

# Country Approaches to the SDGs and Well-being: Overview Survey on National Activities in Europe and Beyond

First Report

**Gerald Berger**

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Gerald Berger Sustainability Consulting  
Trinkhausstrasse 3/2/8, 1110 Vienna, Austria  
E: [gb@gerald-berger.com](mailto:gb@gerald-berger.com), T: +43/699/10652896, W: [www.gerald-berger.com](http://www.gerald-berger.com)

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## Introduction

This first report is part of a larger study on **“Country approaches for SDGs and Well-being”** in Europe and beyond which is commissioned by PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. The **main aim of the study** is to investigate how different political entities implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which concepts and activities on well-being and beyond GDP are applied, and how these entities seek to establish coherence between the two processes of SDG implementation and well-being activities.

In this report, as the first part of the study, a general overview and update of activities on SDG implementation and well-being/beyond GDP concepts, initiatives and activities in **European countries (including two devolved governments of the UK), the European Union, and selected countries beyond Europe** are in the focus. In the second part of the study, which will be based on the findings of this report and published later, several country case studies will be selected for a more detailed investigation on how these countries operationalize the SDGs and well-being concepts in policymaking processes.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, “Transforming our world”, with its related 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**<sup>1</sup>, which was adopted by the UN countries in September 2015, can be seen as a milestone for setting up a clear and strategic set of objectives to achieve sustainable development worldwide. The SDGs are covering all dimensions of sustainable development (i.e. economic, environmental and social issues) and are intrinsically interlinked with one another. The main challenge of practically implementing the SDGs and bringing them to life is to develop national implementation strategies, to establish coordination mechanisms across sectoral government ministries, to involve the relevant stakeholders (from sub-national entities to the various societal actors), and to evaluate and monitor progress of the activities taken. We are currently approaching the halfway mark in the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation process as the goals should be achieved by 2030. There have been various studies conducted over the years on SDG implementation at the national level in Europe (e.g. by the European Parliament<sup>2</sup> or the European Sustainable Development Network<sup>3</sup>, both from 2019) which offer a detailed overview on implementation efforts. However, since these studies have been conducted several years ago, many changes and renewal processes of strategies, policies and responsibilities occur consistently at the level of policymaking, and recent challenges have led to new developments, an update of the SDG implementation efforts is crucial. This report will do so, especially with regards to national SDG strategies and action plans, the main responsible institutions for SDG implementation, and the coordination mechanisms between sectoral government ministries.

There is a **strong correlation between the SDGs and well-being**. In fact, the SDGs relate to multiple dimensions of human and planetary well-being. As has been pointed out by the Global Happiness and Wellbeing Policy Report 2019, “the SDGs are, indeed, a framework and a roadmap for global happiness and well-being”<sup>4</sup>. For many decades, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been used as

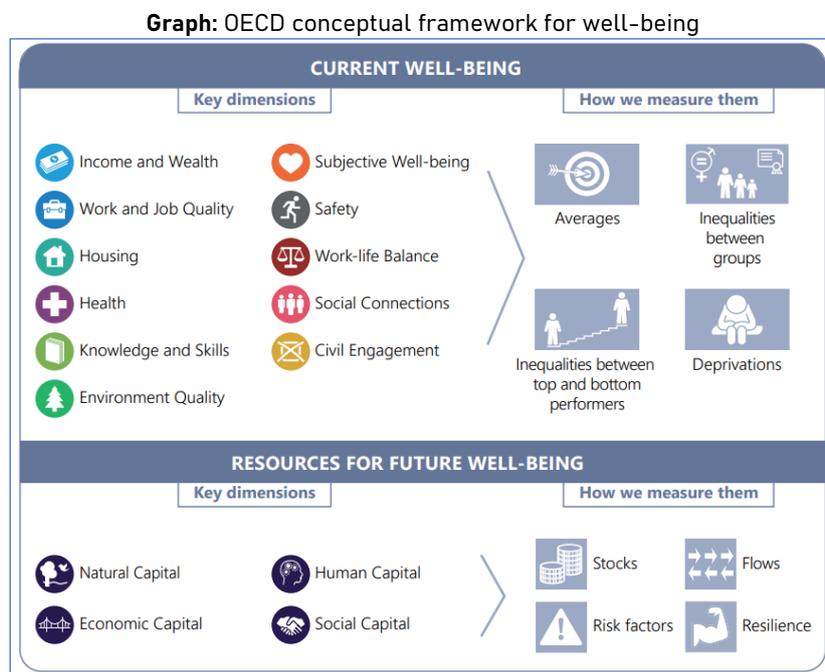
<sup>1</sup> United Nations (2015) Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sdgs.un.org/publications/transforming-our-world-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-17981>

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament (2019) Europe's approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: good practices and the way forward – Study commissioned by the European Parliament, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/160360/DEVE%20study%20on%20EU%20SDG%20implementation%20formatted.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> European Sustainable Development Network (2019) The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the National Level in Europe – Taking stock of governance mechanisms, [https://www.esdn.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ESDN\\_Quarterly\\_Report\\_54\\_Final.pdf](https://www.esdn.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/ESDN_Quarterly_Report_54_Final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The Global Council for Happiness and Wellbeing (2019), Global Happiness and Wellbeing Policy Report 2019, p. 6, <https://s3.amazonaws.com/ghwbpr-2019/UAE/GHWPR19.pdf>

the central concept to measure economic performance and applied in many contexts as synonymous with societal progress and well-being.<sup>5</sup> However, relying solely on GDP to measure societal progress and general well-being has its shortcomings, as has been widely acknowledged. The OECD summarized the limitations of GDP measurement as follows: “GDP does not capture important elements of living standards, such as leisure time, health, social connections or the quality of working environment; it does not reflect inequalities, which are important for the assessment of the well-being of any community of people; and it is blind to the effects that changes in the scale of economic production may impose on the stock of resources that sustain well-being over time, including natural resources.”<sup>6</sup> Therefore, **broader concepts for measuring societal progress than GDP are necessary**. Over the years, they have been developed and referred to as “beyond GDP”, **inclusive growth, well-being, well-being economy, etc.** Even though different terms are used, the key idea is to have a stronger focus on quality of life, prosperity and flourishing for all people, and the sustainability of the planet.<sup>7</sup> One of the most comprehensive conceptual frameworks for well-being has been developed by the OECD. The key dimensions of this well-being framework, and how to measure them, are shown in the graph below:



Source: [OECD \(2020\) How's Life? 2020: Measuring Well-being](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics_d98eb8ed-en)

This first report provides an **overview of SDG implementation and well-being/beyond GDP activities in 35 political entities**, namely 32 countries (EU and EFTA countries, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and New Zealand), 2 devolved governments of the UK (Scotland and Wales), and the European Union. The selection of these entities was based on the objective to cover as many European countries as possible, to investigate countries beyond Europe that have a track record on well-being activities<sup>8</sup>, and to elaborate on activities of the European Union as its policy regime impacts

<sup>5</sup> OECD (2018) Policy use of well-being metrics: Describing countries' experiences, [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics\\_d98eb8ed-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics_d98eb8ed-en)

<sup>6</sup> OECD (2018) Policy use of well-being metrics: Describing countries' experiences, p. 7, [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics\\_d98eb8ed-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics_d98eb8ed-en)

<sup>7</sup> Wellbeing Economy Alliance (2020) Understanding Wellbeing, [https://weall.org/wp-content/uploads/WEAll-Briefing-Understanding-Wellbeing\\_July2020.pdf](https://weall.org/wp-content/uploads/WEAll-Briefing-Understanding-Wellbeing_July2020.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Costa Rica, Ecuador and New Zealand were selected based on the coverage of their well-being activities in reports by the OECD and the Wellbeing Economy Alliance website as well as their high position on happiness and well-being rankings (e.g. Costa Rica).

on the policies developed in its member states. With the intention to provide the above-mentioned overview, the focus of this report has been put on **three main topics**:

- a) (National) SDG implementation processes,
- b) (National) Well-being/beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, and activities, and
- c) Coordination between SDG implementation and Well-being/beyond GDP.

As regards the **methodology** applied, the information presented in this report is mainly based on an **overview survey** which was conducted by using a **qualitative questionnaire** that was sent via email to representatives of national government ministries or high-level institutions who are responsible for SDG implementation in the respective 35 entities in the first week of April 2022. *Please find the survey questionnaire in Annex 1 of this report.* In **the time period between 12 April until 3 May 2022**, representatives from 20 entities submitted their written answers via email by filling in the qualitative survey questionnaire. In addition, the author of the report conducted a video interview with a representative of the Secretariat-General of the European Commission on 20 April 2022. This means that direct and up-to-date information could be gathered from a total of **21 entities**. In the case of **one other European country**, a representative from the Ministry of Ecological Transition in Italy was not able to fill in the questionnaire, but provided extensive information via email. The information provided in the filled-in questionnaires and additional information via email was complemented by information provided in the respective entity's Voluntary National Review (VNR), the country profiles on the website of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN), the OECD country profiles on institutional mechanisms for policy coherence for sustainable development, or any other relevant documents. References for complementary information is provided in footnotes in the respective country chapters. For the **remaining 13 entities**, which did not provide information by submitting the filled-in questionnaire, the information presented is based on **desk and document research**, e.g. national policy and strategy documents; Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs); ESDN country profiles; and OECD country profiles on policy coherence for sustainable development; etc. (references to specific sources are given in the respective country chapters). *The list of entities covered in this report, the institutional affiliation of representatives filling in the questionnaire, the dates of questionnaire submissions, etc. can be found in Annex 2 of this report.*

At the beginning of the report, an **overview chapter provides a reflection on main trends and important insights** that can be drawn from the practical implementation experiences in the 35 countries covered. In the following **35 political entity or country chapters**, information on the three main topics covered in this report (see above) is presented for each political entity.

## Main Trends and Important Insights

In this overview chapter of this First Report, the **main trends and important insights on the three main focus areas** – namely national SDG implementation, national well-being/beyond GDP concepts, and the coordination between SDG implementation and well-being/beyond GDP – are highlighted.

### National SDG implementation

As regards **dedicated, single national sustainable development strategies and actions plans** in the 35 political entities covered in this report (32 countries, 2 devolved governments of the UK, plus the European Union), one can distinguish **three different approaches**:

**Eighteen entities have a dedicated national sustainable development strategy (NSDSs), or action plan**, that has been developed with the main objective to provide strategic guidance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs on the national level. Most of them are fairly recent, e.g. the New Federal Plan for SD in Belgium (October 2021), the Finnish Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda (December 2020), the new German Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2021), the Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy (2020), or the Swiss 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2021). In Ireland, the new National Implementation Plan for the SDGs will be published for consultation during May and June 2022, and the new Italian National Sustainable Development Strategy should be approved still in the first half of 2022. In some countries these strategies are updated versions of previous NSDSs which have a long tradition in Europe and beyond, going back to the international UN sustainable development policy regime, starting in Rio 1992, then Johannesburg 2002, and finally Rio+20 in 2012.

Some other **ten entities have included objectives and strategic goals to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in their overall national development plans**. In these documents, the general economic development path of the respective country is linked to sustainable development, in general, and the SDGs, in particular. This approach has a longer tradition in some Eastern and Southern European countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Poland, etc.). It has also been applied in one of the beyond-Europe countries included in this report, namely in Costa Rica where the National Development Plan has been developed in line with the SDGs. An interesting case is Scotland, which has developed the National Performance Framework which integrated the SDGs alongside a set of National Outcomes for the overall goal to create sustainable and inclusive growth, increase well-being, and ascribe equal importance to economic, environmental, and social progress.

Finally, **an emerging trend can be seen in seven entities**, namely the decision to develop no separate sustainable development strategy document, but to **create a “mainstreaming approach” or “integrated approach” for SDG implementation**. This means that legal or administrative mechanisms have been set up that make the SDG implementation a so-called “whole-of-government” endeavor with explicit responsibilities for individual ministries. Examples are the “mainstreaming approach” in Austria, where each federal ministry was instructed to incorporate 2030 Agenda principles and the SDGs into relevant sectoral strategies, including the obligation to draw up corresponding action plans and measures in each ministry. Another example is the European Commission, which has made a conscious choice to develop no single sustainable development strategy document, but to integrate the SDGs into all policy areas through plan, programs and also through the mission letters to each individual Commissioner.

One can also detect some interesting trends with regards to the **main responsibility for SDG implementation**. Since several years, an **increasing number of countries** is placing the

responsibility of sustainable development, in general, and the SDG implementation, in particular, at the **level of the Prime Minister's Office, the Government Office or the Federal Chancellery** (depending on the given political-administrative system or structure). Due to the fact that sustainable development and the SDGs have an intrinsically cross-cutting nature, require efforts from all government ministries ("whole-of-government" approach), and demand a high-level of coordination (see also below), this development seems not surprising. For instance, the Federal Council is responsible in Switzerland; the Federal Chancellery has the responsibility in Austria and Germany; the Government or Prime Minister's offices are in charge in Estonia, Finland and Romania; and the Secretariat-General of the European Commission has the main responsibility at the EU level.

Another trend is that, due to their international origin, **the 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation responsibilities are shared between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (usually responsible for UN and international policy issues) **and a national line ministry**, e.g. Ministry of Ecological Transition in France and Italy, Ministry of Finance in Bulgaria and Denmark, the Prime Minister Office in Iceland, or the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization in Slovakia.

One can also witness a **decrease in the number of Ministries of Environment that are responsible for SDG implementation**. For a long time in the history of sustainable development strategies and policymaking, the responsibility in many countries was given to the Ministries of Environment. Currently, in only 6 of the entities included in this report, the responsibility lies with the Ministries of Environment, for instance, the Ministry for Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and the Green Deal in Belgium; the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in Ireland; or the Ministry of Environment in the Czech Republic.

There is also a number of entities, where the **responsibility for the 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation lies with other individual line ministries**, for instance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in New Zealand and Portugal; the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds in Croatia; the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy in Costa Rica; or the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology in Poland.

In New Zealand, even though the country's Voluntary National Review (VNR) was prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a report by the Office of the Auditor-General in 2021 pointed out that no Ministry has yet been appointed with the responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Looking at the **coordination mechanisms applied in practice**, one can see that there is a **clear trend that inter-ministerial coordination for SDG implementation is applied in most entities and that the importance for cross-sectoral coordination to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development is increasing**. Many entities have even more than one inter-ministerial coordination body in place, others have inter-ministerial cooperation established for the general development plans, again others have individual 2030 Agenda/SDG coordinators in place. For the very few entities that lack a comprehensive inter-ministerial coordination mechanism or only have a very informal one in place, the commitment to establish such a mechanism exists (e.g. in Norway, where the Office of the Auditor General recommends a stronger coordination which the new National Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda is attempting).

Out of those entities, that have **coordination mechanisms in place**, a majority uses **inter-ministerial working groups** (e.g. Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland), **inter-ministerial commissions or steering committees** (e.g. Belgium, Romania, Switzerland), or **inter-ministerial coordination networks** (e.g. Finland, Greece). Even though their names vary, these coordination bodies include most, if not all, national line ministries in an effort to align the SDGs with national policy priorities and objectives,

including those of individual ministries – mostly in such a manner that individual ministries also have to support efforts and activities for SDG implementation in their field of responsibility.

In addition, some countries (e.g. Austria, Czech Republic, France, Greece) have established **SDG focal points in each ministry**. These are usually individuals or units within a given ministry who are responsible for addressing SDG-related issues within their respective ministry and for mainstreaming the SDGs in thematic legislation, policies and initiatives.

In a number of countries, **individual persons or policymakers have been appointed as SDG coordinators** who are tasked with improving coherence and inter-ministerial cooperation. For instance, France and Sweden have appointed an Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development and a National Coordinator for the 2030 Agenda respectively. In Switzerland, two Delegates for the 2030 Agenda were appointed by the Federal Council to ensure the greatest degree of coherence for national and international SDG implementation. And in Wales, a Future Generations Commissioner has been appointed by the Welsh Ministers to promote the sustainable development principle, and to monitor the achievements of objectives set by public bodies.

In order to ensure inter-ministerial cooperation and, in addition, bringing in the knowledge and expertise of external stakeholders, several countries have established **National Sustainable Development Councils (NSDCs)**. Even though NSDCs often have the main purpose to involve external stakeholders, there are several “hybrid” NSDCs in place which comprise representatives of all, or the most crucial, government ministries and stakeholders alike, like in Croatia, Finland, Lithuania or Luxembourg.

A specific case is the **Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda in Spain** that has been established with the new Sustainable Development Strategy in 2020. It is a cooperative body among the general state administration, the autonomous communities and cities, and the local administration.

Another interesting case is the **Sustainability Management System of the German SD Strategy**, a concept that the German federal ministries use to assess and develop measures for sustainable development and the SDGs in the respective areas of responsibilities of the line ministries.

Finally, a short overview on the **Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)**, which are part of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda and encourage member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels on the status of their SDG implementation progress: **All 32 countries included in this report have submitted at least one VNR**, several countries have submitted two. Switzerland is expected to present its third VNR (which has already been approved and published) to the HLPF in 2022. **Scotland and Wales**, whose activities and achievements were in a general way included in the UK’s VNR in 2019, developed their own complementary SDG implementation reviews. The **European Union** itself is expected to submit its first VNR in 2023.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

**Well-being and aspects of a broader concept than GDP to measure a country’s prosperity exist in most entities covered in this report.** In most of these cases, **general well-being and/or beyond GDP approaches are linked to the SDGs or are aligned with the SDGs**, also as part of the implementation of SDG 3 on good health and well-being. Overall, it seems that the term “beyond GDP” is used less frequently nowadays as it is a concept which originated as a response to the financial crisis of 2008/09. As argued by the representative of the Secretariat-General of the European Commission who was interviewed for this report: “beyond GDP” was back then also influential for the original development of the SDGs, but belongs to this time-period and has now outgrown its influence. It has been replaced by the concepts of **well-being, well-being economy, and/or inclusive growth**.

Interesting cases of the **general approach of linking SDGs and well-being**, are the following (please see individual chapters for more details):

- **The Spanish Government** has included as one of their so-called “country challenges” in their new Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 what is referred to as “overcoming the shortcomings of an excessively concentrated and dependent system”. The goal is to **re-frame growth and shift towards a sustainable and inclusive growth**. This re-framed form of growth should achieve full employment, decent work for all, and a transformation of the productive sector toward a circular economy.
- **In Greece**, the National Strategy for Sustainable and Fair Growth 2030, which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda objectives, includes an **entire chapter on “Fair and Inclusive Growth”**. Activities in this regard are centered around 6 topics, among them are promoting a socially oriented economy, inclusive education, strengthening social protection, and placing youth on top of the agenda.
- **Lithuania’s** long-term strategic document “Lithuania 2030” aims to create a (i) **Smart Society** (i.e. a happy society that is open to innovations and challenges); (ii) **Smart Economy** (i.e. an economy that creates high-added value, based on knowledge, innovations, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility for a ‘green’ growth); and (iii) **Smart Governance** (i.e. open and participatory with high-quality services). Underlying progress-relevant values to achieve this are openness, creativity, and responsibility.
- **The European Union** itself has developed various conceptual frameworks for well-being and beyond GDP, with the following three as the most relevant ones (according to a representative of the Secretariat-General of the European Commission): (1) Most recently, the concept of the **“Well-being Economy” was defined in the 8<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Program of March 2022**: “The green transition should take place in the context of a well-being economy where growth is regenerative and which enables systemic change, which recognizes (...) the well-being and prosperity of our societies (...) and which provides a safe operating space within planetary boundaries”; (2) the **European Semester concept of “Competitive Sustainability”**, as outlined in the Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2022, which centers around four dimensions: environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness, and macro-economic stability; and (3) the **concept of resilience** which is linked to “Competitive Sustainability” and to Strategic Foresight, and points to the general aim to undergo transitions in a sustainable, fair and democratic manner.

There are several countries that have developed **comprehensive sets of well-being indicators**. Interesting cases which offer **important insights also on the respective well-being approach and concept** can be witnessed in the following countries:

- **Austria** has set a special focus on the **overall quality of life**. In this context, a set of indicators has been developed in the project **“How is Austria?”** by Statistic Austria that comprises indicators in three areas that are supposed to complement the GDP measures: **material wealth, quality of life, and environmental aspects**.
- **Belgium** has introduced with a Federal Act in 2014 a **set of complementary indicators** to measure **quality of life, human development, social progress, and the sustainability of the economy**.
- In **Estonia**, **well-being and beyond GDP** are seen as **general principles of strategic planning, goal setting and monitoring**. The government is using a set of indicators, entitled **“Tree of Truth”**, which are welfare indicators that aim to elaborate on the question “What kind of a country would we like to live in?”, comprising issues like **confident and valued citizens, an inclusive society, abandon inequalities, increased skills and knowledge of people in the workplace, etc.**

- In **Germany**, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action was charged with developing and coordinating the **concept of well-being which was added for the first time to the Annual Economic Report in 2022**. The concepts build on indicators developed for the country's national sustainable development strategy, but includes **new well-being indicators**, covering five dimensions: **growth, income and employment; environmental and climate action; education, research, and innovation; social aspects and integration; and public finances and equal living conditions**.
- In **Iceland**, the Prime Minister's Committee on indicators for measuring well-being proposed a total of **39 well-being indicators** in 2019. The main rationale behind the indicator development is to **shift the focus from the economy towards well-being for measuring the progress of society**. It is argued that the **citizens' daily lives** need to be reflected by looking at aspects such as **health, housing, employment, education, income, air and water quality, etc.**
- **Italy** was the first country that linked a set of well-being indicators to economic policy programming. The **12 equitable and sustainable well-being indicators (ESW)** that were selected in 2017 are a sub-set of the broader ESDW framework (originally developed already in 2012). The selected indicators **include the well-being dimension in the annual economic programming and budgeting process, and complement traditional measures of prosperity**.
- **Portugal** developed a **well-being index** which comprises information on **material living conditions** (i.e. economic well-being, economic vulnerability, labor and income) and the **quality of life perspective** (i.e. health; work/life balance; education, knowledge and skills; personal security; civic participation and governance; social relations and subjective well-being; and environmental aspects).
- **Sweden's 'new measures of well-being'** of 2017 is a framework of 15 indicators of economic, environmental and social **dimensions of quality of life**. The main idea behind the new measures is to assess the **long-term societal development in a broader context**.

A number of countries has developed over the years a **more comprehensive and strategic approach to well-being as part of general policymaking**. A short overview of well-being activities in these countries are given below (more information is available in their respective country chapters):

- In **Finland**, the **government program of the current Prime Minister** specified that the **aim of economic policy is to increase well-being and prosperity**. The government program defines **seven strategic themes**, among them "Fair, equal and inclusive Finland", with four objectives. One of these objectives is **promoting wellbeing and reducing inequalities**. In addition, the **economy of well-being** was chosen as the main theme of the **Ministry of Social Affairs and Health** during the 2019 Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In this context, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has published a **report on incorporating the economy of well-being approach into political decision-making**. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has also appointed a **Steering Group on the Economy of Well-being** with the mission is to **develop the economy of well-being as a tool of policymaking and action**. Overall, this **inter-departmental work** seeks to ensure that central and local government and civil society collaborate to build an economy of well-being.
- In **France**, as pointed out by a representative from the Ministry for an Ecological Transition, the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan, "France Relance"**, is seen as important mechanism for achieving well-being as it aims to develop a **greener, more competitive, and more inclusive economy**. The focus areas of "France Relance" are ecological transition, competitiveness, and cohesion, relating them to many SDGs. France has also developed the **"New Wealth Indicators"** (on economic, social and environmental issues) that were

approved by the parliament in 2015. These indicators were updated for the 2018 National Indicator Report. In 2021, the National Indicator Report was brought in line with the 17 SDGs. Finally, the French Government in 2021 published its first **“Green Budget”** as an annex to the 2021 Finance Bill. The **“Green Budget”** is a **new classification of budgetary and tax expenditures according to their impact on the environment**. The overall goal is **to better integrate environmental issues in the management of public policies**. The Green Budget is **mainly directed towards environmental issues, but incorporates elements that contribute to the well-being of citizens**, such as the fight against pollution, adaptation to climate change, and the prevention of natural risks.

- In **Ireland**, the Irish Government published a **First Report on developing a Well-being Framework** for Ireland in 2021. This Well-being Framework is an **important cross-government initiative** that, driven by a desire to do better by people, seeks to develop a **multi-dimensional approach to understanding the impact of public policy**. The framework covers 11 dimensions across issues such as **housing, work, the environment, health community, safety, social connections and work** that are understood as key elements that make up **well-being for Ireland, across person, place and society**. A **Second Report will be submitted to the Government in late spring/early summer 2022** and will outline the refinements to the Framework as a result of a significant public conversation with experts, stakeholders, wider interest groups and the public. In general, the Well-being Framework for Ireland is a **program for government commitment to measure progress in Ireland beyond purely economic indicators**. The development of a well-being framework for Ireland is a **cross-government initiative being led by the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister’s department)**. It is also supported by a wider **inter-departmental working group**.
- **New Zealand** has been very active as regards well-being and beyond GDP. Overall, **well-being has been put in the center of policymaking**, as argued in the country’s VNR of 2019. Firstly, the New Zealand Treasury, the government’s lead economic and financial adviser, has developed a **Living Standards Framework (LSF)**. The framework covers **current well-being, future well-being, and risk and resilience** across a **range of economic, social and environmental indicators**. The LSF includes a dashboard, and the latest dashboard report was published in April 2022 and informs the Treasury’s wellbeing reporting and provides **advice to national ministers on priorities for improving well-being**. Secondly, the **Well-being Budget**, delivered for the first time in May 2019, aims at focused government investment on areas where the greatest benefits could be achieved, i.e. five priority areas where it is expected to have the greatest opportunities to make real differences to the lives of citizens. Overall, the Well-being Budget represents a significant change from how budgets have previously been designed, developed, and presented. The current Wellbeing Budget 2021 is entitled **“Securing our Recovery”**.
- In **Scotland**, the **current Scottish Government Program** for the period 2021-22, entitled **“A fairer, greener Scotland”**, **puts sustainable development and well-being at the center of policymaking**, including specific goals to put sustainability, well-being and fair work at the heart of the economic transformation. The main mechanism to implement the SDGs on the national level is the **National Performance Framework (NPF)** which was introduced in 2007, and refreshed in 2011, 2016 and 2018. It sets out a **vision for national well-being in Scotland** and is thus the country’s well-being framework. To help achieve its main purpose, the NPF sets out **11 “National Outcomes”** which describe the kind of Scotland it aims to create. The National Outcomes reflect the values and aspirations of the people of Scotland and **are aligned with the SDG**. The NPF explicitly includes **“increased well-being”** as part of its purpose, and combines measurement of how well Scotland is doing in economic terms with a broader range of well-being measures in a set of 81 indicators for the 11 National

Outcomes. The Deputy First Minister, who is also responsible for inter-government relations, has the lead on the National Performance Framework.

