From vision to reality
Romania’s road to achieving SDGs

LÁSZLÓ BORBÉLY
State Counselor
Clear political commitment

• April 2016 – full support from both houses of the Romanian Parliament for the implementation of Agenda 2030

• A Sub-Commission for Sustainable Development was established

• May 2017 - the Department of Sustainable Development established under the PM’s office

Strategic vision for achieving the SDGs

Romania’s Sustainable Development Strategy revised with broad public consultation, calls for:

• policy coherence: action plan and new indicators set
• institutional reform
• efficiency and transparency: communication and awareness raising programs, stakeholder involvement
Building institutional leadership to enhance policy coherence for Sustainable Development

Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development - established in 2019, headed by the prime minister, members of the government

Coalition for Sustainable Development formed out of representatives from Civil Society and the private sector - underway

EU funded project: august 2019 – august 2022 - 5,4 mil Euro

- Action plan for the strategy's implementation
- Consultative Council on Sustainable Development - academia, research institutes, civil society offer advice to the Government
- Communication plan
- New set of SD indicators and data aggregator - http://romania-durabila.gov.ro/
- Sustainable Development Hubs in relevant public institution formed out of “Experts in Sustainable Development”, a new occupation promoted by DSD (2017), connected with the Department and National Institute of Statistics
- Romanian Sustainability Code
OECD’s support for the Sustainable Development Department to strengthen the institutional mechanisms to deliver on the SDGs

I. Capacity building in the field of public governance, a coordinated approach of the Centre of the Government project - delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals through robust co-ordination capacities in the Centre of Government in Romania (EEA / Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021)

II. Linking policy planning and budgeting to support their implementation (funds from national budget)

Stocktaking and analysis phase, aiming to provide an understanding of Romania’s current co-ordination status on the SDGs followed by recommendations from OECD’s experts as well as comparative experiences from peer countries who joint the OECD mission (relevant experience from Mexico).

The OECD delegation carried out meetings with:
- Directorate for Policy and Priorities Coordination
- Department for Government Strategies
- 9 line Ministries (Finance, Environment, Transport, Energy, Economy, Labour, Education, Health, European Funds, Regional Development)
- directorates within the Public Finance Ministry
- Parliamentary Committee on the Budget; the Parliamentary Subcommittee for Sustainable Development;
- World Bank;
- National Institute of Statistics;
- Court of Accounts;
- NGO’s
- academia

OECD - neutral facilitator in the dialogue across ministries and between the government and civil society actors committed to strengthening leadership and governance arrangements for achieving 2030 targets.
Main focus of the OECD mission and outputs

- **To assess** how the current institutional framework is fit for delivering cross-cutting objectives such as energy efficiency, greening the extractive sector or sustainable financing

- **To identify gaps** in the governance arrangements and **provides recommendations** with regards SDGs implementation such as: strengthening inter-ministerial and vertical linkages; clarifying the Sustainable Development Department’s coordination function and its mandate to manage trade-offs; adapting legislative frameworks and procurement processes, update competence frameworks, etc.

- **Identifying policies areas with more potential for boosting the implementation of the SDGs** which should be included in the Action Plan for Sustainable Development

- Identify inter-linkages between existing sectoral policies that can be operationalized into cross-sectoral actions

- Support for **aligning budget programmes to SDGs** and evaluating what is the impact of national budget in terms of sustainable development goals

- **Strengthening the role of the Parliament in overseeing policy coherence for sustainable development across government’s legislative processes**

O.1. Scan of Institutional Mechanisms to support the SDGs – December 2019

O.2. Report “Linking policy planning and budgeting to support the implementation of the SDGs in Romania” – March 2020

Will be presented to the Romanian authorities and key stakeholders
### PCSD self-assessment checklist

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- A useful exercise to identify institutional strengths and gaps for policy coherence
- Baseline for dialogue on institutional arrangements for SDGs
Collaboration with the OECD

Romania co-hosted two side-events at HLPF 2019, in New York

- “Governance for the SDGs: Learning from country experiences and defining an agenda for the future” – July

- “The launch event of The Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs” – September, joint UNDP-OECD initiative, aiming to facilitate targeted support to interested countries on tackling specific governance challenges to SDG implementation, for which Romania offered its support.

Romania is interested in adhering to the forthcoming OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development and in nominating a national focal point for policy coherence.
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#WillYou2030?