





Good institutional practices in promoting policy coherence for sustainable development

Building Block	Description
 Political Commitment	<p>The legal and strategic frameworks across the different federal entities reflect Belgium's commitment to policy coherence. The 2013 Law on Development Cooperation refers to policy coherence for development, and an intergovernmental declaration (both federal and federated governments) regarding adherence to PCD was signed in 2014. Reflections are underway to adapt PCD institutional architecture to the new realities of the 2030 Agenda.</p>
 Policy Integration	<p>At the federal level, integration is promoted through the Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD). The Public service for SD was granted permanent status as the Federal Institute on SD (FISD) in 2013, and supports ministries and other stakeholders in integrating SD into their core business. The Task Force on Sustainable Development (TFSD) of the Federal Planning Bureau (FPB) reports on the current situation and makes policy evaluations and forecasts, supporting policy integration. A key instrument is the Long-Term Vision Statement for the Belgian 2030 outlook, which focusses on enhancing social cohesion, adapting the economy to economic, social and environmental challenges, protecting the environment and taking societal responsibility. In Wallonia an independent SD advisory unit was set up in 2013 within the Walloon administration. It is responsible for delivering "sustainable development advisories" at the request of government, the administrations, or on their own initiative, based on the principles of SD and the SDGs. In Flanders a specific working group on sustainable development is guiding the translation of the SDGs into goals relevant for Flemish policy and to further their implementation. In the Brussels-Capital Region, new legislation concerning development aid was adopted in the summer of 2017 with the goal of enabling a structural dialogue between the several regional services to improve PCSD.</p>
 Strategic Long-term Vision	<p>The strong legal base for sustainable development provides stability. The federal level vision is based on a horizon of 2050, going well beyond the electoral cycle. The Interministerial Conference for Sustainable Development (IMCSD) has no end date.</p>
 Policy and Financing Impacts	<p>The federal long-term vision for sustainable development (2013) gave structure to a new ex-ante impact assessment tool. The Sustainable Impact Assessment (SIA) tool was integrated into the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in January 2014. The RIA aims for policy coherence by assessing the possible effects of the preliminary draft regulations on the dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and the public services.</p>
 Policy Coordination	<p>The IMCSD, composed of federal, regional and community ministers responsible for SD and development co-operation is the central co-ordination mechanism. Some representatives attend both the IMCSD and ICSD. Additional co-ordination platforms exist between different ministries on themes such as gender, poverty, and sustainable peace or the link between peace and climate. Federal and regional actors gather in multilateral co-ordination meetings where trade-offs and synergies among economic, social and environmental but also political policy objectives are identified and discussed.</p>
 Local and Regional Involvement	<p>The IMCSD invites representatives from provinces and local governments to participate in advocacy and awareness-raising events. Cities and municipalities were also involved in preparations for the first Belgian VNR. The actions undertaken in the provinces and local governments, as well as other actors, are collected on the website www.SDGs.be.</p>
 Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Belgium strives for a participative process at all levels of policy making, including stakeholders inside and outside of the government. Advisory councils consisting of civil society and academia such as the Federal Council for Sustainable Development or the Advisory Council for Policy Coherence for Development contribute to PCSD.</p>
 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation	<p>The Federal Planning Bureau publishes a report on the implementation of the SDGs in Belgium twice per government term. The indicators are currently being updated. The NSDS also envisions reporting to the general public twice per legislature. At the Federal level, within ICSD there is an annual reporting of the administrations that contribute to sustainable development. Indicators for the 2050-time horizon Vision for SD are available online: www.indicators.be.</p>