- In **Wales**, the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act of 2015** is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act gives a **legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies**. Each public body must carry out sustainable development and, in so doing, contribute to achieving well-being in Wales. The Well-Being Act also provides for **national indicators** to be set by the Welsh Ministers. Currently, this indicator set comprises 50 indicators for the 7 well-being goals. These should help Welsh public bodies, together with wider stakeholders, to understand the extent to which the vision of long-term well-being, as set out by the well-being goals, is being achieved. Wales also introduced the **world's first Future Generations Commissioner** who is tasked to link the public bodies in Wales to better understand the opportunities and challenges with regards to well-being, and monitors and assesses the extent to which well-being objectives set by public bodies are being met.

There are also **two beyond-Europe countries that have a long tradition with well-being activities**:

- In **Ecuador**, the concept of **“Buen Vivir” (the Good Life)** has been at the core of Ecuador's initiative to **integrate well-being frameworks into policy making**. Rooted in native culture, Buen Vivir was integrated into the **Ecuadorian constitution in 2008** and aims for a new form of development which goes beyond economic growth by focusing on people's well-being and respect for nature. Buen Vivir was placed at the centre of the country's **National Development Plans**, and a dedicated **Buen Vivir Ministry was established in 2013**. Buen Vivir is composed of three components, each based on different units of analysis: people, communities, and nature. For Buen Vivir, 7 dimensions and over 35 objective and subjective indicators were selected. The **National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES)** and the **National Institute for Statistics (INEC)** are tasked with coordinating the SDGs implementation and the main Buen Vivir dimensions and objectives.
- **Costa Rica** is known worldwide for its high level of well-being with a relatively low GDP and minimal pressures on the environment. Generally, this is based the **country's constitution** which prioritizes peace by abolishing the military and the **redirection of resources to social spending on healthcare, education, and social security** for the country. The current **National Plan for Development and Public Investment (PNDIP) 2019-2022** establishes a national goal: To promote national and regional **inclusive economic growth, in harmony with the environment, creating quality jobs, reducing poverty and inequality**, based on the sustainable development approach.

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

There are **various degrees of coordination applied for linking SDG implementation and well-being** in the entities covered in this report.

The highest degree of coordination happens in those entities, where **SDGs and well-being activities are intrinsically linked**, either through legal acts and/or joint strategic set-ups, like in the devolved administrations of Scotland and Wales. **Scotland** has a National Performance Framework in place that integrated the 17 SDGs alongside the 11 National Outcomes for national well-being. On top of that, the current Scottish government program puts sustainable development and well-being at the center of policymaking. In **Wales**, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act of 2015 is the policy and institutional framework for sustainable development as well as the framework

for well-being. In the **European Union**, even though there is no single coordinating strategy or mechanism in place as such, sustainable development and well-being are seen as interconnected in policymaking. As mentioned by the representative of the Secretariat-General of the European Commission, there is the intention to create new frameworks to establish mechanisms for linking both frameworks that are seen as intrinsically linked.

A next degree of **coordination is undertaken through new inter-ministerial bodies or 'vehicles'**. Examples are the **Inter-Departmental Group on Well-being in Ireland** in which officials responsible for SDG implementation are represented. In Ireland, further coherence and coordination mechanisms are explored in the future as the Well-being Framework is still in an early phase of implementation. In **Iceland**, the government aims to connect SDG implementation and well-being activities through a new governmental vehicle, "**Sustainable Iceland**" where the SDGs, just transition and well-being are linked through the central point of sustainability.

Another form of coordination applied in some countries is the **coordination through newly developed or long-term policy strategy documents**. In **Finland**, the new National Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda, which has been developed by the National Commission for Sustainable Development, will link the SDG implementation process and the well-being activities in the country. In **Costa Rica**, the National Decarbonization Plan 2018-2050 interconnects achievements for the SDGs and well-being, putting SDG compliance and quality of life for the citizens in its focus.

Again another form of **general coordination is done in some countries through existing institutional mechanisms for the SDG implementation**. For instance, in **Austria**, the Inter-ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda is responsible for SDG implementation and related activities and measures. In **France**, the Senior Officials for Sustainable Development in each government ministry ("SDG focal points") are also involved in cross-cutting issues and strategies.

Finally, **coordination is undertaken in some countries by referring to the same strategic policy documents that cover both processes**. For instance, in **Switzerland**, the SDG implementation and its related well-being concept are linked in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. In **Lithuania**, the "Lithuania 2030" strategy outlines linkages between different mechanisms and processes.

In addition, there are **countries that have well-being activities in place, but have no systematic coordination mechanisms developed yet**, for instance, Germany and Sweden.

# Austria



## National SDG implementation

Already in 2002, Austria adopted a [National Sustainable Development Strategy, called “NSTRAT”](#). From 2010 onwards, the [Austrian Sustainable Development Strategy \(ÖSTRAT\)](#) complemented the prior strategy. In January 2016, the **Austrian Federal Government adopted a “mainstreaming approach”** – similar to the one at the EU level – which calls every National Federal Ministry to develop sustainable development related actions within its area of responsibility, making the NSTRAT and ÖSTRAT obsolete. **All federal ministries were instructed to incorporate the principles of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs into the relevant strategies and programs** by a decision of the Council of Ministers. Wherever necessary, **every ministry was obliged to draw up corresponding action plans and measures**. An example of such a 2030 Agenda/SDG action plan is the [“SDG Action Plan 2019+”](#) by the Federal Ministry of Climate Action. In this context and by drawing up action plans, all relevant government bodies and cooperation partners at federal, state, city and municipal level, as well as social partners, civil society, business and science, are to be involved.

Therefore, the **implementation of the SDGs is carried out by all federal ministries** in their respective areas of responsibility. This **“mainstreaming approach”** provides the strategic framework for the implementation of the SDGs in Austria.

The **Federal Chancellery of Austria has the main responsibility for SDG Implementation**. In 2020, Austria additionally set up a **Steering Group to strengthen targeted coordination of the 2030 Agenda** with the systematic involvement of stakeholders. It is co-chaired by the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. The Steering Group consists of three additional ministries: the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs; the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology; and the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. This group prepares an **annual work programme for the further implementation of the 2030 Agenda**.

The **2030 Agenda and SDGs** as well as related measures (e.g. establishment of the Steering Group) are also **prominently mentioned in the current government programme 2020–2024**. In addition to the importance of the SDGs in general, specific SDGs are referred to in the respective sub-chapters.

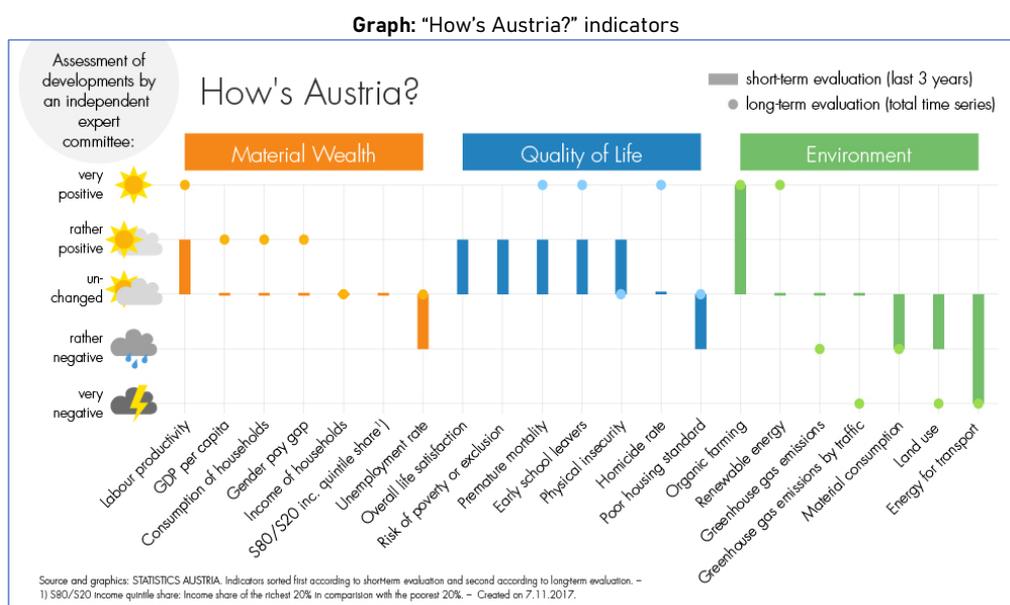
Based on a decision by the Council of Ministers, the **Inter-ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda (IMAG)** has been established under the joint leadership of the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. Members of the working group are the **SDG Focal Points nominated by the respective federal ministries**. Their task is to coordinate the preparation of a regular progress report – in line with the internationally defined requirements – based on the agreed indicators, as well as the priorities in implementation for the next reporting period in each case. In the IMAG, there is a continuous exchange between the federal ministries as well as the participation of representatives of the federal states (regional level), the association of cities and municipalities, social partners, business, civil society and science. The IMAG meets approximately four times a year. The last meeting took place in December 2021.

So far, Austria has submitted one [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF process in 2020.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

A special focus in Austria has been set on the **overall quality of life**.

In this context, a set of indicators covered in the project **"How is Austria?"** by **Statistics Austria** provides concise and interactive information on the various dimensions of wealth and progress. **Indicators in three areas (material wealth, quality of life and environmental aspects) are supposed to complement the gross domestic product (GDP) and thus contribute to a broader understanding of the development of our society.** The selection of the indicators is based on the framework developed by the Sponsorship Group of the European Statistical System (ESS) based on the recommendations of the Stiglitz Commission. The selection of indicators was discussed in a broad communication process with national experts, institutions, and ministries. The indicators are available on the Statistics Austria website **"How is Austria?"**. A panel of experts also provided assessments of selected key indicators to provide simple information on the development of wealth and progress in Austria.<sup>9</sup>



Apart from the quality-of-life indicators, other well-being and beyond GDP activities include:

- **"Growth in Transition" initiative** was initiated by the Feder Ministry for Climate Action and invited people from institutions, organizations and companies to discuss questions related to growth, prosperity and quality of life. The initiative organized four high-level conferences between 2010-18 and is currently being revived.
- **SDG Dialogue Forum**: In September 2021, the first "SDG Dialogue Forum Austria: Building forward with Agenda 2030" took place as a hybrid event. Government members and experts discussed current opportunities and challenges of sustainable development after COVID-19. The start of this annually planned event lays the basis for more intensive cooperation between civil society, administration, politics, business and science to implement the 2030 Agenda in and through Austria.
- **European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) and European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)**: Austria is one of the founding members of these two large

<sup>9</sup> Information from the website of Statistics Austria: [https://www.statistik.at/web\\_en/statistics/-----/hows\\_austria/what\\_is\\_hows\\_austria/index.html](https://www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/-----/hows_austria/what_is_hows_austria/index.html)

Europe-wide initiatives on the exchange of sustainable development policy, including experiences in the practical implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Similar to the general 2030 Agenda and SDG approach in Austria, the **mainstreaming approach** is also applied for well-being and beyond GDP activities.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The **Inter-ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda (IMAG)** is responsible for general 2030 Agenda and SDGs related activities and measure.

There are **no SDG/well-being concepts in use for foresight, scenario analysis or future-oriented assessment methods.**

# Belgium



## National SDG implementation

The **Federal Strategy for Sustainable Development**, as established by law in May 1997 and revised in 2010, provided an institutional framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Recently, the Belgium Government adopted a [new Federal Plan for Sustainable Development](#) on 1 October 2021 which **aims to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs**.

The **Minister for Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and the Green Deal** is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the sustainable development strategy within the Federal Government. The **Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FISD)** is **coordinating the implementation at the administrative level with colleagues from all other federal ministries**. At the national level, the **Inter-ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development (IMCSD)** is the **coordination body between the various level of Belgian governance**.

The main coordination body at the federal level is the **Inter-departmental Commission for SD (ICSD), coordinated by the FISD**. The preparation and the annual follow-up mechanism of the Federal Plan for SD happens within the ICSD. Evaluations, Foresight, and the work related to indicators are entrusted to an independent body, [the Federal Planning Bureau](#).

At the parliamentary level, there is no specific mechanism in this respect, nor in the governmental agreement of 2020. However, the new Federal Plan for Sustainable Development encompasses actions covering a wide range of areas. It establishes **common policy guidelines for all ministries and interdepartmental cooperation**. Moreover, in 2021, the Minister for Sustainable Development asked **each minister to integrate to SDGs in their annual policy notes addressed to the Parliament for justifying their policy budgets**. This exercise has been evaluated and will continue the years to come.

At the **administrative level**, discussion are currently taking place on **how to integrate the SDGs in the strategic planning of the ministries through transversal goals**. Each year, the **ministries have to adopt an action plan for SD** to contribute to the achievement of the long-term vision for SD, the actions of the Federal Plan, the sustainable management of the organization, and the communication on SD. The SDGs are also integrated in the methodological framework proposed to establish an annual action plan.

Belgium presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2017.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The **Federal Act** of 14 March 2014 on establishing social and diverse provisions lays out a set of **complementary indicators to measure the quality of life, human development, social progress, and the sustainability of the economy**.

Overall, the **federal beyond GDP activities** are focused on **indicator development**. This is done in two ways:

- **A set of more than 80 complementary indicators to GDP provide information on social, environmental and economic issues**. Together, they describe the evolution of people's well-being and the development of the Belgian society.

- **5 composite indicators are calculated:** one indicator measuring the **well-being of the Belgian population** "Here and Now", and 4 indicators measuring the well-being "Later", addressing the well-being of future generations. A composite indicator for the "Elsewhere" dimension, measuring the impact of Belgium on the well-being of the rest of the world, has yet to be developed.

The results of these indicators are debated each year in a public session of the federal Parliament. The Parliament assesses the evolution of the results, as well as the distribution and methodology of the indicators. A summary of the results of these indicators is also published in the [Annual report on economic and financial developments](#) of the National Bank of Belgium.

The Federal Act of 14 March 2014 mentions that the National Accounts Institute (NAI) assigns the **Federal Planning Bureau the task to develop the set of complementary indicators to GDP.**

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

On the federal level, the **SDG monitoring process and the Well-being/Beyond GDP activities are linked from 2019 onwards.** Since 2019, the report on complementary indicators to GDP is structured based on the SDGs. **From 2022 onwards,** this report is renamed **Sustainable Development Indicators.**

The [Sustainable Development Indicators report](#), together with the associated website [www.indicators.be](http://www.indicators.be), fulfils two tasks:

- the mandate of the law of 14 March 2014 to present a set of **complementary indicators to GDP,**
- the mission of the Federal Planning Bureau to **measure the progress of Belgium towards the SDGs,** in the context of the Inter-federal Statistical Institute.

This signifies that, on federal level, **coordination** is ensured by the fact that the measure of the progress of Belgium towards the SDGs and the measure of "beyond GDP" are provided by the same set of indicators.

As regards foresight, scenario analysis and other future-oriented assessment methods, the federal Act of 5 May 1997 on the Co-ordination of Federal Sustainable Development Policy mandates the Federal Planning Bureau to produce the [Federal report on sustainable development.](#) This report is published in two parts in a five-year cycle: a status and evaluation report, and a **foresight report looking at future developments.** This foresight report has to describe **alternative scenarios of sustainable development to reach the SDGs,** while taking into account the developing trends in Europe and the world. This work is **based on the set of sustainable development indicators / beyond GDP indicators.**

# Bulgaria



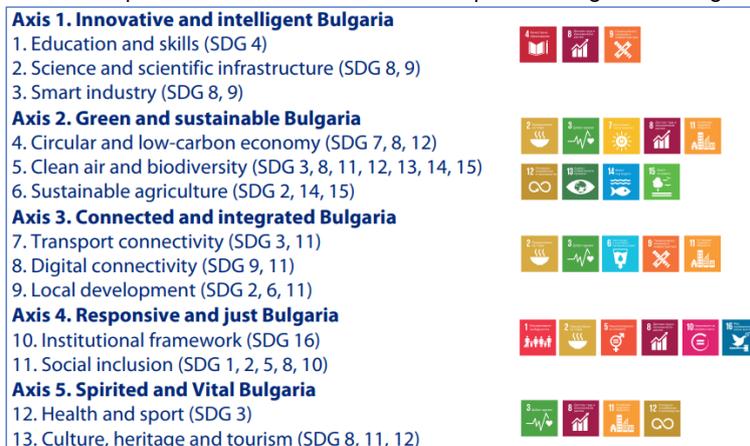
## National SDG implementation

In 2020, the **National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030** was adopted by the Council of Ministers as a strategic framework document of the highest order in the hierarchy of national programming. The document determines the vision and the overall goals of development policies in all sectors of state governance, including their territorial dimension.

In preparing the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030, **special attention has been paid to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and to the **17 Global Sustainable Development Goals**. The 2030 Agenda and the Goals are regarded as a **framework for the national development policies**, while the **National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030 itself acts as the Government's response for their implementation**.<sup>10</sup>

The National Development Programm sets out **three strategic goals** which will be implemented by government policies, grouped into **five development areas (axes)** and puts forth **13 national priorities**. The *three strategic goals* are: (I) accelerated economic development; (II) demographic upswing; and (III) reduction of inequalities. And the *five development axes* are: (1) Innovative and Intelligent Bulgaria; (2) Green and Sustainable Bulgaria; (3) Connected and Integrated Bulgaria; (4) Responsive and Just Bulgaria; and (5) Spirited and Vital Bulgaria. Each of the axes and the related 13 priorities are linked to individual SDGs as is show in the graph below:

**Graph:** Goal and priorities of the National Development Programm Bulgaria 2030



Source: [Bulgarian Voluntary National Review \(2020\)](#)

All ministries are responsible for the internal implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is in charge of the external implementation. Currently, there are **no institutionalized mechanisms in place for horizontal policy integration** regarding the implementation of the SDGs.<sup>11</sup> However, a **Coordination Committee for Management, Monitoring, Control, and Implementation Reporting of the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2020** (the previous Development Program) was set up at the Development Council and is **chaired by the**

<sup>10</sup> Government of Bulgaria, "National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030", <https://www.minfin.bg/en/1394>

<sup>11</sup> Country profile on Bulgaria, ESDN website, [https://www.esdn.eu/country-profiles/detail?tx\\_countryprofile\\_countryprofile%5Baction%5D=show&tx\\_countryprofile\\_countryprofile%5Bcontroller%5D=Country&tx\\_countryprofile\\_countryprofile%5Bcountry%5D=3&cHash=c23ba6b23064731c13889035d447691f](https://www.esdn.eu/country-profiles/detail?tx_countryprofile_countryprofile%5Baction%5D=show&tx_countryprofile_countryprofile%5Bcontroller%5D=Country&tx_countryprofile_countryprofile%5Bcountry%5D=3&cHash=c23ba6b23064731c13889035d447691f)

**Minister of Finance.** The Committee provides information on the implementation of sectoral strategy papers and monitors progress in the implementation of the priorities and horizontal policies of the strategic programs. The Coordination Committee also prepared the draft National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030.<sup>12</sup>

Bulgaria presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2020.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030 outline the **Vision of Bulgaria until 2030**: “In 2030, Bulgaria will be a country of **high standards of living** and a **competitive, low-carbon economy**. The country will be developing and implementing **innovations** in every sector of the economy, adapting to the transforming world through its **highly educated, creative, supportive and healthy society**. It will be a fertile ground for ideas and a magnet for investment and human capital. The unique **cultural and natural resources** of the Bulgarian regions will be used **responsibly and sustainably**.”<sup>13</sup>

No further information on well-being and/or beyond GDP concepts and initiatives could be found.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

No information on the coordination between SDG implementation and wellbeing/beyond GDP could be found.

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<sup>12</sup> Bulgarian VNR (2020), p. 34,

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26289VNR\\_2020\\_Bulgaria\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26289VNR_2020_Bulgaria_Report.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030, p. 3, <https://www.minfin.bg/en/1394>

# Costa Rica



## National SDG implementation

An **Executive Decree in 2016** (40203-PLAN-RE-MINAE) defined the Governance of the Sustainable Development Goals in Costa Rica with the purpose of establishing an **institutional scheme to organize, articulate, plan, implement, finance, and monitor the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in Costa Rica**. In 2019, the Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion was incorporated into the High-Level Council. The governance structure is shown in the graph below:

**Graph:** SDG Governance Model of Costa Rica

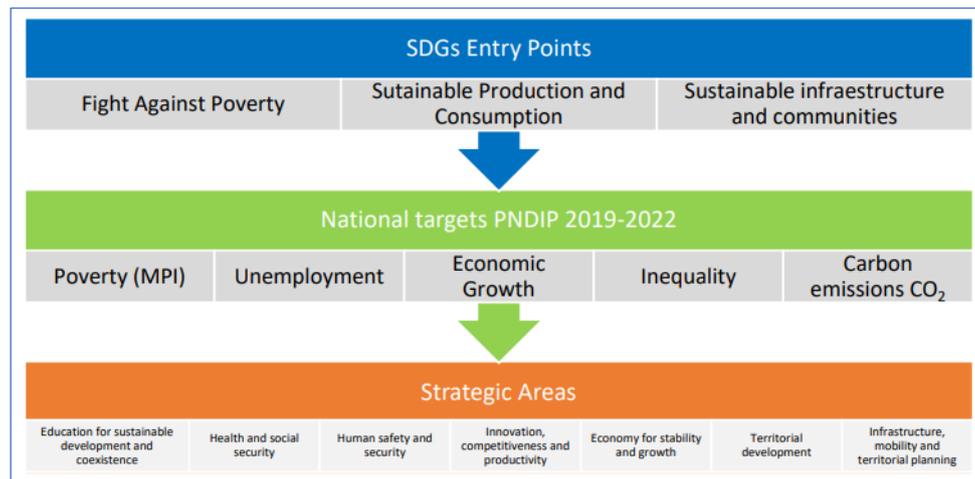


**Source:** [Voluntary National Review \(2020\)](#)

The principles of the 2030 Agenda are based on an **integrated approach**, which takes into account the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Following this approach, in 2017 Costa Rica defined **three Entry Points** for the implementation of the SDGs: (1) Fight against poverty; (2) sustainable production and consumption; and (3) sustainable infrastructure and communities. The Entry Points were established to facilitate connections, exchanges, and synergies between the SDGs and interlinkages with various social actors.

With this framework as reference, the Entry Points were integrated into the targets and goals of the **National Plan for Development and Public Investments (PNDIP) strategic areas** as shown in the graph below:

**Graph:** Relation between the Entry Points and the National Plan for Development and Public Investments



Source: [Voluntary National Review \(2020\)](#)

In December 2018, the **Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (Mideplan)**, the governing body of the National Planning System, submitted the [2019–2022 National Plan for Development and Public Investment \(PNDIP\)](#). For the first time, the development of the PNDIP incorporated strategic public investment programming through fixed capital public investment projects at the national level. This allows **combining development goals and targets with public investment interventions or projects**. Thus, national public investment planning will be under development planning for the next four-year period. The 2019–2022 PNDIP methodology **incorporated the main agreements on sustainable development and population and development, in full consideration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – Paris Agreement COP 21.**<sup>14</sup>

The PNDIP 2019–2022 is **connected to the SDGs at the level of strategic interventions and indicators**.

The **Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (Mideplan)**, acting as **Technical Secretariat** for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and provides **advice for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of public policy across government**.

Costa Rica presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the HLPF in 2017. The [second VNR](#) was presented in 2020.

### [National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.](#)

Costa Rica has become well-known that it has achieved **high levels of well-being with a relatively low GDP and minimal pressures on the environment**. Costa Rica has ranked first in the [Happy Planet Index](#) and was ranked 16<sup>th</sup> (out of 149 countries) in the [World Happiness Report 2021](#).

Generally, this is based the country's constitution which prioritizes peace by abolishing the military and the **redirection of resources to social spending on healthcare, education, and social security for the country**. The redirection of defense spending to **improve education, health care and a durable social safety net was done through policies covering social service** (universal access to health and education, reforestation, ecosystem services and resource taxation, e.g. water tax).<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Voluntary National Review (2020), [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26894second\\_voluntary\\_national\\_review\\_sdg\\_costa\\_rica.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26894second_voluntary_national_review_sdg_costa_rica.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Wellbeing Economy Alliance, <https://weall.org/resource/costa-rica-investing-in-social-and-ecological-wellbeing>

The current [National Plan for Development and Public Investment \(PNDIP\) 2019–2022](#) establishes a **national goal**: To **promote national and regional inclusive economic growth, in harmony with the environment, creating quality jobs, reducing poverty and inequality, based on the sustainable development approach**. Five national targets are defined under this goal:

- Economic growth
- Reduction of unemployment
- Reduction of poverty
- Decarbonization
- Reduction of inequality

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

One example of how the achievement of the SDGs and well-being is interconnected in Costa Rica is the [National Decarbonization Plan 2018–2050 \(NDC\)](#). The climate change adaptation policies that include the new NDC are seen as key to **help accelerate and enhance compliance with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda** in order to have an impact on the **quality of life of the largest number of people**. Thus, goals are a clear example of the **cross-cutting nature of co-benefits**, sometimes also called **multi-benefits**, in seeking synergies that positively leverage concrete actions to integrate different strategic areas, the pillars of the plan and cross-cutting strategies.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Voluntary National Review (2020), [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26894second\\_voluntary\\_national\\_review\\_sdg\\_costa\\_rica.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26894second_voluntary_national_review_sdg_costa_rica.pdf)

## Croatia



### National SDG implementation

Croatia has an **integrated approach to sustainable development**, so there is **no single strategic policy document** related exclusively to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

As part of the integrated approach to sustainable development, Croatia prepared the [2030 National Development Strategy](#) (NDS 2030), which is **coordinated by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds** and which was adopted by the Croatian Parliament in February 2021. The NDS 2030 is a key strategic document of the Republic of Croatia for the period up to 2030, which forms the foundation for shaping and implementing all public policies at the national and subnational level, and **defines the connections between SDGs, strategic goals, planned implementation mechanisms, structural reforms, and strategic projects in Croatia**. When drafting policy strategic documents, SDGs needs to be taken into account and, therefore, every goal of strategic planning at the national, regional and local level is aligned and provides a certain contribution to the goals of sustainable development.

