



Good institutional practices in promoting policy coherence for sustainable development

Building Block	Description
 Political Commitment	<p>The 2011 National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) lists policy coherence as a main implementation principle (19.6). The National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is chaired by the prime minister and includes political leaders at minister or vice minister level. Lithuania is committed to further strengthening dialogue with stakeholders and achieving policy coherence at all levels of Lithuanian society.</p>
 Policy Integration	<p>The integration of economic, social and environmental actions in overarching strategic documents is a key principle of the national strategy to ensure they are coherent and mutually reinforcing. Further, the strategy calls for the main sustainable development provisions to be integrated into special sectorial plans, programmes, regional and municipal planning documents and other legal acts. Trade-offs and synergies are identified through respective sectorial strategies and planning documents of ministries which must into consideration sustainable development aspects outlined in the National Sustainable Development Strategy.</p>
 Strategic Long-term Vision	<p>The government is planning to update the National Progress Strategy Lithuania 2030, its main longterm strategic document, by incorporating the SDGs and principles. New goals may be formulated with a timeline until 2050.</p>
 Policy and Financing Impacts	<p>Effects are identified through balanced impact assessments and consultations with stakeholders. In addition, upfront communication is an integral part of environmental assessment procedures. If economic activities are deemed to have potentially adverse transboundary impacts, affected parties will be notified at an early stage.</p>
 Policy Coordination	<p>The NCSD, chaired by the prime minister, is comprised of representatives from relevant ministries, municipal institutions, NGOs, academia and business. The Commission provides guidance and, consisting of high level political leaders, has the necessary political authority to make decisions on conflicting matters. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for co-ordination of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and works as a secretariat for the NCSD, also providing the platform for information sharing among institutions.</p>
 Local and Regional Involvement	<p>Regions, cities and municipalities are closely involved in the implementation of SDGs. PCSD is especially important in heavily urbanised areas. For example, Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) ensure that environmental aspects are integrated into city planning activities of the five major cities.</p>
 Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Representatives from NGOs, business, academia and governmental and municipal institutions are members of the NCSD, making it a useful platform for addressing and solving conflicting interests. Intergovernmental working groups also include input from NGOs. Lithuania's national Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisation's Platform (NGDO) brings together 21 development and education NGOs, mainly to raise public awareness and provide civic education on sustainable development issues. Lithuania is currently working on closer and more formal involvement of the private sector, in particular in their international development co-operation activities.</p>
 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation	<p>The Ministry of Environment co-ordinates the implementation of the NSSD and monitors its progress in co-operation with other institutions in their respective fields of competence. Development indicators cover environmental, economic and social aspects of the country's sustainable development. Lithuania has started data collection and analysis and over 50 percent of sustainable development indicators have already been made publicly available. The statistics office is responsible for collecting, collating and publishing these indicators on its website, the Official Statistics Portal (OSP). In addition, the Ministry of Environment reports biennially to the government on the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and integrates information about the achievement of indicators into the annual ministerial report published on its website.</p>