

Estonia

The Sustainable Estonia 21 strategy is revitalising longstanding commitments for sustainable development and policy coherence. Adopted by Parliament in 2005, *Sustainable Estonia 21* serves as strategic framework for achieving the SDGs. The Sustainable Development Commission launched a review of *Sustainable Estonia 21* and its implementation mechanisms to make it compatible with the 2030 Agenda. With preparations for the new planning period starting in 2018, the SDGs will be integrated into the government's sectoral and thematic strategies and action plans. Estonia has also committed to establishing an initial framework for policy coherence by 2020.

Existing co-ordination mechanisms at all levels support policy coherence and integration. The Government Office Strategy Unit co-ordinates work on sustainable development at the central government level. It also co-ordinates other strategies (e.g. *Estonia 2020*, Estonia's EU policy), putting it in a position to align priorities and ensure coherence across various horizontal planning documents. An interministerial working group comprising representatives from all ministries and Statistics Estonia supports implementation of *Sustainable Estonia 21* and the SDGs, develops national sustainable development indicators and prepares the VNR. The Sustainable Development Commission, a non-governmental advisory umbrella organisation, monitors implementation of *Sustainable Estonia 21*. It meets four to five times a year to discuss strategic action plans before their adoption by the government and publishes focus reports with policy recommendations. Coherence between sustainable sector-specific policies can be further enhanced by strengthening co-ordination mechanisms and going beyond information sharing and division of responsibilities.

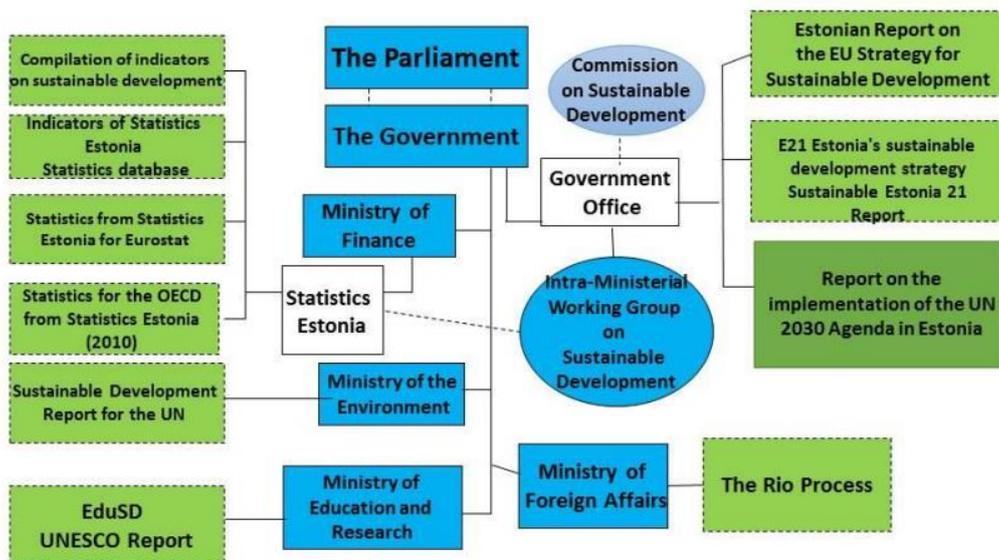
Impact assessments support coherence by requiring that economic, social and environmental aspects be taken into account in all strategic planning documents and EU positions. The impact assessments cover: social, including demographic impact; security and foreign policy; the economy; the living and natural environment; regional development; and the organisation of government institutions and local governments. In addition, a strategic environmental impact assessment (covering natural, social, economic and cultural environment) must be conducted when compiling strategic planning documents and local plans, in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Act.

Table 3.4. Institutional Mechanisms for PCSD in Estonia

Building Block	Estonia
Political commitment	The parliament adopted the Sustainable Development Act in 1995, and in 2005 adopted the sustainable development strategy <i>Sustainable Estonia 21</i> , which serves as a strategic framework to implement the SDGs and includes a call to enhance PCSD for national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as articulated in the 2016 VNR. An initial framework for Estonian policy coherence will be established by 2020.
Policy integration	The SDGs will be integrated into sectoral strategies and development plans once they are renewed starting in 2018 (some policies already reflect SDGs). Each ministry retains responsibility for achieving and leading initiatives in their respective policy fields.
Intergenerational timeframe	New long-term strategy papers and implementation plans integrate the SDGs. The combination of strategic plans, impact assessment and stakeholder engagement supports a long-term perspective.
Policy effects	All governmental strategic development plans require an environmental impact assessment. Some also require a socio-economic impact assessment. The Ministry of Justice and the Government Office currently share responsibility for enhancing this impact assessment system. Annual monitoring of development plans and their targets helps to identify unintended effects and possible countervailing action.
Co-ordination	The Government Office Strategy Unit co-ordinates work on sustainable development and fosters information sharing among bodies such as the interministerial working group, with representatives from

	all ministries and Statistics Estonia working on an ad-hoc basis, and the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission, a non-governmental stakeholder organisation. As the Government Office Strategy Unit is co-ordinating not only the implementation of Agenda 2030 but also other strategies (Estonia 2020, Estonia's EU policy), it is able to ensure coherence in various horizontal planning documents.
Local involvement	Representatives of local governments are included in the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission, formed in 1996.
Stakeholder participation	The Sustainable Development Commission, a non-governmental umbrella organisation, meets four to five times per year. It holds thematic discussions and publishes focus reports with policy recommendations. It unites organisations from academic and industrial sectors, youth and local governance and connects non-governmental organisations in different areas of sustainable development. The Code of Good Engagement obliges government institutions to involve interest groups and the general public when making decisions that affect them.
Monitoring and reporting	In December 2017 the ECSD approved a new monitoring system for sustainable development goals which complies with the global goals of the United Nations. In 2018, a statistical report on the sustainable development indicators of Estonia will be published based on the new list of sustainable development goals.

Figure 3.1. Main institutional mechanisms, policy documents and key actors for SDG implementation in Estonia



Source: OECD (2018), "Country profiles: Institutional mechanisms for policy coherence", in *Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2018: Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264301061-6-en>.