In December 2017, Croatia introduced the Law on Strategic Planning and Development Management (SPDM) which regulates the **new system of strategic planning and the management of public policies**, i.e. preparation, drafting, implementation, reporting, monitoring of implementation and effects, and evaluation of strategic planning acts. The Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (which is the coordinating body for SPDM), the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Ministry of Finance, including also relevant implementing bodies (other ministries, etc.) work closely together to coordinate strategic planning activities ensuring that all priority policies are covered.

In order to ensure the **coordinated work of ministries and other state administration** bodies in the activities related to **implementation of the 2030 Agenda/SDG**, it should be noted that the Government of the Republic of Croatia has established the **National Council for Sustainable Development** in January 2018. The National Council for Sustainable Development is **chaired by the Prime Minister**, and its **members are the heads of relevant ministries and agencies of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the Office of the President, and the Croatian Bureau of Statistics**. It is planned that representatives of other sustainable development stakeholders will participate in the work of the Council in an advisory role, namely representatives of regional self-government units, the economic sector, interested scientific and professional public and civil society representatives.

Croatia presented its [Voluntary National Review](#) to the HLPF in 2019.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The **NDS 2030** includes the **strategic goal "Healthy, active and quality life"**.

An effective economic policy and a business-friendly social environment are a necessary precondition for achieving a long-term path of economic growth. However, although necessary, these are not sufficient prerequisites. **For growth to be sustainable, the standard of living and quality-of-life of the entire population need to be taken into account**. Health, health care, quality of life of senior citizens, solidarity with vulnerable social groups or people at risk of poverty are

inseparable components of a **solidary and prosperous society**. Caring for people, nurturing human resources, creating opportunities for their expression and development, regardless of the current economic status of individuals, are an integral part of Croatia's vision as a country that invests in people as its citizens are seen as the most important potential for overcoming this decade's challenges.

The responsibility of well-being and beyond GDP policies lies with the **Ministry of Health**.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The **implementation of various SDGs**, namely SDG 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17 are seen as the link between the general SDG implementation and well-being/beyond GDP. This also means that, whenever possible, the **same indicators are used to measure progress** on SDGs in general and well-being in particular.

# Cyprus



## National SDG implementation

At the central Government's level, relevant responsibilities for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have been assigned by the Council of Ministers to the **Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (DG EPCD) of the Ministry of Finance**. As a first step, the DG EPCD initiated a mapping exercise in **cooperation with line Ministries (responsible for each SDG)** in terms of national policies, strategies and action plans relevant to the SDGs. Key horizontal and site-specific policy actions are being **promoted with Ministries setting up their own processes, plans, bodies and initiatives to achieve the SDGs** and effectively tackle the specific challenges in their own area.<sup>17</sup>

The most important horizontal form of annual planning is reflected in the **National Reform Programme (NRP)** prepared for the European Semester process of economic policy formulation in the EU. In the context of initiating the annual planning cycle, the Government's Strategy Statement is issued each April and provides the general Governmental framework guiding the revolving 3-year strategic plans for the Government Services. As of 2019, the **SDG priorities have been included in the Strategy Statement**, with the aim to further **incorporate them within all sectoral and horizontal strategies of the Government**.<sup>18</sup>

A **new project, entitled "Implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs in the national policy framework in Cyprus"**, was launched in December 2020, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The **new governance system, as well as a strategy for increased awareness, is expected to be completed in Autumn 2022**. More specifically, the project is expected to support the initiatives of national authorities to design their reforms according to their priorities, also taking into account initial conditions and expected socioeconomic impacts. Additionally, the project is expected to draw specific recommendations on how to reflect key environmental and social issues in the development of the country's growth strategy, and accordingly inform sectoral growth strategies, as well as horizontal reforms.<sup>19</sup>

Cyprus presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the HLPF in 2017 and its **second VNR** in 2021.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

As one of the major areas for "building forward better", the VNR of 2021 outlines, amongst others, the topic of "Social Inclusion and 'Leaving No One Behind'" which involved various aspects of well-being and beyond GDP.<sup>20</sup>

Cyprus' **economic model** is in the process of changing to reflect the ambitions of its society and to **become more sustainable, livable and more resilient to shocks**. The adoption of a Long-Term Strategy by the end of 2021, **"Vision 2035"**, focuses on introducing a robust **new growth model reflecting the country's potential for economically, socially and environmentally sustainable long-term growth and welfare**: "Although economic performance is important for growth, the broader

<sup>17</sup> Cyprus VNR (2021), [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282512021\\_VNR\\_Report\\_Cyprus.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282512021_VNR_Report_Cyprus.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

implications to competitiveness, productivity, innovation, skills and sustainability are equally important.”<sup>21</sup> As a result, the **new growth model** of Cyprus builds on the premises of **diversification, resilience, self-sustainability, livability, the green economy, digitalization as well as inclusiveness.**

**Equal opportunities** for all are a high priority for Cyprus and has two main objectives; namely, the elimination of legislative discrimination in all areas of law, and the consolidation of the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in practice.

In supporting the **reduction of existing gender gaps in employment, pay and representation in decision-making positions**, measures will be promoted towards reskilling and upskilling, securing **better education and life-long training** as well as affordable early **childcare** services, provide the support and create the conditions necessary to allow for better accessibility to a wider spectrum of employment opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the need to further improve and **modernize the health care system** and complete the implementation of the sector’s reform. The structural challenges in the healthcare sector require the establishment of a health system that focuses on prevention, social provision and continuous upgrading of the provided services based on professionalism and respect, equally to all citizens.

In the area of **education**, new challenges were brought to the foreground by the pandemic, namely the need to speed up the **digital transformation** of schools, while making sure that no child is left behind. Enhancing digital skills in schools (students, teachers, administrative staff) and facilitating distance learning supports and provides opportunities for the development of young people.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

SDG implementation involved various measures and activities for well-being. No specific coordination mechanism could be found in documents that provide an overview of SDG related aspects in Cyprus.

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<sup>21</sup> Cyprus VNR (2021), p. 114,  
[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282512021\\_VNR\\_Report\\_Cyprus.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/282512021_VNR_Report_Cyprus.pdf)

# Czech Republic



## National SDG implementation

The national strategy for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs is the **“Strategic Framework of the Czech Republic 2030”** which was **adopted in 2017**. As outlined in the Czech **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** to the **HLFP in 2021**, the Strategic Framework “is an expression of the practical efforts made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The strategic framework serves as the Czech Republic’s development strategy and reflects its specifics, and also works as a converter of the Agenda 2030 goals at national level and summarises the progress of development in the Czech Republic, what risks it faces and what opportunities it can utilise. The preparation of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 was coordinated directly with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.”<sup>22</sup>

Overall, the Strategic Framework the Czech Republic 2030 **translates the SDGs into the particular national conditions**. It provides a long-term vision of sustainable future and goals and targets **for the whole society**. This Strategic Framework also provides a **guide for public administration** – it forms a basis for a number of other sectoral strategies (e.g. education, health, regional development or social) that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Moreover, there exist **implementation reports that provide an evaluation of progress made towards SDGs** and are approved by the government, namely the “National Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Czech Republic” and the “National Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030”.

The **main responsibility for the coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** lies with the **Ministry of the Environment**, especially the Sustainable Development Unit, since 2018.

In addition, there is a **Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD)** which serves as a governmental platform for strategic dialogue on sustainable development trends, the implementation of the SDGs, and following up issues between the Government, Parliament, NGOs, economic and social stakeholders as well as representatives of municipalities and academia. The work of the GCSD is primarily at the level of thematically specialized committees (e.g. for socio-economic development, sustainable energy, sustainable development indicators, etc.) and working groups (e.g. for cooperation between analytical units). More fundamental and cross-sectional topics are discussed at plenary meetings of the GCSD.<sup>23</sup>

The most important coordination mechanism in place for the **collaboration between the different governmental ministries and other institutions** is a project called **“Mechanism for promoting the principles of sustainable development in state administration (PUDR)”**. The partners involved in this project are the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry for Regional Development and The Czech Statistical Office, Czech Environmental Information Agency. **The project runs from 2019 to 2023.**

There is also an established **national network of focal points for sustainable development among ministries**. As the representative from the Ministry of the Environment pointed out, despite the fact

<sup>22</sup> Czech Voluntary National Review (2021), p. 10, [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279492021\\_VNR\\_Report\\_Czech\\_Republic.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279492021_VNR_Report_Czech_Republic.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Czech VNR (2021), p. 11

that these focal points are responsible for intra- and inter-ministerial coordination of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, their conception is not united, i.e. in some places they are seen as agenda holders in the relevant ministry, in others they are seen as intermediaries for contacting other substantively relevant departments of the ministry that do not interfere in the content of the matter itself.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

Well-being is understood, as argued by the representative of the Ministry of the Environment, as **“the essential purpose of public policies”**. In the SDG context, **well-being is used as a reflection of the impacts of progress towards fulfilling SDG goals at the national level**, which ultimately refers to monitoring well-being. Therefore, the **well-being indicator set** comprises of **subjective indicators**, which are **complementary to the objective indicators** in the national SDG data set. It is believed that subjective indicators are necessary to understand the impacts of measures taken for reaching the SDGs in society from environmental, economic, and social perspective. And in so doing, it **serves the purpose of understanding how political decisions within sustainable development affect individuals in the national territory**.

The above-mentioned **project PUDR** also **focuses on aligning Well-being and SDGs** and its mainstreaming. It could include a set of measures provided by the Implementation Plan of the Czech Republic 2030. The **Ministry of the Environment** in collaboration with other organizations involved in the project PUDR.

There are also **other activities that link well-being and the SDGs** that were mentioned by the representative of the Ministry of the Environment:

- Sectoral strategies (Client-oriented public administration 2030, Health 2030, Strategic Employment Policy Framework 2030)
- Local initiatives (Local Agenda 21, Community-led Local Development) and Municipal participatory budgeting; and
- Activities of some NGOs, e.g. [Czech Priorities](#).

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

As outlined further above, in the Czech Republic in the SDGs context, well-being is used as a reflection of the impacts of progress towards fulfilling SDG goals at the national level.

**SDGs are understood as an integral and complementary part of well-being**, thus there are **not separate mechanisms for coordination**. Moreover, we are **currently working on aligning these two indicator sets**.

There are no SDG/well-being concepts in use for foresight, scenario analysis or future-oriented assessment methods, although they may be **very loose connection to the ex-ante impact assessments (e.g. RIA)**.

## Denmark



### National SDG implementation

In 2021, Denmark adopted a [new National Action Plan for the SDGs](#), which updated their first Action Plan from 2017.

In 2021, Denmark presented their [second Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) at the HLPF, their first VNR was presented in 2017.

Denmark's work on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is led by the parliament and the government. The **Ministry of Finance has coordinating responsibility** for the work on the 2030 Agenda, in **close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment**. The Ministry of Finance has **allocated responsibility for the individual SDGs** and targets, and follow-up, **to the government ministries within their respective areas of administration**. Statistics Denmark has published a list of allocations between the ministries, with targets for which the respective ministry is responsible for.

The Government's work is coordinated by an **Inter-ministerial Working Group** in which **all ministries are represented** and that is led by the Ministry of Finance. This Working Groups has ad-hoc meetings when necessary, but meets at least once a year, to discuss the status and development of Denmark's work on the 2030 Agenda.<sup>24</sup>

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

In 2020, the 2030 Panel and Statistics Denmark launched the **"Our Goals" project**, which serves as a **supplement to the UN's 17 SDGs and puts them in a Danish context**. This statistical tool gives Danish politicians, civil society organizations, businesses, researchers and other stakeholders with an interest in the SDGs an overview of Denmark's progress in implementing the SDGs based on 197 new Danish points of measurement.<sup>25</sup>

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

Wellbeing is only generally mentioned in the Danish VNR from 2021 or in the context of specific topics, like health, the young generation, and education.

<sup>24</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021), "The Nordic Region and the 2030 Agenda: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Nordic Countries", <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-and-2030-agenda>

<sup>25</sup> Danish VNR (2021), p. 27

# Ecuador



## National SDG implementation

Ecuador's government commissioned the **National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES)** to prepare the **National Development Plan (NDP)** as the main planning instrument for the country. A series of consecutive national development plans (2009–2013; 2013–2017; 2017–2021) have been developed **in line with the objectives of the SDGs to lead up to 2030**, through a gradual, quadrennial approach.

As Ecuador has aligned all the objectives, policies and goals of the NPD with the SDGs, this enabled to identify responsible actors, prioritize and focus resources, as well as strengthen national planning exercises, monitoring and evaluation. Ecuador's **National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)** has the mandate of measuring and reporting on the [progress against the SDGs through statistical planning and performance indicators](#). INEC has also been involved in defining policy to measure progress on the SDGs.<sup>26</sup>

Ecuador presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the HLPF in 2018. Its [second VNR](#) was presented in 2020.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The concept of **“Buen Vivir” (the Good Life)** has been at the core of Ecuador's initiative to **integrate well-being frameworks into policy making**. “Buen Vivir” is a term used by the Quechua peoples of the Andes to describe a way of doing things that is **rooted in community, ecology, culture, and spiritual connection to the land**. The concept of Buen Vivir was integrated into the Ecuadorian constitution in 2008 and aims for a new form of development which **goes beyond economic growth by focusing on people's well-being and respect for nature**.<sup>27</sup>

**Buen Vivir was placed at the centre of the country's National Development Plans**, and a dedicated **Buen Vivir Ministry** was established in 2013.<sup>28</sup> This means that the Ecuadorian government incorporated the concept of Buen Vivir into the National Development Plans.

The **National Plan for Buen Vivir (NDP for 2017–2021)** stems from the constitutional mandate for the Government, which is to “plan national development, eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development and an equal redistribution of resources and riches, to achieve Buen Vivir” (Article 3).<sup>29</sup>

In close collaboration with the **National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES)**, the **Ecuadorian National Institute for Statistics (INEC)** was responsible for developing a holistic, multidimensional set of metrics for monitoring the programs carried out by the national government in line with the

<sup>26</sup> World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) website, <https://sdghub.com/ecuador-cemdes/#:~:text=As%20of%202020%2C%20Ecuador%20has,planning%20exercises%2C%20monitoring%20and%20evaluation>.

<sup>27</sup> Wellbeing Economy Alliance website, <https://weall.org/resource/ecuador-legislative-and-regulatory-reform-for-social-and-environmental-rights>

<sup>28</sup> OECD (2018) Policy use of well-being metrics: Describing countries' experiences, [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics\\_d98eb8ed-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics_d98eb8ed-en)

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

National Plan for Buen Vivir. In 2015, INEC delivered its first methodological proposal for measuring Buen Vivir, in a report.<sup>30</sup>

Buen Vivir is composed of three components, each based on different units of analysis: **people, communities, and nature**. For Buen Vivir, **7 dimensions and over 35 objective and subjective indicators** were selected. An overview of the 7 dimensions and example indicators can be found in the graph below.

**Graph:** The 7 Buen Vivir dimensions and example indicators

Dimension	Example indicators
Habitat and housing	Households with acceptable living conditions, adequate sanitation systems, safe housing ownership.
Water and sanitation	Access to water through safe sources, access to adequate sanitation, hygiene.
Health	Access to and contact with health services, quality of services and installations, acceptable waiting time.
Jobs and security	Employment opportunities, necessary employment conditions, child labor.
Education	Adult educational attainment, educational equipment: computers, sports facilities, internet, libraries, laboratories.
Relations amongst communities and subjective well-being	Trust amongst people and communities, solidarity and volunteering, human flourishing.
Environmental practices	Good water-saving and energy-saving practices, good consumption practices, sustainable mobility.

Source: [OECD \(2018\) Policy use of well-being metrics: Describing countries' experiences](#)

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

There is a **general interlinkage between the SDGs and the well-being concept and activities**, as the National Development Plans (NDPs) are based on the Buen Vivir concept and the NDP are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The **National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES)** and the **National Institute for Statistics (INEC)** are tasked with coordinating the SDGs implementation and the main Buen Vivir dimensions and objectives.

<sup>30</sup> OECD (2018) Policy use of well-being metrics: Describing countries' experiences, [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics\\_d98eb8ed-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/policy-use-of-well-being-metrics_d98eb8ed-en)

# Estonia



## National SDG implementation

The Estonian Parliament adopted the [National Long-Term Strategy “Estonia 2035”](#) in May 2021. The strategy is the basis for implementation of SDGs in Estonia.

“Estonia 2035” is **strategic management tool** which enables the **coordination of long-term strategic planning and financial management of the country**. The “Estonia 2035” strategy is carried out mainly via sectoral development plans and programmes in the respective fields.

It is integrated with the economic coordination of the European Semester which serves as a basis for the planning of European Union (EU) funds and provides a direction for implementation of sustainable development goals in Estonia.

**Five national long term strategic goals** are linked to SDGs, as well the main reforms/necessary changes are linked to SDGs.



Source: [National Long-Term Strategy “Estonia 2035”](#)

The implementation of long-term goals is monitored yearly and **integrated into the performance reports of every ministry**. The overview of the strategy implementation and the results are presented to the Government together with the renewal of the “Estonia 2035” Action Plan and before the National Budget Discussions.

The strategy also comprises the development of a **government level Action Plan**, which is currently renewed with the aim to include clearer links to SDGs. The Action Plan is renewed every year and kept up to date. The [current Action Plan](#) was adopted in April 2021.

At the central government level, the **Government Office coordinates sustainable development issues** and the institutional framework. The Government Office also coordinates the preparation and monitoring of Estonia’s long-term strategy “Estonia 2035” and the Government’s Action Plan.

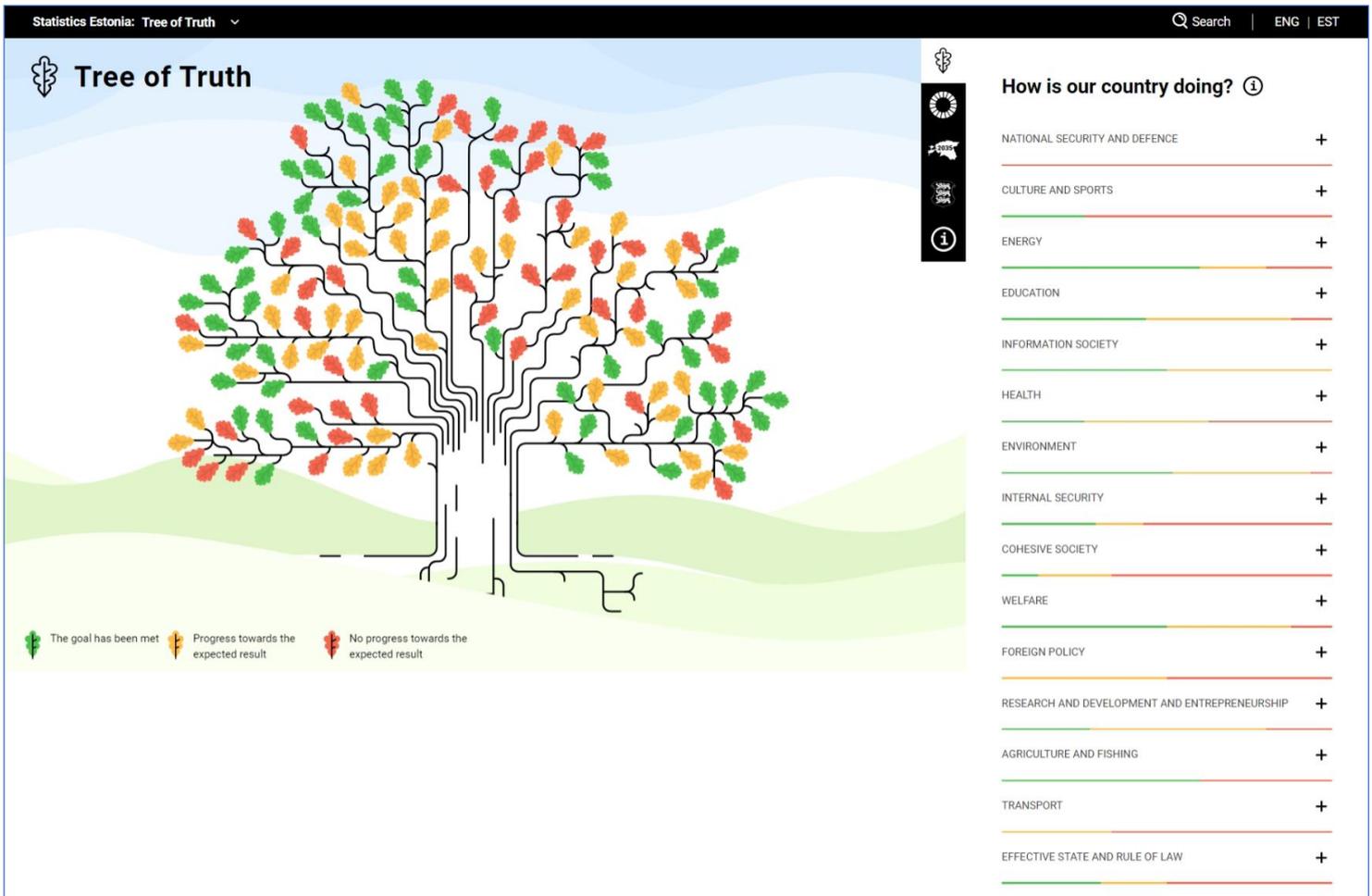
Besides that, **sectoral development plans of individual ministries** need to show link to specific SDGs, which SDGs these are, and how the development plans help to achieve them.

The **Inter-ministerial Working Group on Sustainable Development** consists of **representatives of individual ministries and Statistics Estonia**. The work of the Working Group is organized through electronic communication and needs-based meetings. For example, the Working Group participated in agreeing on Estonia’s sustainable development indicators, preparing Estonia’s positions on sustainable development issues in the European Union, and preparing the VNR for HLPF. The **second VNR** was presented to the HFLP in 2020, the first one in 2016.

**National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.**

The **Wellbeing and beyond GDP concept** is more like **general principle in strategic planning, goal setting and monitoring**. This is then reflected in the economy and wellbeing related goals and monitoring systems. For example, in the national long-term strategy “Estonia 2035”, the **goal for economy is not GDP-based** and GDP growth is not part of the “Estonia 2035” monitoring.

The government’s main indicators from the statistics **“Tree of Truth”** are shown in the screenshot below. The indicator set consists of the Estonian SDG indicators, “Estonia 2035” indicators and Government 4-years work program indicators.



The **“Welfare” indicators** are generally described as such: “What kind of a country would we like to live in? A country where people are valued and invested in. A country where people feel confident about the future. A country where people are not excluded and where working life and income do

not depend on a person's sex, origin or age, but on skills and knowledge and who we are as people. A country that is family-friendly. A country where people want to raise children and where children feel safe and happy."<sup>31</sup>

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

All the government ministries and relevant stakeholders are involved in SDG implementation process via the **Inter-Ministerial Working Group of Sustainable Development (ministries and Statistic Office)** and **Sustainable Development Commission (stakeholders)**. Same partners are also involved in national long term strategy process and monitoring system.

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<sup>31</sup> "Tree of Truth" indicator set, <https://tamm.stat.ee/kategooriad/eesti-areng?lang=en>

# European Union



## SDG implementation

There is **no single policy strategy adopted with the explicit title “Overarching SDG implementation”**, which was, as a Policy Officer from the European Commission’s Secretariat-General pointed out, a **conscious choice** of the current Commission, out of various reasons: On the one hand the **current Commission’s political priorities (2019–2024)** are seen as such a strategy. On the other hand, past experience with individual grand policy strategies (e.g. Europe 2020, Lisbon Strategy) with high political priorities and soft law implementation, has not proven as particularly productive. These grand EU strategies took a lot of time to develop and a lot of efforts went into the process of strategic implementation.

Due to the urgency of achieving the SDGs, the focus of the current Commission was on “get going”, e.g. proposing legislation and measures that are coordinated politically and that are aimed at implicitly achieving the 2030 Agenda, without having a separate strategy to deal with. Therefore, the current Commission wanted to **integrate the SDGs into all policy areas**, including all **mission letters to the individual Commissioners** as well as the **European Semester**, etc.

The **Staff Working Documents of 2020** on “Delivering on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach”, explains **all workstreams and approach** for delivering on the SDGs. It outlines the Commission’s approach to SDG implementation: “The SDGs are an intrinsic part of the President’s political programme and lie at the heart of the policymaking on internal and external action across all sectors.”<sup>32</sup>

The **Green Deal** was set out as the **EU’s growth strategy that delivers the objectives of the 2030 Agenda**. It has been designed as one of the main policy strategies that cuts across most SDGs, as it covers about 12 out of the 17 SDGs.

As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the additional dimension of recovery was introduced in the **“Recovery and Resilience Facility”**, the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU to help the EU emerge stronger and more resilient from the crisis. The main purpose of the **Recovery Fund** and its related process is to mitigate the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and to make the European economy more resilient and sustainable. **Implicitly it delivers on the SDGs and a more resilient Well-being Economy.**

The Policy Officer from the Secretariat-General mentioned that the narrative has evolved over time. The narrative is now on the **“twin transition”, i.e. the Green Deal and the Digital Agenda**. This is setting the general stage of the **EU’s Wellbeing Economy**.

As regards the responsibility of SDG implementation at the level of the European Commission, there exists a **Cross-Sectoral Team that stretches across several DGs** that works closely together and also has an intensive dialogue with the European Council in a Working Party. Moreover, there is an exchange with the EU Parliament and different stakeholder groups for SDG implementation. The **Secretariat-General** is responsible for **ensuring coordination** of the different responsible DGs and units in order to **have all DGs on board to use the same concepts**.

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<sup>32</sup> EC Staff Working Document, “Delivering on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach”, p. 1, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/delivering\\_on\\_uns\\_sustainable\\_development\\_goals\\_staff\\_working\\_document\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/delivering_on_uns_sustainable_development_goals_staff_working_document_en.pdf)

The institutional mechanism for SDG coordination is an **Inter-Service Steering Group on SDG implementation**, established inside the Commission and chaired by the Secretariat-General, which is used as a network for the exchanging on implementation. Other cross-cutting issues, like **Better Regulation, EU Semester**, etc. are looked into on how best to include relevant aspects of the SDGs in their work.

