JRC),

51 https://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/launchoftheglobalhubonthegovernanceforthesdgs.htm

policy). Linked to this, improve the role of the CEI as a science-policy interface, both domestic and international; this is an opportunity for science diplomacy, where it would be desirable to include Agenda 2030.

10. **Establish a regional SDG Governance & Knowledge Hub** - Invest in making governance, - the CEI's core asset, the basis for SDG mainstreaming, e.g. through hosting an SDG Governance network/hub. Based on the wide experience of the CEI in science-policy interface because of its applied research, multi-actor projects, and typically the role as connector, expand this capacity and check the feasibility of establishing a the CEI SDG Knowledge Hub with universities in the member countries. Make the unique knowledge about countries at the CEI Secretariat more explicit and systemise the knowledge (e.g. build an own database of country-level information, to be shared with CEI countries; start from the findings in Part 2 of this study plus more background information).

11. **Develop a CEI SDG Peer2Peer learning & Twinning tool** - Further strengthen the CEI's Cooperation Activities and Know-how Exchange Projects (KEP), because sharing expertise is particularly valuable for mainstreaming the SDGs. Use the existing flexibility in Cooperation Activities and KEP to shape calls for proposals, as an opportunity to shift closer to integrated SDG projects. Strengthen this with a CEI SDG Peer2Peer learning & Twinning tool - maybe as a special programme under the EC's TAIEX P2P and Twinning tools.

12. **Join with similar intergovernmental regional organisations** (Regional International Organisations, "RIO") to share good practice on mainstreaming SDGs by organising joint events and to consider secondments between these organisations (for example, Union for the Mediterranean, Council of the Baltic Sea States).

4.4.2 Striving for organisational excellence: leadership, skills, training, learning and co-creation

The CEI is a facilitator, a convenor and an enabler. By bringing actors from the Member States together, the CEI acts as a multiplier of resources. This is an important role. Ultimately, implementing the SDGs is all about governance - and so is the CEI.

1. **Mainstreaming SDGs begins 'at home'** - Based on the CEI's committed and skilled staff for the type of activities, and readiness for a new pathway, start internal "Teaching silos to dance" activities to further increase the level of holistic

thinking, which is part of SDG mainstreaming; also in institutional activities with members.

2. **Participative leadership** - It should be considered using participatory leadership methods to help mainstreaming the SDGs in all CEI activities. The foundation of this approach is that leadership is not only a hierarchical principle (top-down), but can be exercised at all levels, by all actors, in their own ways, within their own possibilities, and in a collaborative way. It is not replacing hierarchical leadership but an addition. It stimulates ownership and willingness to change at all levels and among all internal and external stakeholders. It encourages people to take more responsibility and come up with more innovative activities. In this way, it implies more effective use of limited human resources.

3. **Training for SDG-proof project applications** - The CEI-Executive Secretariat could start providing (online) training for project applicants from its 17 countries, on the history, the meaning and the systemic character of the SDGs. This would stimulate applicants to provide proposals for activities which are much more 'SDG-proof' and will contribute to one or several SDGs. A specific CEI-tailored training could be developed on a low-cost basis by making use of already available online training modules on the SDGs and their implementation, provided by UN DESA, UNITAR and regional UN bodies.

4. **Project application forms** - Mainstreaming the SDGs in the CEI activities begins with the project application forms. Where the CEI is the funder, a 'sustainability box' should be included in the forms. Even for very small projects this will be important (e.g. a commitment on sustainable event management, including catering). Where an external funder requires filling in such a sustainability box in the forms, as the EU already does, it is recommended to take the broader view and not restrict the task to greening/environmental issues.

5. **SDGs in regular training** - Looking at some of the activities supported by TC Programme (and also KEP) there are good opportunities to develop these further taking an SDG perspective. In particular, the regular trainings for public officials are valuable for improving governance and means of implementation. It would be highly desirable if trainings also included policy-making for sustainable development, for example: how to design, implement and monitor a sustainable development plan for the country, region or local community. Capacity building and training is typically needed for all aspects of governance for sustainable development (see also Part 2 of this study), like how to organise processes for

horizontal and vertical coordination within the government, how to organised stakeholder participation, how to organise scientific input for policy making, and all including the introduction of tools such as sustainability impact assessment, SDG budgeting and similar concepts.

6. **Training for young professionals** - There are several Cooperation Activities involving training for young public professionals which have been mapped with one SDG, SDG 16 (Governance). This is based only on the short description and if more information was known on the training programme and topics, already more SDGs would no doubt be included. Certainly, these trainings do provide an excellent opportunity in future for training on aspects of sustainable development policies and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

7. **Guidance for mapping synergies and trade-offs.** For at least the larger projects (in terms of costs/resources/impacts) managed by the CEI, it would be worthwhile to develop a practical guidance note for project applicants in the MS, on mapping the SDG-related synergies and trade-offs in their proposals.

4.4.3 SDG-proofing of ongoing and already planned activities

8. **A more holistic approach** - Currently, the large majority of the CEI activities contribute to only one or a few SDGs, while a more comprehensive mainstreaming of Agenda 2030 could have resulted in more activities addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. This should be remedied in future programming, while maintaining the current sound basis on governance and means of implementation activities (the enabling SDGs 16 and 17).

9. **Promoting multiple goals and an integrated approach** - Generally, the more SDGs a CEI activity supports in an integrated way, the better it is expected to contribute to Agenda 2030's holistic objectives: taking care of the three dimensions of sustainable development, working towards synergies and addressing trade-offs etc. Mainstreaming the SDGs in CEI programming will see a greater increase in the number of activities contributing towards multiple goals. Currently, however, the majority of activities contribute to only one or two goals (205 out of 307). In the future these activities could be conceptualised to include more sustainable development dimensions. For example, transport projects which look at public transport, access for people living in rural areas, safe-

ty and health issues, environmental impacts, climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainable energy sources, reduced road traffic and less air pollution.

10. **Additional SDG targets** - Targets which do not fall under specific objectives (at present) of the CEI, e.g. poverty reduction, sanitation, safe and affordable housing, violence against women and girls, may be still very relevant for the CEI and should be considered in future actions. This includes targets which might be sensitive for some member countries, e.g. fossil fuel subsidies in the economic domain and sexual and reproductive health rights in the social domain. It covers also some targets which are relevant for the CEI but are not, so far, covered by activities, e.g, reducing the costs of remittances, addressing overfishing, tackling poaching and wildlife trafficking, managing invasive species.

References
and data sources

- Black Sea Economic Cooperation Forum (BESC) (2018): Press release 1-2 March 2018

- Black Sea Economic Cooperation Forum (BESC) (2019): BESC Events

- Black Sea Economic Cooperation Forum (BESC) (no year): BESC Project Development Fund

- Central European Initiative (CEI) (2018): Plan of Action 2018-2020

- Central European Initiative (CEI) (2019): Annual Report of the Secretary General 2019

- Central European Initiative (CEI) (2019b): Annual Report of the CEI Fund at the EBRD 2019

- Council for the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) (2017): Baltic 2030 Action Plan

- Council for the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) (2019): CBSS Project Support Facility Manual (PSF Manual)

- Dept. of the Chancellery & Public Governance, Flanders (2019): SDG Manual for government organisations

- European Commission (2019): The European Green Deal (COM (2019) 640)

- European Commission (2019b): Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020 (COM(2019) 650 final)

- European Commission (2020): EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (COM (2020) 380 final)

- European Commission (2020b): Farm to Fork Strategy 2020 (COM (2020) 381 final)

- European Commission (2020b): Publication

- European Parliament (2019): Europe's approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: Good Practice and the way forward

- Folke, C., Biggs, R., Norström, A.V., Reyers, B., Rockström, J. (2016): Social-ecological resilience and biosphere-based sustainability science. Ecol. Soc. 21.

- LeBlanc, D. (2015): Towards integration at last? The SDGs as a network of targets. DESA Working Paper No. 141. ST/ESA/2015/DWP/141

- Meuleman & Niestroy (2015): Common but differentiated governance. A metagovernance approach to make the SDGs work

- Niestroy, I. (2016): How are we getting ready? The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the EU and its Member States: analysis and action so far. Discussion paper 9/2016, German Development Institute (DIE)

- OECD (2020): OECD DAC List of ODA recipients 2018-2020

- PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency / Lucas, P. & Wilting, H. (2018): Using planetary boundaries to support national implementation of environment-related Sustainable Development Goals. PBL publication number: 2748

- UN DESA (2019): Global Sustainable Development Report 2019

- UN DESA (2020): Compendium of National Institutional Arrangements for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 47 countries that presented voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum in 2019.

- UNDP (2017): Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA). To facilitate mainstreaming of SDGs into national and local plans

- UNESCO (no year): Culture for Sustainable Development

- UNESCO (no year): Global Geoparks

- UN General Assembly (UN GA). (2015): Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015.

- UN Habitat III (2016): New Urban Agenda HIII

- UN Sustainable Development Group (2015): MAPS – Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for the 2030 Agenda

- UN SDG Knowledge Platform - Sustainable Development Goals Decade of Action

- UN SDG Knowledge Platform - Central European Initiative; Inputs by the CEI to the 2019 HLPF

- UN System SDG Implementation

- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (2017): UfM Roadmap for Action 2017

- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (2019): UfM Annual Report 2019

- Waage, J., Yap, C., Bell, S., Levy, C., Mace, G., Pegram, T., …Pool, N. (2015). Governing sustainable development goals: Interactions, infrastructures, and institutions. In: J. Waage & C. Yap (Eds.), Thinking beyond sectors for sustainable development, (pp. 79–88). London: Ubiquity Press.

SDG implementation in CEI Member States: analysis of governance elements and recommended steps ahead

Table of contents

List of abbreviations

CIE .... (parliamentary) Committee
CSOs .... Civil Society Organisations
PM .... Prime Minister
EC .... European Commission
ECOSOC .... United Nations Economic and Social Council
EIA .... Environmeental Impact Assessment
EU .... European Union
EU SDS .... EU Sustainable Development Strategy
FAO .... Food and Agriculture Organisation
HLPF .... United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IA .... Impact Assessment
IPU .... Interparliamentary Union
KPI .... Key Performance Indicators
LNOB .... Leave no one behind
MAPS .... Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MFA .... Minister of Foreign Affairs
NDP .... National Development Programme
NDS .... National Development Strategy
NGO .... Non-Governmental Organisation
NSDS .... National Sustainable Development Strategy
NSSD .... National Sustainable Development Strategy or National Strategy for Sustainable (Socio-Economic) Development
OWG .... UN Open Working Group
PCSD .... Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
RIA .... Regulatory Impact Assessment
SCP .... Sustainable Consumption and Production
SD .... Sustainable Development
SDGs .... Sustainable Development Goals
SDS .... Sustainable Development Strategy
SIA .... Sustainability Impact Assessment
UNDP .... United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO .... United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA .... United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF .... United Nations Children's Fund
VNR .... Voluntary National Review
WG .... Working Group

1

Methodology

Part 2 of the study analysed the governance elements set in place in CEI Member States (MS) for the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 and its SDGs.

The core objectives of this Part were to present a detailed overview on the governance aspects related to the implementation of Agenda 2030, i.e. how the CEI MS have integrated the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs into their strategies and institutional arrangements, aggregated in country profiles for each CEI MS. The ultimate goal is that this structured and aggregated information establishes a common knowledge base for future cooperation.

To do so, we have applied the analytical framework as developed in the European Parliament (EP) Study 2019 (see section 1.1), collected data from key sources according to the structure of this framework for each country (section 1.2), and composed overviews of all countries per governance theme (section 1.3). These steps are explained in this chapter.

1.1 Analytical Framework

The analytical framework was developed for the EP study and integrates multiple perspectives on governance for sustainable development. The framework integrates five key governance elements and principles for sustainable development[52], corresponding Agenda 2030 principles[53] and the OECD's building block for policy coherence[54], hence offering a comprehensive approach to understanding governance for sustainable development.

The framework uses the seven key governance principles of commitment, horizontal and vertical coordination, participation, knowledge, monitoring and continuity and links them with the Agenda 2030 principles of universality, interconnectedness, leave no one behind, and partnerships:

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

---

52   Niestroy, 2014; ESDN guidelines, https://www.sd-network.eu/?k=basics%20of%20SD%20strategies#guidelines

53   https://www.unssc.org/sites/unssc.org/files/2030_agenda_for_sustainable_development_kcsd_primer_en.pdf

54   OECD, 2017, http://www.oecd.org/publications/policycoherence-for-sustainable-development-2017-9789264272576-en.htm

The principle of universality not only means that Agenda 2030 is to be implemented by each country, but also that each country needs to consider its own actions in relation to others. 'With the 2030 Agenda, sustainable development and its integrated perspective become the mainstream approach to development, increasing the political salience of integrated approaches, including in developed countries due to the universality of the SDGs.'[55] Universality hence reinvigorates the need to pursue policies and policy coherence in the domestic and external dimensions, and to address the links between the two (e.g. spill over effects). This had been already conceptualised to some extent with 'Policy Coherence for Development' (PCD, which is for the EU enshrined in the treaty (Art. 208 TFEU), and is now widened by the need to wear the three-dimensional lens on this 'domestic-external track'. Figure 1 illustrates the way that Agenda 2030 should be addressed by taking 'universality to the national level'.

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

Figure 1:

The Agenda 2030 principle of universality in the perspective of implementation at national level
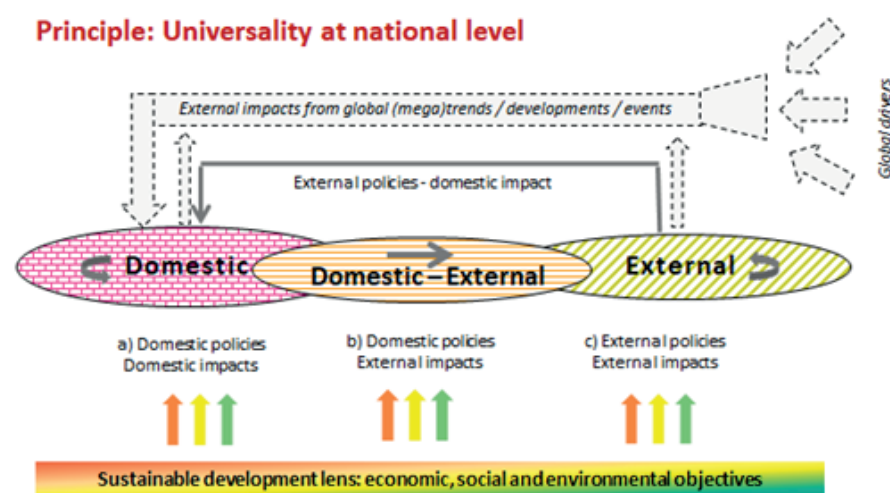
Source: Niestroy (2016): How are we getting ready? DIE discussion paper.

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

---

55 UN DESA, 2018, https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/PDFs/World%20Public%20Sector%20Report2018.pdf

SDGs are implemented but also in how they are governed.

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

These principles and axes are examined in this study at the national level for the CEI MS. The resulting analytical framework can be seen in Table 1 below, including how it connects to the data collected through our country fiches in the far-right column.

The EP study in addition had included a detailed focus into parliaments, which was not done here. The data base for Question 7.2 hence is more arbitrary, as the sources used (VNRs and ESDN country profiles) do not cover Parliaments' activities systematically. Information can only be retrieved through interviewing members of parliament. Both applies similarly to Question 7.1 Institutions for the long-term.

Table 1:
Analytical Framework

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

Sources: European Parliament / Niestroy et al. 2019

1.2 Data Situation and Data Collection

Data Situation & Desktop research

In the EP study on all 28 EU Member States (MS) the desktop research focussed on three main data sources with broad coverage across all or many EU MS about national level governance and implementation of the SDGs, as well as additional secondary data[56]. These main data sources were the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)[57] of EU MS, the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) Country Profiles and related reports[58], and the OECD Country Profiles for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)[59].

A note on the VNRs: by the end of the 2018 High Level Political Forum, most EU MS had published a Voluntary National Review (VNR) during any of the HLPF sessions. These reports constitute an important input for the study, but they need to be seen in context: self-reporting usually does not highlight the weaknesses of national approaches hence it is required to complement and corroborate with other sources. For the EP study this comprised the United Nations' annual synthesis reports analysing the VNRs,[60] and a few existing comparative analyses on the strengths and weaknesses in SDG implementation and SD strategies within the EU.

For the CEI study the data situation looked as follows:

For the EU CEI countries a data sheet and assessment was available from the EP study and was meant to be updated, to take into account new developments that would change the assessment. For the non-EU CEI countries all steps to get to country data sheets were taken.

Among the EU CEI countries there was one that had conducted the VNR after the EP study, i.e. a new VNR report was available (Croatia). One other was conducting the first VNR in 2020 (Bulgaria), i.e. during the time of the research, and another was doing its second VNR in 2020 (Slovenia). For the former there was hence no written report available.

Among the non-EU CEI countries there were three with their VNR in preparation for 2020 (like Bulgaria), namely Moldova, North Macedonia and Ukraine. In these four cases we submitted the

---

56 E.g. Bachus et al. (2018).
57 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/
58 https://www.sd-network.eu/?k=country%20profiles; https://www.sd-network.eu/?k=quarterly%20reports
59 http://www.oecd.org/development/pcd/pcsd-country-profiles.htm
60 United Nations, 2016; 2017; 2018.

analytical framework and the country data sheet as question-naire in order to facilitate the filling in, and the government officials responsible for Agenda 2030 and/or the VNR kindly agreed to fill them in. Five countries had conducted their first VNR already, namely Montenegro (2016), Belarus (2017), Albania (2018), and in 2019 both Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia.

The ESDN Country Profiles are available for all EU MS and a few others, including Montenegro and Serbia. For eight countries in total (six EU countries plus Montenegro) a very recent update of the country profiles was published or made available (in April or May 2020), namely for Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia. These were hence analysed and integrated in the country data sheets – either as update in the existing ones (the EU countries), or as additional source in those that were built up from the VNR.

The desktop research, incl. the filled-in questionnaires, resulted in draft country sheets.

Table 2 gives an overview about the data situation with respect to SDG implementation processes of all CEI MS.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	EP study 10-12/ 2018	ESDN country profile update
Albania 2018			X					
Belarus 2017		X						
Bosnia and Herzegovina 2019				X				
Bulgaria					X		X	(11/2012)
Croatia 2019				X			X	05/2020
Czech Republic 2017 & 2021		X				X	X	04/2020
Hungary 2018			X				X	04/2020
Italy 2017		X					X	05/2020
Moldova					X			
Montenegro 2016	X							05/2020
North Macedonia					X			
Poland 2018			X				X	(04/2017)
Romania 2018			X				X	05/2020
Serbia 2019				X				(11/2012)
Slovakia 2018 & 2021			X			X	X	04/2020
Slovenia 2017 & 2020		X			X		X	05/2020
Ukraine					X			

Table 2:

Data situation in CEI Member States: VNRs and ESDN country profiles

▪ VNR by 2019

▪ VNR 2020

▪ 2nd VNR planned / done

Interviews

In the EP Study the desktop research has been accompanied by interviews with one or two individuals per MS: government representatives from each MS in a first round, and in a few cases in addition with members of parliament. After the interviews the country fiches were revised with representatives of the government or other country experts to ensure that they accurately reflect the current situation.

The same approach was followed in the CEI study, only that interviews could not be conducted due to the scope of Part 2.

Constraints

It is generally understood that there is no one-size fits all approach to implement the SDGs at national and subnational level, but there are lessons to be learnt between countries. This requires context information. It was outside of the scope of the EP study to include detailed contextual considerations, but the interview process and the background knowledge of the researchers allowed for some considerations of contextual information, such as how public administration and governance are organised, how parliaments, subnational governments and stakeholders are involved, how reforms are decided and implemented, and what might be typical strengths and pitfalls of SDG approaches chosen in each country. In the case of this study, such context knowledge was available mainly for the CEI EU Member States. The aggregated of information hence rests largely on general knowledge about governance for sustainable development. In combination with the limited scope for the country level research, it was therefore also decided not to apply the assessment scheme (see 1.3).

1.3 Summarisation per governance element

Following the data gathering at the country level, the findings of the country fiches are captured and summarised by theme and across all countries, namely for i.e. for six of the eight governance elements for sustainable development that structure this study. It was beyond the scope of the study (both in this study and in the EP Study) to provide a picture of the element 'vertical coordination' with sub-national governments at a level of detail comparable to the other elements. It was not included in these aggregated tables, as alone a summarisation would not be feasible. The sub-question 7.1 of the analytical framework on institutions for the long-term, was also not included, as there were not

many results and it could not be researched further.

In the EP study a practical assessment scheme was developed and applied to these governance elements. This quite straightforward scheme is based on the assumption that a higher degree of institutionalisation is positive for the implementation of the SDGs. This assumption is considered applicable for this assessment of the architecture of governance for SDGs. Given the smaller scope in terms of time for data collection and analysis of this study, it was considered not feasible to apply the scheme (at least not for the non-EU CEI MS). However, the aggregated tables provide a useful summary and overview across all countries of the steps taken in terms of institutionalisation for these different governance elements. The level of institutionalisation increases from left to right.

The themes of the tables link to the respective questions in the country fiches (Q1 – Q7), and in the analytical framework (see right column in Table 1).

While this results in a useful overview, it is obvious that some generalisation and simplification was needed. Where necessary, significant deviations are footnoted and explained.

References and data sources

References and sources used for all countries

In bold sources used and quoted in the country fiches
Not bold – other text references

- Bachus K., Pollet I., Steenberghen T. and Huyse H. (2018):
  The SDGs as a lever for change in policy practices, research report commissioned by FRDO-CFDD, Leuven.

- European Parliament

- **ESDN (+year)** = European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) country profile (year):
  Overview of selected SD strategy features (similar to the structure of the Country fiches presented here) of 33 countries (including all EU Member states). Established around 2005 and updated rather regularly (not yet adapted to the SDGs). [see overview of updates of CEI member countries in Table 2]

- **ESDN QR 2018** = ESDN Quarterly Report, 2018: ESDN – European Sustainable Development Network (2018) | Mulholland, E. (2018):
  The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Europe: Overview and Updates. ESDN Quarterly Report, July 2018.

- **Leuven, 2018** = Bachus K., Pollet I., Steenberghen T. and Huyse H. (2018):
  The SDGs as a lever for change in policy practices, research report commissioned by FRDO-CFDD, Leuven.

- Niestroy, I. (2014):
  Governance for Sustainable Development: How to Support the Implementation of SDGs? In: Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) (ed.): ASEF Outlook Report 2014/2015 – Facts & Perspectives. Volume II: Perspectives on Sustainable Development. p. 154 – 168.

- Niestroy, I. (2016):
  How Are We Getting Ready? The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the EU and its Member States: Analysis and Action So Far. Bonn: DIE Discussion Paper. Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik.

- OECD (2017): Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2017. Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity. OECD Publishing, Paris. *

- **OECD 2018** = OECD country profile, 2018:
  Chapter 3. Country profiles: Institutional mechanisms for PCSD., in: Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2018. Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies. https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264301061-en; http://www.oecd.org/publications/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-2018-9789264301061-en.htm
  Chapter 3. Country profiles

- **OWG SDGs** =
  Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goaals. UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.
  General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development. Methods of Work.

- United Nations (2016): 2016 Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews. UN DESA DSD.

- United Nations (2017): 2017 Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews. UN DESA DSD.

- United Nations (2018): 2018 Synthesis report of the Voluntary National Reviews 2018.

