

*Sustainable Development Goals:
Turning Words into Practice*

European trends

Romanian Development Camp, 4 July 2016

Agenda

- Main trends and changes at the European level
- Why important at national level?

Trends and changes at EU level

EU overarching Agenda 2030 implementation strategy

- **Overall:** Many uncertainties. No official initiative or statement from the EU Commission. Only FAC discussion (development aspects). Not reflected in Council Conclusion from European Council, June 28-29. Unclear what will present at HLPF in July 2016.
- **One overarching strategy combining EU implementation home and abroad.** Reflecting the universality of Agenda 2030?
- **Building on a mapping of existing internal and external EU policies and targets.** Baseline or implementation strategy?
- **Led by SecGen:** Broader than just development and environment. Engagement from all DGs or only the usual suspects?

EU overarching Agenda 2030 implementation strategy

- **An EU implementation strategy.** EU + EU Member States or only EU institutional strategy?
- **EU Member States are asking for leadership and guidance from the European Commission.**
Individual national implementation strategies or common EU Member States elements?
- **Follow-up and review.** Part of the strategy?
- Could be **series of deliverables:**
 - End of 2016: 'Orientation Communication' on how the EU should move forward. Public cross-sectoral consultation originally announced unsure.
 - 2017: Based on Europe 2020 mid-term review start thinking about replacing current EU2020 strategy from 2020 onwards.

EU overarching Agenda 2030 implementation strategy

- **The external dimension** of the EU implementation are taken forward in the new EU Global Strategy, (the MFF review) and the new European Consensus on Development.
- **The EU Global Strategy:** Covers all EU external policies. Should reflect Agenda 2030 in all external aspects – not just development. Main message in communication around the strategy: a stronger new role in the world (security). CONCORD will respond to the proposed strategy soon.
- **The Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 review:** Not only external dimension, but if Agenda 2030 will be reflected it will most likely be in heading 4 on EU's external budget, which is mainly development assistance. Review will be finalised in 2017.

Revising European Consensus on Development in line Agenda 2030

- **Aim:** To align with Agenda 2030, incl. by highlighting necessary links with other policies.
- **Take into account** AAAA, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and follow-up to Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
- **Consensus Roadmap and Questionnaire** published in May.
- **Public consultation end of May – end of August**, complemented by high-level policy dialogues with key institutional partners (Council, Parliament and specific groups of stakeholders).
- Communication **expected in November**. FAC in November: Council Conclusion?
- Aim to have it **signed by** EC, EP, Council, HRVP and ratified by national parliaments.

Revising European Consensus on Development in line Agenda 2030

The roadmap highlights the following areas requiring updating in light of Agenda 2030:

- the stronger integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, recognising the need to address poverty, social issues and environmental degradation together;
- the need to preserve, promote and protect global public goods such as healthy ecosystems, including by mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change;
- migration, including addressing adequately the root causes of migration; addressing mixed migration flows, and migration as a risk to, and opportunity for, development;
- a new focus on inequality within and among countries;
- renewed impetus to ensuring gender equality, including the gender dimension in conflicts and addressing violence against women;
- creating decent jobs and strengthening social protection systems;
- greater emphasis on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, good governance, human rights (including freedom of thought, conscience and religion) and the security-development nexus;
- fragility and crisis situations
- the need to mobilise a much broader range of means of implementation, including:
 - putting in place the right enabling policy environments for successful implementation;
 - promoting policy coherence for development, as a contribution to broader policy coherence for sustainable development;
 - mobilising and making effective use of all resources – public and private, domestic and international, including by improving the ability of countries to mobilise own domestic resources and combat illicit financial flows

Why important at national level?

Why important at national level?

- Implementation of the Agenda 2030 (principles of universality and leave no one behind) are a **challenge to all**. Need for finding joint smart ways of translating the agenda into actions.
- Will **the EU overarching implementation strategy** cover EU institutions only or also EU Members States? Many national policies are decided upon at EU level e.g. the new European Consensus on development, which will be ratified by national governments.
- **Regional implementation and follow-up** are part of Agenda 2030. How will EU Member States contribute? How will monitoring take place?
- The EU has already **tools relevant for implementation** in place, e.g. Policy Coherence for (sustainable) Development. How to make best use of them?

Some trends at national level

External vs internal

- Several MS are splitting internal and external (different political leaders in charge of either external or internal)
- Also stakeholder participation sometimes split along these lines: Sustainable development councils with domestic focus; development cooperation councils with international focus

Political leadership

- PM; minister of sustainable development and infrastructure; minister of foreign affairs; ministers of the future, public administration and development; minister of development; minister of energy and environment; ministries of foreign affairs, infrastructure & environment, economic affairs coordinated by minister of international trade and development cooperation, etc

Overarching strategy

- Several update existing sustainable development strategies or update former development policy.
- Several countries still unclear.
- Only in a few countries developing complete overarching strategy/implementation plan. Sometimes action plans per department (PCSD)

Gap analysis

- ongoing or done in some countries though usually not public
- Some have ministries/DGs conduct analysis, others have outsourced the exercise to external researchers or involved national statistical bureau
- In some countries just mapping of policies and targets in place, in others more in-depth analysis of where policies is insufficiently delivering or new policy is needed, while putting proposals forward to adjust national policies

Some trends at national level

Governance

- Interministerial working group, intergovernmental coordination group, coordination hub within the PM's office,
- Parliamentary committee for sustainable development, all party parliamentary group on SDGs, parliamentary Development Policy Committee
- National delegation for Agenda 2030 incl. 1 representative from academia, cities, CS, government. Supported by a Secretariat and larger expert group.

Participation

- Ministerial roadtrip around the country to gather input to the new strategy for development cooperation + formal consultation with CSOs
- National Commission for Sustainable Development: multistakeholder platform with wide participation from CSOs (development, environment, student organisations, ethnic minorities, labour organisations), local authorities, churches etc.
- Different departments organising sectoral consultations
- One organised 5 different conferences to consult on the implementation strategy
- Some focusing on consulting the private sector (chamber of commerce, CSR network, etc)

Communication

- No communication strategies launched yet
- Interministerial website planned
- Some see this as CS role

Trends at national level

- Plans for implementation and institutional set-up are very diverse. Need to fit national context but also reflects lack of guidance from the EU.
- Voluntary national reviews at HLPF, including EU Member States (Finland, Germany, Estonia) will bring inspiration – also at EU level.

Questions?

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Thank you !