Overall, as has been pointed out by a Policy Officer from the Secretariat-General, the Commission is **moving towards more cooperation and cross-sectoral work**, due to the efforts over the **last 6-7 years to mainstream the SDGs** across the different DGs.

### Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The European Commission has made efforts to provide more **clarity on how well-being/beyond GDP and the SDGs** are linked. There should be more official information on this topic **later this or early next year**.

There are various conceptual frameworks on well-being and beyond GDP that are currently in use at the EU level. According to a Policy Officer from the Secretariat-General, the 3 most interesting ones

- 1) The most recent one is the **concept of the Well-being Economy as defined in the 8<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Program** (EAP) which was adopted in March 2022. This 8<sup>th</sup> EAP is based on a Commission decision and agreed upon by the co-legislators (i.e. Council, Parliament). It sets out how the Green Deal should be applied in practice and how a well-being economy should be achieved in the context of the 2030 Agenda: “The green transition should take place in the context of a well-being economy where growth is regenerative and which enables systemic change, which recognises that the well-being and prosperity of our societies depend on a stable climate, a healthy environment and thriving ecosystems and which provides a safe operating space within planetary boundaries.”<sup>33</sup> The 8<sup>th</sup> EAP will be complemented by a **Monitoring Framework later in the spring of 2022**.

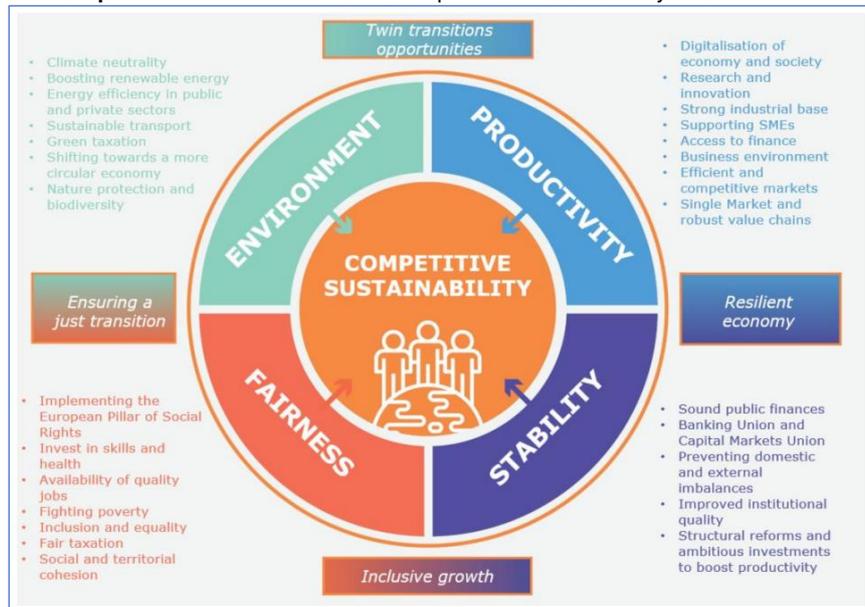
Beyond GDP was already addressed by the Commission in 2008/2009 (based on Stiglitz report), as a **response to the financial crisis in 2008**. Back then, this was also influential on the development of the SDGs. This is a concept that belongs to this time period. Now the Commission refers to the Well-being Economy, resilience, recovery from Covid-19, etc.

There was also a recent study by **DG ECFIN on “Economic Policy-Making Beyond GDP”**, from 2021.

- 2) The **European Semester concept of “Competitive Sustainability”**, outlined in the Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2022. There are 4 dimensions in the center of this concept: environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness, and macroeconomic stability, which are linked to twin transition opportunities, resilient economy, inclusive growth, and ensuring a just transition. For more details see the graph below:

<sup>33</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Program, p. 10, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/PE-83-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

**Graph:** The four dimensions of competitive sustainability and their links



Source: [Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2022](#), European Commission

3) The **concept of resilience**. This has also been linked to “Competitive Sustainability”, as they are understood as two sides of the same coin, and to **Strategic Foresight**. The European Commission has developed a **concept of resilience** not only to withstand, but also to undergo transitions in a sustainable, fair and democratic manner, including the development of a [Resilience Dashboard](#) and [Strategic Foresight Reports](#).

There is a **lot of coordination necessary between DGs and units** in the implementation of the above-mentioned activities and concepts (e.g. on the EU Semester work and the Recovery Fund, there are established procedures, based on joint work by DG ECFIN; DG Environment is responsible for the 8<sup>th</sup> EAP; the Joint Research Centre is delivering a log of work on resilience, etc.) with the **Secretariat-General** being in the helm of coordinating many activities.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

All the work of the Commission on **SDG implementation and well-being is meant to be interconnected**. There is the intention to create no new frameworks and more layers of complexity. Both frameworks relate to one another, build on each other and, therefore, cooperation and coordination is required.

Another very important tool in this context a connecting factor is the **EU SDS Monitoring Report**. In 2022, it will be published for the first time in late May, **as part of the EU Semester package**, jointly with the **EU Semester country reports**.

The [Better Regulation Framework](#) is about impact assessment and regulation. In November 2021, the [Better Regulation Toolboxes](#) was published with information on carrying out impact assessments, applying strategic foresight for impact assessment and evaluations, etc. In all these documents, the SDGs are now explicitly addressed. From now on, it will be **compulsory for legislative initiatives and for the Impact Assessments to address the impacts on the SDGs**. All DGs/units need to take SDGs into account in regulatory proposals, in budgets for projects, etc. Therefore, it needs to be internalized, how the money that is spent addresses the SDGs. This has been led, according to a Policy Officer from the Secretariat-General, to a **change of mentality**.

## Finland



### National SDG implementation

Finland has a **long tradition of coordinated policies for sustainable development**. The first strategy for sustainable development was drawn up as early as 1993. At the same time, the National Commission for Sustainable Development was set up, under the leadership of the prime minister.

Finland's long-term strategy for sustainable development from 2016, entitled "[The Finland we want by 2050 – Society's commitment to sustainable development](#)", comprises the national interpretation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This strategy serves as a long-term framework and instrument of policy coherence for the strategy and program work of different administrative sectors and societal actors. The societal commitment includes fundamental principles and eight common objectives for sustainable development, including as first objective "Equal prospects for wellbeing". The societal commitment for sustainable development was followed in 2017 by Finland's first National Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda.<sup>34</sup>

Finland's current National Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda was prepared by the Finnish Government under the title, "[Government Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Towards a carbon-neutral welfare society](#)", and which has been submitted to the Parliament in October 2020 and published in December 2020. This report describes the current state of Finland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the actions taken by the Government to promote the SDGs, the policy principles guiding their implementation at the national level, and the organization, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation.

Together with the [Program of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government \(2019\)](#), the report comprises a comprehensive action plan for Finland's work on the 2030 Agenda. The Government Program is built on the principles of sustainable development and is implemented through coherent strategic themes that also steer the government's work to attain the goals in the 2030 Agenda.<sup>35</sup>

In 2021, the National Commission for Sustainable Development has prepared [National Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda](#) which is currently translated into English. The purpose of the Roadmap is to further highlight the policies that Finland should pursue in order to achieve the SDGs at the national level.

Overall, as a representative of the Finnish Prime Minister's Office pointed out, the **2030 Agenda and the SDGs increasingly functions as a framework for strategic policymaking in Finland**, even without having a formal role as such.

The **main responsibility for SDG implementation** lies with the **Prime Minister's Office**. Overall, Finland's approach is built on a **holistic inclusion of government and society**, where **all administrative sectors have a common responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the**

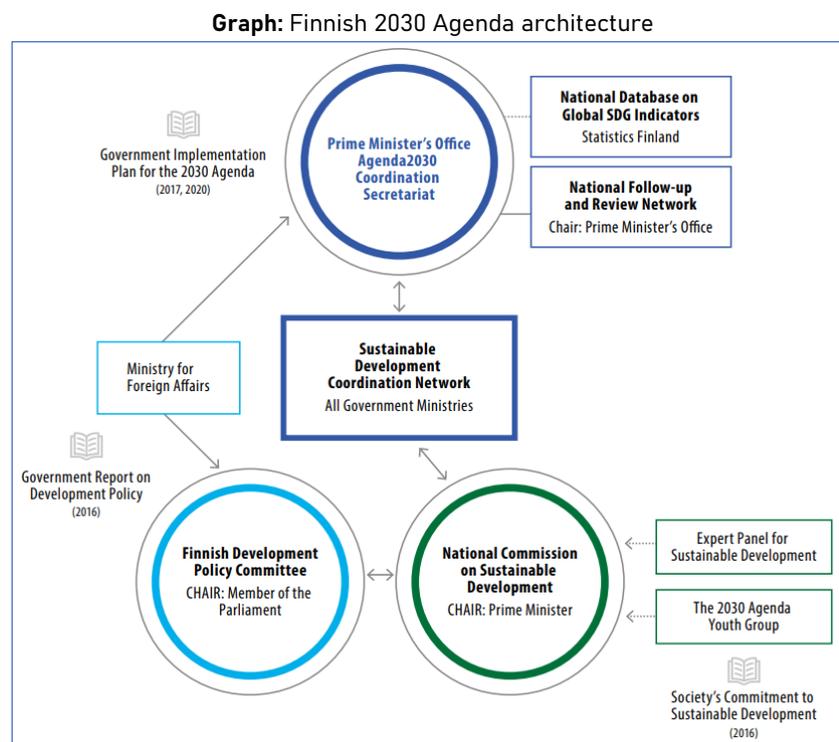
<sup>34</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021) "The Nordic Region and the 2030 Agenda Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Nordic Countries", <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-and-2030-agenda>

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

**SDGs**, with the government leading the work on the 2030 Agenda, and the Prime Minister’s Office having the main responsibility.<sup>36</sup>

The most important forums for the **inter-administrative implementation** are the meetings of the Permanent Secretaries, the **Sustainable Development Coordination Network**, the National Sustainable Development Monitoring Network, and the advisory staff network. **All ministries are represented in these networks.** The Sustainable Development Coordination Network supports the work on the 2030 Agenda under the Prime Minister’s Office and promotes political consensus, while the Sustainable Development Monitoring Network is tasked with monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>37</sup>

Finland has one of the most comprehensive and well-structured architecture of 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation and policymaking in place, as sketched out in the graph below:



Source: [Voluntary National Review \(2020\)](#)

Finland presented the first Voluntary National Review at the HLPD in 2016. The **second VNR** was presented in 2020.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The **Program of Prime Minister Sanna Marin’s Government from 2019**, “Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society”, specifies that the **aim of economic policy is to increase well-being and prosperity**. The goal is to establish Finland as a sustainable economy which is characterized by ecologically and socially sustainable economic growth, high employment, and sustainable public finances. The Government Program defines

<sup>36</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021) “The Nordic Region and the 2030 Agenda Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Nordic Countries”, <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-and-2030-agenda>

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

**seven strategic themes.** Among them is “**Fair, equal and inclusive Finland**”, with four objectives. One of these objectives is **Promoting wellbeing and reducing inequalities**: “Finland will be a more equal and equitable country where everyone is valuable and where trust in others and society augments. Inequalities in health, wellbeing and income will be reduced, and social inclusion will be increased. Finland will promote human rights, the economy of wellbeing and people’s chances for a good life throughout their lifespan. People living in Finland will have the opportunity to make choices that foster their wellbeing.”<sup>38</sup>

What is more, the **economy of wellbeing** was chosen as the main theme of the **Ministry of Social Affairs and Health** during the 2019 Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The [Council Conclusions](#) placed particular emphasis on education, social security, equality, health care, and healthy and safe working conditions.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has published a [report on incorporating the economy of wellbeing approach into political decision-making](#). The report (currently only available in Finnish) presents economists’ views and proposals on integrating the economy of wellbeing approach into knowledge-based decision-making and processes. The main approach is that an economy of wellbeing creates opportunities to increase well-being and economic growth at the same time, with the economy growing and the long-term sustainability of general government finances improving as well-being increases. It is argued that GDP growth alone cannot resolve current problems. Growth must be economically, ecologically and socially sustainable, and it must reduce inequality. The measures that we take in pursuit of economic growth must increase the wellbeing of all people.<sup>39</sup>

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has appointed a **Steering Group on the Economy of Well-being** that will sit until the end of the current term of government. Its mission is to **develop the economy of well-being as a tool of policymaking and action**, both nationally and internationally. The Steering Group is responsible for drawing up an action plan specifically for the Finnish conditions and will include measures to make the economy of well-being part of informed central government policymaking and processes. The Steering Group is chaired by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

The steering group is working in partnership with the **Economy of Wellbeing Committee of the Advisory Board for Public Health**. This committee is seeking to **reinforce the structures of the economy of well-being in national, regional and local policymaking**. The Committee is chaired by Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and its members include representatives from various government ministries, R&D institutes, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, and various other organizations.

This **intensive inter-departmental work** seeks to **ensure that central and local government and civil society collaborate to build an economy of well-being**.<sup>40</sup>

## [Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP](#)

The new [National Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda](#) that has been developed by the National Commission for Sustainable Development **will link the SDG implementation process and the well-being activities**. No new tools have been chosen for this purpose and the general tools for policy

<sup>38</sup> Program of the Finnish Government of 2019, <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/marin/government-programme/fair-equal-and-inclusive-finland>

<sup>39</sup> Website of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, <https://stm.fi/en/economy-of-wellbeing#:~:text=An%20economy%20of%20wellbeing%20mentality,and%20it%20must%20reduce%20inequality>

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

coherence are used which is based on an inter-ministerial network supports horizontal coordination between line ministries.<sup>41</sup>

In the Parliament, the Committee for the Future is responsible for both the Government Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the Government Report on the Future. These two reports are given to the Parliament once per Parliamentary term. Both reports are prepared at the Prime Minister's Office, so there is exchange of information between the preparative bodies of the two reports.

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<sup>41</sup> See also the OECD country profile for Finland,  
<https://www.oecd.org/governance/pcsd/Country%20Profile%20Finland.pdf>

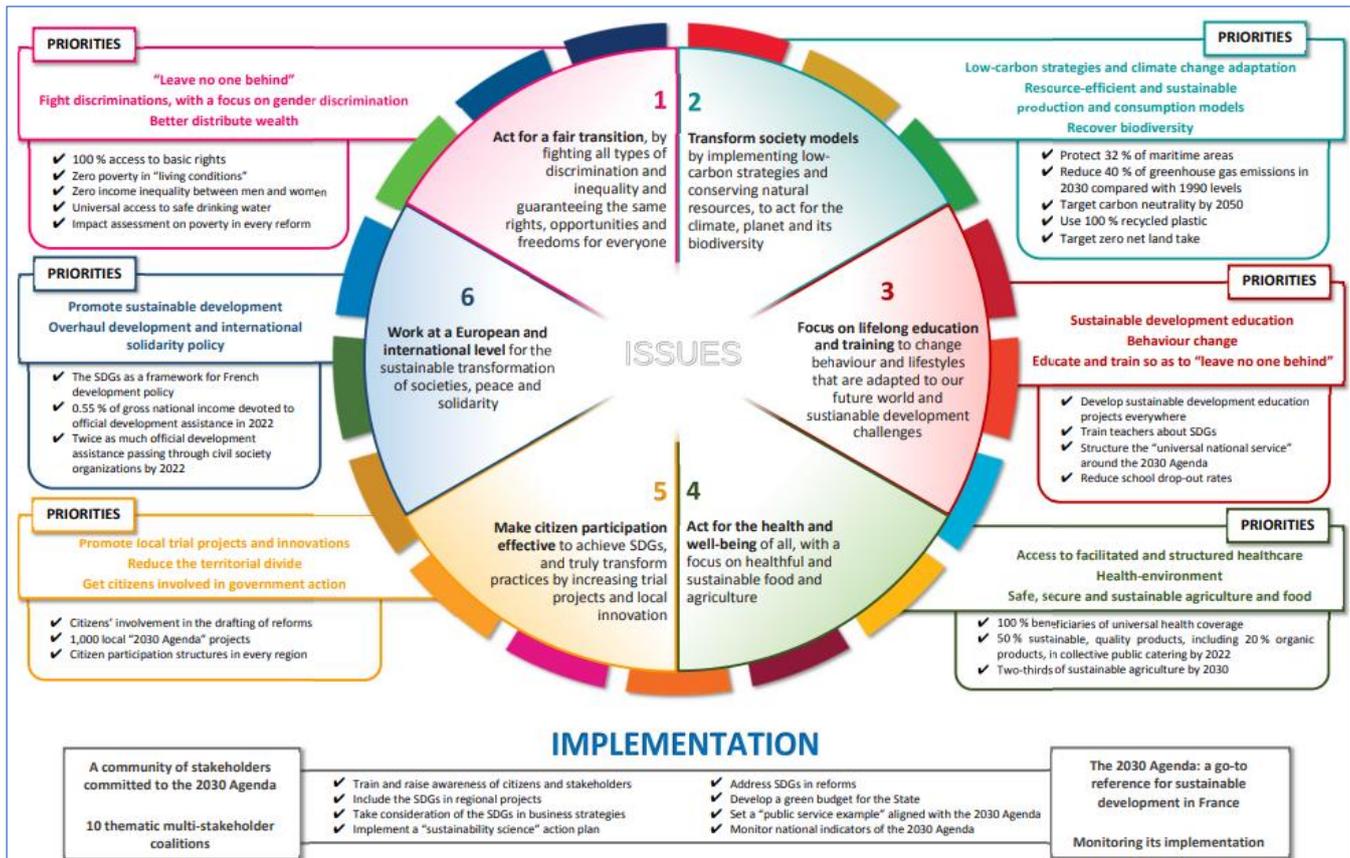
# France



## National SDG implementation

France adopted the **“Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda”** in September 2019 which is the new national sustainable development strategy. This Roadmap has 6 axes with related priorities as shown in the graph below:

**Graph:** 6 axes of the Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda with related priorities



Source: "Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda" (2019)

In France, the **coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** is shared between the **Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs** for France's international action and the **Ministry of Ecological Transition** for the national actions. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, however, concerns all administrations, businesses, local and regional authorities, and civil society.

The **Inter-ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development** leads a network of senior officials for sustainable development. The respective minister in charge appoints each of them. As a result, **each ministry has a Senior Official for Sustainable Development who liaises with the services of the Inter-ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development.**

France presented its **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** at the HLPF in 2016. The next VNR is planned for 2023.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>42</sup> UN website on Voluntary National Reviews, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

**“France Relance” or “Relaunch France”**, which is entitled “Building the France of 2030 today: Towards a greener, more competitive, more inclusive economy”, is France’s **new economic stimulus plan** and was presented by the French government on September 3, 2020. It is the National Recovery and Resilience Plan of France with a budget of €100 billion, including €40 billion in funding from the European Union (from the “Next Generation EU” Plan). “France Relance” has a **clear strategic objective**: to start building the France of 2030 by transforming the economy, with a focus on three key areas:

- **Ecological transition**: Supporting the transition to a greener, more sustainable economy;
- **Competitiveness**: Creating the most favorable conditions for companies to grow their business and protect jobs; and
- **Cohesion**: Ensuring solidarity between generations, regions and all French citizens

Although France Relance does not explicitly specify the links with the 2030 Agenda, it is related to a number of SDGs (i.e. SDGs 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15). The text of France Relance uses objectives that very close to the wording of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

There are **8 ministries that have clear responsibilities for the implementation of France Relance**, including amongst others, the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery; the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local and Regional Authorities; the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Integration; and the Ministry of Ecological Transition.

Another initiative are the **New Wealth Indicators (*Les nouveaux indicateurs de richesse*)** that were approved by the parliament in April 2015. These are 10 indicators that include economic, social, and environmental issues. Below is the graph of the indicators selected for the 2015-16 period:

**Graph: New Wealth Indicators, 2015-16**

Themes		Indicators suggested by France Stratégie-CESE and the public consultation	Indicators selected by Government in the 2015/6 reports
Economics	Employment	Employment rate	Employment rate
	Investment	Fixed assets or R&D expenditure ( % of the GDP) or Triadic patent families	R&D expenditure ( % of the GDP)
	Financial stability	Debt-to-GDP ratio by sectors (government, firms and households)	Debt-to-GDP ratio by sectors (government, firms and households)
	Health	Healthy life years	Healthy life years
Social	Quality of life	Life satisfaction	Life satisfaction
	Inequalities	Income decile share ratio (S90/S10) or Income poverty or material deprivation rate	S80/S20 and material deprivation rate
	Education	Share of people with tertiary educational attainment or share of people with a vocational and technical degree	Early school leavers (18-25 years old)
	Climate	Carbon footprint	Carbon footprint
Environment	Biodiversity	Bird index	Proportion of artificialized areas
	Natural resource	Share of municipal waste recycled	

**Source:** OCED report, “[Policy use of well-being metrics: Describing countries’ experiences](#)” (2018)

These indicators have been updated for the **2018 National Indicator Report**, but are only available in French.

In 2021, the **Programming Act of 4 August 2021** on solidarity development and the fight against global inequalities now **brings the National Indicator Report in line with the 17 SDGs**. The first

report on this exercise is expected to come out in 2022 after the general elections (expected in the second half of 2022).

In addition, in 2018, the **working group of the National Council for Statistical Information** adopted a list of 98 indicators to **monitor the situation of France regarding the SDGs**. These include the **10 new wealth indicators**.

Finally, the French Government in 2021 published its first **“Green Budget”** as an annex to the 2021 Finance Bill.<sup>43</sup> The “Green Budget” is a **new classification of budgetary and tax expenditures according to their impact on the environment** and an identification of public resources on physical nature. By developing the “Green Budget”, France has developed a tool to analyze the environmental impact of its budget. The overall goal is **to better integrate environmental issues in the management of public policies**. The “Green Budget” identifies all the impacts of the state budget in relation to six environmental objectives:

- the fight against climate change;
- adaptation to climate change and prevention of natural hazards;
- water resource management;
- the circular economy, waste and prevention of technological risks;
- the fight against pollution; and
- biodiversity and the protection of natural, agricultural and silvicultural areas.

According to a representative of the Ministry for an Ecological Transition, the “Green Budget” **incorporates elements that contribute to the well-being of citizens**, such as the fight against pollution, adaptation to climate change, and the prevention of natural risks.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The **Senior Officials for Sustainable Development of each government ministry** are involved in the work of developing a cross-cutting strategy, such as the “Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda”. For the “Plan France Relance”, **several ministries are in charge** of its implementation, as indicated above. The **Inter-ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development** ensures that each ministry is fully involved in the general pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The six axes of the **“Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda”** translates the objectives and challenges of the 2030 Agenda for France. France’s commitment to the **ecological transition** is supported by many ministries and the services of the Prime Minister. This **ecological transition is in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda**.

For the **“France Relance” plan**, the objective was to best mitigate the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the French society and economy. Different **scenarios**, based on **economic forecasts**, were used to anticipate major economic, social and environmental challenges of the country.

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<sup>43</sup> Siebert, J., Bertram, L., Dirth, E., Hafele, J., Castro, E. & Barth, J. (2022), International Examples of a Well-being Approach in Practice, ZOE Institute for Future-fit Economies: Cologne.

# Germany



## National SDG implementation

The [German Sustainable Development Strategy \(GSDS\)](#) of 2021 provides the framework for the national implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In Germany, all Ministries are responsible for implementing the SDGs. However, the **Federal Chancellery has the main responsibility and coordinates the activities** of the other ministries via the **State Secretaries' Committee** and the **Standing Working Group for Sustainable Development**. The State Secretaries' Committee for Sustainable Development holds meetings every four months. Each of these meeting is prepared by making use of the Standing Working Group for Sustainable Development which is led by the Federal Chancellery.

The ministries within the German Government use the **Sustainability Management System concept** of the German Sustainable Development Strategy to assess and develop measures in their particular areas of responsibility. This concept contains three elements: (1) Principles of sustainable development, (2) Indicators and Targets, and (3) Monitoring. These principles, indicators, and targets are in **line with and have been developed taking account of the SDGs**.<sup>44</sup> Especially the first element, principles of sustainable development, various aspects need to be considered by the ministries, incl.

- consistently applying sustainable development as a guiding principle in all areas and in all decisions;
- recognizing global responsibility;
- strengthening the natural resource base on which life depends;
- strengthening sustainable economic activity;
- preserving and enhancing social cohesion in an open society; and
- using education, science and innovation as drivers of sustainable development.

As regards monitoring, every two years, the Federal Statistical Office publishes an Indicator Report, based on key indicators in 39 areas that reflect the 17 SDGs.

Germany presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2016 and its [second VNR](#) in 2021 at the HLPF.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action was in charge to develop and coordinate the **concept of "Well-being"** which was added to the ministries' [Annual Economic Report \("Jahreswirtschaftsbericht"\)](#) for the first time in 2022 (published in January 2022). The concept **builds on existing indicators of the GSDS** and additionally **includes new "well-being-indicators"** which were agreed upon by all ministries. The concept of "well-being" (German translation "Wohlfahrtsindikatoren") comprises the following five dimensions, with indicators measuring progress in each one of them:

- 1) Growth, income and employment,
- 2) Environmental protection and climate action,
- 3) Education, research and innovation,
- 4) Social aspects, demography and integration, and

<sup>44</sup> German Sustainable Development Strategy 2021, pp 21-30, <https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/998440/1941044/dff76fd102a1e14aafbe53de4f20a462/2021-07-09-kurzpapier-n-englisch-data.pdf?download=1>

## 5) Public finances and equal living conditions.

As argued in the Annual Economic Report: “Macroeconomic growth, measured by the increase in **gross domestic product (GDP), is a necessary but by no means sufficient prerequisite for lasting prosperity, employment, participation and social security.** For this reason, the Federal Government **is looking beyond GDP and examining additional dimensions of material and non-material wealth and equal living conditions** in Germany’s regions in order to give a more complete picture of the overall state of social well-being in selected areas on the basis of the data available.(...) the Federal Government intends to measure and describe both Germany’s transformation to a sustainable and climate-neutral economy, and the associated development of the well-being of society overall, using quantitative indicators”.<sup>45</sup>

Overall, with the GSDS, the German Government has comprehensively reported inter alia about the **state of welfare and well-being.** In the **Annual Economic Report of 2022,** the **concept of “well-being” has for the first time been included.** This concept builds on the reporting of the GSDS and supplements it in areas of relevance for the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.