- **UN MAPS report =** UNDP (2019): Summary of Main Findings from SDG Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support Mission Reports.

- **UN SDG** = UN SDGs Knowledge Platform: Year of VNRs listed for all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.

- **VNR =** Voluntary National Review (at the HLPf, in the year as indicated in the Country Fiche):
  United Nations (n.d.): Voluntary National Review Database.

- UN DESA (2018): World Public Sector Report 2018.

- **Interview 2018** = involved both face-to-face or telephone interviews with one or more government officials plus e-mail exchange in the drafting of the country fiches of the EU countries (EP study).

- **Interview 2020** = e-mail exchange about the update of the existing country fiches (EU CEI countries) or drafting the new ones (non-EU CEI countries).

* this link was functioning when study was carried out

References and data sources

Specific references as used by some countries

These references were used by or pointed to by country level experts, and they are listed on the respective country sheets. For convenience these refernces are also listed here as overview. There are no such additional sources in all countries, as no systematic research was done in the countries.

ALBANIA

- Albanian Maps report = Republika E Shqipërisë Kryeministria, UN Albania, and World Bank Group (2018): Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania.
- EEA 2019 = European Environment Agency (2019) (Draft): Sustainable Development Goals and the Environment in Europe: A Cross-Country Analysis and 39 Country Briefings (Draft for Eionet consultation). February 2019.

BELARUS

- Belstat Roadmap = National Statistical Committee (2018): The Road Map of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus on developing statistics on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Belstat SDGs = National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus: SDG Platform.
- Belta Web = Belta (11 March 2020): Call to discuss Belarus' sustainable development strategy through 2035.
- Rep. Belarus Web (1) = Official Website of the Republic of Belarus (8 October 2018). Krutoi: Belarus' sustainable development strategy till 2035 should be practical.
- Rep. Belarus Web (2) = Official Website of the Republic of Belarus (24 January 2019). First National Forum on Sustainable Development Minsk.
- Rep. Belarus Web (3) = Official Website of the Republic of Belarus (5 June 2018). Belarus' experience in achieving SDGs to be in spotlight of conference in Minsk.
- Rep. Belarus Web (4) = Official Website of the Republic of Belarus (15 March 2018). Belarus interested in introducing financial instruments to support green economy.
- SDGs in BY = Sustainable Development Goals in Belarus.
- UNDP Web = UNDP (2 January 2018). Recommendation on the results of the public parliamentary hearing on the SDGs.
- UNECE = UNECE. UNECE supports Belarus in promoting innovation for sustainable development.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- Imagine2030 = UNDP Imagine2030.
- Performance Audit = Bosnia and Herzegovina Performance Audit. Preparedness of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Respond to Commitments made under the 2030 Agenda (2019).
- UN in BiH = United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. How the UN is supporting The Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- VNR speech = Bosnia and Herzegovina. VNR Speech.

BULGARIA

- NAMRB = National association of Municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria. Go Local.

HUNGARY

- NFFT Website = National Council for Sustainable Development of Hungary.

ITALY

- SDSN 2018 = Sustainable Development Solutions Network & Bertelsmann Stiftung (2018): SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018: Global responsibilities. Implementing the goals.

SERBIA

- Dev't Partnership Framework = United Nations Serbia, Development Partnership Framework 2016-2020 Government of the Republic of Serbia and United Nations Country Team in Serbia.

- RS Gov't web = Office of Prime Minister, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

- UN Serbia = United Nations Serbia, Our Work on the Sustainable Development Goals in Serbia.

SLOVENIA

- IDDRI 2018 = Hege, E. & Brimont, L. (2018): Integrating SDGs into national budgetary processes. IDDRI study.*

*this link was functioning when study was carried out

Country Fiches

COUNTRY	VNR
Albania	2018
Belarus	2017
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2019
Bulgaria	2020
Croatia	2019
Czech Republic	2017 (& 2021)
Hungary	2018
Italy	2017
Moldova	2020
Montenegro	2016
North Macedonia	2020
Poland	2018
Romania	2018
Serbia	2019
Slovakia	2018 (& 2021)
Slovenia	2017 & 2020
Ukraine	2020

Country Data Sheet: Albania

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2016: National Strategy for Development and Integration 2016-2020 (NSDI II) with reference to the SDGs	VNR 2018
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2018 (focusing on progress made on SDGs implementation 2015-2017: 6 priorities of the Albanian Government, progress of SDGs related to 5 priorities of European Integration.	VNR 2018; Interview 2020
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	▪ NSDI II: national vision for social, democratic and economic development. All NSDI II components are directly related to the achievement of specific SDG targets (as shown in the NSDI II annex "Linking SDGs with key NSDI components"/According to sections and chapters under NSDI II). ▪ 2018 "Albania, report on the harmonization of sustainable development goals with existing sectoral policies" identified the roles and responsibilities of key institutions and stakeholders, and also are presented the linkages between SDGs, targets and their respective indicators with the strategies in place, which together with the NSDI II form the full strategic framework of the country (for further details, see below [1]). ▪ *Planned/ongoing*: the next strategic policy framework/NSDI after 2020: - The planning process has been initiated with the Progress report of the NSDI II, with the aim to lay the ground for the mid-term vision for the next planning phase till 2030. - The sectorial strategies that are being prepared for the next period till 2030, will include priority actions related to achievements of prioritized SDGs that are already measurable by the administrative data and statistical system of the country. - A visioning workshop was organized in February 2020 in order to provide an analysis on the progress achieved and future challenges for the sector policies.	VNR 2018; Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	NSDI II structured in four pillars and a foundation, covering all SDGs: Foundation: Consolidating good governance, democracy and the rule of law (related to SDG 16) Pillar 1: growth through macro-economic and fiscal stability (related to SDGs 8 and 17) Pillar 2: growth through increased competitiveness and innovation (related to SDG 9)	VNR 2018; Interview 2020
		Pillar 3: human capital and social cohesion (related to SDGs 1-6 and 10) Pillar 4: growth through connectivity, the sustainable use of resources and territorial development (related to SDGs 7, 9 and 11-15) Also, in the specific cross-cutting and sectoral strategies are defined the objectives and their linkages and the impact they have on achieving specific SDGs.	
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation(s)	**Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs (IMC)**, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania: coordination and leadership for implementing the SDGs in the context of NSDI II and EU integration. The Committee meets minimum twice a year.	VNR 2018; Interview 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	– IMC comprises line Ministers, other key government institutions. and stakeholders (see 4.2) – **Inter-institutional Technical Working Group on SDGs**: technical level representatives from all institutions implementing Agenda 2030, providing technical support to the IMC (due to its technical nature and depending on the situations and activities on SDGs, the Inter-institutional Technical Working Group on SDGs meets more often, but there is not specification. For example, during the VNR drafting process, the group held 7 meetings). – Department for Development and Good Governance (DDGG) at the Prime Minister's Office: technical secretariat to the IMC, facilitating the activity of the Technical Working Group. – Main government institutions leading the reforms in each priority area provided inputs for the VNR, under the coordination of the Technical Working Group on SDGs (and with the contributions of UN agencies in Albania).	VNR 2018; Interview 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Foreign Financing Management: competence of the Ministry of Finance and Economy	Interview 2020
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	- Direct support from UN agencies to Albania in achieving specific SDG goals and targets (e.g. UNESCO with SDG 4, UN Women with SDG 5, and FAO with SDGs 2 and 5). - UN SDG Acceleration Fund launched in April 2018, in support of national Agenda 2030 implementation (see 6.1). Development partners/donors are invited to participate and contribute to the Acceleration Fund. - UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission in 2018 and report " Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania" (September 2018). - Government of Albania–UN Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development 2017-2021: development partnership of the Government of Albania and the UN, engaging in public advocacy and awareness raising on SDGs and Agenda 2030, and developing new methodologies for estimating the costs of national SDG implementation.	VNR 2018; Interview 2020; Albanian MAPS report
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	- Albanian National Plan for European Integration 2014–2020 and EU *acquis* chapters of EU accession negotiations, reflecting how European integration goals relate to the achievement of the SDGs and their targets.	VNR 2018
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	Local government are involved in the IMC. *Planned*: mainstreaming the SDGs into sub-national plans	VNR 2018; Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Business, civil society, academia, citizens, international organisations.	VNR 2018
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	- IMC also includes the business community, civil society, academia and, depending on the topics discussed in the meetings, are invited also the UN Resident Coordinator, representatives of the UN agencies and partners for development and integrations. - National Council for Civil Society: advisory body established by law (2015) to ensure the consultation role of the civil society in policy making (for further details, see below [2]). *Current activities and involvement in Agenda 2030 unclear.* - During the drafting process of strategic documents/policy documents, consultative meetings are held with stakeholders and groups of interest in order to involve them in the policy making process. - Since 2014, the law on public notification and consultation has been approved (Law No. 146/2014), which creates access for the public to present their suggestions or comments.	VNR 2018; Interview 2020

		- VNR: consultation process, seeking the cooperation and engagement of all stakeholders, including local government, academia, civil society and the business community in the country, was held to discuss and validate the main findings and recommendations received during the consultation process. - The Albanian government is committed to strengthening institutional capacities on SDGs at all levels and promoting cooperation among all stakeholders.	
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	- Private sector organisations participate in the IMC and are integrating SDGs in their business models. - Outreach to corporate social responsibility networks.	VNR 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring and review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	- UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool (2016): evaluated the level of integration of SDGs into NSDI II, various sectoral strategies, as well as to the EU accession negotiation chapters according to the National Plan for European Integration 2014-2020. - Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) is a member of the Technical Working Group. It also coordinates the National Statistical System (composed of INSTAT, Bank of Albania and Ministry of Finance and Economy). INSTAT produced the Statistical Annex on SDGs indicators to the VNR. - Official Statistical Programme for 2017-2021 approved by the Parliament in February 2017, including a set of national SDG indicators. - 2017: the SDGs are integrated into NSDI II and the National Statistical Programme 2016–2020. - 2018: Albania Baseline Report on the SDGs adopted by the IMC (January 2018): mapping of SDGs against NSDI II through the assessment of the alignment of targets with national priorities, and the availability of the SDG indicators in Albania. - 2018: Report on the harmonization of sustainable development goals with existing sectoral policies. - 2019 - beginning of 2020: the DDGG has coordinated, in close cooperation with the line ministries and institutions, the preparation of the progress report on NSDI II. The purpose of the report is to present progress made in the implementation of key sector policies during the reporting period and to identify the challenges to be faced by the implementing institutions. The report is based on the assessment of the NSDI II performance indicators and will serve as a basis for the preparation of the NSDI 2030. - 2019: First annual publication on the SDGs statistical indicators, prepared by INSTAT (discussed also in the SDGs Technical Working Group). Second annual publication on the SDGs statistical indicators in 2020. *Planned / next steps:* - Target setting process for the next NSDI/strategic framework for 2030, including intermediate targets. - Strengthening capacities and national statistical systems to ensure data availability and reliability for SDG indicators.	VNR 2018; Interview 2020; EEA 2019 (Draft)
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	- Albania Baseline Report on the SDGs (see 5.1): 140 SDG targets (83%) are directly tied to specific components of the NSDI II pillars, and 134 SDG targets (79%) are linked to the specific objectives of the national strategic policy framework. Most alignment is found with the SDG targets of SDG 3 Health, SDG 7 Energy, SDG 8 Economy, and SDG 9 Infrastructure; least alignment is with SDG 14 Oceans. - Statistical Annex to the VNR, produced by INSTAT, contains 30 indicators with quantified targets for monitoring Albania's progress towards the SDGs. The indicators were selected among indicators already available in the country or at Eurostat, and should be as close as possible to those on the list proposed by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) to monitor progress towards the SDGs. - Implementation of NSDI II is monitored through three sets of national indicators: (i) specific to EU integration, (ii) covering the 40 sectors, sub-sectors and major programmes included in NSDI II, and (iii) macroeconomic indicators.	VNR 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	**Financing for SDGs/Budget** - UN SDG Acceleration Fund: launched in April 2018, in support of national Agenda 2030 implementation, co-financed by the Albanian government and the UN. - Preliminary analysis of the SDG budget commitments for 2015–2017, by Ministry of Economy and Finance, and	VNR 2018; Interview 2020

		supported by UNDP, based on the Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP) and Treasury data, to identify budgetary resources and expenditures allocated to each sector and sub-sector, according to the budget programmes and the economic and administrative classification, taking into account the mapping of SDGs against NSDI II, from the Baseline Report on SDGs. - *Planned:* Starting from the next strategic planning framework, prioritized SDGs will be reflected in the budget planning framework, supporting the allocation of adequate means of implementation for Agenda 2030, complemented by the Acceleration Fund for the SDGs. <u>Impact Assessment</u>: *not in place*	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	As part of the engagement of all stakeholders in the IMC (among which academia), coordinated by UN Resident Coordinator Office, 25 public and private universities and faculties in Albania signed a Declaration of Commitment to play an active role in advancing the Agenda 2030 (October 2017).	VNR 2018
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term	/	
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	- The Parliament is involved in the IMC. - Parliament adopted a resolution confirming the country's commitment to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, and committed itself to their promotion, financing and monitoring, through inclusive and broad-based development processes, in line with Albania's development priorities and the aim of EU integration (December 2017). - The Parliament has set up the sub-committee on SD, which is part of the Committee on Economy and Finance. The object and area of responsibility of this sub-committee is economic and social development, sustainable economic growth, implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 for the country. This will be achieved through a network of focal points positioned in each and every parliamentary commission, and through Parliament's power to convene inclusive discussions with the Albanian public and civil society.	VNR 2018; Interview 2020

Abbreviations:
DDGG   Department for Development and Good Governance
IMC   Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs
INSTAT   Albanian Institute of Statistics
MAPS   UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
NSDI II   National Strategy for Development and Integration 2016-2020

References:
[1] Republic of Albania. National Council for Civil Society. http://www.amshc.gov.al/kkshc/?page_id=85&lang=en
[2] Republic of Albania. Council of Ministers (2018). Albania, report on the harmonization of sustainable development goals with existing sectoral policies.
https://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/Albania%20Report%20on%20the%20Harmonization.pdf

Country Data Sheet: Belarus

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2015: National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development (NSSD). Starting point of actions for the implementation of 2030 Agenda at national level. *Ongoing*: National Sustainable Development Strategy until 2035 – to be adopted in 2020 (under the consideration of the Council of Ministries of the Republic of Belarus)	VNR 2017; Belta Web; Interview 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2017	VNR 2017
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	– NSSD adopted by the Government in 2015: main socio-economic guidelines to be achieved by 2030. In 2017, work was underway to harmonise the NSSD with Agenda 2030, aiming at including the SDGs in national, sectoral and regional development strategies, programs and plans that determine the work of the Government, central and local authorities, improvement of legislation and the allocation of budgetary resources. – Programme for the Socio-Economic Development by 2020, adopted in December 2016 after a wide public discussion. As a basis for sustainable development, it determines the most efficient use of domestic resources, including innovative economic opportunities and development of human potential. – *Planned*: As the NSSD is elaborated every 5 years for a 15-year period, a draft NSSD until 2035, prepared by the Ministry of Economy is currently under consideration of the Council of Ministries of the Republic of Belarus) (since April 2020).	VNR 2017; Rep. Belarus Web (1); Belta Web; Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	- NSSD 2015 sets forth instruments for efficient use of demographic, social, natural, manufacturing and innovative potential of the country. It features five strategic priorities; three economic goals, one focused on human development and one dedicated to environmental conservation. - VNR 2017: focussed on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 and 17 (i.e. no focus: SDG 7, 10, 11, 12, 16).	VNR 2017
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation(s)	▪ The **National Coordinator on implementation of SDGs** is appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus. Mr. Anatoli Isachanka, Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, was appointed to this position on February 13, 2020. ▪ **Council for Sustainable Development**: consultative body established by the President of Belarus in 2017: - The Council is tasked with fostering implementation of the SDGs by specific government agencies, creating a	VNR 2017; SDGs in BY; Interview 2020

		platform for intersectoral exchange and discussing the progress of the SDG implementation, effectively solving the tasks of vertical and horizontal coordination. - The Council is chaired by the National Coordinator, who monitors the process of achieving the SDGs at the national level, and coordinates the efforts of all parties involved. It meets once a year (as a rule) and is composed of representatives of the governmental bodies and organizations at the deputy head level (see 2.2). The National Coordinator reports annually to the Government and the President on the progress of the SDG implementation and makes recommendations for the Council of Ministries on how to improve the process. The Members of the Council for Sustainable Development report on the implementation of the recommendations at the Council's meetings (further information below [1]).	
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	▪ The Council for Sustainable Development has 38 members, at the level of vice-ministries, regional authorities, the National Bank, the National Academy of Science, the General Prosecutor's Office and the National Statistical Committee (Belstat). (for detailed composition see below [2]). It has 3 sectoral working groups: on economic, ecological and social issues. ▪ Public Council on Development and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Strategies: consultative body established by the Ministry of Economy in 2017. It is composed of representatives from ministries, academia and research institutes, international organisations, public associations and business unions. Aims: development and monitoring of sustainable development programs and strategies, including the NSSD until 2035 (further information below [3]).	VNR 2017; SDGs in BY; Interview 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the activities of the National Coordinator (acts as the Executive Secretariat), according to the Presidential Decree on the National Coordinator for SDGs. - The Members of the Council for Sustainable Development develop international cooperation and promote international partnerships for achieving the SDGs within their competence.	SDGs in BY; Interview 2020
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	- Cooperation with the UN agencies in the Republic of Belarus on the SDGs implementation. Two UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA projects were developed and implemented in Belarus: Support to the National Coordinator on Implementation of the SDGs and Strengthening the Role of the Parliament in the Implementation of the SDGs; Support of the functioning of the National Institutional Mechanism for achieving the SDGs**.** - UN agencies in cooperation with the national partners have also developed the international project "Support to the Republic of Belarus in nationalization and localization of SDGs" (currently under consideration with stakeholders and potential donors). - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) undertook a fact-finding mission in Belarus in March 2016 to assist in better alignment of its innovation policies with national development objectives, with a particular focus on promoting innovation as a way to implement Agenda 2030. - UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission (2017), under the auspices of the UNDP. It provided advisory and technical support to Belarus on implementing Agenda 2030.	UNECE; VNR 2017; Interview 2020
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	- Belarus was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Serbia). - The National Coordinator for SDGs represents Belarus at the international level, reporting on progress in achieving the SDGs.	VNR 2017; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	- Regional groups on SDGs established in all regions (oblast) of Belarus, organizing the work on SDGs achievement in regions and keeping the development of this work balanced. These groups are composed of the representatives of local executive and administrative bodies, and representatives of business communities and public association. The heads of the regional groups on SDGs are the deputy chairs of the regional and Minsk City Executive committees. They are also Members of the Council for Sustainable Development. - Partnership between the Government, Parliament, and local governments to implement Agenda 2030 is built in	VNR 2017; SDGs in BY; Interview 2020

		Belarus. Representatives of the Government, Parliament, and local authorities are involved in the work on the SDGs implementation under the auspices of the National Coordinator.	
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Scientific and research structures, non-governmental organizations, businesses, unions, educational institutions, legislative and representative authorities, regional sustainable development initiatives, UN agencies and international organizations (see 4.2).	
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	▪ <u>Partnership Group for Sustainable Development</u>: open group assisting the Council for Sustainable Development. Composed of representatives of businesses, civil society organisations and international organisations. Aim: express their opinion on proposals on issues related to the achievement of the SDGs. ▪ <u>2018 Conference "Strategy and partnership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"</u>, hosted by the Johannes Rau International Education Centre (June 2018): more than 250 participants (representatives of the ministries and departments, legislative and representative authorities, regional sustainable development initiatives, NGOs, businesses, international organizations and experts from Germany and Ukraine). *Aims*: reviewing the status of implementation of the NSSD until 2030 and drawing up proposals for the draft NSSD until 2035. ▪ <u>2019 First National Forum on Sustainable Development</u> (January 2019) with over 400 delegates (representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs, Labour and Social Security, Energy, and of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belstat, National Academy of Sciences, Hi-Tech Park, manufacturing companies, higher learning institutions, NGOs, UN agencies and international experts). *Aims*: to put forward proposals on further action to achieve the SDGs. It also outlined goals and objectives for the short-, mid- and long-term perspectives. It was organised by the National Coordinator and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of the UN Office in Belarus. <u>*Current process - new NSSD until 2035*</u>: prepared by the Ministry of Economy, using proposals of government agencies, members of interdepartmental and sectoral groups, the Public Council on Development and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Strategies, the parliamentary corps, scientific and international organizations, educational institutions, and business unions. Proposals could be submitted on the website of the Ministry of Economy website until March 2020.	VNR 2017; Belta Web; Rep. Belarus Web (2); Rep. Belarus Web (3); SDGs in BY; Interview 2020
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	Representatives of the Belarusian business are part of the Partnership Group for Sustainable Development. They interact with the National Coordinator and members of the Council for Sustainable Development.	Interview 2020

5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	▪ UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool (2017): 22 documents reviewed to help Belarus measuring the alignment between global SDG targets, and the targets set forth in national/sub-national planning frameworks.
		▪ The National Coordinator on SDGs reports annually to the President on progress in achieving SDGs.
		▪ National Statistical Committee (Belstat): member of the Council for Sustainable Development, responsible for collecting and processing data for the monitoring of achieving the SDGs.
		  - It suggested a national indicator system for SD (2018) and designed a Roadmap on developing statistics on the SDGs (2018), document determining steps of increasing the potential and spread of statistics on SDGs.
		  - It developed the National Platform for Reporting Indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (further information see below [4]).
			VNR 2017; Rep. Belarus Web (2); SDGs in BY; Belstat Roadmap; UN MAPS report; Interview 2020

	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	- National set of indicators: 225 indicators among which 131 global indicators and 94 indicators that have been replaced and/or supplemented by proxies (alternative indirect indicators to be used in the absence of necessary information or methodology for monitoring global indicators). 75% of the indicators are available for measuring in Belarus. The unavailable indicators are now addressed in a strategy of developing state statistics till 2022, which strives for eliminating data gaps. - "Leave no one behind" principle was a cross-cutting theme of the VNR. Progress here depends on high-quality, affordable, timely and reliable disaggregated data. - UN MAPS reinforces Belarus's national efforts in improving its statistical system.	SDGs in BY; Belstat Roadmap VNR 2017; Belstat SDGs; Interview 2020

6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Financing for SDGs/Budget</u> Programme for the Socio-Economic Development 2016-2020: stipulates the introduction of financial instruments for green economy in the medium term as a priority line of development. It should receive additional support when the NSSD until 2035 is adopted. <u>Impact assessment</u>: *not in place*	Rep. Belarus Web (4)
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- Academia is involved in the Council for Sustainable Development and the Public Council on Development and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Strategies. - First National Forum on Sustainable Development in January 2019, included delegates of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.	VNR 2017; Rep. Belarus Web (2); Interview 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	▪ Parliamentary working group on achieving the SDGs: interacts with the Council for Sustainable Development, the National Coordinator and the Partnership Group for Sustainable Development; is involved in the preparation of the NSSD until 2035. ▪ The Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly is the National Coordinator on SDGs, contributing to the active involvement of the Parliament in the process of creating a legislative platform to achieve sustainable development at the national level and solve practical problems of sustainable development in the regions.	VNR 2017; Belta Web; SDGs in BY; UNDP Web

Abbreviations:
Belstat   National Statistical Committee
NSSD   National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development
UN MAPS   UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support

Background information:
The National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus consists of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic https://www.belarus.by/en/government/parliament
Belarus counts six regions, each of them having a provincial legislative authority (region council), and a provincial executive authority (region administration) whose chairman is appointed by the president.
The regions are composed of districts having their own legislative and executive authority.
The city of Minsk (capital composed of nine districts) has a special status, being run by an executive committee and has been granted a charter of self-rule.

