



Good institutional practices in promoting policy coherence for sustainable development

Building Block	Description
 Political Commitment	<p>In its 2018 Voluntary National Review, Ireland specifies that the government is guided by the principle that “economic, social and environmental requirements [...] are fundamentally linked and interdependent on each other”. The Strategic Objectives of Ireland’s SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020, thus include a commitment to “identify opportunities for enhancing policy coherence” and to “support and promote policies and initiatives across government which contribute towards meeting the [Sustainable Development] Goals at home and abroad.”</p>
 Policy Integration	<p>SDG Mainstreaming is a key component of Ireland’s National Implementation Plan 2018-2020. Building on existing commitments in strategies and action plans on gender equity, biodiversity, corporate social responsibility and air pollution, the plan seeks to further integrate SDGs into national policies. A major aspect of the Plan is the SDG Policy Map, which sets out responsibilities for achieving SDG targets and indicators across multiple government departments. Each Department will oversee the implementation of those Goals most relevant to its policy area. This will allow for a joined-up approach to implementation while ensuring that the relevant departments across government take ownership of the respective Goals. To foster PCSD, Ireland has chosen to take a ‘whole-of-government’ approach, using existing interdepartmental coordination structures.</p>
 Strategic Long-term Vision	<p>In 2018, the Irish government adopted an overarching policy initiative with a medium to long-term vision of sustainable development called “Project Ireland 2040”. It is comprised of a new National Planning Framework and a 10-year National Development Programme. In addition, Ireland’s National Implementation Plan 2018-2020 is embedded in a long-term comprehensive ‘2030 Vision’, a high-level outline of what the country’s successful national implementation of the SDGs will look like. This ‘2030 Vision’ will remain central to subsequent iterations of the SDG National Implementation Plan and to Ireland’s policy for international development in general.</p>
 Policy and Financing Impacts	<p>When preparing any proposal for government, Irish Government Departments are formally required to identify and address (potential) spill-overs related to that proposal under a range of headings. These headings include, inter alia, impacts on poverty, gender equality, employment and competitiveness, people with disabilities, as well as certain transboundary issues.</p>
 Policy Coordination	<p>The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has lead responsibility for promoting PCSD, overseeing the coherent implementation of the SDGs on a whole-of-government basis, and establishing a robust implementation and reporting framework. Responsibility for policy coherence related to foreign policy lies with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. To ensure coordination across government departments, the government has established a Senior Officials’ Group on the SDGs, composed of Assistant Secretaries from all Government Departments, which is supported by an SDG Interdepartmental Working Group that aims to facilitate information sharing as well as provide a platform for discussion and negotiation in the event of disagreements. Furthermore, it has defined a clear structure of responsibility, allocating ownership of SDG activity across all of government to departments and state agencies based on its SDG Policy Map</p>
 Local and Regional Involvement	<p>Work is ongoing to align SDG relevant initiatives with the local government sector with the whole-of-government approach adopted at the national level. Increasing local government engagement is an important task of the SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020.</p>
 Stakeholder engagement	<p>In June 2018, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment established a National SDG Stakeholder Forum. The Forum was established to bring together stakeholders working on, or involved in the promotion of the SDGs across Ireland and abroad. The Forum allows for policy makers, civil society, business and other interested parties to share experiences and information on SDG related activities at national and international level. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, as Chair of the Forum, feeds back through the Interdepartmental Working Group on relevant issues and aims to include stakeholder input in the design of National Implementation Plans.</p>
 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation	<p>From 2018 onward, National Reports on SDG implementation will be published every two years and Voluntary National Reviews every four years. Both reports use EU indicators as the official measure of progress, but complement these with national indicators appropriate to the Irish context. Reports on Ireland’s international development policy and programme and as they relate to the SDGs are issued annually by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The SDG Stakeholder Forum discusses progress on SDG related activities. The government is particularly active in advocating for gender disaggregated data as reflected by its support for the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Joint Programme of UN Women and the UN Statistics Division, as well as the UN Women flagship programme on statistics ‘Making Every Woman and Girl Count’.</p>