The main responsibility lies with the **Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.**

The **indicator set “Wellbeing in Germany – what matters to us” dates back to 2017** and was developed by the **previous German Government.** It was the result of the well-being debate that followed the financial crisis of 2008/2009. The indicator set still exists at Destatis, the German Federal Statistical Office, but is not actively looked at. In addition, this indicator set was **developed without a close link to sustainable development.**

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The **concept of “well-being” builds in part on the indicators of the GSDS.** “Well-being” indicators that are also part of the GSDS are hence **marked in the Annual Economic Report 2022.**

Overall, there is **no systemic coordination mechanism yet in place** between SDG implementation and well-being/beyond GDP.

As of yet, there are also **no institutionalized mechanisms that link the SDGs/Well-being concepts in use to foresight, scenario analysis or other future-oriented assessment methods.**

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<sup>45</sup> German Annual Economic Report (2022), p. 77,  
[https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Publikationen/Wirtschaft/annual-economic-report-2022.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile&v=2](https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Publikationen/Wirtschaft/annual-economic-report-2022.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2)

## Greece



### National SDG implementation

Greece had developed two national sustainable development strategies, the first one in 2002 and the second one in 2007. In 2015, the adoption of the SDGs brought a new vision to the country's development perspectives as the country has gone through a profound economic crisis. In May 2018, Greece adopted a National Growth Strategy, consequently updated in [May 2019 as the "National Strategy for Sustainable and Fair Growth 2030" \(NSSFG\)](#) fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development objectives. The 2019 NSSFG includes inter alia [40 key performance indicators \(KPIs\)](#), mostly relating to SDG implementation at national level.<sup>46</sup> The **KPIs comprise**, for instance, implementing the SDGs (including the establishment of a monitoring system), circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, welfare state, employment issues, support of R&D and innovation, etc.<sup>47</sup>

A **National Implementation Plan for the SDGs** was scheduled for 2019 to foster the adoption of an integrated approach to the planning and implementation of the SDGs at different governance levels and across policy sectors promoting policy coherence for sustainable development.<sup>48</sup> No further information on this Implementation Plan was available.

Due to the importance accorded to the planning and coordination of the SDGs at the highest political level, the Greek government decided in December 2016 to assign the task of **monitoring and coordinating the national implementation of the SDGs** to one of the main entities belonging to the **centre of government**, the **General Secretariat of the Government (GSG)** and, in particular, its **Office of Coordination, Institutional, International and European Affairs (OCIIEA)**. The GSG, as a permanent structure standing close to the political leadership and the public administration of the country supporting the Prime minister and the government plays a key role in ensuring a **whole-of-government approach** and the **commitment, at the highest political level**, for planning and implementing the SDGs with a long-term perspective.<sup>49</sup>

The OCIIEA has the core responsibility for leading the work of the **Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for the SDGs**, established in December 2016 with a view to better coordinating line ministries in implementing the SDGs. It brings together **representatives from all line ministries**, acting as **focal points** in charge of working on SDGs-related issues within their respective ministries and mainstreaming them in thematic legislation, policies and initiatives. The Inter-ministerial Network also comprises representatives from other governmental bodies belonging to the centre of government, including the Vice-Presidency and the GSC, and the Hellenic Statistical Authority. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, which is responsible for the **external dimension of SDGs**, informs the Inter-ministerial Network on SDGs-related developments taking place in the context of the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations and fora. In addition, the **Ministry of Environment and Energy** contributes significantly to the work of the Inter-

<sup>46</sup> Country profile on Greece at the ESDN homepage, [https://www.esdn.eu/country-profiles/detail?tx\\_countryprofile\\_countryprofile%5Baction%5D=show&tx\\_countryprofile\\_countryprofile%5Bcontroller%5D=Country&tx\\_countryprofile\\_countryprofile%5Bcountry%5D=12&cHash=cd46ded9e2eadb26b8ed282f5fef306c](https://www.esdn.eu/country-profiles/detail?tx_countryprofile_countryprofile%5Baction%5D=show&tx_countryprofile_countryprofile%5Bcontroller%5D=Country&tx_countryprofile_countryprofile%5Bcountry%5D=12&cHash=cd46ded9e2eadb26b8ed282f5fef306c)

<sup>47</sup> Website of the Greek Government on the National Strategy for Sustainable and Fair Growth 2030, <https://www.nationalgrowthstrategy.gr/en/kpis>

<sup>48</sup> Greek Voluntary National Review of 2018, [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19378Greece\\_VNR\\_Greece\\_2018\\_pdf\\_FINAL\\_140618.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19378Greece_VNR_Greece_2018_pdf_FINAL_140618.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

ministerial Network, since it is thematically/technically” responsible for the implementation of 7 out of the overall 17 SDGs.<sup>50</sup>

Greece presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2018. Another VNR is planned for 2022.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The first edition of the [National Strategy for Sustainable and Fair Growth 2030](#) of 2018 (which is available in English), includes an entire chapter on “**Fair and Inclusive Growth**”. In this chapter, the Greek Government also **defines their understanding** of “fair and inclusive growth”: “(...) ensuring **fair and inclusive growth is equal in importance to fostering growth**. (...) In line with the European Pillar of Social Rights as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, Greece seeks to ensure **all of its citizens have equal opportunities and access to the labour market, enjoy fair working conditions and that the state provides social protection and universal access to health services of good quality**. (...) The Greek government is implementing policies aiming at **fostering the development of productive, yet sustainable, initiatives, based on social, environmentally friendly and cooperative economic values**.”<sup>51</sup>

The fair and inclusive growth activities are centered around 6 topics:

- 1) **Promoting a Socially-Oriented Economy**, incl. greening the Economy, strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources for local growth and resilience;
- 2) **Guaranteeing Regional Development & Cohesion**, incl. the sustainable development of Greek Islands;
- 3) **Ensuring Inclusive Education**, incl. reinforcing the vocational and educational training system;
- 4) **Providing Universal and Effective Health Care**;
- 5) **Strengthening and Upgrading Social Protection**; and
- 6) **Placing Youth at the Top of the Agenda**.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

As mentioned above, the **General Secretariat for Coordination**, established at the center of government, is responsible for coordination efforts: Being in continuous **communication with relevant line ministries** in order to follow progress on the Action Plan and timelines provided in the National Strategy for Sustainable and Fair Growth 2030; **reporting progress** at a bimonthly basis to the high-level political committee; **developing an early warning system** in order to detect possible problems and divergences; and **suggesting actions** to be taken.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Greek Voluntary National Review of 2018,

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19378Greece\\_VNR\\_Greece\\_2018\\_pdf\\_FINAL\\_140618.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19378Greece_VNR_Greece_2018_pdf_FINAL_140618.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> Greek Government (2018), National Strategy For Sustainable and Fair Growth 2030, p. 53,

<https://www.nationalgrowthstrategy.gr/images/Growth-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

# Hungary



## National SDG implementation

In March 2013, the Hungarian Parliament adopted the [National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development \(NFSSD\)](#) for the period 2012-24 and all government ministries were involved in the development of the NFSSD. Having been adopted already in 2013, this national framework strategy was developed earlier than the launch of the Agenda 2030 (and SDGs) by the UN's General Assembly.

However, the Hungarian National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development is **containing all relevant implementation linkages to the SDG's** and is compliant with the SDGs and its actions relevant for Hungary. The NFSSD's methodology and approach, however, differs from the SDG methodology as it groups actions and goals according to the 4 main resources (human, social, environmental, and economic resources) as identified by the NFFSD. The Strategy's compliance with the SDGs was also analyzed in the [2015 Progress Report of the NFSSD](#). Further, the bi-annually progress reports about the NFSSD are also regularly discussed by the Parliament, therefore, sustainability related issues are regularly on the policy agenda.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** is responsible for Hungary's Agenda 2030 policy. The **implementation of Agenda 2030** is within the responsibility of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** and the **Ministry of Agriculture**. Further, sustainability related national issues are within the responsibility of the **Ministry of Innovation and Technology**. Overall, the relevant ministries, having a wide range of portfolio in Hungary, **are jointly responsible for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda** through the different policy areas, strategies, and initiatives.

The [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) of Hungary was submitted by **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** in 2018.

The VNR was prepared through an **inter-ministerial coordination mechanism set up in 2017**, which has greatly enhanced both policy coherence for sustainable development and the achievement of the sustainable development framework. Based on this mechanism, a **platform has been created which facilitates the involvement of non-governmental entities** as well, including the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and other consultative stakeholders, the academia and the business sector. This coordination entity is involved in the national-level realization of the sustainable development framework, while the **Inter-ministerial Coordinative Committee for International Development Cooperation** continues to be responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the external dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

There are currently **no official or formal concepts / initiatives / activities in place related to Well-being and / or beyond GDP measures** in Hungary.

However, the bi-annual Progress report on Sustainability summarizes **indicators which are connected to the beyond GDP concepts**.

Further, the Hungarian President's Office initiated a **study about the development of further indicators, which would support the 'beyond GDP' concept** – this study is currently ongoing.

Also, the National Council for Sustainable Development Hungary (NFFT) developed a **guideline for preliminary sustainability impact assessments**, which covers questions and measures that are not indicated under the classical GDP concept. In so doing, this assessment methodology **supports the beyond GDP concept**. However, currently this sustainability impact assessment methodology is **not actively used by government bodies**.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

As there are no official or formal concepts / initiatives / activities in place related to Well-being and / or beyond GDP measures in Hungary, the **coordination between the SDGs and Well-being is currently not actively applied**.

## Iceland



### National SDG implementation

Iceland does **not have a separate national sustainable development strategy or action plan for the 2030 Agenda**. Instead, the government actively uses the **2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an umbrella for significant national strategies and policy documents**. The government has focused on integrating the SDGs in the [five-year national fiscal plans](#) that have been produced since the public finance policy reform in 2016. By linking the SDGs directly to its strategies and policy documents, the government aims to **link the 2030 Agenda to practical action and contribute to favorable and sustainable investment opportunities**.<sup>53</sup>

However, as a representative of the Prime Minister's Office pointed out, the **specific role of the SDGs in guiding strategic policymaking in Iceland is "weak/soft."**

The **main responsibility for SDG implementation** in Iceland lies with the **Prime Minister's Office** and the **Ministry for Foreign Affairs**. The **Government's Inter-ministerial Working Group on the 2030 Agenda** is coordinating the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It is led by the Prime Minister's Office and supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The members in the working group are **representatives from all ministries**, the Icelandic Association of Local Authorities, the national statistics agency (Statistics Iceland), and parliament. Observers in the working group are representatives from the Youth Council for the SDGs, and the UN Association in Iceland.

The aim of the Inter-ministerial Working Group is to analyse, implement and promote the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In 2018, the working group drew up a [status report and national prioritizations](#) on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and has positioned Iceland in relation to the 169 targets, 65 of which have been selected as being particularly relevant for the country.<sup>54</sup>

Iceland presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2019.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

**Prime Minister's Committee on Indicators for measuring Well-being** proposed in 2019 a total of **39 well-being indicators** for Iceland spanning across society, environment and the economy. The main rationale is to **shift the focus from the economy towards well-being** when it comes to measuring progress of the society in general. This has also been outlined in the ['Indicators for Measuring Well-being report'](#) that was published in 2019: "To examine the prosperity and quality of life of nations, **looking solely at economic factors such as GDP or economic growth is not sufficient**. Other factors of major significance for people's daily lives also need to be included, **aspects such as health, housing, employment, education, income, air and water quality**, to name a few."<sup>55</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021), "The Nordic Region and the 2030 Agenda: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Nordic Countries", <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-and-2030-agenda>

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Government of Iceland - Prime Minister's Office (2019), "Indicators for Measuring Well-being", <https://www.government.is/lisalib/getfile.aspx?itemid=fc981010-da09-11e9-944d-005056bc4d74>

The report also proposes that Statistics Iceland is entrusted with keeping track of the **indicators on prosperity and quality of life**, as they fit well with other similar work carried out by the agency, such as **social indicators and measurements for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.<sup>56</sup>

The main responsibility for well-being initiatives and activities lies with the **Prime Minister's Office**.

In addition, Iceland is also a **member of the Wellbeing Economy Governments partnership (WEGo)**, a collaboration of national and regional governments promoting sharing of expertise and transferrable policy practices (also including Scotland, New Zealand, Wales, and Finland). The aims are to deepen the understanding and advance the shared ambition of building **wellbeing economies**. WEGo is founded on the recognition that 'development' in the 21<sup>st</sup> century entails **delivering human and ecological wellbeing**.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The Government of Iceland aims to interconnect SDG implementation and well-being activities formally through a **new governmental vehicle "Sustainable Iceland"**, where they **link, through the central point of sustainability, the SDGs, just transition, and well-being**.

Currently, there are no institutionalized mechanisms that link SDG implementation and well-being/beyond GDP to foresight, scenario building or future-oriented assessment methods.

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<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

## Ireland



### National SDG implementation

Ireland's first [National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) was published in 2018 and prepared by Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment. The government is currently in the process of developing the second National Implementation Plan. A draft of the **new National Implementation Plan will be published for consultation during May and June 2022.**

A commitment, set out in the first SDG National Implementation Plan, was to **mainstream the SDGs across Government Departments into existing and new policies.** An **SDG policy map** was developed to provide a detailed picture of what Ireland is doing to implement each of the Goals, and how national policies and targets correspond to the SDGs.

A **key objective of the upcoming new National Implementation Plan** will be to embed the framework provided by 2030 Agenda into the work of Government Departments to **achieve greater Policy Coherency for Sustainable Development.**

In Ireland, a **whole-of-government approach** has been taken to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. **Each ministry is having specific responsibility** for implementing individual SDG targets related to the respective ministerial functions. The **Department of Environment, Climate and Communications** has **overall responsibility for promoting the SDGs and overseeing their coherent implementation across Government**, including the development of the National Implementation Plans and reporting frameworks.

Several coordination mechanisms are in place: The **SDG Senior Officials Group (SOG)** provides strategic overview of SDG implementation, monitoring performance and reporting on progress at political level. The group is **chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach** (the Prime Minister's department) is supported by **high-level representatives from each Government Department.**

The **SDG Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG)** was established to complement the work of the SDG SOG and **facilitate effective Cross-Government SDG engagement and implementation.** It is comprised of **representatives from each Government Department** and members play a key role in respect of considering detailed proposals for meeting the strategic goals of the National Implementation Plan; coordinating strategic communication on the SDGs and Ireland's implementation; preparing national SDG progress reports; and developing the National Implementation Plans.

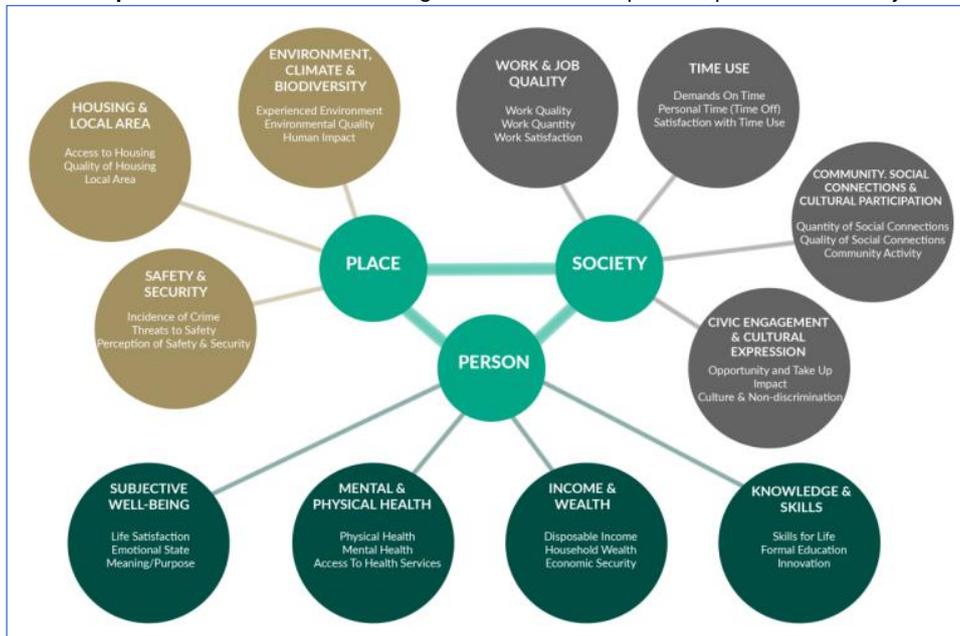
Ireland presented its [first Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2018. The second VNR is expected to be presented in 2023.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The Irish Government published a [First Report on developing a Well-being Framework](#) for Ireland in 2021. This Well-being Framework is an **important cross-government initiative** that, driven by a desire to do better by people, seeks to develop a multi-dimensional approach to understanding the impact of public policy. It includes a guiding vision and goals, an initial Conceptual Framework for Ireland, a static supporting dashboard of indicators and future work. The initial Conceptual

Framework followed the **OECD Model, adjusted for Ireland**, based on consultation with stakeholders and experts **carried out by the National Economic and Social Council**. It covers **11 dimensions** across issues such as housing, work, the environment, health community, safety, social connections and work that are understood as key elements that make up **well-being for Ireland**, across **person, place and society** (see graph below):

**Graph:** Dimensions of well-being in Ireland across person, place and society



Source: [First Report on a Well-Being Framework for Ireland \(2021\)](#)

**A Second Report will be submitted to Government in late spring/early summer 2022** and will outline the refinements to the Framework as **a result of a significant public conversation with experts, stakeholders, wider interest groups and the public**; in addition to bespoke research to support the development of the Framework. It will also outline the **next steps for embedding the Framework in the Irish policy making system**.

Overall, **Ireland's Well-being Framework is in the early stages of implementation**, following 18 months of development. However, it is intended that the Framework will be used in priority setting, policy development and/or in program and policy evaluation. This includes the integration of the Well-being Framework into **expenditure policy, in particular with performance, green, well-being and equality budgeting**.<sup>57</sup>

In general, the Well-being Framework for Ireland is a **Program for Government commitment to measure progress in Ireland beyond purely economic indicators**. The overarching vision for the framework, which will guide its development over time, is enabling all the Irish people to live fulfilled lives now and into the future. The approach is fundamentally about **making people's lives better** by better understanding peoples lived experience, and to **better understand how sustainable (economic, environmental, and social) progress is made**.

The development of a well-being framework for Ireland is a **cross-government initiative being led by the Department of the Taoiseach** (Prime Minister's department), and sponsor Departments of Public Expenditure & Reform and Finance. It is also **supported by a wider inter-departmental working group**.

<sup>57</sup> Government of Ireland (2021), First Report on a Well-Being Framework for Ireland, <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/fb19a-first-report-on-well-being-framework-for-ireland-july-2021/>

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The First Report on a Well-being Framework for Ireland highlighted that the **well-being initiative can serve as an important complement to work on progressing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. Although there are conceptual differences and purposes between the two frameworks, a **significant degree of overlap in their objectives is recognized**.

**The First Report committed to mapping the SDGs to the Well-being Framework for Ireland** and this work has now been undertaken and will be **contained in the second report** to be published in the coming period. Specific research and consultation has also been progressed including work to **further develop and integrate sustainability into the Well-being Framework**, fulfilling a separate commitment in the First Report around sustaining well-being for future generations.

**Officials responsible for SDG implementation are represented on the Inter-Departmental Group on Well-being**. The Well-being Framework has also been presented at the separate senior officials group responsible for SDG implementation. Further coherence and coordination mechanisms may be explored in future, however as the Well-being Framework is still in early phases of implementation this will be over time and on a phased basis.

No institutionalized mechanisms that link the SDGs/well-being concepts are in use for foresight, scenario analysis or future-oriented assessment methods.

## Italy



### National SDG implementation

In Italy, the **National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)** was **approved in 2017** and provides the overarching strategic framework to guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. Currently, the NSDS of 2017 is under revision (the NSDS is due to be reviewed every three years by law) and its **new version is aimed to be approved in the first half of the 2022**. The updated NSDS should provide the overall framework under which all sectoral policies as well as financing packages (NRRP, European Structural and Investment Funds, Just Transition, PNR, etc.) could be linked.

The NSDS sets the Government's commitment to define coherent, global and efficient policy actions that **consider the whole spectrum of the dimensions of well-being** with a particular attention to the principle of leaving no one behind. It is structured in six areas covering the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: "People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership", and an additional area that defines a set of sustainability "vectors". Under each strategic area (in the graph below is the example of the Area People is provided) **the NSDS identifies several National Strategic Objectives (NSOs) and the SDGs related to them**. The NSDS prioritizes **connecting the goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda rather than picking a sample of targets per each goal**.<sup>58</sup>

Overall, the **Presidency of the Council of Ministries (PCM)** oversees and **co-ordinates the implementation of the NSDS**. The PCM is supported by the **Ministry of Ecological Transition** and by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**.

More recently, a new inter-ministerial organism, the **Inter-ministerial Committee for Ecological Transition (CITE)**, has been established in 2021. CITE is **now responsible for the NSDS implementation** and for the approval of the revisions and updates of the NSDS document provided by the Ministry of Ecological Transition. CITE is **chaired by the Prime Minister or by the Minister of Ecological Transition** as an alternate. It is composed of representatives of 6 ministries (the Ministry of Ecological Transition; Ministry of Economy and Finance; Ministry of Economic Development; Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility; Ministry of Labour; and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry). Other Ministries will also be invited to participate according to relevance, and specific mechanisms are provided for involving the territorial level. The **Inter-ministerial committee for Economic Programming and Sustainable Development (CIPESS)** has a role in policy integration, evaluation and co-ordination around green and socio-economic objectives.<sup>59</sup>

Currently, the Ministry of Ecological Transition (MITE), is developing in cooperation with OECD the project "Policy coherence for sustainable development: mainstreaming the SDGs in Italian decision-making process to enforce the paradigm shift" (PCSD project) for the development of a **National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Development Sustainable (PAN PCSD)**. The project is funded by the European Commission, under the Structural Reform Support Program 2017-2020, and will be an annex and integrated part of the forthcoming NSDS 2022 strategy document. The project aims to provide currently missing elements to **better steer policy coherence**, i.e. aligning

<sup>58</sup> OECD (2021), "Italy: Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development", <https://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/italy-governance-scan-pcsd.pdf>

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

regulative tools and legislative processes across central and territorial administrations, or filling the gap of an inter-ministerial coordination group/committee/mechanism on NSDS and PCSD.<sup>60</sup>

Italy presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2017. A second VNR will be presented at the HLPF in 2022.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

Developed in 2012, ISTAT (the Italian National Institute of Statistics) is updating on an annual basis the framework of **Equitable and Sustainable Well-being indicators (ESW/BES Benessere Equo e Sosenibile)**. Originally developed with a set of 130 indicators, these indicators span across 12 dimensions of well-being.

Since 2016, the ESW framework has become part of the economic planning process. According to a mapping by the roundtable on National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) indicators, out of the set of 43 NSDS indicators, 21 do not overlap with the ESW indicator framework, with most gaps in the area of environment. Since 2018, intermediate updates on BES indicators are available on the [ISTAT website](#). **In 2020, the BES/ESW indicator framework was updated and now includes 153 indicators, to better align with the transformations of the past decade, including in the context of the areas captured by the SDGs, and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.** ISTAT publishes [yearly reports](#) on the BES/ESD indicator framework with the updated set of indicators.<sup>61</sup>

Italy is the **first country** to have **linked a set of well-being indicators to economic policy programming**. In 2016, on the basis of a reform of the budget law, the President of the Council of Ministries of Italy established a Committee, composed of the **Minister of Economy and Finance**, the President of ISTAT, the Governor of the Bank of Italy and two experts, to **select indicators that would incorporate well-being into the policy-making process**. The aim of the law reform was to **emphasize the relationship between public policies and the different dimensions of well-being, going beyond merely economic aspects and factoring in distributional aspects and sustainability considerations**.<sup>62</sup>

The **12 equitable and sustainable well-being (ESW) indicators** (see graph below) eventually selected by the Committee in 2017 are a sub-set of the broader 153 ESW framework. The selected indicators **include the well-being dimension in the annual economic programming and budgeting process, and complement more traditional measures of prosperity, notably GDP per capita**.

<sup>60</sup> Information provided by a representative of the Ministry of Ecological Transition via email on 28 April 2022.

<sup>61</sup> OECD (2021), "Italy: Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development", <https://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/italy-governance-scan-pcsd.pdf>

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

**Graph:** ESW indicators and corresponding well-being domains

Economic well-being domain	
1.	Average disposable income adjusted per capita
2.	Index of inequality of disposable income
3.	<b>Index of absolute poverty</b>
Health domain	
4.	<b>Life expectancy in good health at birth</b>
5.	Excess weight
Education and training domain	
6.	<b>Early exit from the education and training system</b>
Work-life balance domain	
7.	<b>Rate of non-participation in work (by gender)</b>
8.	<b>Employment rate ratio of women aged 25-49 with at least one pre-schooler and childless women.</b>
Security domain	
9.	Predatory crime rate index
Politics and institutions domain	
10.	<b>Efficiency index of civil justice</b>
Environmental domain	
11.	<b>CO2 emissions and other climate-altering gasses</b>
Landscape and cultural heritage domain	
12.	<b>Building illegal index</b>

Source: OECD (2021), "[Italy: Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development](#)"

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

**Eight out of twelve ESW indicators are included in the set of indicators developed to monitor the NSDS** showing how policy measures adopted in the economic policy and budget cycle, contribute to some of the relevant strategic objectives of the NSDS.