References:
[1] SDGs in Belarus. National Coordinator on Implementation of SDGs. http://sdgs.by/en/architecture/nacional_coordinator_p_dostijeniu_CUR/
[2] SDGs in Belarus. Council for Sustainable Development. http://sdgs.by/en/architecture/sovet_po_ustoichevomu_razvitiu/
[3] SDGs in Belarus. Public Council for the Sustainable Development Strategies drafting and evaluation. http://sdgs.by/en/architecture/obschestvenii_sovet_strategii_ustoichevogo_razvitiya/
[4] National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus. SDG Platform. http://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by/en/sites/belstatfront/home.html

Country Data Sheet: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2016: Start of Agenda 2030 implementation under the umbrella of "Imagine 2030" (UNDP initiative) 2017: Official launch of Agenda 2030 implementation with a High-Level SDG Conference (April 2017)	VNR 2019
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2019, next tentatively planned for 2023 and 2027.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	▪ **National level:** SDG rollout process going on. *Planned:* a comprehensive SDG Framework (draft finalization foreseen in July 2020), that will also define a Vision 2030 for the country and encompassing all strategic planning processes. Operationalised through an annual workplan (first planned for 2021) of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), and a three-year strategic plan. ▪ **Sub-national level (Entities and Brčko District):** Brčko District and the Federation of BIH: *Planned:* Development Strategy 2020–2027, based on the SDG Framework and with the possibility to add additional targets and indicators. Adoption planned by the end of 2020. Brčko District: *Planned:* Action Plan and a Road Map for implementation of the SDGs and to monitor the related activities, made by Coordinators of the Government. Adoption planned by the end of 2020. Republika Srpska: *Planned:* SD strategy 2030, reflecting the SDG Framework. The Ministry for Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation is in charge, together with the Secretariat General of the Government of Republika Srpska and the Institute of Statistics, to develop an Action Plan to implement the SDGs in the entity. Both Strategy and Plan should be finalized in 2021.	VNR 2019; VNR speech; Imagine2030; Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	The SDG Framework will cover all SDGs.	VNR 2019
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation Secondary lead (or so)	- **Intergovernmental SDG Rollout Working Group**: established in 2018 for the overall planning of the SDG implementation of SDGs in BIH at all levels. Chief coordinators for this group have been designated by the Council of Ministers of BIH, and the Governments of the entities and Brčko District. After the official adoption of the SDG Framework (established by the Working Group), the SDGs Working Group will become a Council on SDGs, coordinating activities in monitoring, reporting (domestically, regionally and globally), raising awareness etc.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
		- Federation of BIH: Federal Institute for Development Programming coordinates all activities related to implementation of the SDGs in the entity.	
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	Multiple ministries/government bodies involved at national and sub-national levels: - BIH: Directorate for Economic Planning (chief coordinator on behalf of BIH), Foreign Ministry and Agency for Statistics. - Republika Srpska: Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation, Department for Strategic Planning of the Secretariat General of the Government of Republika Srpska, Institute of Statistics. - Federation of BIH: Institute for Development Programming of (chief coordinator on behalf of the entity), Office of the Prime Minister, and Federal Institute of Statistics. - Brčko District: Office of the Mayor, Office of the Brčko District Coordinator on the Council of Ministers of BIH, Department for Economic Development, Sports and Culture, and Brčko District Office of the Agency for Statistics of BIH.	VNR 2019
		Given the complex administrative system in the country, the nature of the SDG Framework and the need to respect the constitutional competencies, attainment of the agreed targets will be ensured through their incorporation into strategic documents at all levels of government.	VNR 2019
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	/	
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	- 2015-2020 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF): guiding the work of the UN Country Team in BIH, *Planned:* UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2021-2025 (initiated in 2019). - UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission (2018): supported by Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, the EU Delegation to BIH. - International financial support for development promoting the SDGs in BIH. - Representatives of the UN in BIH are members of the SDG Rollout Working Group (see 4.2).	VNR 2019; Imagine2030; UN in BIH
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	- UN joint program "Dialogue for the Future" initiated by BIH, fostering dialogue and social cohesion in, and between BIH, Montenegro, and Serbia. - Country's accession process to the European Union.	VNR 2019
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	- Entities' and Brčko District's strategies, action plans or coordination mechanisms for SDGs implementation will need to be aligned with the SDG Framework. They will serve as a platform for the design of development strategies of cantons and local government in the entities. - Local level: direct communication of the chief coordinator of SDGs implementation with ministries responsible for local authorities, the associations of municipalities and cities in the entities, and local departments.	VNR 2019
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Private sector, civil society, academia, citizens at large, representatives from institutions from all levels of government and parliaments.	VNR 2019
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	- 'Imagine 2030' initiative (since 2016) by UNDP, part of the UN MAPS framework in BIH: citizen consultation via workshops, online engagement and competitions to shape Vision 2030 and the development pathways that the country is to embrace (to date, has engaged over 3000 people). Particular focus on youth and local communities. - Multi-stakeholder consultations on the SDGs (two-day, May 2018), aiming at building on all the UN MAPS Mission findings. It formed the key input for the creation of Vision 2030 and the SDG Framework. - SDGs Rollout Working Group organizes regularly joint workshops and conferences for all stakeholders.	VNR 2019; UN MAPS report; Imagine2030
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't	'Imagine 2030' (see 4.2) with a "SDG Roll-Out Support and Private Sector Engagement" project: workshops, report,	VNR 2019;

		conference, coaching and awards organised to engage businesses in SDGs implementation:	Imagine2030
	organ. or businesses	- SDG Business Conference (2018), became the "SDG Business Week" 2019, scheduled again in 2020. 25 trainers to coach companies on how to include the SDGs into their business models. - SDGs Business Pioneers Award (annual, first 2019). - Sustainable Business Report: SDG mapping to identify SDG indicators in value chains in furniture and automotive sector. - SDG Accelerator for small and medium enterprises: international and domestic experts will work with 5 SMEs in BIH to develop of new products, services, or business models based on the SDGs (January – Sept. 2020).	
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	- UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool (2018): used to assess the state of alignment of the SDGs with the priorities in the country. *Before:* comprehensive policy review to assess the level of preparedness for implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. *Now:* a list of 69 strategic documents was reviewed. - SDGs Rollout Working Group is responsible for determining the SDG indicators in BIH. The Entities and Brčko District may add additional indicators in their (sustainable) development strategies. - Agency for Statistics of BIH: responsible for the production of data and indicators relating to the SDGs. It created a dedicated SDG statistical bulletin in 2018. - *Planned:* reports of the SDGs Rollout Working Group on the implementation of the SDGs on a periodic basis from each level of government. First annual report should be released in 2022 for the year 2021. For Republika Srpska, the first annual report is expected in 2023 for the year 2022, and possibly for the second half of 2021. - *Planned:* Entities and Brčko District will adopt annual or mid-term reports on their (sustainable) development strategies' implementation. Brčko District's first annual report should be released in early 2022 for the year 2021.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	- UN MAPS SDG dashboards: reviews available systems and capacities, improves interoperability between different data systems, better integrates data from external sources, long-term platform for monitoring progress, and comparison with any country or region. Based on the dashboard data, a complexity analysis was conducted using the Mans-Nilsson scale. It provided for a calculation of the level of influence and interlinkage between different SDG targets, assigning each SDG target a particular influence value in order to recognize and assess the priority targets. - UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool (2018): The strategic documents, programs and action plans reflect all 17 SDGs from Agenda 2030: 93 % alignment for people, 51 % for planet, 87 % for prosperity, 58 % for peace and 67 % for partnership. Yet some SDG targets were rarely matched. - *Some indicators to monitor the SDGs in BIH have not been defined yet.* No baseline values for each goal and indicator were identified, nor the level to be reached by 2030. 71 domestic indicators were pre-selected (out of 232 global ones) within the 48 SDG targets that can be monitored in BIH. The official valorisation of the number of targets and indicators is yet to come. - Multi-stakeholder consultations in 2018 (see 4.2), 48 out of a total of 169 SDG targets were identified as priorities, spread across the 17 SDGs. - 'Leave no one behind' principle will be integrated in the development strategies of the Federation of BIH and Brčko District. The government of Republika Srpska will integrate this principle under its four-year Work Programme, applicable legislation, strategic papers and action plans.	VNR 2019; UN MAPS report; Performance audit, p.32
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Financing for SD/Budget: - National: inclusion of the SDGs in the Strategic Framework for the institutions of BIH which is the foundation for making three-year and annual budgets. Impact assessment: Not in place.	VNR 2019; UN MAPS report

		- SDG Consultation Tool (as applied during Imagine2030', see 4.2): innovative tool instigating awareness, dialogue and teamwork problem solving. It is also method for gathering qualitative data - views and visions of citizens, solutions and ideas on how to address or accelerate achievement of the SDGs/targets within the local context. It formed the key input for the creation of Vision 2030 and the SDG Framework document.	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Academia involved in the Intergovernmental SDG Rollout Working Group and in stakeholders' consultations.	VNR 2019
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term	/	
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	The SDGs in BIH were officially launched by means of a high-level SDG conference held at the Parliamentary Assembly in April 2017, organized by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.	VNR 2019

Abbreviations:
BIH   Bosnia and Herzegovina
MAPS   Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
UNDP   UN Development Programme

Background information:
Political/administrative system
- BIH is a federal state, largely decentralized: it comprises two entities, the Federation of BIH (51% of the territory) and Republika Srpska (49%), and the Brčko District (out of land from both entities, governed under local government even if it officially belongs to both).
- Ten cantonal governments, only in the Federation of BIH and under the law of the Federation.
- Council of Ministers of BIH: executive power of BIH

SDG consultation tool (from the respective section in 'Imagine 2030'):
Central to effective advocacy for and engagement workshops on the SDGs was the use of the innovative SDG Consultation Tool. The SDG Consultation Tool instigates awareness, dialogue and teamwork problem solving centered on burning issues in society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The tool is also a qualitative data gathering method that explores the positive and negative associations of citizens with both the past and present, their vision of the future, the way they see the future in terms of what values, actions and structures need to be in place and what threats and/or opportunities need to be addressed across the SDGs/targets. The ultimate aim of the tool is to identify solutions/ideas on how to address or accelerate achievement of the SDGs/targets within the local context. The tool also enables participants to priorities targets for each of the SDGs. The voices of citizens gathered through the SDG Consultation tool were analyzed and presented during the two-day multi-stakeholder consultations on the SDGs that took place in May 2018, and formed the key input for the creation of Vision 2030 and the SDG Framework document in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	No overarching strategy for SD development but 2012: National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020 (NDP BG2020), for the period of 2012 – 2020; with 3-year action plans *Ongoing*: National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 (NDP BULGARIA 2030) (see below [1]) (Vision, goals and priorities approved January 2020; details in process until end of 2020), for the period 2021 - 2030	Interviews 2018 & 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next VNR planned? if applicable)	2020	UN SDG
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	▪ National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2020: leading strategic and programming document detailing the objectives of the development policies of the country until 2020. Vision, objectives and priorities of NDP BG2020 are defined on the basis of a socio-economic analysis. Key objectives: ensure the achievement of accelerated economic growth and raising the standard of living of the Bulgarian citizens in the medium and long term. No direct reference to the SDGs, but linking the national priorities with the EU goals in the Europe 2020 strategy. ▪ <u>New</u>: National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 (NDP BULGARIA 2030): the overarching government strategy for the next decade, establishing direct links to the SDGs; a framework strategy document of the highest order in the hierarchy of the national programming documents; with vision and general development objectives in all sectors of government, including their territorial dimensions: - 3 strategic objectives: accelerated economic development, demographic upswing and reduction of inequalities; - Targeted policies and interventions for those, grouped in 5 interlinked and integrated development axes: Innovative and intelligent Bulgaria; Green and sustainable Bulgaria; Connected and integrated Bulgaria; Responsive and Just Bulgaria; Spirited and Vibrant Bulgaria; - 13 national priorities: All 13 national priorities are interrelated with and refer to the relevant SDGs, and the same approach is applied at the sub-priority level – for the policy areas of interventions. By the end of 2020, the NDP BULGARIA 2030 is planned to be developed and adopted, and different policy areas will be detailed, including an indicative financial framework, a preliminary impact assessment and a mechanism for	Interview 2020
		monitoring the implementation of the strategy document (for further details, see below [1]) The 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs are regarded as a framework for the national development policies, and the NDP BULGARIA 2030 as the Government's response for their implementation.	
		<u>Sectoral strategies</u>: - National Strategy for Reducing Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion 2020 (SDG 8, 10) - Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization 2014-2020 (SDG 9, 12) - Updated National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in Bulgaria 2014-2030 and Action Plan 2017-2020 (SDG 3, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15) - National Strategy for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) 2014-2020 (SDG 9,12) - National Regional Development Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2012-2022 (SDG 6, 7, 11, 13) - Updated National Strategy for Development of Scientific Research in Bulgaria 2017-2030 (SDG 4, 9, 12) - Third national climate action plan 2013-2020 & National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to 2030 and Action Plan (SDG 13); National Climate Long Term Strategy to 2050 (under development) - Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 (SDG 7, 13) - National Strategy for Reduction of Disasters Risks 2018-2030 (SDG 3, 11, 13) - National Action Programme for Sustainable Land Management and Combating Desertification 2014-2020 (SDG 2, 15) - National Strategy for the Development of the Forest Sector for the period 2013-2020 (SDG 15)	Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	All 13 national priorities of the NDP Bulgaria 2030 are interrelated with and refer to the relevant SDGs, and the same approach is applied at the sub-priority level – for the policy areas of interventions.	Interview 2020
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	— The Minister of Finance chairs the **Coordination Committee** for management, monitoring, control and implementation reporting of the NDP BG2020. The Chair ensures the preparation and execution of the three-year action plan for the implementation of the NDP BG2020 and the NDP BULGARIA 2030. — The Coordination Committee presents information about the implementation of sectoral strategic documents and monitors the progress in achieving priorities and horizontal policies of the NDP BG2020. — The Committee is accountable to the **Development Council** within the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister is the Chair of the Development Council. While the functions of the Development Council do not contain an explicit reference to the SDGs, the Council is reported as in charge of coordination, monitoring, control, development and implementation of priorities for the sustainable development of Bulgaria, and proposes those priorities for approval to the Council of Ministers.	Interviews 2018 & 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	– All Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers are members of the Development Council. The Coordination Committee consists of Deputy Ministers from all Ministries, Heads of the Political cabinets of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for economic and demographic policy, the Secretary from the Ministry of Finance, and the Chair of the National Statistical Institute. – The Coordination Committee prepares the draft National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030. The sectoral ministries, within their competence, work on detailing the strategy. A well-established procedure for inter-agency discussion of the document is followed, and stakeholder consultation meetings are held. The Development Council shall propose a draft National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 for adoption by the Council of Ministers by end of 2020. – *Planned*: Each ministry will be assigned a priority from the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030, and each priority from the Programme is directly linked to the implementation of specific SDGs. There is no official SDG focal point in charge of coordination.	Interviews 2018 & 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	– The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of the external SDG implementation, and the line ministries are in charge of the internal SDG implementation. – Ministry of Foreign Affairs: responsible for forwarding SDG-related information from the United Nations, from the EU and from abroad to Bulgarian Ministries, departments and institutions, as well as raising awareness about the 2030	Interviews 2018 & 2020

		Agenda and its implementation. It conducted an indicative mapping exercise in 2016, where it outlined the responsibilities of the certain ministries for the specific SDGs.	
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs: committed to meeting SDG 17 on the global partnership for sustainable development by formulating and implementing the development cooperation policy, which is an integral part of the country's foreign policy.	Interview 2020
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	- Bulgaria was a member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Croatia) - Bulgaria regularly participates in the working groups of the Council of the EU related to SDG: CONUN, COHAFA, Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bulgaria takes part in UN fora associated with SDGs: the High-Level Political Forum, ECOSOC meetings, etc.	Interview 2020; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	▪ The **National Association of the Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB)** provides representation of municipalities before the central government bodies: research, analysis, evaluation and development of proposals for development of the policy regarding local self-government. The association also supports the municipalities in exercising their powers: researching the opinions of the municipalities and elaboration of common positions and strategies; providing a wide range of consultations and training programmes (for further details, see below [2]). The NAMRB was involved in the preparation of the VNR and participates in Bulgarian and international fora. It assists in directing public financing to fulfill the SDGs, including through European funds. The NAMRB is represented in a number of advisory councils to the Council of Ministers, e.g.: Consultative Council on Promotion of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, National Council for Persons with Disabilities, National Council on Social Inclusion, National Council for Child Protection, National Council on Gender Equality. ▪ "Community-led local development" approach as applied in EU projects: considered as very effective approach to planning and financing local sustainable development programs and projects. It aims at creating employment by using local potential. It seeks to improve the quality of life and to reduce underdevelopment of local communities in territories with specific characteristics, for example in rural and fishery areas.	Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Academia, business, social partners and NGOs, youth, disabled persons, the local and subnational level, vulnerable and marginalised groups.	Interview 2020
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	▪ Consultation guidelines and practices for sectoral policies: National strategies, plans and programmes are published on the **Portal for public consultations** before their adoption. Each strategic document in preparation has a certain policy area, target group, date of opening of consultations and deadline for consultations. The target group of most strategic documents is "all interested parties" (for further details, see below [3]). ▪ Stakeholder consultation on the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 took place in 2019. ▪ Advisory councils to the different public authorities and the National Assembly are in place, where representatives of academia, business, social partners and NGOs are included. They cover different sectors of social, economic and environmental areas (see examples under 3.2)..	Interviews 2018 & 2020
	4.3 Specific coordination with development organisations or businesses	– Businesses were surveyed during the preparation of the VNR and are considered to have good awareness of the SDGs. – The private sector is interested in engaging in corporate social responsibility (CSR), and in the concept of the relationship between Business and Human Rights; expects an improved business environment and quality education. – Government adopted a Strategy on CSR for the period 2019-2023, together with the most active business associations; the strategy addresses the political commitment of the Government to improve the quality of life of the population through transparent, socially responsible business practices. – National Corporate Governance Code since 2016, for all companies, ad specific recommendations for public companies on, inter alia transparency, functioning of the corporate boards, stakeholder involvement. – Bulgarian Network of the UN Global Compact: an association with more than 30 organisations, presented its Strategic Plan 2015+ right after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda; carries out many of the initiatives of the private sector.	Interview 2020

		– Bulgarian Association of CSR Professionals established 2018 by around 40 CSR professionals.	
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	– Sectoral processes, National Statistics Institute uses data from the UN Statistical Commission, as well as various DGs of the European Commission, the OECD, etc. – Integration of the SDGs in the European Semester – National Reform Programme 2020. – *Planned* (by end of 2020): an indicator mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the NDP Bulgaria 2030, time-bound and with targets.	Interviews 2018 & 2020
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	– "Monitorstat" of the National Statistical Institute: recently established information system based on a statistical database of surveys of the National Statistical Institute, statistical bodies and agencies responsible for collecting information for monitoring various strategies and programmes. Centralized, web-based, with two main modules, providing access to indicators and metadata from statistical surveys for national, EU and international strategies. – Monitorstat uses all Eurostat SDG indicators and multiple indicators from the Global SDG indicator framework (see "EU indicator set" on Monitorstat [4]). The system is expected to play an important role for monitoring of the indicators set in key national strategies and programmes also with relevance to the SDGs (for further details, see [5]). – Bulgaria 2030 will contain a set of quantified/timebound targets (see on Monitorstat [6])	Interview 2020
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Financing for SDGs/Budget check: *Planned* (by end of 2020): indicative financial framework for each policy area and a mechanism to control the implementation of the NDP Bulgaria 2030; 2020 National Reform Programme: review of links between funding, investment, priority axes and specific SDGs. Impact Assessment: *Planned* (by end of 2020): ex-ante impact assessment	Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	– National Council for Science and Innovation: assists the Minister of Education and Science in the implementation of the state policy for promoting research. It participates in the drafting of strategic documents, gives opinions, prepares analyses on the state of research and scientific cooperation in Bulgaria. – Some Bulgarian Universities and the Institutes at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) contribute to SDG implementation through scientific discussions and research projects, as well as by introducing new educational programs at different educational levels. – Science and scientific infrastructure will be an explicit priority of the NDP BULGARIA 2030 and will be directly linked to SDGs 8 and 9.	Interview 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Parliamentarians are acquainted with the SDGs but no known activities apart from participation in a roundtable during the VNR preparation (end of 2019).	Interview 2020

Abbreviations:
NDP   National Development Programme

References:
[1] Republic of Bulgaria. Ministry of Finance. National Development Programme: Bulgaria 2030. https://www.minfin.bg/en/1394
[2] National Association of the Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB). https://www.namrb.org/lang/en
[3] Portal for public consultations. http://strategy.bg/
[4] Strategy: Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (EU indicators set). https://monitorstat.nsi.bg/en/StrategyIndicator?StrategyId=a21dc06d-ef34-4039-b6f2-8bf2abe825b4
[5] National Statistical Institute. About Monitorstat. https://monitorstat.nsi.bg/en/Home/PageContent?type=Monitorstat
[6] Bulgaria 2030 indicators and targets. https://monitorstat.nsi.bg/en/StrategyIndicator?StrategyId=952caa6f-09de-4ca1-8402-2bfac01c6b3c

Country Data Sheet: Croatia

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements (instit., processes, tools …)	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2009: First National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSSD) *Ongoing*: Currently working on a National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS 2030), to be adopted in 2020	ESDN 2017
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2019	VNR 2019
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	— NSSD from 2009 will be revised in a way to present general political framework for implementing Agenda 2030. It focusses on long-term action in eight key areas (objectives - see below). — National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS 2030, to be adopted in 2020): overarching strategic document on the operational level for the period up to 2030, which identifies key challenges, goals and targets in implementing priority SDGs for Croatia. Integrated system of strategic planning: The NDS shall form the foundation for shaping and implementing all public policies at the national and subnational level.	VNR 2019; ESDN 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	— NSSD 2009 Objectives: encourage population growth, environment and natural resources, promoting SCP, ensuring social and territorial cohesion and justice, ensuring energy independence and increasing energy efficiency, strengthening public health, interconnectedness, protection of the Adriatic Sea, coastal areas and islands. — VNR 2019: Integrated approach of the NDS 2030: Economically stable and efficient; competitive, entrepreneurial and innovative; safe; connected; green; inclusive; land of advanced regions.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; VNR 2019
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	• Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is national coordinator for Agenda 2030 and SDGs, and acts as secretariat for the new Council for SD. • Ministry of Environment and Energy: responsible for drafting the NSSD (due to the Environmental Protection Act). [Was responsible for the first NSSD 2009 (the Ministry was called Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection)] • Ministry for Regional development and EU funds: responsible for drafting the NDS 2030.	Interviews 2018 & 2020; ESDN 2017 & 2020

