



## Good institutional practices in promoting policy coherence for sustainable development

Building Block	Description
 Political Commitment	<p>The Greek National Growth Strategy, currently under elaboration, will be fully aligned to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This strategic framework will emphasise the crucial role of policy coherence in achieving sustainable development. Responsibility for the overall co-ordination and implementation of the SDGs at national level is assigned to the centre of government, i.e. the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG), to ensure commitment at the highest political level and whole-of-government involvement in SDG implementation.</p>
 Policy Integration	<p>An interministerial co-ordination network for SDGs established in 2016 supports mainstreaming of the SDGs and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into thematic legislation, strategies, policies and initiatives. Two instruments are the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which is required for all small-scale interventions and activities, and the Strategic Environmental Assessment, for large projects. Interministerial committees are set up to identify synergies, interlinkages and obstacles and prepare relevant proposals on specific issues such as the promotion of the circular economy.</p>
 Strategic Long-term Vision	<p>The GSG is a permanent structure, thus ensuring continuity of commitment and efforts at the highest level for implementing the SDGs.</p>
 Policy and Financing Impacts	<p>Potential transboundary and intergenerational effects in the design of domestic and international policies are anticipated through the elaboration of Regulatory Impact Assessment Reports that precede the adoption of new laws. In addition, ex post evaluation of existing legislation should take into account the three dimensions of sustainable development. Unintended negative effects during implementation are mitigated through continuous monitoring, review and reporting.</p>
 Policy Coordination	<p>The central governmental body responsible for co-ordination is the Office of Coordination, Institutional, International and European Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG). The co-ordination work of the GSG is supported by an interministerial co-ordination network bringing together representatives from all line ministries, acting as focal points in charge of working on SDG-related issues within their respective ministries and mainstreaming them in thematic legislation, policies and initiatives. It also comprises representatives from other governmental bodies belonging to the centre of government, including the Vice-Presidency and the General Secretariat for Coordination, as well as the Hellenic Statistical Authority. It plays an important role in reconciling policy priorities, objectives and instruments. Information on financial resource allocation is shared through the Ministry of Finance, which participates along with all line ministries in the interministerial co-ordination network. In the context of implementing the SDGs across sectors and governance levels, the co-ordination mechanism takes into account both domestic and international objectives tailored to national priorities and circumstances.</p>
 Local and Regional Involvement	<p>The GSG works closely with regions and municipalities to achieve the SDGs and PCSD, such as the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE) and the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE). In addition, representatives of local and regional governments have actively participated in a number of multi-stakeholder events on SDGs for peer learning and exchange of best practices. The inputs from local and regional government representatives feed into policy formulation</p>
 Stakeholder engagement	<p>Consultation and high-level events are used to raise awareness, provide a space for multi-stakeholder interaction, and foster dialogue and partnerships on SDGs. Currently, two additional institutional set-ups for stakeholder participation are being considered: 1) establishment of a parliamentary committee, where all political parties are represented, to discuss SDGs and PCSD on a regular basis, and 2) an online consultation platform to provide a broad forum for participation to discuss, submit proposals and promote stakeholders' good practices on SDG implementation. Currently, the Economic and Social Committee of Greece (ESC), the constitutionally established institution responsible for conducting social dialogue on the country's general policy and in particular on economic and social issues, has assumed an important role in promoting systematic and structured consultation and dialogue on the effective implementation of SDGs at different levels and sectors.</p>
 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation	<p>The GSG monitors the implementation of the SDGs at national level in co-operation with ELSTAT (the statistical authority). A progress report on the implementation of the National Implementation Plan on the SDGs (to be elaborated in 2019) will be submitted to the parliament at regular intervals for review and political guidance. The Hellenic Parliament is envisaged to have an important role in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs.</p>