Further opportunities to map the **interactions between the BES/ESW (12 indicator set) and the NSDS indicators** are discussed in the OECD report "Italy: Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development", arguing that "a **coherent approach to policy measurement** can help make multidimensional well-being assessments more systematic by defining a core set of well-being and sustainability priorities that all policy decisions need to be evaluated against".<sup>63</sup> In addition, [ASviS](#) (the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development) suggests that the **legislation that provides for reporting on ESW indicators within the budget cycle, should be adapted to bring it in line with the SDGs within the European Semester.**<sup>64</sup>

<sup>63</sup> OECD (2021), "Italy: Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development", p. 92, <https://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/italy-governance-scan-pcsd.pdf>

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

## Latvia



### National SDG implementation

Latvia adopted "**Latvija 2030**", the country's sustainable development strategy until 2030 in 2010. As this strategy was developed some years before the 2030 Agenda and SDGs have been adopted in 2015, the **SDGs are integrated into the country's National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2027**. As outlined in the NDP, this is "Latvia's highest national-level medium-term planning document. It has been developed in accordance with the Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy until 2030 (Latvia2030) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that the quality of life improves for each individual, and society as a whole over the next seven years".<sup>65</sup>

The main **responsibility for SDG implementation** lies with the **Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre (CSCC)**. The CSCC is the leading institution in national development planning and coordination in Latvia. CSCC is **under direct authority of the Prime Minister**. CSCC is **responsible for developing and monitoring the highest national development planning documents**: National Development Plan of Latvia for 2021-2027 (NDP2027), National Development Plan of Latvia for 2014-2020 (NDP2020) and the Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 (Latvia 2030), and implementation of national development planning documents in relation to the EU. **It oversees the entire central government planning process**, making changes when needed and providing guidance to ministries through consultation, elaborating a Handbook on Development Planning, and giving open lectures for government officials on policy planning issues at the School of Public Administration.<sup>66</sup>

The specific **coordination between the different government ministries** for SDG implementation is done by an **informal policy planning and SDG coordination working group**, which includes representatives from line ministries who are responsible for sectoral policy planning.

Latvia presented its **first Voluntary National Review (VNR)** at the HLFP in 2018 and is currently preparing its second VNR for the HLFP in 2022.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The NDP 2021-2027 is based on **concept of the quality of life**. Therefore, it includes various quality of life dimensions such as **health, education, decent work, productivity, equal opportunities, culture, sports, inclusion, social trust, social protection, or security**.

The rationale is that **well-being is much more than GDP** and average of national economy. There are many other aspects which are considered as important for people to feel good in Latvia. Specific focus is on **increasing equal opportunities** as Latvia faces a relatively high- income inequality.

There is **not one specific ministry/office** assigned with the main role for implementation of the well-being concept. The main ministries that are responsible for well-being and quality-of-life issues are the Ministry of Health, the mMinistry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Welfare. The **Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre** is responsible for coordination of planning and monitoring of the implementation across the government ministries.

<sup>65</sup> Latvia's National Development Plan 2021-2027, p. 5, [https://pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/NAP2027\\_ENG\\_2.pdf](https://pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/NAP2027_ENG_2.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> Information taken from the website of the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre, <https://pkc.gov.lv/en>

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

SDG implementation and well-being are **linked through national policy planning and coordination mechanisms**, especially when developing National Development Plan (NDP) as a comprehensive state level planning document.

**Inter-ministerial consultation process** takes place for all policy planning documents, including sectoral policies. There is a mandatory requirement to have **impact assessment for each draft legislative act and draft policy document**.

However, there are no institutionalized mechanisms for foresight or future-oriented assessment methods. **Foresight and scenario analysis are sometimes used** in developing conceptual papers, which are the basis for discussions and decisions on policy choices.

# Lithuania



## National SDG implementation

Last amended in 2011, the [National Strategy for Sustainable Development \(NSSD\)](#) is Lithuania's main strategic document ensuring national commitment and implementation of the SDGs. It aligns with the SDGs and stresses commitment to policy coherence as a main implementation principle.<sup>67</sup> The NSSD provides strategic goal of sustainable development which involves balancing environmental, economic and social development interests, ensuring a clean and healthy environment, effective consumption of natural resources, universal economic welfare of society and strong social guarantees, During the Strategy implementation period (originally foreseen until 2020) achieving, in terms of economic and social indicators as well as efficiency of natural resource consumption.<sup>68</sup>

The [long-term strategic document "Lithuania 2030"](#) contains the vision and goal to reach a top ten position in Europe on development and happiness indices. It reflects a national vision and priorities for development as well as guidelines for their implementation by 2030. This is a roadmap to be followed in decision making and in drawing –up national plans or programs.<sup>69</sup>

The 2011 National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) lists policy coherence as a main implementation principle. The **Ministry of Environment** is responsible for co-ordination of the NSSD and works as a secretariat of the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD). **The National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD)** is chaired by the **prime minister** and is comprised of representatives from relevant ministries, municipal institutions, NGOs, academia and business. The Commission provides guidance and, consisting of high-level political leaders, has the necessary political authority to make decisions on conflicting matters.<sup>70</sup>

Lithuania presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2018 and its expected to present its second VNR in 2023.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The strategic document "[Lithuania 2030](#)" points out that it "seeks to promote fundamental changes in society and to facilitate the formation of a creative, responsible and open personality".<sup>71</sup>

The Strategy is aimed at creating an environment that enables progress-related values and **three key areas of progress** are defined: **society, economy and governance**. Developments in these areas will consolidate progress values and **build on the principles of sustainable development**. The implementation of this vision will be guided by progress-relevant values, like: (a) **Openness** to a different view, to positive initiatives, to a dialogue, cooperation, and innovations; (b) **Creativity** in generation and implementation of new ideas, treating challenges as new possibilities of building success; and (c) **Responsibility** for actions taken, morality, active concern not only about

<sup>67</sup> OECD Policy Coherence for SD Country Profile on Lithuania, <https://www.oecd.org/governance/pcsd/Lithuania.pdf>

<sup>68</sup> Lithuanian VNR (2018),

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19673VNR\\_Lithuania\\_EN\\_updated.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19673VNR_Lithuania_EN_updated.pdf)

<sup>69</sup> Lithuania's Progress Strategy "Lithuania 2030",

[https://lrv.lt/uploads/main/documents/files/EN\\_version/Useful\\_information/lithuania2030.pdf](https://lrv.lt/uploads/main/documents/files/EN_version/Useful_information/lithuania2030.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> OECD Policy Coherence for SD Country Profile on Lithuania, <https://www.oecd.org/governance/pcsd/Lithuania.pdf>

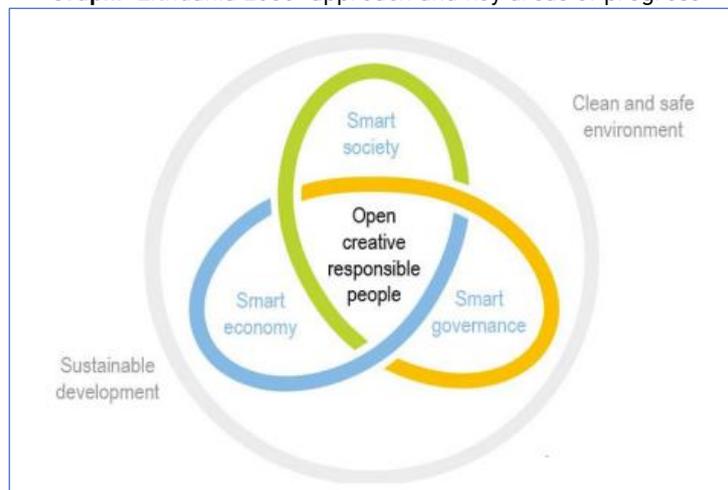
<sup>71</sup> "Lithuania 2030", p. 6, [https://lrv.lt/uploads/main/documents/files/EN\\_version/Useful\\_information/lithuania2030.pdf](https://lrv.lt/uploads/main/documents/files/EN_version/Useful_information/lithuania2030.pdf)

themselves, but also the environment, community and the country at large.<sup>72</sup>

Changes will take place in the following areas<sup>73</sup>:

- **Smart Society:** a *happy society that is open* [openness] to the *ideas* of each citizen [creativity], to *innovations and challenges*, demonstrating *solidarity, self-governance and political maturity* [responsibility].
- **Smart Economy:** an *economy that is flexible* and able to compete globally [openness], generating *high added value*, based on *knowledge, innovations entrepreneurship* [creativity] and *social responsibility as well as “green” growth* [responsibility].
- **Smart Governance:** governance that is *open and participatory* [openness], delivering, meeting public demands and ensuring *high quality services* [responsibility], as well as *competent government*, able to take targeted strategic decisions [creativity].

**Graph:** “Lithuania 2030” approach and key areas of progress



Source: [“Lithuania 2030”](#)

**Progress indicators** for achieving a Smart Society, Smart Economy, and Smart Governance are defined in the document and for each indicator, **specific goals in 10-year intervals** are mentioned.<sup>74</sup>

**All state agencies**, regardless of their level, are expected join in the **strategy implementation**, which is a dynamic and holistic process that encourages continuous generation of ideas and fulfilment of specific tasks. Communities, governmental and business organizations will take part in the Open Forum “Lithuania 2030” and implement social, economic and governance projects.

In its annex, “Lithuania 2030” outlines the **mechanisms of the strategy implementation**: This includes, amongst others, the **Open Progress Forum “Lithuania 2030”** to promote and maintain a permanent dialogue with the society on the country’s development processes, priorities and values. The Forum will bring together academic, business, artistic communities and other public representatives for a debate and sharing of ideas and is held at least twice a year. In addition, **“Quick wins: annual progress actions”** for which the **State Progress Council (based at the Office of the Prime Minister** and responsible for coordination of the implementation of the Strategy and on-going monitoring at governmental level) will identify **ten key actions for the implementation of the most important initiatives** that are discussed at the open Forum “Lithuania 2030”.<sup>75</sup>

<sup>72</sup> “Lithuania 2030”, p. 8, [https://lrvt.lt/uploads/main/documents/files/EN\\_version/Useful\\_information/lithuania2030.pdf](https://lrvt.lt/uploads/main/documents/files/EN_version/Useful_information/lithuania2030.pdf)

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid, pp. 28–31

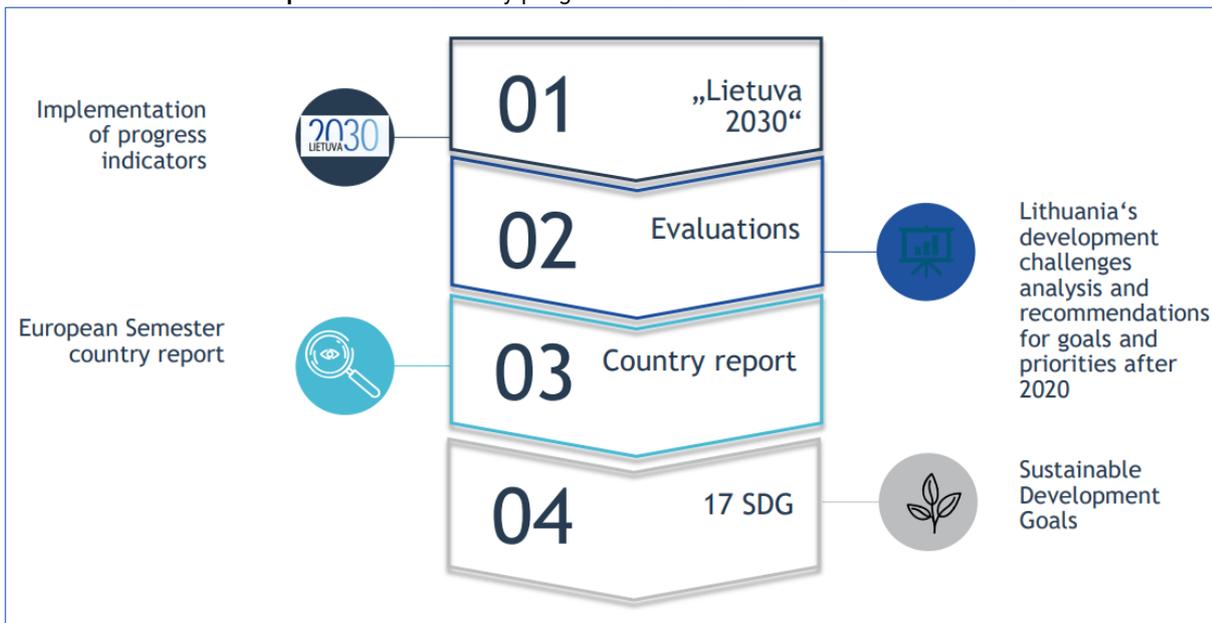
<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

An update and renewal of this process which is based on “Lithuania 2030” has been initiative in 2019 and is described as [“2021–2030 National Progress Program: strategic goals and tasks”](#). It uses the same three key areas of progress and related indicators.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

As the “Lithuania 2030” strategy document point out that the three key areas of progress as build on the principle of sustainable development, an intrinsic relationship is given. The update and renewal of the “Lithuania 2030” process outlines the **interlinkages of different mechanisms and processes, including the SDGs** as shown in the graph below:

**Graph:** Interlinked of key progress areas of “Lithuania 2030” and the SDGs



**Source:** [“2021–2030 National Progress Program: strategic goals and tasks” document](#)

# Luxembourg



## National SDG implementation

Luxembourg's [3rd National Plan for Sustainable Development](#), adopted in 2019, is the main tool for implementing Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs. This plan is understood as Luxembourg's roadmap for acting upon and contributing concretely to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

The law of 25 June 2004 on the **coordination of national sustainable development policies** has given the competence to the **Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development**. This law also laid the basis for the creation of the **National Commission on Sustainable Development**, with a representation of all government ministries.

Luxembourg presented its [first Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) already in 2017. They are expected to present their second VNR at the HLPF in 2022.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

In 2009, the Government of Luxembourg approached the Council for Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council for an opinion on indicators of well-being beyond GDP. Following proposals on **indicators of well-being** – named **PIBien-être** – Statec (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) has developed the **Luxembourg Index of Well-being (LIW)**.

The responsibility for the Index of Well-being lies with **STATEC is an administration under the authority of the Ministry of the Economy**. Its missions are to provide public and private decision-makers as well as citizens with a high-quality public statistical information service.

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The representative of the Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development mentioned that the National Plan for Sustainable Development has retained that the **use of well-being indicators should be strengthened**, in order to be able to **understand the progress of society and the well-being of its population from a sustainable development perspective**.

It is believed that **indicators are the best working tool** to enabling the coordination and coherence between SDG implementation and well-being concepts/activities.

## Malta



### National SDG implementation

As the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands of 2007- 2016 expired, Malta developed the [Sustainable Development Vision for 2050](#) which sets out the main guiding principles for developing policies, and when planning and implementing projects in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Vision 2050 has been structured and designed along **three main themes** with related principles in each one:

1. **Enhancing Economic Growth**, e.g. circular consumption and production patterns, transition towards a low-carbon emission economy, creation of more high-skilled and high value-added jobs, etc.
2. **Safeguarding the Environment**, e.g. transition towards low-carbon energy, sustainable buildings and urban development, etc.
3. **Social Cohesion and Wellbeing**, e.g. combating poverty and social exclusion, fair and inclusive labor market, high-quality education and training, good health and wellbeing, building safe and integrated communities.

Malta is one of the few countries that has a specific Sustainable Development framework model in place which is underpinned by the Sustainable Development Act of 2012. This legislative framework mandates Government to “mainstream Sustainable Development across the workings of Government, to raise awareness of sustainable development issues and practices across society”. The **Sustainable Development Directorate** within the **Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MESDC)** is the Competent Authority responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Act. This means that MESDC has the **overall responsibility for promoting sustainable development, and for overseeing its coherent implementation across Government**. However, **ownership by the various Ministries** is essential to be truly holistic and effective. Therefore, the mainstreaming of sustainable development principles within Government’s policies, plans, programs and projects is seen as paramount in **ensuring coherence**.

Malta presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2018.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The Vision 2050 strategy pointed out, in the theme on “**Social Cohesion and Wellbeing**” that the realization of the strategy will not be possible without social inclusion: “***Social fairness*** must be ensured, ***solidarity*** strengthened and active citizenship encouraged. Our Vision is to ***strengthen the social economy*** by stimulating the development of ***human potential, reducing social and wealth distribution inequalities, promote inclusive labour and education policies***, as well as ***eradicate labour exploitation***. Efficient and accessible ***healthcare and basic services*** must also be ensured in order to achieve a higher quality of life.”<sup>76</sup>

<sup>76</sup> Government of Malta, “Sustainable Development Vision for 2050”, p. 40, [https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public\\_Consultations/MSDEC/Documents/Malta%27s%20Sustainable%20Development%20Vision%20for%202050.pdf](https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MSDEC/Documents/Malta%27s%20Sustainable%20Development%20Vision%20for%202050.pdf)

For each of the four principles of this theme (i.e. combating poverty and social exclusion; providing the conditions for the development of human potential, through inclusive labor market and education and training; ensuring good health and wellbeing; building safe and integrated communities), **a set of concrete objectives and activities is defined in the Vision 2050 strategy.**

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

**Well-being is an integrated part of the Vision 2050 strategy** which aims at implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in Malta.

The commitment of Malta to **align its budget measures with the SDGs** was announced by the Prime Minister of Malta in September 2019, whereby the Maltese Government expressed its commitment to ensure that, as of the national budget in 2020, the budgetary measures will be aligned to SDGs. The **“SD Proofing” of the national budget process has the aim to improve overall policy coherence**, which reinforces the very nature of the SDGs as being overarching and intertwined. The aims behind the SDG alignment which will be conducted annually are to

- **strengthen and consolidate the planning process by individual Ministries** through the integration of the SDGs in the planning phases of a policy, program, project or initiative; and to
- **establish milestones in Action Plans, through which individual Ministries** will be expected to contribute towards mainstreaming sustainable development practices whilst also addressing SDGs Indicators.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> ESDN country profile on Malta, [https://www.esdn.eu/country-profiles/agenda-2030-implementation/detail?tx\\_countryprofile\\_countrycategory%5Baction%5D=showcat&tx\\_countryprofile\\_countrycategory%5Bcontroller%5D=Country&tx\\_countryprofile\\_countrycategory%5Bcountry%5D=19&cHash=279d17dc345c16fca1e939111d9db8a1](https://www.esdn.eu/country-profiles/agenda-2030-implementation/detail?tx_countryprofile_countrycategory%5Baction%5D=showcat&tx_countryprofile_countrycategory%5Bcontroller%5D=Country&tx_countryprofile_countrycategory%5Bcountry%5D=19&cHash=279d17dc345c16fca1e939111d9db8a1)

## New Zealand



### National SDG implementation

New Zealand is **committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, as has been specified by the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, in the country's [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) that we presented to the HLPF in 2019. However, New Zealand **does not have a separate national sustainable development strategy**.<sup>78</sup>

In the VNR, the Government of New Zealand points out that the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as the collective blueprint** to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. New Zealand aims to contribute to achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through a **combination of domestic action, international leadership** on global issues and **support for developing countries**. Achievement **requires a whole of government effort**, working alongside the private sector and civil society.

In a report from 2021, the Office of the Auditor-General, an institution for the New Zealand Parliament that provides the parliament and the public with an independent regular view of how public organizations are operating, argued that the Government has, indeed, introduced several important national plans, legislation, policies, and initiatives that have some alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. However, the Office has **“not seen evidence of the Government giving directives or guidance to agencies to integrate the SDGs, incorporate them into strategic planning, or assess existing or proposed policy against the 2030 Agenda and relevant SDG targets”**.<sup>79</sup>

The VNR of 2019 was prepared by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**. The [website of this ministry](#) provides information on the SDGs and presents the approach that “achieving the SDGs will require a **cross-Government effort**. New Zealand government agencies are reviewing the goals and their alignment with Government priorities. This analysis will inform a discussion on how New Zealand focuses its efforts”.<sup>80</sup>

The report of the Office of the Auditor-General from 2021 pointed out that “the Government has **not appointed a responsible Minister for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**” and that **“dedicated leadership within central government** for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs” **was missing**.<sup>81</sup>

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

As regards well-being and beyond GDP, New Zealand has been very active. Overall, **well-being has been put in the center of policymaking**, as argued in the VNR of 2019: “We are redefining what success looks like by putting the wellbeing of all New Zealanders at the centre of everything we

<sup>78</sup> Office of the Auditor-General (2021), “The Government’s preparedness to implement the sustainable development goals”, Report presented to the House of Representatives, <https://oag.parliament.nz/2021/sdgs/docs/sustainable-dev-goals.pdf>

<sup>79</sup> Ibid, p. 14

<sup>80</sup> Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/our-work-with-the-un/sustainable-development-goals/>

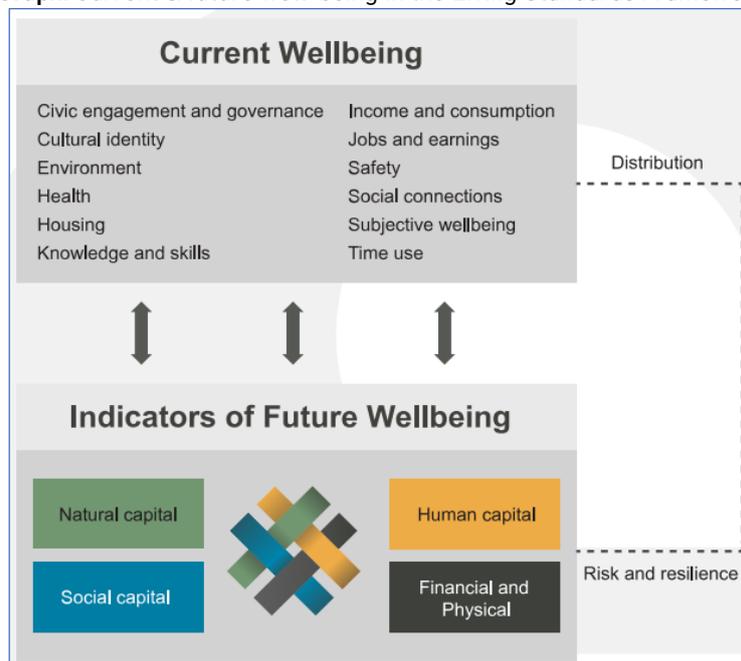
<sup>81</sup> Office of the Auditor-General (2021), “The Government’s preparedness to implement the sustainable development goals”, Report presented to the House of Representatives, pp. 28–29

do. [...] We are embedding our **wellbeing focus into our policy thinking to ensure that the direction of all government policy is consistent**".<sup>82</sup>

Firstly, the New Zealand Treasury, the government's lead economic and financial adviser, has developed a **Living Standards Framework (LSF)** to improve the depth, breadth and quality of policy development concerning living standards. The Living Standards Framework is a high-level framework that emphasizes the diversity of outcomes meaningful for New Zealanders, and helps the Treasury to analyze, measure and compare those outcomes through a **wide and evolving set of indicators**. The framework **covers current wellbeing, future wellbeing, and risk and resilience across a range of economic, social and environmental indicators**.

Within **current wellbeing, 12 domains** reflect wellbeing at a 'point in time'. **Four capitals** – natural, human, social, and financial and physical – are the assets that generate **wellbeing now and into the future**. See the graph below for details:

**Graph:** Current & future well-being in the Living Standards Framework



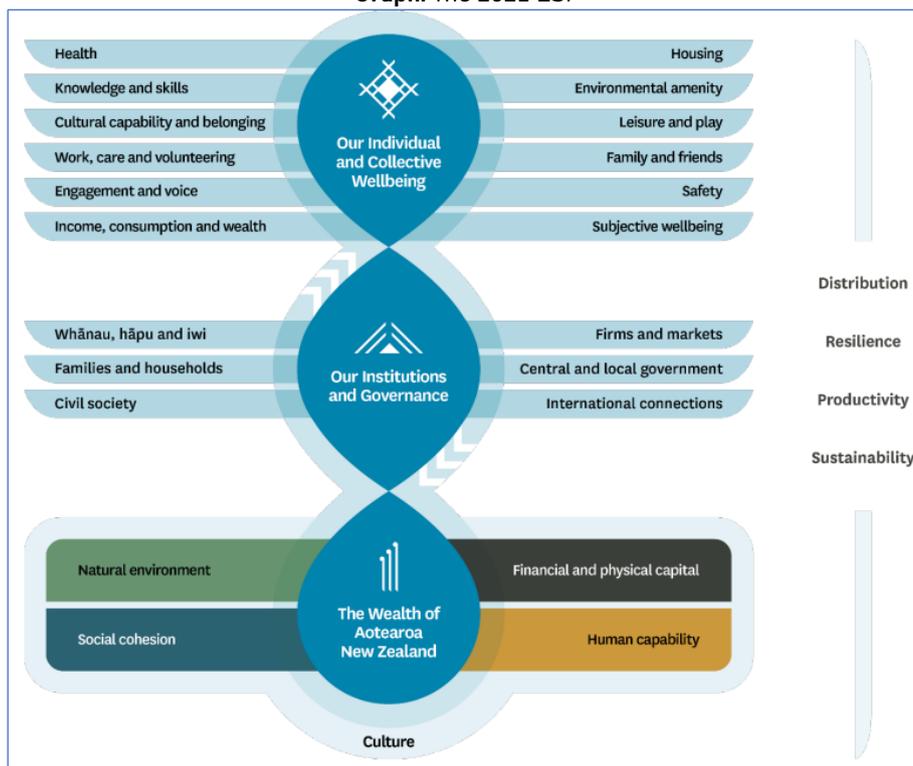
Source: [VNR \(2019\)](#)

The LSF includes a **dashboard** – a structured database of indicators to support policy development to lift intergenerational wellbeing. The [latest dashboard report](#) was published on 12 April 2022 and **informs the Treasury's wellbeing reporting and provides advice to Ministers on priorities for improving wellbeing**. The updated Living Standards Framework of 2021 is presented in the graph below:

<sup>82</sup> Voluntary National Review (2019), pp. 6 & 8,

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23333New\\_Zealand\\_Voluntary\\_National\\_Review\\_2019\\_Final.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23333New_Zealand_Voluntary_National_Review_2019_Final.pdf)

**Graph: The 2021 LSF**



**Source:** The Treasury, [The Living Standards Framework Dashboard \(2022\)](#)

The [LSF Dashboard website](#) provides information on indicators used in the individual categories. An overview is presented in the graph below:

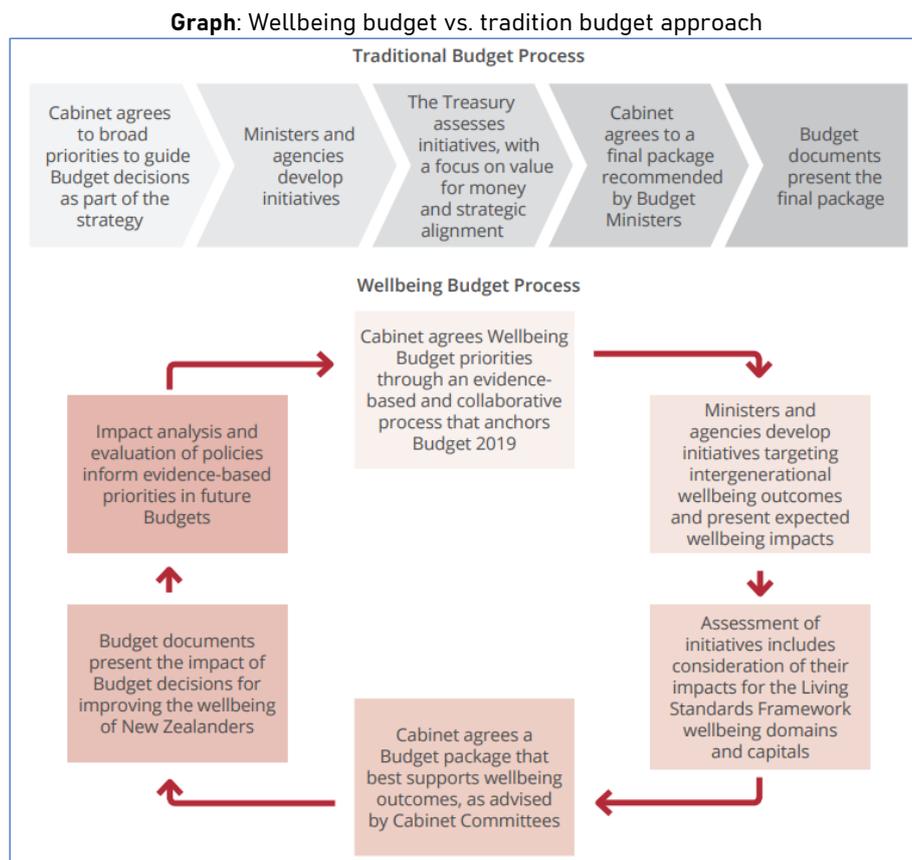
**Graph: LSF Dashboard indicators**

Our Individual and Collective Wellbeing		Our Institutions and Governance		The Wealth of Aotearoa New Zealand			
<p><b>Cultural capability and belonging</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to express identity</li> <li>Arts participation</li> <li>Māori connection to marae</li> <li>Multilingualism</li> <li>Sense of belonging – adults</li> <li>Sense of belonging – youth</li> <li>Te reo Māori speakers</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement and voice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a say in government</li> <li>Perception of public influence</li> <li>Voter turnout in general elections</li> <li>Voter turnout in local elections</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environmental amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to the natural environment</li> <li>Drinking water management</li> <li>Droughts</li> <li>Health impacts of air quality</li> <li>Perceived environmental quality</li> <li>Swimmability (rivers)</li> </ul> <p><b>Family and friends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A place to stay</li> <li>Face-to-face contact</li> <li>Feeling loved</li> <li>Loneliness</li> <li>Social network support</li> <li>Someone to turn to</li> </ul> <p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health status</li> <li>Life expectancy at birth</li> <li>Mental health</li> <li>Suicide rate</li> <li>Unmet health needs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household crowding</li> <li>Housing cost – deposit affordability</li> <li>Housing cost – mortgage affordability</li> <li>Housing cost – rent affordability</li> <li>Housing cost – share of income</li> <li>Housing quality</li> </ul> <p><b>Income, consumption and wealth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child poverty – material hardship</li> <li>Consumption</li> <li>Disposable income</li> <li>Financial wellbeing</li> <li>Food insecurity</li> <li>Household net worth</li> </ul> <p><b>Knowledge and skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognitive skills at age 15</li> <li>Educational attainment of the adult population (tertiary)</li> <li>Educational attainment of the adult population (upper secondary)</li> <li>Regular school attendance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Leisure and play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leisure and personal care</li> <li>Participation in sport and recreation</li> <li>Satisfaction with work-life balance</li> </ul> <p><b>Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Childhood injuries</li> <li>Family violence</li> <li>Feeling safe</li> <li>Intentional homicide rate</li> <li>Road toll</li> <li>Workplace accident rate</li> </ul> <p><b>Subjective wellbeing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General life satisfaction</li> <li>Sense of purpose in one's life</li> </ul> <p><b>Work, care and volunteering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment rate</li> <li>Hourly earnings</li> <li>Involvement in the community</li> <li>Unemployment rate</li> <li>Unpaid work</li> <li>Volunteering</li> <li>Youth NEET rate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Central and local government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Net core Crown debt</li> <li>Perceived corruption</li> <li>Trust in government institutions</li> </ul> <p><b>Civil society</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-profit operating surplus</li> </ul> <p><b>Families and households</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family wellbeing</li> <li>Household indebtedness</li> </ul>	<p><b>Firms and markets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity outlook</li> <li>Banking system capital</li> <li>Business turnover</li> <li>Multifactor productivity growth</li> <li>R&amp;D expenditure</li> </ul> <p><b>International connections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inward foreign direct investment</li> <li>Outward foreign direct investment</li> <li>Terms of trade</li> <li>Total trade to GDP ratio</li> </ul> <p><b>Whānau, hapū and iwi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Māori connection to marae</li> <li>Whānau wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Financial and physical capital</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gross fixed capital formation</li> <li>Net intangible fixed assets</li> <li>Net international investment position</li> <li>Total net fixed assets</li> </ul> <p><b>Human capability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognitive skills at age 15</li> <li>Educational attainment of the adult population (upper secondary)</li> <li>Healthy life expectancy</li> <li>Non-communicable diseases</li> <li>Te reo Māori speakers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Natural environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average temperature</li> <li>Biodiversity and genetic resources</li> <li>Coastal sea-level rise</li> <li>Net greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>Renewable energy</li> <li>River health</li> <li>Soil quality</li> <li>Fish stocks</li> <li>Groundwater stocks</li> <li>Timber stocks</li> </ul> <p><b>Social cohesion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to express identity</li> <li>Discrimination</li> <li>Sense of belonging</li> <li>Trust held in others</li> </ul>

**Source:** The Treasury, [The Living Standards Framework Dashboard \(2022\)](#)

Secondly, the **Wellbeing Budget**, delivered for the first time on 30 May 2019, focused government investment on areas where the greatest benefits could be achieved. The Wellbeing Budget also defined **how the Government of New Zealand understands well-being**: “Wellbeing is when **people are able to lead fulfilling lives with purpose, balance and meaning** to them. Giving more New Zealanders capabilities to enjoy good wellbeing requires tackling the long-term challenges we face as a country, like the mental health crisis, child poverty and domestic violence. It means **improving the state of our environment, the strength of our communities and the performance of our economy**.”<sup>83</sup>

The Wellbeing Budget represents a significant change from how budgets have previously been designed, developed, and presented in traditional budgetary approaches and is presented in the graph below.



Source: [The Wellbeing Budget \(2019\)](#)

The Wellbeing Budget focuses on **five priority areas** where it is expected to have the greatest opportunities to make real differences to the lives of citizens:

- 1) **Taking Mental Health Seriously:** Supporting mental wellbeing for all New Zealanders, with a special focus on under 24-year-olds;
- 2) **Improving Child Wellbeing:** Reducing child poverty and improving child wellbeing, including addressing family violence
- 3) **Supporting Māori and Pasifika Aspirations:** Lifting Māori and Pacific incomes, skills and opportunities
- 4) **Building a Productive Nation:** Supporting a thriving nation in the digital age through innovation, social and economic opportunities

<sup>83</sup> Government of New Zealand (2019), The Wellbeing Budget, p. 5, <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2019-05/b19-wellbeing-budget.pdf>

- 5) **Transforming the Economy:** Creating opportunities for productive businesses, regions, Iwi and others to transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy.

The current [Wellbeing Budget 2021: “Securing our Recovery”](#) is aimed to make the following budget contributions to the selected priority areas and objectives:

**Graph:** Wellbeing Budget 2021

<b>Enduring Wellbeing Objective</b>	<b>Budget 2021 contribution</b>
<b>Just Transition</b> – Supporting the transition to a climate-resilient, sustainable and low-emissions economy, while building back from COVID-19.	Setting New Zealand up for success in reducing emissions by funding transitions in areas such as transport, agricultural research, and increasing our commitment to New Zealand Green Investment Finance (NZGIF) to better mitigate the impacts of climate change.
<b>Future of Work</b> – Enabling all New Zealanders and New Zealand businesses to benefit from new technologies and lift productivity and wages through innovation and support into employment those most affected by COVID-19, including women and young people.	We also continue to invest heavily in education, skills and training to build back better. For example, by providing a digital skills programme and training support so industries, businesses and workers have the skills they need to succeed in an increasingly evolving digital environment.
<b>Physical and Mental Wellbeing</b> – Supporting improved health outcomes for all New Zealanders and keeping COVID-19 out of our communities.	Continuing to strengthen the health system to deliver the evolving needs of the population through addressing pressures in, and reforming, the health and disability system.
<b>Māori and Pacific</b> – Lifting Māori and Pacific incomes, skills and opportunities, and combatting the impacts of COVID-19.	Supporting Māori and Pacific peoples, particularly in housing and health, to develop solutions that are driven by Māori and Pacific communities.
<b>Child Wellbeing</b> – Reducing child poverty and improving child wellbeing.	Supporting families and whānau to provide the essentials needed to support their children’s wellbeing through income support measures and supporting more families and whānau into warm, dry housing.

Source: [Wellbeing Budget 2021: “Securing our Recovery”](#)

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

As can be seen in the graph above, the **“Wealth of Aotearoa New Zealand – Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa”**, is a **new suite of statistical indicators** that go beyond economic measures, such as GDP, and **include wellbeing and sustainable development** to help inform government policy and investment decisions. This new tool supports the development of the LSF, as well as other governmental wellbeing reporting, and analysis activities, including monitoring and reporting against the SDGs. Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand is a comprehensive suite of social, cultural, environmental, and economic indicators to measure and track New Zealand’s progress over time.

**No information could be found on actual coordination process** within the government to link SDG implementation and wellbeing activities.

## Norway



### National SDG implementation

The Norwegian Government has been preparing a **National Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda**, which was expected to be presented to the Parliament in the summer 2021 in the form of a white paper.<sup>84</sup> The action plan will stake out the priorities for Norway's work on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In autumn 2020, a broad inclusive process took place in which societal actors could submit input to the action plan.<sup>85</sup> The action plan is intended to establish measures to **secure better coordination between government sectors and levels**, and strengthen cooperation across regional and local administration, the private sector and civil society.<sup>86</sup>

The national **implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG is decentralised**, but with a **close link to the government's budget process**. The process regarding **implementation** of the 2030 Agenda is thereby **regulated by the budget appropriations received by each ministry**. The SDGs and targets are allocated between different ministries, and the work is followed up by the ministry in question. Departments within ministries are responsible for following up specific indicators and coordinating the work with relevant parties in society.<sup>87</sup> This entire approach is referred to in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of 2021 as **"whole-of-government" approach**.<sup>88</sup>

A **Minister for Sustainable Development** was appointed in Norway in 2020, when the **Minister for Local Government and Modernisation became responsible for coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** also has a central role in the international implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.<sup>89</sup> The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are also included in the White Paper, "Long-term Perspectives on the Norwegian Economy 2021", the National Transport Plan 2022– 2033 as well as several other long-term sectoral plans. The **SDGs are also integrated into ordinary policy documents and in the budget process on a national level**.

The Office of the Auditor General of Norway has carried out a survey on governance and reporting of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The conclusions were that there is a **need for stronger coordination and follow-up of the work, something that the new action plan 2021 will attempt to address**.

Norway presented its first Voluntary National Review to the HLPF in 2018. The **second VNR** was presented in 2021.

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<sup>84</sup> Norwegian VNR (2021),

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28233Voluntary\\_National\\_Review\\_2021\\_Norway.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28233Voluntary_National_Review_2021_Norway.pdf)

<sup>85</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021) The Nordic Region and the 2030 Agenda Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Nordic Countries, <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-and-2030-agenda>

<sup>86</sup> VNR (2021)

<sup>87</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021)

<sup>88</sup> VNR (2021)

<sup>89</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021)

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

As reported by the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, the **Norwegian Government has announced that it will develop a new National Strategy for Well-being**.<sup>90</sup> The announcement by the Government of Norway states the approach on well-being:

- A **good life** is about much **more than financial and material goods**;
- **GDP is an insufficient metric for good lives**, as it does not say enough about how people feel; and
- There is a **need for wellbeing to become a supplementary measure of societal development**.

**Statistics Norway** carried out the [first national well-being and quality of life survey in 2020](#), and the results are being used to inform the new well-being strategy. Further surveys will be carried out, with the next starting in November 2021.<sup>91</sup>

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

No specific information on the coordination between SDG implementation and well-being could be detected.

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<sup>90</sup> Wellbeing Economy Alliance website, <https://weall.org/norway-announces-new-national-wellbeing-strategy>

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

## Poland



### National SDG implementation

The strategy that supports implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs is the [Strategy for Responsible Development \(SRD\)](#) for the period up to 2020 (including the perspective up to 2030) which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in February 2017. The strategy defines a model of responsible development in social, economic, and environmental aspects.

The main responsibility for SDG implementation in Poland lies with the **Ministry of Economic Development and Technology (MoED&T)**. The MoED&T also **coordinates horizontal issues** related to sustainable development and is in **close working contact with representatives from other ministries regarding their competence in relation to specific SDGs**. As the office coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Poland, MoED&T also prepares **report on SDG implementation every year**. Each ministry provides information on the activities or initiatives taken each year to implement particular SDGs. The report includes each SDG with a description of progress made at the level of central and local governments, as well as other stakeholders. In addition, MoED&T cooperates with the Statistics Poland as regards monitoring the SDGs implementation.

Poland is aiming to implement the 2030 Agenda with an **integrated approach**. This includes to ensure that the **SDGs are reflected in national strategic policies, programs, and projects**. In this context, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology also organizes the **2030 Agenda National Stakeholders Forum** every year. This event is a kind of platform for conducting a debate, exchanging experiences and information, as well as establishing cooperation between stakeholders and the public sector to implement the SDGs in Poland.

What is more the MoED&T are currently implementing a **project**, with the support of EC and OECD, to **strengthen the capacity of the civil service and the public administration** for the most effective national implementation of the SDGs.

Poland presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) at the HLPF in 2018.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The representative from the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology listed **several well-being/beyond GDP initiatives and activities** which are listed below, including **anti-inflation, pandemic mitigation as well as family and pupils support schemes**:

- [“Anti-Inflation Shield 2.0”](#): The Government’s second Anti-Inflation Shield includes reduction of VAT (e.g. on fuel from 23% to 8%, natural gas from 8% to 0% or on basic foodstuffs to 0%). Together with the first Anti-Inflation Shield, these government measures will bring potential savings for citizens that amount to about PLN 25 billion.
- [Anti-Crisis Shield](#): The support package for entrepreneurs during the Covid-19 pandemic amount to a total of over PLN 212 billion.
- Financial support for families and kids: [“Family 500+”](#) provided financial support to over 2.6 million families (500 PLN per month for each children under the age of 18); the [“Good Start”](#) program provides 300 PLN of single support for all students starting a school year (for about 4.6 million students).

The initiatives taken by the Polish government are mainly aimed at **providing various forms of financial support**. The aim of activities is to **improve the economic situation and provide better well-being (especially for families)**, which may lead to increases in GDP.

Responsibility for the above-mentioned initiatives is with the **Ministry of Family and Social Policy** (for “Family 500+” and “Good Start”) and the **Ministry of Finance** (Anti-Crisis Shield, Anti-Inflation Shield).

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The initiatives and actions taken are **intended to improve the well-being, financial situation, and the conditions for economic activity**, so foster the creation of added value and, consequently and increase the GDP.

Poland uses as a tool to achieve coordination in practice the **OECD Council’s Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development**.

There are currently no institutionalized mechanisms that link the SDGs and well-being concepts, e.g. foresight, scenario analysis or future-oriented assessment methods. However, Statistics Poland provides regular statistics on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs [indicators](#).

# Portugal



## National SDG implementation

As regards national priorities and strategic guidelines, the 2030 Agenda implementation is carried out in Portugal with the following approach that is outlined in the country's [Voluntary National Review of 2017](#): (i) implementation in a full and comprehensive manner, taking into account the **national effort to achieve all SDGs**; (ii) an **integrated approach** ensuring a global perspective on sustainable development promotion and avoiding considering policies in separate silos; and (iii) in a focused manner, by clearly **identifying priority areas** in the light of the country's development strategy, particularly embodied in the National Reform Program.<sup>92</sup>

Streamlining the 2030 Agenda into national strategies, plans and policies revolves around **five thematic areas**.<sup>93</sup>

- **People** – reflecting the determination to end poverty and hunger, in all forms and dimensions, and ensuring that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment;
- **Prosperity** – ensuring that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature;
- **Planet** – strengthening the conviction that the planet needs to be protected from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations;
- **Peace** – emphasizing the determination to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence, while recalling that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development; and
- **Partnership** – mobilizing the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people, leaving no one behind.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** assumed the **overall responsibility for coordinating and developing intra-governmental guidelines for implementation of the 2030 Agenda**, adopted in 2016, together with the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructures. The **Inter-ministerial Commission for Foreign Policy (ICFP)** is responsible for coordinating national implementation, while the **Inter-ministerial Commission for Cooperation (ICC)** is responsible for coordinating the external dimension. Additionally, **each SDG has been allocated to a coordinating ministry responsible for its implementation, monitoring and review**

Portugal presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2017.

<sup>92</sup> Portugese VNR (2017), [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15766Portugal2017\\_EN.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15766Portugal2017_EN.pdf)

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

Based on the defined 5 thematic areas for the 2030 Agenda implementation, Portugal sets its **strategic priorities on 6 SDGs**, namely SDG 4, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 14.

In relation to this and as set out in the National Reform Programme, Portugal attaches **great importance to education, training and skills throughout life**. In so doing, Portugal seeks to reverse historical lags and exclusions having a direct **impact on well-being, economic performance, fighting poverty, promoting equality and social cohesion, citizenship and on environment**. Therefore, SDG 4 on Quality Education is regarded as a priority area and cross-cutting issue for other Sustainable Development Goals. Another fundamental task is to **promote equality between women and men**.

In addition, **economic growth, social development and climate change mitigation** and adaptation are intertwined with investment in adequate infrastructure, in a modern, **entrepreneurial and sustainable industry**, with **technological progress and the digitalization of the economy**.

What is more, areas as diverse as **health**, a fairer and more **inclusive labour market**, income recovery and a more **balanced distribution of income**, through wage policy, social protection, and fiscal policy, adjusted to new social trends and guaranteeing **minimum social standards to the most vulnerable people**.<sup>94</sup>

Portugal developed a **Well-being index (WBI)** which is an annual national statistical overview on development aspects. The variables that make up the WBI stem from administrative procedures and statistical operations developed within the scope of the National Statistical System, the European Statistical System, the World Bank, and others.<sup>95</sup>

From the **Material living conditions perspective**, consideration has been taken of three domains, which aggregate 26 indicators:<sup>96</sup>

- **Economic well-being** – capturing current and future possibilities of consumption, material well-being, and inequality in income distribution;
- **Economic vulnerability** – measuring monetary poverty, material deprivation, indebtedness and housing vulnerability;
- **Labour and income** – assessing participation and social inclusion, labour vulnerability, and gender pay gap, as well as quality of work.

From the **Quality of life perspective**, an account has been taken of seven domains, which aggregate 48 indicators:<sup>97</sup>

- **Health** – through health result indicators and assessment of the provision of health services;
- **Work/life balance** – through assessment of the reconciliation of time allocated to family and work and the subjective assessment of the work/life balance;

<sup>94</sup> Portugese VNR (2017), [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15766Portugal2017\\_EN.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15766Portugal2017_EN.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> Website of Statistics Portugal, [https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine\\_destaques&DESTAQUESdest\\_boui=415625225&DESTAQUESmod\\_o=2](https://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_destaques&DESTAQUESdest_boui=415625225&DESTAQUESmod_o=2)

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

- **Education, knowledge, and skills** – by characterising formal education, lifelong learning, quality of education and level of skills acquired and production of knowledge and innovation;
- **Personal security** – through assessment of crime and subjective assessment of personal security;
- **Civic participation and governance** – through assessment of civic and political participation and trust in institutions;
- **Social relations and subjective well-being** – through assessment of social subjective well-being and individual subjective well-being, dimensions that for being specific will not be subject to joint analysis;
- **Environment** – through assessment of water and air quality, perceived noise intensity, analysis of the final destination of waste and subjective assessment of environmental quality.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The SDGs and well-being/beyond GDP are **basically covered by the same strategic approach**. Beyond that, no concrete information on explicit coordination mechanisms could be detected.

# Romania



## National SDG implementation

**Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (RO SDS)** was adopted in 2018. As pointed out by a representative of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), with the approval of RO SDS in November 2018, the Romanian Government, has engaged in a constant effort to advance effective, efficient, transparent, innovative and citizen-centered governance for sustainable development. The strategy is understood as the **lighthouse that guides the sectoral strategies** to support the SDGs implementation in Romania.

The **Action Plan for the implementation of the RO SDS** was finalized in 2021 and approved in 2022, following a consultation process that consisted of eight rounds of workshops with stakeholders from all social segments. Its approach is adapted to the institutional context and to the Department of Sustainable Development's ability to act as an institutional catalyst, as it sits within the Government Office of Romania. The actions are mainly aimed at **inter-institutional coordination**, so that **line ministries and all institutions are actively involved in the implementation** of the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

Since 2017, Romanian Government, through the establishment of the **Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) at the Government Office of Romania** has taken on the **leading role in implementing the SDGs** and has undertaken concrete actions for setting up and operationalize the Romanian institutional framework that ensures policy coherence to reach all 17 SDGs. The DSD applied and received ESF funds to develop the "Sustainable Romania - Development of the strategic and institutional framework for the implementation of the national strategy for sustainable development of Romania 2030" project that helped DSD to increase its administrative capacity, to develop the institutional strategical and monitoring framework for implementing SDGs and to communicate all the actions to the large public.

According to RO SDS, decision-making on sustainable development is assisted by various bodies:

- **Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development (ICSD)**, that comprises sectoral ministers, is headed by the Prime Minister and represents the key institution for policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD);
- **Consultative Council for Sustainable Development (CCSD)** comprises 34 members representing academia, scientific community and civil society, who advise the ICSD regarding the Action Plan and tracking the results of policies implementation in the field of SD;
- **Sustainable Development Hubs (SD Hubs)** is a national network of experts set up at the level of each ministry, who pursue SDGs implementation in their field, acting as liaisons between their institutions and the DSD as well as the National Institute of Statistics (implementing, monitoring, reporting); and
- **Coalition for Sustainable Development** that comprises a national network of relevant stakeholders representing civil society, acting as communication channel between governors and citizens

Establishing a network of **Sustainable Development Hubs (SD Hubs)** in line ministries and agencies it's an **innovative approach of DSD for ensuring coherence in governmental action** and for

professionalizing the competences in strategic planning and sustainable development of the central public administration. These **hubs consist of staff who are tasked with implementing the SDGs while also acting as liaisons between their own institutions, different departments, National Institute of Statistics and DSD**. Currently, with the support of ESF funding, DSD has established trainings for SD Hubs and supports public administrators in the field of SD. DSD also initiated the change of the Romanian Administrative Code through the introduction of a new occupation, Expert of Sustainable Development, in the list of approved occupation within the public administration.

In 2018, Romania submitted its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

From progress in terms of sustainable development, it is expected in Romania to **benefit both people and the planet**. In this context, it is considered likely by the representative of the DSD that countries with a higher **SDG Index score** tend to do better in terms of subjective well-being. In this regard, Romania has increased its SDG Index since 2018 (with a score of 75 on the SDG Index and Dashboard of the Sustainable Development Report 2021).<sup>98</sup>

In 2022, Romania participated for the first time, in the [GLAAS process](#), an initiative of UN Water implemented by WHO, with the **purpose of SDG 6 monitoring**. The GLAAS country assay covers elements of the enabling environment for SDG 6 on "clean water and sanitation for all", such as national targets, provisions for vulnerable populations and finance, thus contributing to countries making progress towards SDG 6. The process for Romania is coordinated by DSD.

The Consultative Council for Sustainable Development validated a **new set of national sustainable development indicators**, comprising 243 unique indicators, of which 99 are primary and 192 are additional. Romania has also built and implemented an [open access online database](#) that integrates statistics specific to sustainable development, both objective and subjective, in order to effectively understand and track the progress of the implementation for the 17 SDGs on Romania's way to a sustainable future.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The governance of the SDGs is seen by the Romanian Government as an important steering tool that aim at achieving a more sustainable future as the complexity and interrelation of the of the **17 SDGs requires integrated, holistic, and coherent policymaking where decision-making, implementation and monitoring involves actors from the public and private sector as well as civil society**.

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<sup>98</sup> Sustainable Development Report 2021: The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (Includes the SDG Index and Dashboards), <https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopmentreport/2021/2021-sustainable-development-report.pdf>

## Scotland



### National SDG implementation

Scotland's [National Performance Framework \(NPF\)](#), which integrates the 17 SDGs alongside 11 National Outcomes, is the main mechanism for the localisation of the SDG agenda in Scotland. The **NPF and the SDGs share the same aims**. Overall, the NPF has a **focus on tackling inequalities so that no one in Scotland is left behind in the collective effort to achieve the Goals.**<sup>99</sup> The main purpose of the NPF is to create a more successful country; give opportunities to all people living in Scotland; **increase the wellbeing** of people living in Scotland; create **sustainable and inclusive growth**; and reduce inequalities and give equal importance to **economic, environmental, and social progress**.<sup>100</sup>

The current **Scottish Government Program for the period 2021-22**, entitled "[A fairer, greener Scotland](#)", puts **sustainable development and well-being at the center of policymaking**, including specific goals to put sustainability, well-being and fair work at the heart of the economic transformation by, amongst others, "ending Scotland's contribution to climate change; and building a wellbeing economy which secures sustainable, inclusive growth for everyone, in all parts of Scotland".<sup>101</sup>

Scotland also contributes to the SDGs internationally via our [international development work](#). This means that Scotland actively takes part in **tackling global challenges including poverty, injustice and inequality**. At the forefront of the Scottish efforts is the **annual £10 million International Development Fund (IDF)**, whose main aim is to support and empower their partner countries Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, and Pakistan. The three funding streams under the IDF are development assistance (aid) projects; capacity strengthening initiatives; and commercial investment initiatives.

**Deputy First Minister**, John Swinney, has ministerial responsibility for the National Performance Framework. The **Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine**, Neil Gray has ministerial responsibility for our international development program.