	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	• National Council for SD since 2018 – chaired by prime minister and including members of the cabinet, representatives from all relevant ministries (theoretically the Government of Croatia meaning all ministries are responsible), representatives of the office of president of Republic of Croatia, heads of government offices, Croatian Bureau of Statistics, as well as in the capacity of advisors also other stakeholders: academia, private sector, civil society, local and regional actors.
		   - The Council monitors, analyses and coordinates implementation of the first sixteen SDGs and advises the Government. It also coordinates and agrees on the inputs needed for participation of Republic of Croatia in the work of UN bodies (especially General Assembly, ECOSOC, HLPF), and European Union.
		   - The Council aims at improving the cooperation and raising public awareness about the importance of Agenda 2030 implementation within all segments of Croatian society and with all sustainable development stakeholders in the Republic of Croatia.
		   - The Council meets once a year and may set up working groups.
		 • At the beginning of 2019 the Council established an inter-sectoral *ad hoc* working group for SDGs with the sole task of finishing the drafting of the Croatian VNR. The group doesn't exist anymore.
		 • Drafting the NDS 2030: regular meetings with relevant ministries, institutions, agencies, etc., convened by the Ministry for Regional development and EU funds (not related to the Council for SD)
			ESDN 2017 & 2020; VNR 2019; Interviews 2018 & 2020

	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Not specifically only via council for SD.	Interview 2018
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	The National Strategy for Development Cooperation for the period 2017–2021 determines the strategic direction of development and humanitarian policy.	VNR 2019
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	— Croatia was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Bulgaria). — EU SDS — Mediterranean Strategy for SD	ESDN 2017; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	— Advisory role of regional self-government units in the work of the National Council for SD. — Environmental Protection Act outlines responsibilities of national, sub-national and other relevant stakeholders. — Regional government required (by law) to submit Environmental Status Report on how that are achieving the legislation. Legal obligation, clear links in responsibilities.	Interview 2018; VNR 2019; ESDN 2017
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Academia, private sector, civil society, local and regional actors, youth	Interview 2018; VNR 2019
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	— New National Council for SD since 2018 mostly government (see above) but other stakeholders can participate with the status of advisors, eg. academia, private sector, civil society, local and regional actors. — Broad consultation around NDS 2030 and VNR drafting processes. — Internet consultation on NSSD strategy – former SD Council key for participation (see below). — Cooperation platform of the Croatian Chamber of Economy set up in 2019 to promote partnerships between the business sector, government institutions and civil society to achieve SDGs. Was: Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Council – supervisory and advisory function, stakeholder/expert inclusive, reduced activity in 2012 and later terminated (due to lack of interest in the council).	Interviews 2018 & 2020; VNR 2019; ESDN 2017

	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	— Croatian Business Council for Sustainable Development (HR BCSD) set up an SDG Platform (2018) promoting corporate social responsibility and sustainable business through conferences and papers. — Two-day conference entitled "Sustainability – Future of Business" organised by the Croatian Employers' Association in October 2018.	VNR 2019
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— Environmental Status Report, every 4 years, reports on env't legislation and the indicators of the NSSD. — Information System for Strategic Planning and Development Management (since 2019): electronic collection and storage of statistical and financial data required for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Agenda 2030.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; VNR 2019
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	— Statistical Office has developed a portal for SDG indicators (2019) (see below [1]). — *Under process*: There will be indicators in NDS 2030 and there will be a link with SDG indicators; these are two parallel processes but a match of the two is planned. Ministry for Regional development and EU funds, as national coordinator for NDS 2030, also acts as a coordinator for establishing platform for indicators. — *no quantified/timebound targets*	Interviews 2018 & 2020; VNR 2019
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Financing for SDGs/Budget: National strategy should be linked to the budget. Impact assessment: /	Interview 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- National council for SD since 2018 – academia representatives have a status of advisors. - Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Council – supervisory and advisory function, stakeholder/expert inclusive, reduced activity in 2012. Mechanisms for policy link to science.	Interview 2018; ESDN 2017
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Parliament will adopt the NDS 2030.	Interviews 2018 & 2020

Abbreviations:

EU SDS   EU Sustainable Development Strategy
NDS 2030   National Development Strategy
NSSD   National Strategy for Sustainable Development
SCP   Sustainable Consumption and Production

Reference:
[1] Croatian Bureau of Statistics. Portal for SDG indicators. https://croatianbureauofstatistics.github.io/sdg-indicators/

Country Data Sheet: Czech Republic

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2004: National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2004 2010 / 2015 / 2017: Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development 2010; revision after 2015 to "Czech Republic 2030", adopted April 2017; *planned* to be updated in 2023. 2018: Implementation plan of the Czech Republic 2030 and "Implementing the Agenda 2030 in Czech Republic", both adopted Oct. 2018.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; ESDN QR, 2018; Interview 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2017 (next 2021)	ESDN 2020
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Initial Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development, revised with the SDGs in 2015, and updated to "Czech Republic 2030" = overarching vision and strategy for the SD. 2018 Implementation plan of the Czech Republic 2030.	ESDN 2017
		In addition, a document "Implementing the Agenda 2030 in Czech Republic" with concrete measures: it assesses the SDGs relevance in internal and external dimension, sets responsibilities to the relevant targets, define interlinkages between Agenda 2030 and Czech Republic 2030 and sets the key (and general) measures for the fulfilling SDGs in the Czech Republic that goes beyond the Czech Republic 2030 scope.	ESDN QR, 2018; Interview 2018
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	Czech Republic 2030: 27 strategic goals, 97 targets	Interview 2018
		Six thematic clusters: People and Society; Economy; Resilient Ecosystems; Regions and Municipalities; Global Development and Good Governance.	Interview 2018; OECD country profile, 2018
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	• Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD): advisory & coordinating body of the gov't (for long-term priorities, trends, agenda-setting, implementation, reporting). • Prime Minister was chair of the council (2014-2018), since 2018 Minister for Environment (who had chaired already 2006-2014, was Deputy PM), and Minister of Regional Development as co-chair. The Sustainable Development Unit (SD Unit) at the Ministry of Environment provides technical and administrative support to the Council.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; ESDN QR 2018; VNR 2017; Interview 2018
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	1. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all other ministries. 2. Government Council is the advisory & coordinating body of the gov't, and for participation of stakeholders: - 38 members, incl. 14 ministries, 5 thematic committees with stakeholders [see graph at bottom]. - GCSD meets around twice per year in plenary 3. Since 2019 the SD Unit in the Min Env coordinates the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, and continuously consults with the GCSD. The coordination is also done through a so-called 'focal points network': persons responsible for intra- and interdepartmental coordination and communication with the Min Env on issues relating to sustainable development and the implementation of the Czech Republic 2030 strategy; with regular exchange of information and meetings.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; Leuven, 2018; Interview 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	GCSD as main body Some CSOs are very active in this area – two measures are included in the Implementing Agenda 2030 (cooperation in tax, and enhancing the coordination between the GCSD and the Council for Development Cooperation).	ESDN QR, 2018; Interview 2018
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	• Development Cooperation Strategy 2018-2030, linked to the "Czech Republic 2030". • Multi-Stakeholder Council for Dev't Cooperation, chaired by Minister FA	OECD country profile, 2018
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	Development of new SDG strategic involved EU & UN	ESDN 2017
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	Development of new SDG strategic involved local & regional government through the GCSD: e.g. the LA21 Working Group still in place (since 2004), and established indicator-based approach to SD at local level in 10 thematic areas. A Committee for Sustainable Municipalities had existed for some years (after 2014), but this work is now mainstreamed in the Working groups of the Ministry for Regional Development for the Regional Development Strategy.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; Interviews 2018 & 2020
		- National SDS is framework for subnational context as well. - Some municipality associations are a part of GCSD (incl. "Healthy Cities"). - Many activities at the municipal level: Some cities have own SD strategies; SMART Czech Republic/ Sustainable Czech Republic Strategy of the Union of Towns and Municipalities *planned*; 179 Local Action Groups (LAGs) and National Network of LAGs. - "Healthy Cities": runs a good practice database, - national/regional/local strategies with links to SDGs; developed a portal with SD indicators etc., together with university experts (see 6.2 and 5.2).	ESDN QR, 2018; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Local and regional authorities, parliamentary representatives and a wide range of other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and the labour unions	VNR 2017
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	- Public consultation on revised SD strategic framework ("Czech Republic 2030") in 2015 and 2016, and on "Implementing the Agenda 2030 in Czech Republic" in 2017. - GCSD is the main forum for partnership and participation (with 5 thematic committees of stakeholders)	ESDN 2017 & 2020
		Web platform for noting voluntary commitments to the SDGs by the public (Finnish model), combining with network meetings twice a year and encouraging the contestants of a national SDG award	ESDN QR, 2018; Interview 2018
		National database of Strategies: a tool for tracking linking various strategies, goals, targets and indicators, run by the Ministry of Regional development	Leuven, 2018; Interview 2018
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't	Embassies report on development cooperation aspects through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	OECD

		organ. or businesses		country profile, 2018

5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	- Progress reports on Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development pre-SDG's 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2016.	ESDN 2017
		Evaluation reports on SDG and indicators currently being prepared (by end of 2020): 1) on "Czech Republic 2030": Quality of Life and its Sustainability, based on reports of Ministries on the fulfilment of the Implementation Plan 2) on progress in Agenda 2030 ("Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Czech Republic") Both cover a three years period. Data are collected and indicators prepared by the respective Committee of the GCSD under the auspice of the Czech Statistical Office. A draft report will be then prepared by the SD Unit. Based on outcomes of 1) the Implementation plan for the next three years will be updated.	ESDN QR, 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020; OECD country profile, 2018
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	▪ Results in VNR based on the OECD Study *"Measuring Distance to SDGs Targets"* (2017) ▪ Indicator sets: - Indicators based around the 97 targets (equivalent to SDG targets/objectives) of Czech Republic 2030: 192 indicators, 20 of them are new or have experimental character. Of the 244 global indicators 123 were considered as relevant for Czech Republic, and were used for a report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. - 140 well-being indicators (inspired by OECD's How's life, see [1]) will be further developed (so far 70 available): linking policy outcomes to social trends, and taking into account the distribution of outcomes through the society. - *no quantified or timebound targets*	VNR 2017; ESDN 2017 & 2020; Interviews 2018 & 2020
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Impact assessment: Quality of public policies will be improved through evidence-based or evidence-informed decisions, better ex-ante impact assessments and enhanced ex-post evaluations: Regulatory impact assessment part of legislative process. Financing for SDGs/Budget: *Planned* "SDG labelling": tracking SDG relevant expenditures in the state budget and connecting them with public policies and relevant indicators. Methodology is development, now under discussion to screen the whole state budget and public outcomes in the Report "Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Czech Republic".	VNR 2017; Leuven, 2018; Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- Research specifically mentioned as part of SD strategy. - Universities involved in the LA21 Working Group (see 3.2); academia involved in the GCSD Committees; University experts developed with Healthy Cities (see 3.2) a portal with SD indicators, standards and methodologies.	ESDN 2017 & 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	- Ad hoc discussion of SD Strategic framework in both chambers of parliament - Members of Parliament are members in the GCSD - A new sub-Cie for SD is set up under the ENVI Cie; it is not so clear though how it deals with the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs (and there is a large number of Cie's and sub-Cie's in the Parliament)	VNR 2017; ESDN 2017; Interview 2018

Abbreviations:

Cie	(parliamentary) Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
GCSD	Government Council for Sustainable Development
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy
SD Unit	Sustainable Development Unit
LAGS	Local Action Groups

References:

[1] OECD. How's life? 2020. Measuring Well-Being. http://www.oecd.org/statistics/how-s-life-23089679.htm
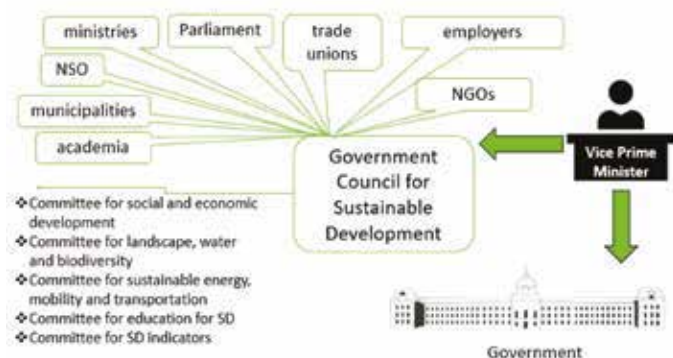

Figure 1. Institutional structure for sustainable development in the Czech Republic (graph provided by the Ministry for Environment)

Country Data Sheet: Hungary

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2007: First National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2013: National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development, adopted 2013, for the period 2012-24	ESDN 2016; VNR 2018
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2018	ESDN QR, 2018
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development (NFSSD), with 34 strategic objectives and 77 instruments until 2024.	ESDN 2016 & 2020; VNR 2018
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	Four priorities of the NFSSD: the human, social, environmental, and economic resources, "in compliance with the 17 SDGs".	VNR 2018
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	▪ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade responsible for Hungary's Agenda 2030 policy; it was leading the VNR process, prepared through an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism (but no parliamentary input) ▪ Ministry of Technology and Innovation (with a State Secretary responsible for SD policies), and Ministry of Agriculture (includes Environment) responsible for the implementation of NFSSD at national level. ▪ National council for SD (NFFT, since 2008, linked to Parliament) responsible for biannual monitoring reports of NFSSD and strategic planning (NFSSD renewal for post-2024 period)	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR 2018; ESDN 2020; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	- <u>Coordination mechanism</u>: Cabinet of Economy, with relevant ministers and state secretaries involved (Governmental Decree 1144/2010), seems to be not fully functional. - PM Office (had the lead before; PM delegated the representation in the NFFT to the Minister for Agriculture) - NFFT; National Economic and Social Council of Hungary (NGTT) - All ministries fed into Strategy (both 2007 and 2013)	ESDN 2016 & 2020; Interviews 2018 & 2020
		- The constitutional court plays a role in some cases of trade-offs, e.g. between a healthy environment, right of future generations, and interests of use of natural resources	Interview 2018
		- New Directorate for Environmental Sustainability opened in 2015 under President (led by Csaba Kőrösi, former UN Ambassador)	ESDN QR, 2018
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	- Inter-ministerial Coordinative Committee for International Development Cooperation responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the external dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. - Directorate for Environmental Sustainability: national and international linkages to environmental sustainability related issues.	ESDN 2020
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation		
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	— HU was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs. — HU reported 2007 about implementing the EU SDS, NFSSD linked to EU SDS.	ESDN 2016; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	Consulted in NFSSD process through Nationwide Regional Development Civil Interest Reconciliation Forum, and Nationwide Regional Development Council.	ESDN 2016
		• NFFT includes local/subnational government representatives • Local government climate policy alliance and civil society SD round table	ESDN QR, 2018; ESDN 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	NFFT has about 30 members representing including political parties, representatives of the academia, the private sector, trade unions, CSOs, and church organizations.	VNR 2018
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	— NFSSD prepared in consultation with stakeholders, digital participation, panel discussions/events, draft discussed with regional development bodies. — NFFT (since 2008): independent national advisory institution, includes stakeholder groups as members, Chair is speaker of parliament (see also under 7.) — Conference in May 2018 for stakeholder participation in the VNR process, - as platform to facilitate the involvement of CSOs, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO), academia, business and other stakeholders. — SDG – Civil society round table (see below [1]) — V4SDG is a youth-led NGO aiming to promote action on the UN SDGs (since 2018); it consists of the four Visegrad countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.	ESDN 2016 & 2020; ESDN QR, 2018 Interview 2020
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	Business Council for Sustainable development (BCSD) Hungary is active: e.g. with an "Action 2020" (for SDGs)	
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— NFFT produces biennial Monitoring Reports on NFSSD (which is a considered as a full and critical review): Most recent 2015, December 2017, and December 2019 (3rd monitoring report) — HCSO produces an SD Indicator Report every two years (latest 2018). It also reports to UN.	ESDN QR, 2018; ESDN 2020; VNR 2018; Interview 2018
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	— Ministry for Environment and Water (new name since 2018: Ministry of Agriculture) and Stat office produced initial indicators (2004). Since 2007, the State office publishes data on the indicators every 2 years, on new indicator set based on Eurostat, National Sustainable Basic Indicator System. Latest indicators published 2018.	ESDN 2016 & 2020; Interviews

		— The indicators are in-line with NFSSD and EU SD indicator structure. — *There are no quantified / timebound targets*	2018 & 2020
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Impact assessments</u> *Planned*: a sustainability impact assessment for all new bills (a proposal has been discussed, with no result yet) <u>Budget check</u>: --	VNR 2018 ; Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	— NFFT includes representatives from academia. — In the preparation of the renewed NFSSD, many research institute and university department submitted opinions.	VNR 2018; ESDN 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)	— Ombudsman for Future Generations existed from 2008-2011 — 2011 became (due to lack of political support) Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations and the deputy Ombudsperson in the Office of Fundamental Rights (this change made the office within/under the overarching Ombudsperson office) — Involved in VNR process — The office has a mandate from parliament, but has an independent office and scrutinizes the government — VNR includes a section of the HU youth representatives to the UN The Directorate for Environmental Sustainability in the President's office is responsible for long-term sustainability issues, which arch over governing cycles.	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	▪ The NFFT is based in the Parliament, includes members from all parties, and its President is the chair of the National Assembly. ▪ Permanent Committee in the Parliament (National Assembly) dedicated to SD (it is a rename of the Environment Committee)	ESDN QR, 2018; NFFT Website

Abbreviations:
HCSO   Hungarian Central Statistical Office
NFFT   National Council for Sustainable Development
NFSSD   National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development
NSDS   National Sustinablde Development Strategy

Reference:
[1] SDG Civil society round table. (http://ffcelok.hu)

Country Data Sheet: Italy

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2002: First National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), on environment only 2017: Law followed by adoption of a **new NSDS 2017-2030** with a broader vision of SD 2020/2021: Review of the NSDS	ESDN 2017; VNR 2017; Interview 2018
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2017	VNR 2017
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	National Sustainable Development Strategy - NSDS 2017-2030 The review of the NSDS 2020/2021 is planned to also cover earlier attempts of endorsing an Action Plan	VNR 2017; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	NSDS redeveloped to be inclusive of SDGs National strategic goals covering all SDGs, providing for SDGs activities on the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: People, planet, prosperity, peace, partnership, and proving a set of crosscutting, transversal areas of action ("sustainability vectors"): (i) Common knowledge (ii) Monitoring and evaluating policies, plans and projects; (iii) Institutions, participation and partnerships; (iv) Education, awareness and communication; (v) Modernising public administration and restructuring public expenditure.	VNR 2017; ESDN 2020
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	▪ Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PM Office) oversees the implementation of the NSDS, with support of the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (MoE) for domestic implementation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for external, as well as from Ministry of Economy and Finance for creating synergies with formal economic policies and for assessing long-term impacts of the budget on national sustainable well-being. ▪ <u>Was</u>: Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea was responsible for the first NSDS and had launched the process of the new NSDS, managed consultation process with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and all line Ministries, including other national authorities (like National Statistical Institute - ISTAT, Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research - ISPRA).	ESDN QR 2018; ESDN 2020; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	– All line Ministries were involved in the elaboration of the NSDS 2017-2030. – A National Commission for SD was established with the new NSDS that includes the government level ministries and regions, but has not become operational.	ESDN QR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020

		▪ **Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE)** responsible for horizontal coordination between ministries and integration of sustainability into planning. Will be renamed to Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning for Sustainable Development (CIPESS) as of 1.1.2021. It is chaired by the PM with the Minister of Finance as alternate; composed by Ministers with a strong economic portfolio (e.g. economic development, infrastructure, agriculture, environment). Other Ministers may participate as well as the President of National Statistical Institute and the President of Banca d'Italia (without voting powers).
		▪ <u>New</u> (since 2019): **Cabina di Regia Benessere Italia** within the Presidency of the Council of Ministries (= PM Office): provides technical and scientific support to the PM enhancing institutional, political and strategic coordination to implement equitable and sustainable well-being (BES) policies and the NSDS.
		  - The focal points nominated by each Minister participate in the meetings of the Cabina di Regia, which is chaired by a special envoy nominated by the PM.
		  - Its Technical and Scientific Committee is composed of: President of ISTAT, President of the National Centre for Research (CNR), President of ISPRA, President of the National Social Welfare Institute (INPS), Spokesperson for the National Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASVIS).
		  - Representatives of regional and local governments and other representatives of the public and private sectors may participate as well.
			ESDN 2017 & 2020; Interview 2020

	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	<u>Council of Ministers</u> is responsible for coordination between internal and external implementation. The Cabina di Regia is supporting this function. NSDS covers both the domestic dimension and the principles and purposes of international cooperation, in line with the Italian Cooperation's three-year Programming Document.	ESDN QR 2018; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	NSDS' part on external implementation was elaborated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who also prepares annual progress report on development cooperation activities implemented in the reference year and the results achieved. National Conference on Development Cooperation that strongly encourages engagement with civil society and other key stakeholders. The first conference took place in 2018.	Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	– Italy was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Spain and Turkey) – NSDS: Integration in Economic and Financial Document - National Reform Programme (European Semester)	ESDN QR 2018; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	— Public representative's bodies of local and regional authorities: State-regions conference – conveys view of regions and provinces to the state – specifically consulted in developing the NSDS — Law foresees that 12 months after adoption of new NSDS regions have to develop their SD strategies, the strategies should demonstrate their contribution to the national strategy. The MoE has launched a public notice to offer financial support and guidance for the elaboration of regional strategies. — Coordination mechanism of the MoE with Regions, Autonomous Provinces and metropolitan cities aiming at exchanging experiences and comparing methodological approaches to increase coherence in the implementation of regional and metropolitan strategies. — Regions and metropolitan cities currently working within the NSDS proposed indicators framework, to deliver their own set of indicators within the regional and local strategies for SD. — Representatives of regional and local governments are allowed to participate to the meetings of the Cabina di Regia Benessere Italia. — Regions and Autonomous Provinces are currently establishing the Regional Fora for SD in synergy with the National Forum on SD (see 4.2) and the consultation activities and mechanisms developed by the metropolitan cities.	ESDN QR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
4. Stakeholder	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Inclusive of research, NGOs, other government institutions, civil society, regional actors, youth	ESDN 2017 & 2020

Participation	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	— Consultations were central in defining the NSDS in 2017, e.g. in the "Context analysis" measuring distance to SDG achievement, which served as the starting point for the strategy process. More than 200 NGOs involved in context analysis and special role for research that consolidated the analysis. — ASviS, since 2016- independent organisation; was involved in the strategy elaboration process etc.; coordinates a Working Group and is part of the Steering Committee of the Stakeholder Forum. — **National Forum for Sustainable Development** (Stakeholder forum for public participation on the SDGs): since 2019, created by the MoE; it is organised in 5 Working Groups (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Vectors for sustainability) coordinated by a steering committee composed of representatives of civil society networks. The Working Groups are typically organised by a stakeholder group and meet around 3-4 times/year (for further details, see below [1]). — Representatives of the public and private sectors are allowed to participate to the meetings of the Cabina di Regia Benessere Italia. — Regional centres for environmental and SD education working with schools and cultural centres to spread sustainability towards young generations.	ESDN QR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020; ESDN 2020
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	▪ NSDS foresees annual monitoring & reporting: MoE provides an implementation report on the NSDS every year, presented to the CIPE. This is based on data and reports provided by ISTAT (see 5.2). ▪ The NSDS is updated every three years by the MoE and then endorsed by the President of the Council of Ministers. The first revision, expected for December 2020, will be completed by spring 2021 (due to Covid-19 emergency). ▪ Project "Policy coherence for sustainable development: mainstreaming the SDGs in Italian decision-making process": within the Structural Reform Programme 2017-2020, carried out in cooperation with the OECD and the DG Reform of the European Commission, aims at identifying a possible roadmap leading to a legislative and structural reform to strengthen policy coherence in achieving the sustainable development goals; will benefit the 2020 NSDS revision.	ESDN QR 2018; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	SDG indicators - In May 2017, ISTAT published a first set of 100 SDGs indicators (within the framework of UN-IAEG-SDGs indicators and well-being indicators), among them 38 National Institute of Statistics Indicators for Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being (BES). - Periodically, ISTAT presents an update and an extension of the set of indicators for measuring sustainable development, monitoring its objectives and published a report that analyses the indicators and their interlinkages: 2020 SDGs Report, Statistical information for 2030 Agenda in Italy, by the National Institute of Statistics BES indicators - In 2011 the 'Equitable and Sustainable Well-being Project" (BES indicators) started, aiming to move beyond economic indicators, reported as part of SDG indicators and also integrated into Economic/Financial reporting, which lead in 2016 to a law on the integration of BES indicators into Economic and Financial reporting. - In 2017 four BES indicators, and in 2018 twelve indicators were included in the budget document of the Ministry of Economy and Finance: "Economic and Finance document" (annual document that reports the quality and trends of public expenditures)	ESDN QR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020; VNR 2017; ESDN 2020
		No quantified/timebound targets Planned: It was intended to develop an Action plan in 2018 to also include numerical and quantitative targets for 2030, but this was delayed.	Interview 2020
6. Knowledge	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Financing for SDGs / Budget: — 12 BES indicators are now included in the budget document (Economy and Financial Document DEF) of the	Interviews 2018 &

input and tools		Ministry of Economy and Finance. It is tasked to create strong synergies between the NSDS implementation and the formal economic policies and to coordinate models required to define such objectives. The BES indicators are now widely used in analyses done by the Ministry. — *Likely future work*: to be expanded with the reform of the European Semester Impact assessment: *no mechanism in place* *Specific assessments*: NSDS represents the national reference framework for planning and programming policies and for environmental assessments (SEA, EIA). Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) is one of the guiding principles and tools.	2020; VNR 2017; ESDN 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	— Academia and research were involved in context analysis as stakeholders and had a special role: the draft analysis was sent to research institutes to give a feedback and this step was useful to review and update the analysis and revise the strategic objectives — Agreement between the Minister of Environment and some Italian Universities that provide technical and scientific support to the implementation process of the NSDS, in particular to the coordination mechanism of the Forum on SD.	ESDN QR, 2018; ESDN 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	"Permanent Committee" on the implementation of Agenda 2030 (Sub-Cie of the Foreign Affairs Committee): was set up in 2018, ceased, and continued again [2]	Interviews 2018 & 2020

Abbreviations:

ASVIS	National Alliance for Sustainable Development
BES	(Indicators for) Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being
CIPE	Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning
ISPRA	Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
ISTAT	National Statistical Institute
MoE	Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
NSDS	National Development Strategy
PM	Prime Minister
UN IAEG	UN Inter-agency Expert Group

References:

[1] Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea. Forum for Sustainable Development: the expression of interest to participate has been published. https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/forum-lo-sviluppo-sostenibile-pubblicata-la-manifestazione-di-interesse-partecipare

[2] Italian Parliament, Permanent Committee" on Agenda 2030 https://www.camera.it/leg18/99?shadow_organo_parlamentare=3116&idsottoorgano=2803

Country Data Sheet: Moldova

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2012: National Development Strategy "Moldova 2012-2020" – with a vision for sustainable development of Moldova. Republic of Moldova does not have yet an approved national document for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, since 2016, considerable efforts have been made to adapt and nationalize the SDG to the context of the Republic of Moldova, including assessing the alignment of SDGs with existing national policies. 2017: Elaboration of the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030" started, integrating the 2030 Agenda, as well as the commitments assumed within the Moldova-EU Association Agreement (signed in 2014). It was adopted by the Parliament in December 2018 but it was necessary to review it in 2019. However, due to the political instability that the country faced during the year 2019, its approval was delayed (planned to be approved by the Government in the week of May 25-29 and subsequently submitted to Parliament for adoption).	Interview 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2020	Interview 2020

	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	▪ National Development Strategy (NDS) "Moldova 2012-2020": long-term development policy; the hierarchically highest strategic planning document for sustainable socio-economic development of the country. Contained 8 goals, many aligned with the Millenium Dev't Goals (MDGs).
		▪ **NDS "Moldova 2030"**: long-term document which integrates the vision of country's development, taking into consideration the targets and objectives of 2030 Agenda and the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. It is considered a strategic benchmark document for all national, regional and local policy documents. It also pursues public administration reform. This development vision for the next decade is based on the following four pillars:
		  - sustainable and inclusive economy,
		  - strong human and social capital,
		  - honest and efficient institutions,
		  - healthy environment.
		▪ **National Development Plan**: will be the operational document for the implementation of "Moldova 2030", for a period of 3 years but annually adjusted.
			Interview 2020

	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	NDS "Moldova 2030" integrates 10 strategic goals for sustainable development which should be further integrated into the relevant sector strategies focusing on policy options for medium- and short-term development, considered after the nationalization exercise of the 2030 Agenda conducted in 2016 – accelerators of sustainable development. These are: 1. Increase revenues from sustainable sources and reduce economic inequalities (SDG 1, 8, 10) 2. Increase people's access to physical infrastructure, public utilities and housing (SDG 9, 11) 3. Improve working conditions and reduce informal employment (SDG 8) 4. Ensure quality education for all and promote life-long learning opportunities (SDG 4) 5. Ensure fundamental right to best physical and mental health (SDG 3) 6. Solid and inclusive social protection system (SDG 10)	Interview 2020
		7. Ensure a work-family life balance (SDG 5, 8, 10) 8. Ensure efficient and inclusive governance and rule of law (SDG 16) 9. Promote peaceful, safe and inclusive society (SDG 16) 10. Ensure fundamental right to a healthy and safe environment (SDG 6, 12, 13, 14, 15) (For further details on the level of alignment with each SDG, see below [1]; incl. SDG 2, 7 and 17 that are are not listed). The alignment of existing national policy papers with the SDGs varies; adjustments in policy and implementation will be undertaken (incl. budget, see 6.1).	
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	The **State Chancellery (Office of the Prime Minister)** coordinates the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is a key permanent working body of the Government responsible for organising the activities of the Government, establishing a common basis and priorities of the Government, coordination support for developing and implementing state policies, etc., monitoring the implementation of the Government Programme.	Interview 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	▪ **National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development**, set up in 2016 to create an institutional framework, but also a participatory and transparent process in adapting and implementing SDGs at national level. It gathers High level representatives from all ministries, civil society, development partners. Due to the political instability, there have been no meetings organized since 2018. ▪ Joint Steering Committee (2020): for coordinating the VNR process, with representatives from the Presidency, Parliament, Government, central and local public authorities, civil society, private sector, press, and academia. ▪ Ministry of Finance has horizontal responsibilities for mid-term budget planning, which place it at the centre with horizontal coordination responsibilities. ▪ Departments for Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policies (DAMEP) are responsible for horizontal and vertical coordination and management of the key processes related to policy planning, policy development and monitoring, reporting and evaluation. More specifically, DAMEPs are responsible for coordination of the development of sectorial and intersectoral policy documents (*not specifically geared to SDGs yet*). The NDS underlines the need for closer interlinkages and coordination between sector policies and institutions at different levels, promoting dialogue and participatory approach in policy-making to enable an effective implementation.	Interview 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation		
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration coordinates and monitors at national level the implementation of Moldova's commitments provided by the EU-Moldova Association Agreement and the process of European integration, and it maintains the political dialogue with the EU institutions and its member states.	Interview 2020
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	The cooperation with local authorities is ensured via the **Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM),** a constituency-based voluntary association of communities and local governments, non-governmental and non-politically affiliated; a non-profit organisation, which consists of the territorial-administrative units registered under the law as cities (municipalities) and villages (communes). CALM has around 800 members; it is the largest and the single non-politically affiliated association of LGs from Moldova. Objectives: to ensure representation, protection of common rights and interests of all communities and local public authorities in Moldova, effective participation in the modernization and decentralization of public administration, and establishment of an effective partnership with the Government and central public authorities based on principles of equality, collaboration, transparency and mutual respect.	Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Extensive participation and active involvement of society and different groups of stakeholders has been ensured in all processes related to the 2030 Agenda, namely: local public administration, development partners, civil society organizations active in the field, the business environment and academia.	Interview 2020
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	**Consultation and Cooperation Platforms** Legislation in place supporting this process, and there are over 100 consultation and cooperation platforms designed to promote dialogue and coordination on important policy issues. Key ones are:	Interview 2020

		▪ **Economic Council** (EC) of the Prime Minister (PM), with more than 100 members including business associations, public institutions and representatives of the academia community and international organisations, appointed by the PM based on their request. The Council's executive body is the Secretariat of the EC. The EC can make policy recommendations and prepare policy initiatives to be sent to the responsible public authority for further development The EC mostly focuses on business issues. In some cases, the EC acts as a mediator, when ministries can't reach a consensus on a specific problem. ▪ The **National Participation Council** (NPC), a consultative body composed of representatives of 30 CSOs, selected by the Government (since 2010). The objective of the NPC is to contribute to the adoption of public policy decisions which would reflect the interests of the society. Due to the consequent amount of work, the NPC's task is complicated in practice. ▪ Others: Working Group of the Business Regulation Commission, the Consultative Council by the Customs Service, the Joint Dialog Civil Society Forum on DCFTA and the Congress of Local Authorities. Many others address narrow sectoral issues and are led by line Ministries, or are not active anymore (some streamlining desired).	
		▪ The **National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development** gathers High level representatives from all ministries, civil society, development partners. ▪ Extensive participation and active involvement of society and different groups of stakeholders has been ensured in all processes related to the 2030 Agenda, namely: - Adapting and nationalizing the SDG targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda (2016-2017, 2019); - Mid-term evaluation of the NDS "Moldova 2020" (2017); - Drafting of the NDS "Moldova 2030" (2017-2018): 10 groups were set up (one per objective), led by responsible ministries, including representatives of other central administrative authorities, local public administration, development partners, civil society, businesses and academia. Each working group organized at least two sessions (on-line broadcasted), to validate the elements of the strategy for each priority. Around 300 people participated, online sessions: 500,000 views. In addition, UN agencies and CSOs organised consultation events, such as the Inclusion Policy Forum "NDS Moldova 2030 - The Perspective of Civil Society", with 70 representatives of civil society. The NDS draft was also placed for comments and suggestions on the government's public consultation platform (for further information, see below [2]). - Preparation of the first VNR report by the Joint Steering Committee incl. representatives from civil society, private sector, press, and academia (due to COVID the consultation and participation of the target groups was ensured online and through written contributions).	Interview 2020
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	Continuous cooperation with development partners is ensured, by e.g. invitation to public consultation meetings of government initiatives, or the participation of Government representatives at development partner/donors meetings.	Interview 2020
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	▪ No special Monitoring & Evaluation system put in place for SDGs (but for the NDS): ▪ The State Chancellery, jointly with line ministries and National Office of Statistics are in charge of the monitoring and review process of the NDS. ▪ Interim review of the NDS "Moldova 2020" (covering the period 2012 – 2015) ▪ *Planned:* For NDS "Moldova 2030" the following monitoring and evaluation procedures will be implemented: - *Quarter monitoring* – by ministries, on the implementation level of actions (outputs) of the National Development Plan. The State Chancellery will generate brief reports on key achievements and obstacles. - *Annual monitoring* –on NDS implementation during the year, based on quarter monitoring. Analysis of indicator dynamics, based on which the following cycle of National Development Plan will be planned, while respecting the Medium-term Budgetary Framework. - *Interim evaluations* – at the end of each two interim implementation phases of the NDS (2022 and 2026). Analysing the implementation of Strategy impact based on intermediary targets, and suggesting an adjustment of final objectives. - *Final implementation report* –on achievements and impact of the NDS implementation.	Interview 2020

		They will be developed by the State Chancellery based on the information submitted by central public authorities and submitted to the National Council for SD for validation. The reports will be submitted to the Parliament.	
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	- **Each strategic goal has a number of indicators** providing reference value and targets for 2030. These indicators will be considered at the development of sector strategies and together with other relevant indicators, will be included in the NDS "Moldova 2030". In sector strategies, the reference indicators will be disaggregated based on relevant criteria, involving the National Bureau of Statistics. - The reference values will be updated during the implementation of NDS, based on an on-going analysis of scenarios and long-term development projection. Trends and vulnerabilities projected will also be monitored.	Interview 2020
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Financing for SDGs/Budget: *Planned*: All policies will be adjusted to the provision of Moldova 2030. Financial resources for their implementation will be provided through link to the medium-term budgetary framework via the National Development Plan. Impact Assessment (IA): - Ex-ante impact assessment is performed (by law) for normative acts with significant impacts: with impacts on entrepreneurial activities, on the national budget and on structural and institutional reforms. - The IA analyses the negative/positive impacts on the key dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental) as well as cost and benefits of the intervention. - The Methodological Guide for Ex-ante Impact Assessment 2010 is designed to help the civil servants in ministries and other public authorities that work on developing policies and normative acts to understand and apply the process. It describes a step-by-step ex-ante process with relevant examples and analytical tools. - The Working Group of the Business Regulation Commission reviews RIA reports developed by the ministries.	Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Academia is involved in the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development, as well as in the Joint Steering Committee in charge of coordinating the VNR process.	Interview 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	- Parliament will adopt the NDS "Moldova 2030". - The Parliament approves the annual reports on budget executions. - Monitoring reports on the NDS "Moldova 2030" will be submitted to the Parliament. - The Parliament is involved in the Joint Steering Committee to coordinate the VNR process.	Interview 2020

Abbreviations:

CALM   Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova
DAMEP   Departments for Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policies
DCFTA   Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
EC   Economic Council
LGs   Local governments
NDS   National Development Strategy
NPC   National Participation Council
RIA   Regulatory Impact Assessment

References:

[1] UNDP. Adapting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development to the context of the Republic of Moldova (2016 – 2017).
      https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/en/home/library/sdg/na_ionalizarea-agendei-de-dezvoltare-durabil-in-contextul-republ/adaptarea-agendei-2030-de-dezvoltarea-durabil-la-contextul-repub.html
[2] Government participation platform. http://particip.gov.md

Country Data Sheet: Montenegro

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2007 First National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) and corresponding Action Plan 2007-2012. 2007 Constitution: commitment of Montenegro to be an ecological state, which relies on the concept of Sustainable Development (SD). 2016 'NSSD until 2030' and corresponding "NSSD Action Plan until 2030"	VNR 2016
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2016 (no plans for a next one yet)	VNR 2016
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	▪ First NSSD adopted by the Government in April 2007 & Action Plan 2007-2012: measures to achieve the objectives of SD in the 24 priority areas of SD in Montenegro. ▪ 'NSSD until 2030' adopted by the Government in July 2016 & 'NSSD Action plan until 2030': defines measures with sub-measures, indicators for progress monitoring and qualitative and quantitative targeted outcomes in 2020 and/or 2030.	VNR 2016; Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	NSSD until 2030: strategic goals and measures for four groups of national resources - human capital, social capital and values, natural capital and economic capital, as well as on how to achieve good governance and sustainable financing for SD of Montenegro in period until 2030. All SDGs covered: 167 of the 169 SDG targets are covered in the 'NSSD until 2030' with measures (action plan).	VNR 2016

2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation(s)	▪ <u>Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism (MSDT)</u>, Unit of the Direction for Mediterranean Affairs is the leading Ministry (was: Office for Sustainable Development, 2005 – 2011, in the General Secretariat of the Government). It oversees the process of monitoring the implementation of the NSSD and is the Secretariat to the National Council for Sustainable Development.
		▪ <u>National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)</u>, since June 2015 'National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management' (NCSDCCICZM, or: National Council): established in 2002 as a governmental coordination mechanism and multi-stakeholder advisory body.
		  - 2002-2013 chaired by the Prime Minister, since 2013 by the President of the State.
		  - The NCSD includes four working groups, which prepare expertise considered by the NCSD. The working groups, among other tasks, give final recommendations on NSSD implementation reports before their
			VNR 2016; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020

		adoption by the government. They core work is also focused on providing expert opinion on the national legal, strategic and action documents and their compliance with NSSD until 2030, but also ICZM and Climate Change policies.	
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	– The NCSD is composed of 10 representatives of the national government, 3 of local governments, and 13 stakeholders and experts (universities, business sector, investors, banking sector, trade union, NGOs and independent experts). The Council involves four expert working groups, one of them focusing on monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the NSSD. It enables comprehensive inter-ministerial consultations on SDGs. The Draft 'NSSD until 2030' was submitted for validation to all ministries responsible for the implementation of activities defined in the 'NSSD until 2030'. – 'NSSD until 2030' suggests: the establishment of Sustainable Development Office or a similar body in the Prime Minister cabinet as best institutional form for coordinating the NSSD implementation; and the appointment of at least one full-time employee working on SD tasks in all ministries and local self-governments. Deliberations are ongoing. The VNR stresses the need to strengthen the capacities of the institutions and more efficient cooperation at all levels of the public administration system, as well as between public administration and the civil and private sector, and academia, to have institutional coherence and alignment of sectorial policies. Full implementation of these measures depends on the establishment of the institutional framework. – On*going*: deciding process on the institutional framework for SD in line with NSSD until 2030, which will determine SD capacities and multi-level coordination mechanisms of the Government, local self-governments and institutions.	VNR 2016; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	/	
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	Development projections of Montenegro on the principles of SD partly depends on funds mobilization from international public and private sources (foreign direct investment (FDI), credits, and international development cooperation).	VNR 2016
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	- EU accession process: integration and harmonization of national legislation with the EU Acquis. - Montenegro was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Slovenia), and related intergovernmental negotiation process under UN auspices on the post 2015 SD agenda and financing for SD. - Member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), which created the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development. Montenegro is currently chairing this body and the MCSD Steering Committee, until June 2021 (for details, see below [1]).	VNR 2016; Interview 2020; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	- Three municipalities (among 23 in total in Montenegro) established organizational units to implement SD policies. One municipality (Danilovgrad) established its own local Council for SD and adopted a SD Strategy with Action Plan (for the period until 2018). The NCSD supported the adoption of Local Action Plan for SD of the capital Podgorica in 2017. - *Planned/ongoing*: Establishment of SD councils at local level and alignment of strategic plans for development of municipalities with the 'NSSD until 2030'. Major improvements are expected after the establishment of institutional framework	VNR 2016; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Citizens, ministries, expert institutions and institutions in the public sector, local self-governments, the Parliament, academia, civil society organizations and the business community, independent experts.	VNR 2016; Interview 2020
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	– A Sustainable Development Coordination Body was informally established for the coordination of inputs for the preparation of the 'NSSD until 2030'; it was originally considered to continue, but since have been various deliberations about the institutional framework. Decision on this will determine the type of coordination	VNR 2016; Interview 2020

		mechanism.	
		– Consultative process of citizens "Montenegro We Want" (2013-2014) as part of the post-2015 consultations supported by the UN in cooperation with MSDT and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations. It involved over 8,000 Montenegrins (1.3% of the population).	
		– Consultative process on the Draft 'NSSD until 2030' in February 2016: with representatives of all the relevant ministries, state administration bodies, local self-governments and local administration bodies. A report contains an overview of the submitted suggestions. All suggestions not in conflict with the goals and objectives of SD were accepted.	
		– Public consultations on the draft 'NSSD until 2030' (February to April 2016) with the Committee for Tourism and Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning of the parliament, with municipal assemblies, NGOs, the business sector and academia. A report with suggestions made is available at the MSDT. All comments and suggestions were to the extent possible integrated in the draft.	
		– 2 representatives of NGOs are members of the NCSD representing other NGOs which jointly proposed those members to the Council.	
		– *Planned:* Reform of the National SD Council – from an advisory body of the Government of Montenegro to a "State Council" with additional participation of civil, business and scientific sectors. This is rooted in the public consultations on the draft NSSD 2030, as well as the strengthening of the Montenegrin Assembly (see 7.2).	
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	Montenegro intends to strengthen the role of the private sector in greening the economy through realising projects and programs for green entrepreneurship, sustainable consumption and production and corporate social responsibility, as well as through the development of public-private partnerships.	VNR 2016
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring and review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	– Was: Five annual progress reports on the implementation of the first NSSD (2007-2012) were adopted by the Government of Montenegro.	VNR 2016; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
		– Now: 'NSSD Action Plan until 2030' defines measures to establish an information system and database enabling the application of measurable indicators to monitor progress in the implementation of the SDGs. The primary official and administrative data producer is the Statistical Office MONSTAT, together with the other official and administrative data producers as defined in NSSD until 2030.	
		– First progress report on the implementation of the 'NSSD until 2030' by the MSDT planned for July 2020, including an analysis of introduction of indicators into the system of statistical monitoring. A testing phase with the IRIS software and platform was conducted (IRIS: Indicator Reporting Information System), but dropped due to realised incompatibilities.	
		– *Planned/desired*: strengthen the capacities of the Statistical office of Montenegro (MONSTAT) and other producers of statistical data.	
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	– Indicator system in line with NSSD until 2030 (2016): from the 241 UN indicators, 180 are considered as relevant for Montenegro, of which an increasing number will be monitored (starting from 61 in 2016 to 180 in 2024); additional indicators are selected from 3 sources: relevant national indicators (281), selected indicators of relevant international organizations (33) and selected cumulative indicators (10).	VNR 2016; Interview 2020
		– 'NSSD Action Plan until 2030': presents direct links between strategic goals, and (sub-)measures, and the appropriate SD indicators. Targeted outcomes for 2020 and/or 2030 are defined with qualitative and quantitative dimension; they are not individually directly linked with each indicator. In the framework of the first progress report on the implementation of the 'NSSD until 2030', values for all monitored indicators will be available.	
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Financing for SDGs/Budget:	VNR 2016; Interview 2020
		- 'NSSD until 2030' presents: basic principles of financing for SD and possible sources of funding. VNR presents: overview of the revenue and expenditure side of SD funding budget through the mobilization of domestic sources (Annex 2).	

		- *Planned/work in progress*: Establishment of a long-term sustainable system of financing for SD; strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Finance on SDGs funding; establishment of an Eco-Fund; medium-term public debt management strategy: financial sustainability strategy.	
		Impact Assessment:	
		Planned/desired: enforce regulatory impact assessment (RIA) of national processes with regard to implementation of NSSD until 2030.	
	6.2 Science-policy interface	Academia and independent experts are part of the NCSD.	VNR 2016; Interview 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term	/	
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	- Public consultations on the draft NSSD by 2030: it was stressed as a priority to strengthen the role of the Montenegrin Assembly in implementation of sustainable development policy.	VNR 2016; Interview 2020
		- *In process:* Harmonization of sectoral regulations with the 'NSSD until 2030' – not yet formally established, but done in the process of the preparation of the national documents.	
		- *Planned:* The Montenegrin SD governance system wants to establish that the government informs the Parliament on the results of the 'NSSD until 2030' implementation.	