The **NPF promotes partnership working by making organizations jointly responsible for planning and spending to achieve shared outcomes**. Everyone in the public sector has some responsibility for supporting Scotland to deliver progress on the defined [11 National Outcomes](#) (see below for details). Overall, the **NPF provides a platform for collaboration across Scotland's civic society, including public and private sectors, voluntary organisations, businesses and communities** - based on **delivering the National Outcomes and the SDGs**.

Additionally, in the current Government Program 2021-22 includes a commitment to "reconstitute a **Ministerial working group on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development** to lead on our ambition to align domestic policy objectives and activity with our international development objectives".<sup>102</sup>

As regards the Voluntary National Review (VNR), the [UK's VNR](#) from 2019 was produced through collaboration with and input from the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern

<sup>99</sup> The National Performance Framework (NPF) website, <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

<sup>100</sup> NPF website, <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/what-it>

<sup>101</sup> Scottish Government (2021), "A fairer, greener Scotland Programme for Government 2021-22", p. 8, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-greener-scotland-programme-government-2021-22/>

<sup>102</sup> Ibid, p. 15

Ireland. However, the Scottish Government worked with stakeholders to collaboratively develop content for an own specific Scottish review, published 2020 and entitled, [“Scotland and the Sustainable Development Goals: A national review to drive action”](#). In this review, The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), worked with SDG Scotland Network (an open coalition of over 300 people and organisations formed by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) to collectively assess performance and highlight challenges and opportunities in realising the SDGs.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

Introduced in 2007, and refreshed in 2011, 2016 and 2018, the [National Performance Framework \(NPF\)](#) sets out a **vision for national well-being in Scotland**. This means that the **NPF is Scotland’s well-being framework**.

To help achieve its main purpose, the NPF sets out **“National Outcomes”** which describe the kind of Scotland it aims to create. The National Outcomes reflect the values and aspirations of the people of Scotland; **are aligned with the United Nations’ SDG**; and help to track progress in reducing inequality.

The total of **11 National Outcomes** cover the following topics: children and young people; communities; culture; economy; education; environment; fair work and business; health; human rights; international issues; and poverty. The graph below shows the 11 National Outcomes and what they aim to achieve:

**Graph: 11 National Outcomes of Scotland**



Sources: [Scotland’s Wellbeing – Delivering the National Outcomes \(2019\)](#)

As pointed out by a representative of the National Performance Framework Unit, **the NPF explicitly includes “increased well-being” as part of its purpose**, and combines measurement of **how well Scotland is doing in economic terms with a broader range of well-being measures**. These indicators incorporate a range of different types of data – from social attitudes and perceptions to economic and environmental statistics – in order to paint a broad picture of Scotland’s

performance. There is a total of **81 indicators** for the 11 National Outcomes which allow to see how Scotland is performing.

As already mentioned above, the **Deputy First Minister**, John Swinney, has ministerial responsibility for the National Performance Framework.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

As the National Performance Framework (NPF) integrated the 17 SDGs and the 11 National Outcomes and, in this way, localized the SDGs, the **coordination between SDG implementation and well-being is intrinsically linked**.

## Slovakia



### National SDG implementation

The **National Priorities of Agenda 2030** was approved by the Government Decision in 2018. The new **Vision and Development Strategy 2030** was adopted in 2021 and is the long-term Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic – Slovakia 2030. It is the key implementing document to achieve national priorities of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Slovak Republic.

Therefore, the **strategic documents have been adopted**. However, as was pointed out a representative of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, **implementation in real life is difficult**. The major source of public investments in Slovakia is coming from EU funds, which are governed by special programs (e.g. Partnership Agreement, Operational Programs) with their own goals, priorities, activities, indicators.

The main responsibility for the SDG implementation lies with the **Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization** (which is responsible for internal dimension of Agenda 2030) and the **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs** (which is responsible for external dimension of Agenda 2030).

The coordination between the different government ministries is done by the **Council of Government for Agenda 2030** at the level of ministers, and the **Working Group for Agenda 2030** at the level of the public administration.

Slovakia presented its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2018.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

**Well-being is a main focus of the Vision and Development Strategy 2030**. However, as argued by the representative of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization it would be **unrealistic to say that well-being dominates over GDP growth**. It is felt that national and EU programs require measures that must be cost efficient but investments in social and environment issues are not always like this. In general, calculations of the internal rate of return do not reflect enough a protection of these two pillars of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is under auspices of the **Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization**. While the responsibility of the implementation of the EU Green Deal lies with the **Ministry of Environment**.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

A coordination between SDG implementation and well-being/beyond GDP initiatives and activities is **not in place yet**.

# Slovenia



## National SDG implementation

In December 2017, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the [Development Strategy of Slovenia 2030](#), where well-being is mentioned throughout the document. In 2018, the document, [“Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”](#), provided an update to the original 2030 strategy.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia decided that Slovenia **would implement the 17 SDGs on a national level by embedding them into Slovenia’s Development Strategy 2030, rather than designing a separate parallel process.** Slovenia’s Development Strategy 2030 is a development framework that builds on the Vision of Slovenia 2050 and the current state of the economy, the society and the environment; it takes into account global challenges and trends and is designed to incorporate the SDGs. In that regard, the new national development goals share characteristics of the SDGs, such as deep interconnections and cross-cutting elements, tackling and addressing the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and inclusiveness in aiming to leave no one behind.

Every year, the Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development prepares a **Development Report**, which examines the achievement of Development Strategy’s objectives and informs the Government about the findings. The latest [Development Report is from 2021](#).

The main responsibility for SDG implementation lies with **Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy**.

In 2017, Slovenia presented its first Voluntary National Review and, in 2020, its [second Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) was presented at the HLPF.

## National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

The 2020 Voluntary National Review lists many best practice cases outlining the activities of Slovenia that are **enhancing well-being**. In answering the questionnaire for this study, the Slovenian colleagues **focused on SDG 3**, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

Two projects were decided to be the showcase for best practices:

- Organised screening programmes for **early cancer detection**
- “Sopotniki” – better **access to healthcare and other services for senior citizens**

Slovenia acts as a responsible global citizen by also applying **well-being activities in the international community**. The care of Slovenia for the **well-being of the employees** is presented on the case of Ministry of Defence.

The responsibility of well-being initiatives and activities, especially the ones listed above, lies with Ministry of Health, The Sopotniki Institute – NGO Voluntary organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defence.

## Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The coordinator for all the SDGs is **Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy**. Through **active participation of all ministries** throughout the coordination process and **various other stakeholders**.

## Spain



### National SDG implementation

In 2020, the Spanish Government adopted the [Sustainable Development Strategy 2030](#) which is understood as a national project to make the 2030 Agenda a reality. This strategy marks a renewed commitment to **place the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the heart of government action**. This is evidenced in the definition of an architecture that grants a prominent role to the 2030 Agenda, elevating its range to the level of a Ministry (Ministry of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda) and creating a Secretary of State with executive competencies and a mandate for the design, drafting, development and assessment of the plans and strategies necessary for Spain's compliance with the 2030 Agenda and, specifically, the Sustainable Development Strategy.<sup>103</sup>

With this strategy, a **system of governance** with three functional levels was established, with mechanisms to ensure their interrelation as well as their executive and working capacity, thus making an **integrated and integrating vision** of the efforts possible. The functional levels, which are overseen by the main responsible bodies, the **Ministry for Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda** and the **Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda**, are<sup>104</sup>:

- 1) Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda which is bringing together **fifteen ministries** and enables the creation of a **broad inter-ministerial coordination** and is assisted by a technical working group.
- 2) Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda is a **cooperative body among the General State Administration, the autonomous communities, the autonomous cities, and the local administration**. It is a cooperation based on dialogue, exchange of experiences and fostering joint efforts to maximize the knowledge accumulated by the different levels of administration.
- 3) Sustainable Development Council is an **advisory body for collaboration and a platform for participation**, bringing together a total of sixty representatives from academia, the business sector, trade unions, ecological, social and human rights and peace organizations and international cooperation bodies.

The strategy lists **8 country challenges** that are addressed by the strategy, incl. end poverty and inequality; overcoming the shortcomings of an excessively concentrated and dependent system; lose the gender inequality gap and put an end to discrimination; and put an end to job insecurity.

Besides the definition of country challenges, the strategy also lists **other transformative actions** that are now in the focus. One of these transformative actions is **“Budgetary Alignment: Economic Commitment to Sustainable Development Policies”**. It is argued in the strategy that budget alignment with the SDGs is a paradigm shift and reflects the political and economic commitment of budget practice to sustainable development policies. As part of this process, the Spanish Ministry of Finance has been leading, since 2019, the alignment of the General State Budgets bills with the 2030 Agenda in cooperation with all ministerial departments. As a result of this effort, the

<sup>103</sup> Ministry for Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda (2020) Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, <https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/agenda2030/documentos/eds2030-english.pdf>

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

Draft General State Budget for 2021 has been accompanied by the First Report on Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>105</sup>

Spain presented its [first Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2018. The [second VNR \(only available in Spanish\)](#) was presented in 2021,

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

In the diagnosis of the country challenge on “overcoming the shortcomings of an excessively concentrated and dependent system”, the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 argues that **re-framing growth** is important and talks about a shift toward **sustainable and inclusive growth**. This re-framed form of growth should aim for full and productive employment and decent work for all, and is characterized by the transformation of the productive sector towards a **circular economy**.<sup>106</sup>

Action priorities for this challenge include a Long-term Spanish **Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Economy in 2050**; a Circular Economy Strategy and related **2021-2023 Circular Economy Action Plan**; etc.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

No specific information is provided in the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 on how coordination mechanisms between SDG implementation and the well-being/beyond GDP concepts look like.

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<sup>105</sup> Ministry for Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda (2020) Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, <https://www.mdsocialesa2030.gob.es/agenda2030/documentos/eds2030-english.pdf>

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

## Sweden



### National SDG implementation

In June 2020, the Swedish government submitted a [bill on Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#) to parliament, which passed the bill in December 2020. The bill serves as a **new national action plan for the 2030 Agenda**. The bill describes how Sweden is to work with implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both nationally and within the EU and internationally. The government's proposal is that Sweden will implement the 2030 Agenda through a **coherent policy, and implementation will be characterized by the overarching principle that no one will be left behind**. To achieve this objective, Sweden aims to conduct activities that balance and integrate the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. The work to achieve the objective should be carried out **in broad partnership with various actors in society and international collaboration partners**.<sup>107</sup>

Overall, the **2030 Agenda** should, in accordance with the target set in the government bill, be **integrated into ordinary processes**. By integrating and using the agenda as a tool within ordinary processes for how policies are shaped, implemented and followed-up, the government can perform a more coherent policy.

Sweden's national implementation of the 2030 Agenda is based on **delegated responsibility** in which **all departments of the Swedish government are equally responsible for the SDG implementation**. The **national coordination function** is currently placed at the **Ministry for the Environment**, and the **international coordination function** is placed at the **Ministry for Foreign Affairs**.

Sweden's Government has appointed a [national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda](#) who, in the period 2020-2024, will support the government in the work to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs nationally. The national coordinator will work to strengthen, promote, and deepen the work of various actors on the 2030 Agenda. Joint plans will be drawn up through collaboration and partnerships between different societal actors.<sup>108</sup>

Sweden presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the HLPF in 2017. The [second VNR](#) was presented in 2021.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

In 2017, Sweden introduced [measures of well-being in the government's 2017 spring bills](#). They are divided into economic, environmental and social well-being. These **'new measures of wellbeing'** is a framework of 15 indicators of economic, environmental and social dimensions of quality of life. These 15 indicators comprise: GDP per capita; Employment rate; Unemployment rate; Household debt; General government consolidated gross debt; Air quality; Water quality; Protected natural environments; Chemical body burden; Greenhouse gas emissions; Low economic standard; Self-perceived general health; Level of education; Interpersonal trust; Life satisfaction.

<sup>107</sup> Nordic Council of Ministers (2021) The Nordic Region and the 2030 Agenda Implementation of the 2030: Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Nordic Countries, <https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-region-and-2030-agenda>

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

The general idea behind the measures is that it is important to follow the long-term societal development in a broader context. They are intended to **complement GDP** and be a **tool to analyze the development of people's quality of life** and the **long-term sustainability of the economy**.

The responsibility for these measures lies with the **Ministry of Finance**.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The new **wellbeing indicators**, established in 2017, have been developed with the **SDGs as a starting point**.

However, there is **no specific coordination** between the SDG implementation and the measures of well-being.

As regards **evaluation and monitoring**, the government bill states that Sweden should perform a **Voluntary National Review** to the UN's High-level Political Forum on Sustainable development **once each term in office**. The **Swedish parliament** has also decided that the government should hand in a **written communication regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda once every two years**.

# Switzerland



## National SDG implementation

The new [2030 Sustainable Development Strategy \(2030 SDS\)](#) and the associated 2021–2023 Action Plan (with 22 measures) were adopted by the Federal Council in June 2021. In 2030 SDS, the Swiss Federal Council outlines the priorities it intends to set to implement the 2030 Agenda over the next ten years. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provides the reference framework.

The **2030 SDS** is first and foremost an **instrument to coordinate between policy areas**, and works in particular to **make sustainable development a core component of the numerous federal sectoral activities**. As a transversal strategy, it formulates guidelines for federal policy and sets goals for the period up to 2030, as well as directions for domestic and foreign policy strategic with corresponding political priorities. **All federal agencies are called upon to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 SDS within the scope of their responsibilities and to integrate the principles and goals into their regular planning, budgeting and policy management processes.**

Switzerland attaches great importance to implementing the 2030 Agenda in its entirety. Switzerland is well advanced with respect to some of the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Yet more still needs to be done in **some fields where special action and coordination between policy areas is required at federal level**. With regard to these priority topics, the Federal Council uses this strategy to set targets for Switzerland as well as strategic domestic and foreign policy directions for federal policy.<sup>109</sup> The 3 priorities of the 2030 SDS are:

- 1. Sustainable consumption and sustainable production:** Promoting and facilitating sustainable consumption patterns, **ensuring prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources.**
- 2. Climate, energy and biodiversity:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate-related impacts, etc.
- 3. Equal opportunities and social cohesion:** Promoting individual self-determination, ensuring social cohesion, guaranteeing real equality between women and men.

The **main responsibility** for the coherence of Switzerland's sustainability policy lies with the **Federal Council** (the seven-member executive council that constitutes the executive branch of the Swiss federal government).

The Federal Council set up the [2030 Agenda Steering Committee](#) to coordinate and guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 2030 SDS from the strategic perspective, thereby placing this work on a firmer institutional footing. All key federal agencies involved in implementing the 2030 Agenda at directorate level in all departments are represented on the Committee, along with the Federal Chancellery. They **coordinate cross-disciplinary policy areas** and thus **ensure greater coherence in the interests of sustainable development**. The **members** of the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee are **from all departments**, as well as the Federal Chancellery.

<sup>109</sup> Swiss Federal Council (2021) 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, <https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html>

The **operational leadership of implementation** is the responsibility of the [two Delegates for the 2030 Agenda appointed by the Federal Council](#) – one each from the Federal Department of the **Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC)** and from the **Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)**. They take turns in chairing the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee and ensure the greatest degree of coherence between domestic and foreign policy concerns.

Switzerland presented its **first Voluntary National Review (VNR)** to the HLPF in 2016, the [second VNR](#) was presented in 2018. The **third VNR** was adopted by the Swiss Federal Council in May 2022 and will be presented at the HLPF in 2022. [Information about the third VNR](#) is available already in German, French and Italian.

### National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.

As mentioned above, the 2030 SDS is focusing on 3 priority areas which link the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development and **highlight the balancing** of the three aspects for measures in each of the three areas.<sup>110</sup>

The **priority on Sustainable consumption and sustainable production** includes the following specific challenge that has been defined:

Ensuring prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources: The **well-being and prosperity of the Swiss population should be ensured without overexploiting natural resources**. Among other things, this requires the **decoupling of economic growth from resource utilization** and the creation of a competitive regulatory environment that makes for an **innovative and future-fit economy**, e.g. sharing economy, a highly diversified economy with substitution options can better withstand crisis.

The **priority on Equal opportunities and social cohesion** includes the following specific challenges that need to be addressed:

Promoting individual self-determination: It must be ensured that **everyone is able to share in a country's prosperity** and shape his or her life independently.

Ensuring social cohesion: **Discrimination, inequalities and disadvantages need to be reduced**, promotion given to social cohesion that takes account of diversity and territorial disparities, and intergenerational solidarity should be ensured.

Guaranteeing real equality between women and men: Existing **inequalities between women and men** in professional and public life, in education and the family should be eliminated and further promotion given to gender equality.

### Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP

The **SDG implementation and its related well-being concept and objectives are linked in the 2030 SDS process**. No further information is provided on the concrete coordination mechanisms.

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<sup>110</sup> Swiss Federal Council (2021) 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, <https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html>

## Wales



### National SDG implementation

In the same year that the 2030 Agenda and SDGs were adopted, the National Assembly for Wales passed the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) to provide stronger governance for the long term in Wales. The Act enshrined Wales' historical **commitment to sustainable development** and lays out **seven well-being goals for a more sustainable Wales**.

The **policy and institutional framework for sustainable development in Wales** was firstly framed by the founding legislation of **devolution in the Government of Wales Act 1998** where there was a **duty to promote sustainable development through a scheme**. The Well-being of Future Generations Act from 2015 (WFG Act) strengthened this framework considerably through a comprehensive approach to sustainable development.<sup>111</sup>

The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** provides a **comprehensive approach to sustainable development that mirrors the 2030 Agenda framework** and drew from best practice around the world at the time. It lays out seven well-being goals for Wales, which address the **four dimensions of sustainable development in Wales (environmental, economic, social and cultural)**, places legal duties on public sector bodies and establishes the **world's first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**.<sup>112</sup> The Commissioner will be an individual **appointed by the Welsh Ministers**. The primary purpose of the Commissioner is to **promote the sustainable development principle**, and to **monitor and assess the achievement of the well-being objectives set by public bodies**.<sup>113</sup>

The **sustainable development principle** put the Bruntland definition **into Welsh law** and is now a fundamental part of **how public bodies and public services boards must now operate**. The Future Generations Act sets out a **sustainable development duty** structured around the **achievement of the well-being goals**, through the setting and meeting of well-being objectives and the **application of the sustainable development principle**. The intended effect of the duty is public bodies focusing their actions and resources on contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals by meeting their well-being objectives, and doing so in a manner which is consistent with the sustainable development principle.<sup>114</sup>

The **UK Government** has presented [its Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#) to the HLPF in 2019. To supplement this, the **Welsh Government** has worked with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, stakeholders and through the 'Wales and the SDGs' working group to prepare a ['Wales Supplementary Report' to the UK's VNR](#) to provide consolidated and **additional content on the different approach taken by Wales to sustainable development**.

<sup>111</sup> Welsh Government (2019) "Wales and the Sustainable Development Goals – Supplementary Report to the UK Voluntary National Review, <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Wales--SDGs--VNR--Supplementary-Report-for-Wales--Version-10.1-Final-w-cover-ENG.pdf>

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Welsh Government (2015) "Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill: Explanatory Memorandum ", <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-01/well-being-of-future-generations-wales-bill-explanatory-memorandum-march-2015.pdf>

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

**National Wellbeing/Beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, etc.**

The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act gives a **legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies**. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work, and work together to improve the well-being of Wales. It is intended to make the public bodies listed in the Act work more on long-term issues, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.<sup>115</sup>

These are the **seven well-being goals of Wales**:



Source: [Welsh Government \(2021\) Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 – Essentials Guide](#)

**Each public body must carry out sustainable development and, in so doing, contribute to achieving well-being in Wales.** The action a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development must include: (a) setting and publishing objectives (“well-being objectives”) that are designed to maximize its contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals, and (b) taking all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.<sup>116</sup>

The Well-Being Act also provides for **national indicators to be set by the Welsh Ministers**. Currently, this indicator set comprises **50 indicators for the 7 well-being goals**. These should help Welsh public bodies, together with wider stakeholders, to understand the extent to which the vision of long-term well-being, as set out by the well-being goals, is being achieved.<sup>117</sup> Ministers must

<sup>115</sup> Welsh Government (2021), “Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – Essentials Guide”, <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-10/well-being-future-generations-wales-act-2015-the-essentials-2021.pdf>

<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Welsh Government (2015) “Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill: Explanatory Memorandum”, <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-01/well-being-of-future-generations-wales-bill-explanatory-memorandum-march-2015.pdf>

also set milestones to show expectations of what the indicators should show at certain points in the future. The Act enables Ministers to review and amend the national indicators and milestones so that they stay up to date and relevant. At the start of each financial year Ministers must publish an annual progress report setting out the progress made over the last year.<sup>118</sup>

The latest [“Wellbeing of Wales” report](#) was published in September 2021 and provides an update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 wellbeing goals. In addition, the [“National wellbeing indicators 2020–21: quality report”](#) provides links to where further information can be found in relation to the quality of the data used in the National Indicators published in the Wellbeing of Wales report.

In addition, the **Future Generations Commissioner** for Wales in 2020 published the [“Future Generations Report”](#) which is published every five years and provides an **assessment of the improvements public bodies should make in relation to their well-being objectives**, including **recommendations for the Welsh Government Ministers** in their endeavor to achieve well-being. This report also looks at the different elements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, such as the ways of working, the well-being goals but also through real life examples and topics. It is meant to explain **how the Act should work in practice and seek to illustrate the vision, ambition and tools to achieve this**.

### [Coordination between SDG implementation and Wellbeing/beyond GDP](#)

As outlined above, **SDG implementation and well-being are intrinsically interwoven** in Wales as the Well-Being Act is the national implementation approach and strategy for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

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<sup>118</sup> Welsh Government (2021), “Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - Essentials Guide”, <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-10/well-being-future-generations-wales-act-2015-the-essentials-2021.pdf>

# Annex 1 – Survey Questionnaire

## **Country approaches to the SDGs and Well-being**

Please answer the following questions on three topics in the respective boxes provided below each one (the space for answers is not limited). The questionnaire has 2 pages.

There is no need to provide many details, a general description with the most important information is certainly sufficient.

*Many thanks in advance for your efforts, your cooperation, and for sharing your activities and experiences!*

### **1. National SDG implementation:**

<p><b>Do you have a national strategy, action plan, etc. in place for the 2030 Agenda/SDG implementation in your country?</b> If so, please state its title and provide a link to the document(s) in English (if available).</p>
<p><b>Which ministry/government office has the main responsibility for SDG implementation?</b></p>
<p><b>What is the specific role of the SDGs in guiding strategic policymaking in your country?</b></p>
<p><b>Which coordination mechanism is in place for the collaboration between the different government ministries for SDG implementation?</b></p>

### **2. National Well-being / beyond GDP concepts, initiatives, activities, etc.:**

<p><b>Which concepts/initiatives/activities for Well-being and/or beyond GDP are currently in place in your country?</b> In case there are several, please mention the 3 most important ones in the context of the SDGs (please also provide website links, if available). Please mind that the study focuses on concepts and activities in use, not indicator sets.</p>
<p><b>What is the rationale and specific focus behind your concepts/initiatives/activities, incl. indicator development, for Well-being and/or beyond GDP?</b></p>
<p><b>Which ministry/government office has the main responsibility for the respective concept, initiative, activity, etc.?</b></p>

### **3. Coordination between SDG implementation and Well-being / beyond GDP:**

<p><b>How are the SDG implementation process and the Well-being/beyond GDP activities linked to one another?</b></p>
<p><b>How do you enable coherence and coordination between SDG implementation and Well-being/beyond GDP concepts/initiatives/activities?</b> <b>Which tools and mechanisms are used to achieve coordination in practice?</b></p>
<p><b>Are there any institutionalized mechanisms that link the SDGs/Well-being concepts in use to foresight, scenario analysis or other future-oriented assessment methods?</b> If so, please explain briefly.</p>

## Annex 2 – Responses to Survey Questionnaire: Institutional affiliation of national contact persons

Country	Institution	Filled-in questionnaire received	Interview per video chat
Austria	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology	20 April 2022	
Belgium	Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (with additional information included from the Federal Planning Bureau)	20 April 2022	
Croatia	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	3 May 2022	
Czech Republic	Ministry of the Environment	20 April 2022	
Denmark	Ministry of Environment	20 April 2022	
European Union	Secretariat-General, Twin Transition, Economic and Social Affairs, Unit on the European Green Deal (SG.D.2)		20 April 2022
Estonia	Government Office	20 April 2022	
Finland	Prime Minister's Office	2 May 2022	
France	Office of the Commissioner General for Sustainable Development, Ministry for an Ecological Transition	15 April 2022 (with additional information via email on 27 April 2022)	
Germany	Unit for Sustainable Development, German Federal Chancellery (with additional information included from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection)	26 April 2022	
Hungary	National Council for Sustainable Development	12 April 2022	
Iceland	Prime Minister's Office	29 April 2022	
Ireland	Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment	3 May 2022	
Latvia	Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre	20 April 2022	
Luxembourg	Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development	19 April 2022	
Poland	2030 Agenda Team, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology	20 April 2022	
Romania	Department of Sustainable Development, Prime Minister's Office	21 April 2022	
Scotland	National Performance Framework Unit	21 April 2022 (with additional information via email on 22 April)	
Slovakia	Department of Agenda 2030 and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization	19 April 2022	
Slovenia	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (with additional information included from the Government Office for Development and EU Cohesion Funds and the Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development)	19 April 2022	
Sweden	Ministry of Environment	28 April 2022	

Countries covered without a filled in questionnaire, but extensive information via email			
Italy	Ministry of Ecological Transition	28 April 2022	
Countries covered without a filled in questionnaire			
Bulgaria	Information presented for these countries is based on document research, e.g. national policy and strategy documents; Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs); ESDN country profiles; and OECD country profiles on Policy Coherence for Sustainable development; etc. (specific sources are given in the respective country chapters)		
Costa Rica			
Cyprus			
Ecuador			
Greece			
Lithuania			
Malta			
New Zealand			
Norway			
Portugal			
Spain			
Switzerland			
Wales			



**Gerald Berger Sustainability Consulting**  
Trinkhausstrasse 3/2/8, 1110 Vienna, Austria  
E: [gb@gerald-berger.com](mailto:gb@gerald-berger.com)  
T: +43/699/10652896  
W: [www.gerald-berger.com](http://www.gerald-berger.com)