Abbreviations:

ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
MSDT	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NCSDCCICZM	National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development

Reference:
[1] UNEP. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development set to meet in Malta (2013).
https://web.unep.org/unepmap/mediterranean-commission-sustainable-development-set-meet-malta

Country Data Sheet: North Macedonia

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2010: First Sustainable Development Strategy, for the period until 2030.	Interview 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2020: The VNR was prepared during the second half of 2019 and first half of 2020. It will be presented at HLPF July or September 2020.	Interview 2020
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	The country has a **Sustainable Development strategy from 2010 till 2030**. After the VNR, the new Government might redraft the existing strategy or develop action plan.	Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	The existing strategy covers economic, social and environmental pillar. Even though it is drafted before the Agenda 2030 was adopted it fully covers the concept of the SDGs.	Interview 2020
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	Cabinet of the Deputy President of the Government in charge for economic affairs and coordination for economic departments is the Chairman/Chairwoman of the Council for Sustainable Development	Interview 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	The **Council for Sustainable Development** is formed in 2010 with government decision published in official gazette. – Chaired by the the Deputy President in the Government in charge for Economic Affairs. – Composed of 12 ministers, representatives from the Parliament, the National Academy of Science and Arts, the Chambers of Commerce and National Universities. – Technical and expert support is provided by the Technical working group composed of representatives from all the institutions mentioned above, and coordinated by the Unit for Sustainable development in the Cabinet of the Deputy President of the Government in charge for Economic Affairs. – In charge for the policies for sustainable development, giving opinions regarding documents in the field of economy, social development, environmental protection, agriculture and other relevant sector documents and the legislation, consideration of specific issues and problems that they are related to sustainable development, developing cooperation with relevant institutions in the country and abroad regarding sustainable development issues. – The council gathers at least once a year.	Interview 2020

	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	In terms of donor coordination the Secretariat for European Affairs is in charge, however since several years ago the donor register is not functional and with the new public finance reform that the Ministry of finance will conduct it is expected that there will be a segment that will tackle the issue of donor register and donor coordination.	Interview 2020
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	— Most of the domestic policies are made in line with the EU accession process of the country. — The Rapid Integrated Assessment exercise will be the first official document linking the EU accession process with Agenda 2030. The adoption of both Rapid Integrated Assessment and the VNR is planned to happen in June 2020.	Interview 2020
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	The coordination between the national level and the regional / local level on SDGs is in initial phase, further activities are planned throughout the **Council for equal regional development** which was established by the Law on Balanced Development (adopted in May 2007). – Chaired by the Deputy President in charge for Economic Affairs – Composed of 8 ministers, 8 presidents of the planning regions, and the president of the Association of the units for local self-government. – The Ministry of the Local Self- Government is the secretariat of the Council. Technical working group is in charge for the preparation of the materials. – The council decides on strategic issues in the field of balanced development for the 8 planning regions in North Macedonia.	Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	So far for the VNR process actors from CSO, academia, youth and chambers of commerce were involved.	Interview 2020
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	– For the VNR there were several workshops and consultations held with all the actors above. – *Planned (after the VNR):* Establish an **online multi-stakeholder platform**. The vision is to gather information related to Agenda 2030 from different stakeholders.	Interview 2020
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	– On the last Council for sustainable development, international organizations and donors were invited, also for the consultation process and the workshops meant for the VNR. Representatives from the several UN agencies, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) took part. – Chambers of commerce are part of the Council for Sustainable Development.	Interview 2020
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	– UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool (2019): conducted from October 2019 till February 2020 (adoption planned in June 2020). – In terms of data for the Agenda 2030, the state statistical office is in charge. Last year they have published a report for the SDG indicators.	Interview 2020
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	For the VNR purpose, North Macedonia has set a framework of around 100 available indicators from the UN and EUROSTAT framework. The country has not adopted any target up to this moment.	Interview 2020
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	— Impact Assessment: *n.a.* — Financing for SDGs/Budget: *n.a.*	Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	There is no science platform related to Agenda 2030 at the moment. After the VNR a online multi-stakeholder platform (see 4.2) will be developed and academia will be included as well.	Interview 2020

7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term		
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	So far there are no activities related to the Parliament and the Agenda 2030.	Interview 2020

Abbreviation:

MAPS   Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support

Country Data Sheet: Poland

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2000: First National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), ended in 2007 2017: SRD - Strategy for Responsible Development (coherent with the SDGs)	ESDN 2017
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2018, next TBC	ESDN QR, 2018
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	<u>Was</u>: 2012 Mid-term development strategy 2020 (replaced by SRD) Not explicitly an NSDS. Also, other sector specific development strategies existed, coordinated by their respective ministries. <u>New</u>: SRD - Strategy for Responsible Development until 2020 (with perspective 2030) (coherent with SDGs, with 2030 timeframe). There are also 9 integrated strategies: 1. Productivity Strategy (in preparation) 2. Sustainable Transport Development Strategy until 2030 3. Poland's energy policy until 2040 4. National Regional Development Strategy 2030 5. Human Capital Development Strategy until 2030 6. Social Capital Development Strategy (cooperation, culture, creativity) until 2030 7. Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development, Agriculture and Fisheries 2030 8. Efficient and Modern State Strategy 2030 9. 2030 National Environmental Policy	ESDN 2017; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	First priority: growth of income for population in Poland; Integrating three pillars of SD as second.	ESDN 2017

		I. Sustainable economic growth increasingly driven by knowledge, data and organisational excellence; II. Socially sensitive and territorially sustainable development; III. Effective state and economic institutions contributing to growth as well as social and economic inclusion. Macroeconomic stability is the main overarching objective. Sectoral policies, for example the 2030 National Environmental Policy (PEP2030) supports the implementation of Poland's international commitments, especially in the context of the EU's climate and energy policy objectives until 2030 and the SDGs.	VNR 2018
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	<u>Was</u> (pre-SDGs): Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Regional Development, Chancellery for the long-term issues. <u>Post SDGs</u>: Ministry of Economic Development, with a Task Force the 2018 VNR report preparation, then the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, and now again the Ministry of Economic Development in lead for SDG coordination.	ESDN 2017; ESDN QR, 2018; VNR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	— Ministry of Economic Development in lead for SDG coordination, in partnership with other ministries responsible for SDGs within their competencies. — As regards the external dimension of the 2030 Agenda implementation, the coordination involves close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for development cooperation and ensuring coherence of Polish development cooperation priorities with SDGs. — VNR: A special Task Force for Coherence between the SRD and the 2030 Agenda was operated in the period 2017-2018 for preparing the Polish VNR. — There is also a Coordination Committee for Development Policy (CCDP).	ESDN 2017; ESDN QR, 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	— CCDP: an opinion making and advisory body of the Prime Minister, with representatives from all ministries; depending on the needs, representatives of the local government, academic and socio-economic environment may also be invited to participate in the deliberations. — New guidelines for regulatory impact assessments to include transboundary impacts of national social & economic regulation.	OECD country profile, 2018; Interview 2018
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme (PCD) (now in second 2016-2020, as modified in September 2018) underlines that development cooperation will be implemented in line with the 2030 Agenda. PCD is implemented according to this, and two established PCD priority areas (fighting illicit financial flows and Corporate Social Responsibility) are implemented based on annual action plans. PCD is discussed in the Development Cooperation Programming Council, with i.a. representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Development (responsible for coordination of Agenda 2030 and PCSD in Poland). In the new Multiannual Development Cooperation programme 2021-2030 the Policy Coherence for Development lens will also be included.	OECD country profile, 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	Poland was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Romania).	OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	— Joint Government and Territorial Self-Government Committee = existing forum for coordination between national and local policy and developing joint positions. — CCDP (as above, taskforce for cohesion) includes local representatives.	OECD country profile, 2018
		SDGs "embedded locally" and cooperation with local administrations (mentioned).	VNR 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Social organisations, economic partners, NGOs, public statistics, civil society, academia and youth	ESDN QR, 2018
	4.2 Coordination and	▪ 2030 Agenda National Stakeholders Forum:	ESDN 2017;

	participation mechanisms	— Inaugurated in June 2018; it is a platform for debate, exchange of experience and establishing cooperation between representatives of various stakeholders for SDG implementation in Poland. — The Forum formulates recommendations for the administration and other participants on how to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of SDG implementation, and on tools for the system for measuring the progress in implementation. ▪ A new Partnership for implementation of SDGs was initiated: — to integrate representatives of various circles in cooperation for achievement of SD objectives, to increase the awareness for the importance of the SDGs for individual social groups and the need to cooperate in effective implementation among growing number of stakeholders. — Signatories of the Partnership sign the declaration and make an individual commitment, in which they confirm the implementation of specific actions aimed at achieving selected SDGs. — Catalogue of commitments and good practices of stakeholders of "*Partnerships for implementation of SDGs*", with annual extension of new signatories and commitments. So far, _**126**_ stakeholders have joined the Partnership and have made over _**160 commitments in total**_. Serving both: ▪ Cycle of workshops and conferences in a cooperation with strategic/thematic partners aimed at education about SDGs among stakeholders and other participants. ▪ Ministries, i.e. Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Environment, Development Funds and Regional Policy, Ministry of Finance, are providing patronage to events that address and promote knowledge about the 2030 Agenda and specific SDGs. Other activities and tools: — Impact Barometer: A free tool that allows companies to evaluate their contribution to sust. dev't on their own, and common results will give a picture of the impact of Polish business on SDGs, and will allow identify key areas of action to achieve the SDGs. The tool is a set of indicators tailored to the specificity of business, developed as part of the "17 Goals Campaign', with support of Statistics Poland and the cooperation with business and science (see also 6.1). — Other partnerships created and developed by the signatories of the Partnership (e.g. UNEP/GRID "Together for Environment"). — Participation in events organized by our partners and entities wishing to establish cooperation in sustainable development and disseminating and promoting SDGs in Poland (for information on partners, see below [1]). — Hackaton SDGs: event organized by the Central Statistical Office in cooperation with the Agenda 2030 Implementation Coordinator (Ministry of Economic Development) to promote sustainable development. — Cooperation with youth organizations to promote the idea of sustainable development (AIESEC, ELSA, United Nations Association - Poland) - the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practice.	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	Development cooperation in the framework of 2030 Agenda National Stakeholder Forum.	ESDN QR, 2018

5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— Statistics Poland publicly reports data on indicators (for further details, see below [2]). — 2016 an expert report was prepared: "Poland's position in the implementation of the SDGs" (with international summaries of indicators - indices (eg. Sustainable Development Solutions Network Index, Human Development Index …). — VNR was the first evaluation; *it is planned to "periodically" monitor SDGs.* So far, the review of indicators, extension of the national set of indicators adapted to national priorities has taken place.	ESDN QR, 2018; VNR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	— Uses UNCSD, Eurostat, and OECD indicators; *no quantified and timebound targets.* — Statistics Poland with Ministry of Economic Development, developed from 'Strategy for Responsible Development' and UN indicators.	ESDN 2017; ESDN QR, 2018; Interview 2020
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	— Impact assessments: impacts on social and economic development, including environmental impacts; new guidelines for Regulatory IA to include transboundary impacts. — Financing for SDGs/Budget: *no Sustainability check of the budget so far.* — Impact Barometer (see 4.3): 6 priority SDGs for Polish business, and 30 key indicators measuring the most important areas of influence of Polish companies. — *Planned (by end of 2020)*: Poland is working on a project to support the implementation and delivery of actions for SDGs and sustainable development in public administration. (more detailed info can be provided in the autumn).	OECD country profile, 2018; Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	*no special mechanism*	
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term	2030 Agenda framed as their take on long term perspective in policy making.	OECD country profile, 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	Parliamentary committees included in VNR consultations.	VNR 2018

Abbreviations:

CCDP   Coordination Committee for Development Policy
NSDS   National Sustainable Development Strategy
PCD   Development Cooperation Programme
PCSD   Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
SRD   Strategy for Responsible Development
UNCSD   United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

References:

[1] Partners willing to establish cooperation in sustainable development and disseminating and promoting SDGs in Poland:
- Kampania 17 Celów. https://kampania17celow.pl/
- CSRinfo. Tydzień Odpowiedzialnego Biznesu (2019). http://www.csrinfo.org/projekty/tydzien-odpowiedzialnego-biznesu-2019/
[2] Statistics Poland. Statistics for the SDGs – global indicators. https://sdg.gov.pl/en/

Country Data Sheet: Romania

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	1999 First National Sustainable Development Strategy NSDS 2008 renewed NSDS 2018 Revision of the NSDS (process since Sept. 2017; adoption in Nov. 2018)	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2018	VNR 2018
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	<u>Was:</u> National Sustainable Development Strategy – Romania 2013-2020-2030, and a National Environmental Action Plan (prior the SD strategy) <u>New:</u> Revised overarching NSDS (adopted in 2018) *Planned/in process:* National Action Plan	ESDN 2013 & 2020; Interview 2018
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	VNR report covers, under LNOB, Health, education & culture (and largely the 2018 SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17) The revised 2018 NSDS is structured along Agenda 2030 and covers all SDGs.	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	<u>New:</u> — Department for Sustainable Development (DSD), led by State Counsellor Laszlo Borbely under the Prime Minister Office (decision 2017) coordinates all activities around Agenda 2030 implementation (for further details, see below [1]). It will soon elaborate the National Action Plan (in consultation). — Interdepartmental Committee on Sustainable Development (ICSD) made up of members of the government, chaired by the Prime Minister (since 2019). The permanent secretariat of ICSD is managed by the DSD.	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
		<u>Was:</u> Ministry of Environment	ESDN 2013
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	— All Ministries and institutions .... are involved. — <u>Coordination:</u> The ICSD monitors the process of implementation, monitoring, evaluation and revision of the Strategy, the integration of its requirements in sectoral policies and strategies. The permanent secretariat of the ICSD is managed by the DSD. — Sustainable Development Hubs at the level of central public authorities with competence in SD, and made up of	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
		existing staff who will pursue the implementation of the SDGs in the field of activity specific to their institution, while also acting as liaisons between their institutions, DSD and National Institute of Statistics. — In relation to the EU, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates the National Reform Program, which establishes directions and projects of Romania in order to meet the SDGs. — Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Coordination of the Integration of Environmental Protection into Sectoral Policies and Strategies at the National Level, led by the Minister of Environment (decision 2011) continues to coordinate the environmental component of SD and has an important role in updating the National Plan of Action for Environmental Protection. It is composed of representatives from all ministries and other relevant institutions.	
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	DSD submits periodic reports to the EU on the country's active participation in the new European and global consensus on development.	ESDN 2020
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	The revised NSDS deals with development cooperation under SDG 17.	Interview 2018
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	— Romania was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Poland). — The ICSD monitors the compliance with the reporting obligations assumed by Romania at international level and of the EU in the field of SD. — During the Romanian EU Presidency (first semester of 2019), the head of DSD chaired the EU Council preparatory body, the Working party 2030 Agenda; organised a High-level inter-ministerial conference on 2030 Agenda (April 2019), resulting in the "Bucharest Declaration on Fostering Partnerships for Sustainable Development". — Governments of Romania and Colombia, in collaboration with the OECD and UNDP (Sept. 2019), launched the Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs.	OWG SDGs; ESDN 2020
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	— During the broad consultation for the new NSDS, there were 8 meetings with the representatives of the 8 Regional Development Agencies and local authorities. — *Planned/in process:* The cooperation and coordination between the national and sub-national levels in the implementation process of the NSDS is led by DSD. — *Planned:* Localizing SDGs planned in upcoming review of NSDS.	VNR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020
		Many local communities/regions had their own local SD strategies (during NSDS 2008); new movements are expected now and will be encouraged.	ESDN 2013; Interview 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Local and development NGOs, civil society organisations, academia, private sector, research institutes, trade unions, youth, local authorities, unions, employers' associations, R&D institutions, media, religious denominations, farmers, the elderly and families.	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	— Partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Federation of Romanian Nongovernmental Organizations for Development (FOND). — Broad public consultation and awareness raising events on the 2018 NSDS, organized by the DSD in partnership with the above-mentioned stakeholders. — Consultative Council on Sustainable Development (CCSD) created by the Government in 2020: 34 members from academia, scientific community and civil society advising the ICSD on impacts of SD policies and soon supporting the delivering of a National Action Plan. — Coalition for Sustainable Development (CSD) sets up by representatives of young people, NGOs, private sector,	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020

		local authorities, unions, employers' associations, R&D institutions, academic community, mass media, religious denominations, farmers, the elderly and families. It seeks to act as an NGO advocating for the national SDGs. — *In process*: more communication, information, and awareness programmes on the 2018 NSDS.	
		▪ Local SD strategies often had a specific focus on under-represented groups (women, youth people). ▪ There are government programs for greening measures in households (e.g. solar energy) that are popular and hence create awareness.	ESDN 2013; Interview 2018
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	— Business sector is engaged in Global Compact; "Embassy for Sustainable Development" = a coalition of the private sectors ("coalition for development"). — Signed partnership agreement between DSD and UN Youth.	ESDN 2013; Interview 2018
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— National Institute of Statistics (NIS), in cooperation with DSD, updates the national set of indicators based on the new priority goals established in NSDS, taking into account the UN and EU indicators. — 3-year EU project "Sustainable Romania", implemented by DSD: an open data platform that supports the up-dating of an existing statistical data aggregator. Designed as a working tool for substantiation of decision-making processes. It will provide information on national and European SD indicators, as well as subjective indicators, resulting from measuring the population perception on SDGs. — Annual report on NSDS implementation by the DSD and with the support of ICSD, submitted to the Government and presented to the Parliament.	VNR 2018; ESDN 2020
	5.2 Content of the Monitoring & assessment systems	— The current database of SD indicators for Romania (IDDR) includes 103 indicators with data series available in the national statistical system since 2000. — *No quantitative/timebound targets*.	VNR 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	Impact Assessment: — It is planned that the CCSD assesses impacts of planned policies on the implementation of Agenda 2030. — There is a RIA system (Regulatory Impact Assessment) under which all legal acts are subject to such a RIA that covers economic, social and environmental issues. Financing for SDGs/ Budget: As the budget is adopted by law, it is subject to RIA.	Interview 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	— CCSD involves members from academia, scientific community. — 2018 NSDS based on scientific studies from the Romanian Academy, and other scientific and academic bodies.	Interview 2018; ESDN 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term	/	
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	— In 2015, the Parliament decided to create a Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development (under Cie Foreign Affairs) which in April 2016 adopted a Declaration of the Parliament of Romania on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was the first in the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) to declare support for A 2030. — This also led to the creation of the DSD in 2017. — Work is kicking off with all Committees in the Parliament applying the self-assessment tool (IPU 2016). — Debate organised by DSD with the Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development during the 2018 NSDS elaboration process. — Annual reports (see 5.1) presented to the Parliament.	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020

Abbreviations:

IPU: Interparliamentary Union
CCSD: Consultative Council on Sustainable Development
DSD: Department for Sustainable Development
ICSD: Interdepartmental Committee on Sustainable Development
LNOB   Leave no one behind
NSDS   National Sustainable Development Strategy

Reference:
[1] Department for Sustainable Development. Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy. http://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/web/about/

Country Data Sheet: Serbia

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2006: Commitment in the Constitution since 2006 to regulate and ensure sustainable development (SD) (Article 97), and to ensure balanced and sustainable regional development (Article 94). 2009: National Strategy of Sustainable Development (NSSD) for the period 2009 – 2017 (adopted in 2008), & Action Plan for the implementation of the NSSD (adopted in 2009)	VNR 2019
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2019, mention of a next VNR without specifying when.	VNR 2019
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	— National Strategy of Sustainable Development (NSSD) 2009 – 2017 & Action Plan for the implementation of the NSSD. — Agenda 2030: "Integrated implementation", no specific strategy. The National Investment Plan 2020-2025 serves for steering the 2030 Agenda-related activities.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	All of them	VNR 2019
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation(s)	**Inter-Ministerial Working Group** for Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (**IMWG**), established by the Government in December 2015: coordinated the national review process for the VNR, and the national implementation of Agenda 2030 ("governmental hub"). It is chaired by the Minister for demography and population policy, and its core unit is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of European Integration, the Statistical Office, the Public Policy Secretariat and the Cabinet of the Minister chairing the IMWG.	VNR 2019
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	— IMWG: Representatives of 26 relevant line ministries, government offices and agencies. — For the VNR: institutional network-integrated mechanism for national implementation of Agenda 2030, was composed of the governmental hub (see 2.1), an independent oversight hub, a local community-led hub (see 3.2), and a parliamentary hub (see 7.2). The independent oversight hub is overseeing the government's SDG implementation. Members are: the Protector of Citizens/Ombudsman of Serbia, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection and State Audit Institution.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs regularly informs the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia on the results of the IMWG	VNR 2019
	and domestic policy-making	and the implementation of the SDGs.	
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	— Project of developing the NSSD: initiated by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the UNDP Country Office. — German Development Cooperation financially contributed to the VNR process. Contribution to the achievement of SDGs by some development cooperation agencies (Germany, USAID, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway). — The EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) provides the bulk of financial resources for SDG implementation in Serbia. Modified Indicative Strategy Paper for Serbia 2014-2020, adopted in 2018 by the European Commission (EC), setting out priorities for the use of funds allocated from the Instruments of Pre-Accession Assistance 2014-2020 (IPA II), and contributing to Agenda 2030. Progress Report of the EC for Serbia (2019): key findings of the national achievement of SDGs. — Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) Mission (September 2018). — Development Partnership framework 2016-2020: strategic document initiated by the UN and Serbia in 2017 to support country's progress in advancing national development priorities fully aligned with Agenda 2030 and the EU reform processes.	VNR 2019; ESDN 2012; Dev't Partnership Framework; UN Serbia
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	— EU accession process: National Priorities for International Development Assistance from 2014 to 2017, with projections up to 2020 (NAD) fully harmonized with sectoral policies in the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis of the EU 2013-2016 (NPAA) which enables integrated achievement of SDG targets by ensuring that SD policy at national level are coherent with the SD policy at the EU level. — Serbia was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs, especially involved in the Intergov'tal Committee on Financing for SD (in a group with Belarus). — Regional Seminar on SDGs for Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (see 7.2).	VNR 2019; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	— Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM) provided inputs for the VNR and takes part in achieving the targets of Agenda 2030 (local community-led hub). — Sub-regional Conference organized by the IMWG in September 2018 on Promoting Progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, with the support of the UN Country Team in Serbia. — As part of the awareness raising activities aimed at increasing the visibility of the 2030 Agenda, the Cabinet of Minister without Portfolio Responsible for Demography and Population Policy in partnership with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the SCTM has begun to implement a series of local events "Localizing Sustainable Development Goals – Implementing the Agenda 2030" throughout Serbia. The activities started exactly four years after the Agenda 2030 had been adopted and aim to help local authorities stream the 2030 Agenda into the local development plans. Five workshops were held in towns and municipalities across Serbia in 2019 and 2020, and included the Minister as one of the speakers. The concluding workshop was held on 27th May 2020 with the Minister (before the elections in June 2020), and representatives of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), GIZ and SCTM taking roles as presenters. Due to COVID-19 outbreak it was an online event, but provided an open space for questions for all interested stakeholders throughout Serbia.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Citizens, youth, civil society organizations, businesses, legislative bodies, science & research institutions	VNR 2019
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	— National citizen consultations on the post-2015 global development agenda (from October 2012). — MAPS mission (September 2018): 30 meetings with Government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other relevant actors. — UNICEF conducted a broad consultative process on SDGs with youth (March/April 2019), addressed through social media, CSOs and schools: more than 2000 participants; separate inputs from children in conflict with the law and young Roma women. Annex 2 of the VNR lists their recommendations for each SDG. — The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, whose representatives are members of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group, was established in 2011 as an institutional mechanism to support the development of a dialogue	VNR 2019; RS Gov't Web; Interview 2020

		between the Serbian Government and CSO's (advocated by civil society). It sent a public call in April 2019 to civil society organizations to provide their contribution to the VNR. – Public hearing on SDGs of representatives of state institutions/members of the IMWG, representatives of international organizations, CSOs, the business sector and social partners, organised by the Focus Group (see 7.2) in cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly (November 2018). – *Planned & ongoing*: Creation of a special digital platform on SDGs, establishing an inclusive and participative deliberation to determine the approach for 2020-2025 (a new National SD Strategy, or an SDGs implementation strategy); public call in August 2019. – New: IMWG members support the establishment of a society wide dialogue platform on implementing the global 2030 Agenda in Serbia where they participate actively. In a joint endeavour, German and Swiss Development Cooperation aim to establish a platform to encourage a society wide dialogue on the internationally agreed 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in Serbia. The platform will be structured according to the three dimensions of sustainable development (Ecologic, Economic, Social). – New: Entrepreneurial discovery process (EDP) coordinated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD), within developing process of Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020-2027 ("4S Strategy" adopted in February 2020), conducted 17 regional workshops (2019) with 283 participants from business, science & research, governmental and civil sector (see 6.2) to identify priority fields of smart specialisation and to develop the mix of supporting instruments. The EDP process will continue, and will include continuous communication with all relevant stakeholders.	
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	– Call from the Government to private and public companies to self-assess their contribution to the SDGs (participation inter alia by: Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Serbian Development Agency, members of the UN Global Compact in Serbia). – UN Global Compact Serbian Network, promoting socially responsible business, composed of members from business, public and civilian representatives. Its former working groups merged into the Working Group for the Promotion of SDGs, chaired by the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce is also involved in the Board of Directors.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring and review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	– UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool (2018): review of over 40 national policy documents to identify links between the SDGs and areas of potential multi-sectoral coordination. – Working group for SDG indicators established in 2017 by SORS. Initial mapping included indicators mostly from SORS and DevInfo database. In 2018 and 2019, SORS, IMWG and the UN Country Team in Serbia organised workshops gathering governmental and international organisation, and relevant data producers for mapping the sources of SDG indicators. As of 1 May, 2020, 74 indicators are available for the Republic of Serbia (for details on the web SDG portal, see [2]). – *Planned/ongoing*: Permanent control mechanisms for SDG implementation by the National Assembly (see 7.2).	VNR 2019; Interview 2020
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	– *Indicators / quantified targets seem to be not yet in place* – VNR: The principle of "Leaving no one behind" is reflected in the VNR, with a focus on what has been achieved for equal development opportunities for all and everywhere across Serbia, firstly for the young and local communities.	VNR 2019
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	– <u>Financing for SDGs/Budget:</u> Financing for SDGs received its own first-ever explicit line in the 2019 national budget. – <u>Impact Assessment:</u> *not in place.* – <u>Action plan for the implementation of 4S Strategy,</u> which is in the developing phase, should grow into a STI Roadmap for SDGs in cooperation with JRC and UNIDO. Smart specialization has been recognized as a potential methodology and has been implemented in the United Nations Global Pilot Program, where the Republic of Serbia has been invited to be one of the 5 worldwide pilot countries (for details, see below [1]).	VNR 2019; UN MAPS report; Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	– Consultation of academia on the VNR. – Academia was involved in the EDP process workshops (see 4.2).	Interview 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)	National Youth Strategy 2015-2025, ensuring coherent improvements of conditions for the progress for the future generations of modern and sustainable Serbia.	VNR 2019
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	– The National Assembly, and the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina provided recommendations and assessments to the IMWG on the final draft of the VNR. – Focus Group of the National Assembly for development of control mechanisms for the process of implementation and oversight of implementation of the SDGs (Focus Group or parliamentary hub), established in 2017, provided inputs for the VNR. Its representatives are included in the IMWG. – Regional Seminar on SDGs for Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in May 2018 organised by the National Assembly Speaker and Head of the Permanent Delegation, in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Aim: encouraging the development of mechanisms for to foster the monitoring of SDG implementation in National Assemblies; a special body in charge of studying this issue was established. – Visits in 2018 to local communities and discussions between MPs and young people, the media, representatives of local self-governments and associations on SDGs. – *Planned*: The Focus Group and the Speaker of the National Assembly will develop permanent control mechanisms for SDG implementation by the National Assembly (by using the control mechanisms of the Law on the National Assembly and the Rules of Procedure). A Self-Assessment workshop on the Parliament's Gender Sensitivity was held (December 2019), in cooperation with the IPU and UNDP. A special session of the Parliament with focus on the SDGs and a seminar for new Parliament members on the same theme are planned after the election in June 2020.	VNR 2019; Interview 2020

Abbreviations:

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EC	European Commission
EDP	Entrepreneurial discovery process
Focus Group	Focus Group of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia for development of control mechanisms for the process of implementation and oversight of implementation of the SDGs
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
IMWG	Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
NSSD	National Strategy of Sustainable Development
SCTM	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities
SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
STI	Science Technology and Innovation
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organisation
4S Strategy	Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020-2027

References:

[1] SDGs Partnership Platform. Global Pilot Programme on STI for SDGs Roadmaps. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=33852

[2] Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Sustainable Development Goals. http://sdg.indikatori.rs/en-US/

Country Data Sheet: Slovakia

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2011: First National Sustainable Development Strategy NSDS, 2015 SD Plan 2017: Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (adopted July 2017) 2018: National priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (adopted June 2018) 2019: Draft Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 (for further details, see below [1]) By end of December 2020: Redrafting of the Vision and National Development Strategy	VNR 2018; ESDN 2017 & 2020; Interview 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2018 (next in 2021)	VNR 2018
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	— 2017 Roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: defined the basic institutional, implementation and monitoring framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Slovakia. — **2018 National priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**: six national priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were adopted by government after conducting a broad stakeholder participation process. As a follow-up, the Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 is currently being drafted, which will be based on the six national priorities. — Current process: redrafting Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030, – major development strategy aiming to define development priorities, goals and necessary action until 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda (based on the first national monitoring report on the six national priorities of the 2030 Agenda implementation).	VNR 2018; Interviews 2018 & 2020; ESDN 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	The six national priorities (2018) cover all 17 SDGs and adapt them to the national context: — Education for a life in dignity (SDG 4, 8, 10) — Transformation towards a knowledge-based and environmentally sustainable economy in the face of changing demography and global context (SDG 7, 8, 9, 10, 12)	VNR 2018; Interview 2018
		— Poverty reduction and social inclusion (SDG 1, 2, 10) — Sustainable settlements, regions and countryside in the face of climate change (SDG 6, 7, 13, 11, 15) — Rule of law, democracy and security (SDG 5, 16) — Good health (SDG 3, 10)	
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	— Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization (DPMO) of the Slovak Republic (from July 2020, will move to the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak republic (MIRRI). — Deputy PM chairs the **Government Council of the Slovak Republic for the 2030 Agenda for SD** (= key line ministries plus stakeholders). In the period 2017-April 2020, the Council convened three times. — Responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda divided between the DPMO (implementation domestically) and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFA) (implementation in an international environment); who is Deputy chair of the Government Council.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; VNR 2018
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	The working body of the Government Council is the **Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the preparation of the National Investment Plan of the Slovak Republic for the years 2018- 2030**. The Working Group has two chambers (both chaired by the Director General of the Investment Division): 1. Government Chamber - analytical units of line ministries, 2. Chamber of Stakeholders; sometimes both hold meetings together [2].	VNR 2018
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	Cooperation between the DPMO and the MFA to improve policy coherence for sustainable development.	ESDN 2017; Interview 2018
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	The Official Development Assistance (ODA) strategy of the MFA for 2019-2023 was intended to be linked to the six national priorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda.	Interview 2018
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	— Coordination at the EU level through membership in the Council WP for 2030 Agenda. — DPMO also coordinates the EU Danube Regional Strategy, which includes SD. — Informal coordination at the V4 level (Visegrad countries), incl. a planned conference on 2030 Agenda.	ESDN 2017; Interview 2018
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	— Association of Cities and Municipalities, the Union of Cities of Slovakia, and the Association of Self-governing Regions are represented in the Government Council, took part in defining the six national priorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda, and were involved in drafting the Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030. — The Vision and National Development Strategy of Slovakia until 2030 will not only define development priorities and interventions at the national level, but also on the regional and local level. It is based on a territorial approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda, which emphasises vertical coordination and respects the specificities of various regions and territories.	ESDN 2017 & 2020; Interview 2018
		Grant mechanisms to fund and incentivize local action.	Leuven, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Civil society organizations, institutions and associations, think tanks, universities, academia, municipalities, regions, business associations and trade unions.	VNR 2018
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	— Government Council for the 2030 Agenda and the Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with representation of a broad range of stakeholders.	VNR 2018; ESDN 2020;

		— Broad participative process coordinated by the DPMO for the Proposal of 6 national priorities of the 2030 Agenda implementation (2018) and the formulation of the Vision and National Development Strategy (2019). — National Convent (one event in September 2019), organised by the DPMO seeking wide support from all stakeholders for the proposed Vision and National (Sustainable) Development Strategy.	Interview 2020
	4.3 4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	The Slovak Non-Governmental Development Organisations Platform is also member of the Government Council for the 2030 Agenda.	
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— *In progress*: first biannual national monitoring report on progress achieved in the six national priorities of the 2030 Agenda implementation (due date for submission to the government's session 30.06.2020). It was proposed in the Roadmap, and is currently further elaborated in the Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030. — The preparation of Slovakia's first VNR in 2018 served as an initial step in monitoring achievements. — Slovak Statistics Office (along with the DPMO) is responsible for developing the set of national indicators for monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda.	VNR 2018; Interview 2018
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	— The monitoring framework, <u>along with indicators and quantified and timebound targets</u>, is being elaborated. National indicators will be developed based on the UN global list of indicators, as well as Eurostat Indicators. It will be published at the Slovak Statistics Office´s webpage dedicated to the 2030 Agenda (for further details, see below [3]).	ESDN 2017; Interview 2018
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	— <u>Sustainability Impact Assessment</u>: There will be an EIA of the Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030 [4]. — <u>Financing for SDGs/Budget</u>: The national priorities will be integrated into a Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030, as well as into sectoral strategies and the National Investment Plan, which should bolster financing for sustainable development [5]. — <u>Intensive collaboration with OECD</u>: on strategic governance, investment planning, programme budgeting and indicators, conduction of a gap analysis (see below).	VNR 2018; Interview 2018
	6.2 Science-policy interface	— Inspired by the OECD study ("Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets"), and based on existing analytical materials, the Institute for Forecasting of the Slovak Academy of Sciences suggested a set of key areas for the development of Slovakia by 2030, identifying major challenges and priorities for the country in the context of the SDGs. These proposed priority areas were further refined in a broad stakeholder participation process. — The Slovak Academy of Sciences and Slovak Rectors' Conference is involved in the Government Council, and several scientists are also members of the Working Group.	VNR 2018; Interview 2018
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)	Frames 2030 Agenda as their consideration of the long term.	OECD country profile, 2018
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	— "A stronger involvement of parliament is foreseen"; a Committee for the Future (similar to FI) is envisioned, and might come into place after 2019. — The Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030 will be consulted with all political parties represented in Parliament and presented again after its adoption. — Parliament represented in the Government Council for the 2030 Agenda.	VNR 2018; Interview 2018; ESDN 2020

Abbreviations:

DPMO   Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatization
EIA   Environmeental Impact Assessment
MFA   Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NSDS   National Sustainable Development Strategy
ODA   Official Development Assistance

References & Notes:

[1] Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovak Republic. Vision and Development Strategy of Slovakia by 2030 (2019). https://www.mzv.sk/web/en/news/current_issues/-/asset_publisher/lrJ2tDuQdEKp/content/vizia-a-strategia-rozvoja-sr-do-roku-2030/10182?p_p_auth=WppN9aqM
[2] This design had been proposed by the stakeholders. A previous "Government Council for SD" as joint meeting of government and NGOs existed also under the first NSDS.
[3] National indicators will be published on: Slovak Statistics Office. The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. https://agenda2030.statistics.sk/Agenda2030/en/home/
[4] All strategic documents with implications on the national level must undergo the EIA process in Slovakia.
[5] The National Investment Plan is based on the model of the British National Infrastructure Delivery Plan. It is a project-level document, which outlines strategic investments in order to strengthen stability and continuity across electoral cycles. A pilot version of the National Investment Plan was adopted in September 2018 but it will be updated after the adoption of the Vision and National Development Strategy until 2030. It is likely that the government will also use this approach in the future for the EU Structural Funds.

Country Data Sheet: Slovenia

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements (instit., processes, tools ...)	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2017: Adoption of the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 (SDS 2030)	VNR 2017
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2017, next 2020	UN SDG
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	- Slovenian Development Strategy (SDS) 2030 (from 2017), initiated because of SDGs. Represents the umbrella development plan of the country, and abroad through international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, and includes a 'Vision of Slovenia 2050' (for further details, see below [1]). - Strategy for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid until 2030 (2018). - *Planned (but not before 2022 due to COVID-19)*: a four-year national development policy programme (NDPP) implementing the Development Strategy 2030, tied to the medium-term fiscal framework and the Public Finance Act.	VNR 2017; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	**SDS 2030** title: "Slovenia, a country with a high quality of life for all" - Five strategic orientations (Slovenia mapped links to the SDGs): inclusive, safe and responsible society; learning for and through life; productive economy creating value for all; well-preserved natural environment; efficient and competent governance driven by cooperation - 12 interconnected development goals (mapped with the SDGs, covering all): Healthy and active life; knowledge and skills for a high quality of life for all; decent life for all; culture and language as main factors of national identity; economic stability, competitive and socially responsible entrepreneurial and research sector, inclusive labour market and high-quality jobs, low-carbon circular economy, sustainable natural resource management, trustworthy legal system, safe and globally responsible Slovenia, effective governance and high quality public service.	VNR 2017; ESDN 2020; ESDN QR, 2018
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy coordinates development planning [2]	ESDN 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries & coordination mechanisms	— VNR was used as an integration tool and VNR lead to whole-government approach — **Coordination through Focal points from each ministry for Agenda 2030**, and from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development of the Republic of Slovenia, with regular (monthly) exchange of information on activities related to Agenda 2030 at UN and EU level, as well as collecting contributions from ministries to prepare the VNR. There used to be an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Development Planning as coordination mechanism for policy coherence.	VNR 2017; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making	— Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of external SDG implementation and revised International Development Cooperation Act. — Permanent Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group on International Development Cooperation, composed of all relevant ministries. — Policy gap analysis included an overview of trans-boundary and interconnected effects of policies	ESDN QR, 2018 Interviews 2018 & 2020; VNR 2017
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	— A new law on international development was adopted in 2018 and includes SDGs as well – with a selection of specific goals: Thematic priorities (external): promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, with a particular emphasis on good governance, equal opportunities, including gender equality, and quality education; fight against climate change, focused on the sustainable management of natural and energy resources. Geographical priorities (external): The Western Balkans, the European neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, notably the least-developed countries in this region. — A new Strategy for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid until 2030 was adopted (2018).	OECD country profile, 2018; Interview 2020
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	— Slovenia was member of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs (in a group with Montenegro). — The Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy that manages implementation of EU docs/guidance also coordinates SDG implementation. — Participates in the Working party on Agenda 2030 (of the Council of the EU); Eurostat SDG reports are considered very useful for benchmarking their performance.	Interviews 2018 & 2020; OWG SDGs
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	— **Regional Development Directorate in the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology: Multi-level coordination** with national bodies and **Regional Development Councils** (with local government and other stakeholders), to link the objectives of the SDS 2030 and the regional programmes (cohesion fund programming). — Environmental governance: gap between national and local levels identified (OECD Environmental Performance Review): oversight by Ministry of local spatial planning might be strengthened	ESDN 2020; Interviews 2018 & 2020; ESDN QR, 2018
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Youth, civil society, private sector; local communities, professional organizations, and academia	VNR 2017; ESDN QR, 2018
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	— VNR process was inclusive of non-gov't stakeholders, who were also included in drafting the SDS. — Stakeholder and public consultation on the Development Strategy 2030 and indicators — 2020 VNR process with 12 regional activities (one in each region) and 5 thematic workshops addressing different SDG topics took place. A virtual stakeholder consultation was held for Slovenian youth.	ESDN QR, 2018; ESDN 2020; Interview 2020
	4.3 Specific coord. with dev't	/	

	organ. or businesses		
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review <u>process</u> in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	— Statistical office and Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis responsible for monitoring — All ministries participated in creating indicators for SDS, led by Government Office for Development and European Cohesion, Ministry of Finance, and Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis. Supported by Statistical Office — Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis monitors indicators and reports in annual development reports; latest report in 2019.	Interview 2018; ESDN 2020; ESDN QR, 2018
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	— The 2018 Development Report presents the baselines for monitoring the realisation of the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030. Its appendix details indicators for monitoring the implementation of the SDS 2030. Since the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are embedded in this SDS 2030, this set of indicators is relevant also for the monitoring of Slovenian performance on 2030 Agenda. — For each of the 12 development goals there are 2-3 performance indicators (KPIs), with target values for 2030. In total, there are 30 indicators, all of them globally (or at least within the EU) comparable. — New dashboard for citizens to report on progress and raise awareness (for further details, see below [3]).	Interviews 2018 & 2020; ESDN 2020; ESDN QR, 2018
		Use of SDSN SDG Index and OECD study to compare their performance to other countries in VNR	VNR 2017
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	<u>Impact assessments</u> for new laws exist with an environmental or gender focus, but no holistic method <u>Financing for SDGs/ Budget</u>: New public finance law brings the national development budgeting into a new stage; Indirectly SDGs will be integrated in the budget via National Development Strategy's KPIs. *Planned (but not before 2022 due to COVID-19):* a medium-term fiscal strategy will be drawn up, and will be extended annually.	IDDRI 2018; ESDN 2020; Interviews 2018 & 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	/	
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)	– National children's parliament, a children's discussion forum which takes place in the hall of the National Assembly of Slovenia but also at local and regional levels – SDS 2030: inclusive process to extend aims beyond current government, KPI with target values for 2030.	VNR 2017; Interview 2020
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	SDG trainings for new MPs after elections was envisioned, but did not materialise.	Interview 2018

Abbreviations:
KPI   Key Performance Indicators
SDS 2030   Slovenia Development Strategy 2030

References & Notes
[1] Republic of Slovenia. Implementation of the Development Strategy of Slovenia 2030. https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/izvajanje-strategije-razvoja-slovenije-2030/
[2] Government Office: lead by a Minister, established for specific tasks or areas
[3] Progress reporting / dashboard: Slovenia 2030; www.slovenia2030.si

Country Data Sheet: Ukraine

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political leadership / commitment	1.1 Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	2016: Start of an inclusive process of SDGs adaptation during 2016-2017 2017: Year of commitment at national level: As a result of the process 2016/2017 the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine (MDETA) developed a National Baseline Report "SDGs in Ukraine". 2018: Responsibilities of the ministries for the SDG targets were defined. The President of Ukraine issued a Decree setting the SDGs as a benchmark for programming and forecasting documents in 2019. 2019: SDGs monitoring system approved by Government.	Interview 2020
	1.2 Year of the VNR (& next)	2020	Interview 2020
	1.3 Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Ukraine has no SD Strategy. The National Baseline Report "SDGs in Ukraine" ("SDGs baseline report") serves as a strategic framework (17 goals, 86 national targets, 172 indicators). SDGs are a benchmark for programming and forecasting documents in 2019 (President decree).	Interview 2020
	1.4 Coverage of which SDGs	SDGs baseline report - full coverage	Interview 2020
2. Horizontal coordination	2.1 Lead organisation	The Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine– MDETA (Department of strategic planning and macroeconomic forecasting) is the Government SDG focal point, and is responsible for VNR drafting.	Interview 2020
	2.2 Other Involved Ministries& coordination mechanisms	▪ MDETA is the SDGs focal point. Line ministries are involved in SDGs activity. ▪ Coordination mechanisms: High-Level **Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG)** for the implementing the SDGs in Ukraine, chaired by the MDETA, established in 2017 to coordinate all activities related to SDGs in Ukraine. - The IMWG includes representatives of the line Ministries, the National Academy of Sciences, and the United Nations in Ukraine (deputy ministers' level). - MDETA acts as a technical secretariat of IMWG.	Interview 2020

		- Responsibility for achieving the SDGs targets have been placed on the line Ministries and Agencies; members of IMWG reported annually on progress against designated indicators. - The IMWG had quarterly meetings until 2019. Since the President election in 2019 and the changes in the Government, the IMWG is not established as for now. A technical short-term WG was established for the VNR drafting.	
	2.3 Mechanisms to link external and domestic policy-making		Interview 2020
	2.4 Specific coordination with development cooperation	MDETA, Department of Strategic Planning and Macroeconomic Forecasting, provides support on any issues related to the cooperation, incl. between development cooperation (actors) and domestic policies by request.	Interview 2020
3. Vertical coordination	3.1 National and supranational coordination	No mechanisms to link national with EU / UN level on SDGs, but the MDETA has established cooperation with UN in Ukraine.	Interview 2020
	3.2 Sub-national coordination	- Coordination between the national level and the regional / local level on SDGs is not established. - The MDETA (Department of strategic planning and macroeconomic forecasting) provides support to interested subnational/local authorities by their request in order to integrate SDGs into strategic planning on subnational/local level.	Interview 2020
4. Stakeholder Participation	4.1 Multiple actors involved	Multiple actors (citizens, academia, private sector, civil society organisations, parliaments, local and regional authorities, labour unions, youth, UN agencies, UN Global Compact etc.)	Interview 2020
	4.2 Coordination and participation mechanisms	- SDGs baseline report is a result of inclusive process of SDGs adaptation during 2016-2017. Mechanisms: public hearings, expert discussions, dialogue, consultation, webinars, e-mail consultations - Multiple actors were involved into VNR drafting via webinars (taken into account pandemic COVID-19). - Participation processes integrated into the SDGs reports drafting in Ukraine. - Different participatory formats like mini expert WG, public/expert discussions, consultation, webinars, e-mail consultations etc. organised by MDETA. - In 2019-2020 MDETA with UNICEF implemented joint initiative (innovative approach) to involve youth in VNR drafting, specifically to define SDGs accelerators (50 young scientists/students from 6 national universities).	Interview 2020
	4.3 4.3 Specific coord. with dev't organ. or businesses	In 2020 MDETA has involved members of the UN Global Compact network in VNR drafting.	Interview 2020
5. Monitoring and Review	5.1 Monitoring & review process in place (mechanism structure, etc.)	- UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool (2019) by MDETA: assessment of mainstreaming the SDGs into national and subnational planning produced. The SDG targets have been incorporated in 162 Governmental regulatory legal acts (4,300 planned actions). - National Stat Office (NSO) organised an inclusive process on how to do the SDGs monitoring. It analysed indicators suggested by CSOs and respective line ministries (responsible for SDGs targets). Some of the original 172 indicators (SDGs baseline report) were excluded, some new included. Finally, 183 indicators were approved by the Government. - The NSO produces an indicator-based SDGs report every year (first – 2019 "SDGs Ukraine Monitoring report"). Respective members of IMWG reported on progress against designated indicators (for details, see below [1]). - MDETA and the NSO developed a methodology for data collection, approved by Government (2019). MDETA has drafted innovative approach to assess rating of SDGs goals and targets by status of progress (MDETA developed a special methodology). The first assessment was conducted for the VNR.	Interview 2020

		- MDETA produced a progress report on 'SDG8' and the report "SDGs for children", both in 2019 (for further information, see below [2]).	
	5.2 <u>Content</u> of the Monitoring & assessment systems	- 183 SDGs indicators are monitored in Ukraine (with disaggregation). - The quantified and timebound targets (per indicator) were established in 2017 and approved by Government (SDGs baseline report): 2015 – baseline; 2020, 2025, 2030 – targets to be achieved. VNR is focused on 2020 targets (evaluation of progress since 2015) - 'Leave no one behind' was integrated through consultations with representatives of the most vulnerable groups (specific NGOs were involved to participate in all SDGs related activity).	Interview 2020
6. Knowledge input and tools	6.1 What are the Specific tools?	- <u>Financing for SDGs / Budget</u>: no budget check in place - <u>Impact Assessment</u>: Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) /Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) / ex-ante Impact Assessment (IA) are not in place.	Interview 2020
	6.2 Science-policy interface	- National academy of science of Ukraine is a member of IMWG. - Special role of UNICEF and the National academy of science in SDGs activity in Ukraine is significant given their potential for SDGs monitoring based on previous experience of MDGs monitoring. - 2019-2020 MDETA with UNICEF joint initiative to define SDGs accelerators (50 young scientists/students from 6 national universities) (see 4.2).	Interview 2020
7. Long- and short-term thinking	7.1 Institutions for the long-term (incl. intergenerational justice)	No institutions for the long-term in Ukraine. There were some initiatives organized by MDETA with UNICEF in Ukraine in 2019: reports 'SDGs for children" and "SDGs: youth involvement".	Interview 2020
	7.2 Activities of / in the Parliament on Agenda 2030	- Parliament was involved in consultation on SDGs Baseline report. - No special Parliamentary Committee on SDGs in Ukraine.	Interview 2020

Abbreviations:

IMWG	Inter-Ministerial Working Group
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MDETA	Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture
NSO	National Stat Office
SDGs baseline report	National Baseline Report "SDGs in Ukraine"

References:

[1] SDGs in Ukraine. 2019 Annual Monitoring Report (2019). http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/menu/st_rozv/publ/SDGs13.01.2020_engl.pdf

[2] Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine. Sustainable Development Goals. https://www.me.gov.ua/Documents/List?lang=uk-UA&id=938d9df1-5e8d-48cc-a007-be5bc60123b8&tag=TSiliStalogoRozvitku

Aggregated tables *[thematic]*

Q 1 Political commitment & strategy / CEI countries

		Type of strategic document/ year of first commitment	New/revised overarching strategy/plan since SDGs?	Some degree of operationalization (e.g. Strategy & Action plan, measures, actions clear targets)	Strategy linked to national budget
AL	Albania		NSD 2016-2020; 2018 report on the harmonization of SDGs with sectoral policies; Planned next NSD with vision for SDGs achievement by 2030		Planned: prioritized SDGs will be reflected in the budget planning framework
BY	Belarus		2015: SDS until 2030; Programme for the Socio-Economic Development 2016-2020 Currently working on SDS until 2035		Programme for the Socio-Economic Development 2016-2020; Planned: financial instruments for green economy in the medium term
BiH	Bosnia & Herzegovina		Currently working on a comprehensive SDG Framework	Planned: annual workplan	
BG	Bulgaria	National Development Programme Bulgaria2020 (link to EU 2020)	2020: National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030	Planned	Planned: indicative financial framework
HR	Croatia	SDS since 2009	Currently working on NDS 2030, mapping the link to SDGs (planned for 2020)	Planned: measures	
CZ	Czech Republic	SDS 2004, Strategic SD framework 2010	2017: Czech Republic 2030	2018 Implementation plan of CZ 2030; 2018 "Implementing A2030 in CZ"	Planned/desired: SDG tracking of state budget
HU	Hungary	SDS since 2007, current 2012-2024			
IT	Italy	SDS since 2002 but environment only	2017: new law and new broader SDS aligned with SDGs, 2017-2030	Planned: Review SDS for targets & measures	BES indicators (well-being) integrated in Economy & Finance Document
MD	Moldova	NDS 2012-2020	To be adopted soon: NDS 2030	Planned: ND Plan	Planned: medium-term budgetary framework via the NDS
ME	Montenegro	2007 first SDS 2007 commitment in Constitution to be an ecological state	2016: SDS until 2030	SDS Action Plan until 2030; Measurable targets	SDS until 2030: basic principles of financing SD and possible sources of funding; Planned: long-term system of financing for SD
MK	North Macedonia	2010 first SDS until 2030	Planned/considering revising	Planned/considering developing an Action Plan	
PL	Poland	Long term Development Strategy 2030, mid-term DS 2020, SDS 2000-2007	Strategy for responsible development since 2017 until 2020		
RO	Romania	SDS since 1999, current 2013-2020/2030	New strategy adopted 2018	National Environmental Action Plan Planned: National Action Plan	
RS	Serbia	SD in Constitution since 2006 SDS 2009-2017		2009: Action Plan of SDS 2009 – 2017	National Investment Plan 2020-2025 serves for steering 2030 Agenda-related activities; Financing for SDGs received its own first-ever explicit line in the 2019 national budget
SK	Slovakia	SD Plan 2005, SDS since 2011	Roadmap 2017 to prepare SDS 2030, 2018	Work in progress	Planned: Investment plan for SD

		priorities Planned: 2020 Vision and NDS2030		
SI Slovenia		*NDS* 2017 until 2030	Planned: four-year national development policy programme	*NDS* 2030 *KPIs* integration into budget planned for 2020 Planned: medium-term fiscal framework
UA Ukraine		2017 SDG Baseline Report; 2018 Decree setting SDGs as benchmark for 2019 programming and forecasting documents	SDGs monitoring system	

Q 2 Lead & horizontal coordination

		HoS level	Domestic (or if not unspecified) Lead	External Lead	Other Involved	Coordinating mechanism	Bridging external & domestic [*]
AL	Albania	Deputy *PM*			Line Min. & key gov. institutions	Inter-Ministerial Committee on the *SDG*s, chaired by *DPM;* Inter-institutional Technical *WG*	
BY	Belarus		National Coordinator (Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly)		All Min.	Council for *SD* (chaired by the National Coord.)	(National Coordinator supported by *MFA)*
BiH	Bosnia & Herzegovina		Chief coordinators designated by Council of Min. of BiH (Directorate for Economic Planning), and Gov. of entities & Brčko District		Multiple Min./gov. bodies at national and sub-national levels	Intergovernmental *SDG* Rollout Working Group	
BG	Bulgaria		Minister of Finance	*MFA*	Deputy Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers from all Ministries	Coord Committee (chaired by Min of Finance) in Council for Development (not *SDG* specific)	
HR	Croatia	*PM*	Min Env & Energy, & Min Reg. Dev't and EU funds	*MFA* (& European) – national coordinator	'All relevant'	National Council for SD, chaired by *PM* (MFA as secretariat)	
CZ	Czech Republic		Min Env & Min of Reg. Dev't	*MFA*	All Ministries	Gov't Council for *SD* & Focal points network	Gov't Council for *SD* as main body (& some CSOs are very active) / no explicit mechanism
HU	Hungary		Min Tech & Innov, & Min. Agri	*MFA* & Trade	All Min. fed into Strategy	Cabinet of Economy	
IT	Italy	Presidency of the Council of Ministers *(PMO)*	Min Env, Land and Sea, & Min. Economy and Finance	*MFA* and International Cooperation	All relevant	Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) (chaired by *PM*); Cabina di Regia Benessere Italia in *PMO*	Council of Ministers; Cabina di Regia supporting this link
MD	Moldova	State Chancellery *(PMO)*	Ministry of Finance		All Min (Coord. Council)	Coordination Council for *SD; * Joint Steering Committee for *VNR*	
ME	Montenegro	President of the State	Min. *SD* and Tourism		10 representatives of national gov't; Draft 'NSSD until 2030' submitted for validation to all relevant Min.; Planned: employees working on *SD* in all Min.	National Council for *SD* chaired by President of the State; Planned: *SD* Office in Prime Minister cabinet	
MK	North Macedonia	Cabinet of *DP* in charge for Economic Affairs	Cabinet of *DP* in charge for Economic Affairs		12 Min.	Council for *SD* chaired by Cabinet of *DP*	
PL	Poland		Ministry of Economic Dev't	*MFA*	Ministries responsible for SDGs within their competencies		(Coordination Committee for Development Policy)

RO	Romania	*PMO*: Dep. for *SD* (*DSD*); *PM* for Interdep. Cie on *SD*	Min Env: Inter-min. Cie of Env Protection	*MFA* (incl. for EU coord.)	All Min. and institutions	*DSD* & Interdep. Cie on SD (ICSD); *SD* Hubs; Inter-Min. Cie of Env Protection	
RS	Serbia		Min. Demography and Population Policy	*MFA* & Min. European Integration	26 relevant Min.	Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Agenda 2030	(*MFA*)
SK	Slovakia	Deputy *PMO*	Deputy *PMO* (from July 2020 Min Investments, Regional Dev't and Informatisation)	*MFA* & *EU*	Key line Ministries	Government Council for A2030 & its WG	Cooperation DPMO & MFA to improve PCSD
SI	Slovenia		Gov't Office for Dev't & European Cohesion Policy	*MFA*	All Ministries, through focal points	Focal points	(Inter-minist. Coordination Group on Internat. Development Cooperation)
UA	Ukraine		Ministry for Dev't of Economy, Trade and Agriculture		Line Min.	Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the implementing the SDGs (not established as for now)	

[*]   **This issue applies for OECD (DAC) countries more than for others. In others the split also tends to be strong, but external is more linked to domestic due to funding input**

Q 4 Stakeholder participation

		Sub-national coordination or participation mechanism	Is the SDS done in consultation?	Independent SD Council, Forum, Platform (or other institutionalized participation mechanism)	Integrated/mixed in Gov't SD Council (or other institutionalized particip. mechanism)	Other stakeholder (SH) participation mechanism	Planned mechanisms
AL	Albania	Local government involved in Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs		National Council on Civil Society	Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs	Consultation on 2018 *VNR*; Promotion of *SDGs* in business models & corporate social responsibility networks	Mainstreaming the SDGs into sub-national plans
BY	Belarus	Regional groups on *SDGs* members of the Council for *SD*; Partnership between Gov't, Parliament & local gov'ts.	NSSD until 2035 process		Partnership Group for *SD* assisting the Council for *SD*	2018 Conference "Strategy and partnership to achieve the *SDGs*"; 2019 National Forum on *SD*	
BiH	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Direct communication	Since 2016			Imagine2030; Business engagement; workshops & conferences by SDGs Rollout Working Group	
BG	Bulgaria	National Association of Municipalities (NAMRB)	Formal online consultation on NDP 2030 (2019)		Various advisory Councils to public authorities (not on SD)	Public portal for consultation on all strategies and policies (not on SD)	
HR	Croatia	Advisory role of regional self-government units to the National Council for SD	on NDS 2030 (ongoing)		Stakeholders as advisors in the National *SD* Council	Cooperation platform of Chamber of Economy; SDG Platform of the Business Council for *SD*	
CZ	Czech Republic	*GCSD*; Healthy Cities Good Practice Database	2015 - 2017		Government Council for Sust. Dev't (*GCSD*) with SH participation	Multi-SH Council for Dev't Coop; Internet platform for contributions	
HU	Hungary	Through member in NFFT, and : Regional Dev't Civil Interest Reconciliation Forum & Regional Dev't Council	2013		National Council for Sust. Dev't (*NFFT*) [NB: more Parl. than gov't; has an independent mandate]	SDG - Civil society roundtable; Business Council for Sust. Dev't (BCSD); CSO participation in VNR process 2018	
IT	Italy	State-regions conference; participation in Cabina di Regia Benessere Italia; Coord. with MoE	2017	Italian Alliance for *SD* (*ASviS*)	National Forum for *SD*	Participation in meetings of the Cabina di Regia Regional centres for environmental and SD education	Regional Fora for *SD*
MD	Moldova	Congress of Local Authorities	Since 2016		National Coordination Council for *SD*	*WG* to draft Moldova 2030; Participation in 2020 *VNR* through Joint Steering Committee	
ME	Montenegro	*SD* organizational units; Local Council for *SD* and *SD* Strategy with Action Plan in one municipality; *SD* councils at local level and alignment of strategic	2013-2016		2 representatives of NGOs are members of the National Council; *SD* Coordination Body of the National Council (ongoing deliberation on maintaining or	Promotion of green economy	More participation in the National Council

		plans (*ongoing*)			not)		
MK	North Macedonia				International organizations and donors invited to the Council for *SD*; Chamber of Commerce is part of the Council for *SD*	Participation in 2020 *VNR*	Online multi-stakeholder platform; Sub-national coordination planned throughout the Council for regional dev't.
PL	Poland	Joint Government and Territorial Self-Government Committee	(on VNR 2018)	2030 Agenda National Stakeholders Forum		Partnership for implementation of *SDG*s (business init.); Impact Barometer; events & workshops promoting *SDG*s	
RO	Romania	Planned: coordination for *NSDS* implementation	2018	Coalition for SD	Consultative Council on SD advising the ICSD (inter-depart. committee)	Business networks & engagement (Global Compact); Partnership between *MFA* and Fed. of NGOs for Dev't.	
RS	Serbia	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities; Sub-regional Conference by IMWG (2018); workshops on *SDGs*	On post-2015 (2012); UNICEF with youth (2019)		Office for Cooperation with Civil Society involved in *IMWG*	Participation in 2019 *VNR*; MAPS mission (2018); Public hearing (2018); Digital platform on *SDG*s (ongoing); Call to companies' self-assessment on *SDG*s contribution; Society wide dialog platform on implementing A2030; workshops on smart specialisation	
SK	Slovakia	Government Council for the 2030 Agenda for *SD*	2018-2019		Government Council for the 2030 Agenda for *SD* & *WG* for SDG Implementation	Slovak Non-Governmental Dev't Organisations Platform; National Convent	
SI	Slovenia	Regional Dev't Directorate in Min. of Economic Dev't. & Technology	2018; on the Dev't Strategy & indicators			Participation in 2017 *VNR*; *2020 VNR* with 12 regional activities and 5 thematic workshops	
UA	Ukraine		2016-2017			Participation in 2020 *VNR*; various participation processes organised by MDETA	

Q 5 Monitoring & review

		Indicators (pre-*SDG*s)	Progress reports (pre-*SDG*s)	External review (pre-*SDG*s)	Progress reporting since *SDG*s?	Indicators updated since *SDG*s?	Quantified and timebound targets post *SDG*s, or special attention to spillover effects or leave no one behind	External review since *SDG*s?
AL	Albania				2018 Baseline Report on *SDG*s; 2018 Report on harmonization of *SDG*s with sectoral policies; indicator reports; first progress report in 2020	Statistical Annex to the *VNR* & Official Statistical Programme 2017-2021	Quantified targets	UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool 2016
BY	Belarus				Annual	Yes	"Leave no one behind" cross-cutting theme of the VNR	UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool 2017
BiH	Bosnia & Herzegovina				Planned on a periodic basis	Yes, but still work in progress	Targets: work in progress; "Leave no one behind" will be integrated in strategies at entities & Brčko District level	UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool 2018; UN MAPS *SDG* dashboards
BG	Bulgaria				Planned: a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the NDP Bulgaria 2030	Using *EU and global SDG* indicators	Planned: quantified/timebound targets	
HR	Croatia		Environmental status report every 4 years on envi legislation and *SDS*		Continued	Portal for *SDG* indicators; Planned : indicators for *NDS* 2030		
CZ	Czech Republic	Yes	Progress reports every 1- 3 years		Report on *SDG*s and indicators in 3 year cycle continued	Yes		Use *OECD* study to compare performance
HU	Hungary	Yes	Biannual		Continued	Yes		
IT	Italy	Yes			BES indicators reported in finance document; NSDS annual report	(100) *SDG* indicators, among them (38) *BES* indicators (extended periodically)	Quantified targets planned	Project "Policy coherence for *SD*" with *OECD* & *EC*
MD	Moldova		Interim review of the NDS "Moldova 2020" covering 2012 – 2015		Planned for "Moldova 2030"	Yes		
ME	Montenegro		Annual		First planned for July 2020	Yes		
MK	North Macedonia				2019 First report on SDG indicators	Yes		Planned: UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool
PL	Poland				Planned: to periodically monitor the *SDG*s	*VNR* was the first evaluation & review of indicators		Expert report on Poland's position on SDG implementation
RO	Romania	Eurostat indicators	Strategy review 2006-2008		Annual	Yes, and update of *SD* indicator set in progress (also using Eurostat indicators)		
RS	Serbia				(Planned: Permanent control mechanisms for *SDG* implementation by the National Assembly -> see 7.2)	Yes	"Leaving no one behind" reflected in the VNR	UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool 2018
SK	Slovakia		Annual		Biannual reporting &	With the first national	Work in progress	Intensive collaboration with

				evaluation scheme, first report mid-2020 (due date 30.6.2020)	monitoring report mid-2020		*OECD* on gap analysis; Analysis of challenges by Scientific Institute (2018)
SI Slovenia				Annual development reports (last 2019); dashboard for citizens to report on progress and raise awareness	Yes (*KPIs*)	Yes	Use *SDSN* and *OECD* studies to compare performance
UA Ukraine				Annual	Yes	Quantified and timebound targets; "Leave no one behind" integrated	UN MAPS Rapid Integrated Assessment tool 2019

Q 6 Knowledge input and tools

		Science-policy interface	Sustainability impact assessments	Integration of *SDG*s into budgetary process
AL	Albania	Academia included in the Inter-Ministerial Committee on *SDG*s; commitment of 25 universities & faculties (2017)		Preliminary analysis of *SDG* budget commitments 2015–2017. Planned: prioritized SDGs reflected in budget planning framework
BY	Belarus	Academia involved in the Council for *SD* and the Public Council on Dev't and Monitoring of *SD* Strategies; National Forum on *SD* in 2019		Planned: Financial instruments for green economy in the medium term
BiH	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Academia involved in the Intergovernmental *SDG* Rollout Working Group and in stakeholder consultations.		*SDG*s in the Strategic Framework for the institutions of BiH (foundation for making three-year and annual budgets)
BG	Bulgaria	Academia & Bulg. Academy of Science involved in SDG policy; National Council for Science and Innovation assists in research policy, linked to resp. SDGs	Planned: ex-ante IA	Planned: indicative financial framework
HR	Croatia	Academia with advisor status in new National Council for *SD*; previous Council on *SD* and Env. Protection with more science represented has been phasing out since 2012		
CZ	Czech Republic	Research specific part of *SD* strategy; academia involved in GCSD Cies.; involved in establishment of a portal with SD indicators	Planned: Improved ex-ante *IA* and ex-post evaluations	Planned: SDG tracking of state budget
HU	Hungary	National *SD* council (NFFT) includes academia; consultation of academia for NFSSD	Planned: Sustainability assessments for all new bills	
IT	Italy	Academia key role in *SDG* context analysis; some Italian Universities provide technical and scientific support to NSDS implementation		BES indicators (equitable and sustainable well-being) integrated in Economy & Finance Document
MD	Moldova	Academia is involved in the National Coordination Council for *SD* and the Joint Steering Committee	Ex-ante impact assessment for normative acts with significant impacts	Planned: Financial resources for policies implementation provided through link to the medium-term budgetary framework via the National Development Plan.
ME	Montenegro	Academia part of National Council	Planned: regulatory impact assessment with regard to implementation of NSSD until 2030	*NSSD* until 2030 basic principles of financing for *SD* and possible sources of funding Planned: long-term *SD* financing; Eco-Fund; medium-term public debt management strategy; financial sustainability strategy.
MK	North Macedonia	Planned: online multi-stakeholder platform including academia		
PL	Poland		*IA* on social and economic development, including environmental impacts New guidelines for regulatory *IA* to include transboundary impacts	

RO	Romania	Consultative Council on *SD* involves academia; 2018 *NSDS* based on scientific studies	*RIA* cover *SD*; planned: Consultative Council on *SD* to assess impacts of future policies on A2030 implementation	
RS	Serbia	Consultation of academia on the *VNR*; academia involved in the *EDP* process		Financing for *SDG*s mentioned in 2019 national budget
SK	Slovakia	Academia involved in Gov council's *wg*ᵢ, Academic of Science did analysis of challenges and priorities for *SDG*s	Planned: *EIA* of Vision and *NDS*	Planned: Investment plan for *SD*
SI	Slovenia		*IA* for environment or gender but no holistic method	*NDS* 2030 *KPI*s integration into budget planned for 2020 Planned: medium-term fiscal strategy
UA	Ukraine	National academy of science of Ukraine is a member of *IMWG*; universities involved in *MDETA* & *UNICEF* initiative to define SDGs accelerators		

Q 7.2 Activities of parliaments

		Pre-SDG Parliament activities	Parliament debating A2030 / *VNRs* (rather one off, not systematic)	Existing (sectoral) Committee taking up A2030	New/cross-cutting institutional arrangements in the Parliament	Extra: Systematic tool use (*SIA*, budget …) or multi-stakeholder participation
AL	Albania		Commitment to Agenda 2030, its promotion, implementation and monitoring, in line with Albania's dev't priorities and EU integration (2017)	Planned: network of focal points positioned in each parliamentary commission	sub-Cie on SD, part of the Cie on Economy and Finance	(Parliament is involved in the IMC)
BY	Belarus		Involved in preparation of *NSSD* until 2035		Parliamentary working group on achieving the *SDGs*; Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly is the National Coordinator	Creation of a legislative platform to achieve *SD* at national level and solve practical problems of *SD* in the regions
BiH	Bosnia & Herzegovina		High-level *SDG* conference launching the *SDGs* in BiH held at the Parliamentary Assembly (2017)			
BG	Bulgaria		['*Parliamentarians know about SDGs but no activities*']			
HR	Croatia		Parliament will adopt the *NDS* 2030			
CZ	Czech Republic		SDS discussed in both chambers	new sub-Cie for *SD* under *ENVI* [*nothing foreseen how to deal with overarching issues*], might be temporary		(MPs are represented in the Government Council for SD)
HU	Hungary	1. National *SD* Council (*NFFT*) based in Parl. with members of all parties; Pres. chairs the Nat. Assembly 2. Parliam. Cie. For SD (2010) [= only Env. Cie. renamed]		*continued*	*continued*	
IT	Italy				Permanent Cie for the implementation of 2030 Agenda (as Sub-Cie of Cie FA), since 2018	
MD	Moldova		Parliament will adopt the NDS "Moldova 2030" and will examine Gov't reports on its implementation			(Parliament involved in the Joint Steering Committee to coordinate the VNR process)
ME	Montenegro		Planned: Gov't informs Parliament on 'NSSD until 2030' implementation			
MK	North Macedonia					

PL	Poland		Parl. Cie's involved in *VNR* consultations			
RO	Romania		Debate of the Sub-Cie. for *SD* on 2018 NSDS; annual reports presented to the Parliament		Sub-Cie. for *SD* under Cie. *FA* (since 2015)	
RS	Serbia		Recommendations and assessments on *VNR*; Discussions with young people, media, local self-governments and associations on *SDG*s; Regional Seminar on *SDG*s for Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (2018)		Focus Group (& Focus group representatives included in the IMWG)	Planned/starting: Permanent control mechanisms for SDG implementation by the National Assembly
SK	Slovakia		Planned: Consultation on Vision & *NDS*2030		Intended: Cie for the Future (similar to Finland)	(MPs are represented in the Government Council for SD)
SI	Slovenia					
UA	Ukraine		Involved in consultation on SDG Baseline report			

CEI
CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

Follow us on: