



Analysing and assessing policy and financing impacts is critical to inform decision-making, increase positive impacts and avoid negative impacts on the sustainable development prospects of other countries, in particular on developing countries.

Austria

Potential policy effects are assessed on an ongoing basis in the different working groups and through regular evaluations of the existing inter-ministerial common strategic guidelines.

Belgium

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.

Czech Republic

A number of existing policy impact assessment tools (RIA, SIA, EIA) are used. Methodological guidelines are also being developed to analyse the transboundary impacts of policies, but depend on an increase of analytical capacity.

Denmark

Denmark assesses new legislative proposals in terms of their effects on the economy, environment and gender equality. The government supports line ministries to integrate policy coherence for sustainable development in policymaking. As part of the national Action Plan, the government will assess the consequences of new legislation for the SDGs when considered relevant in the Danish context and if the impact is significant. The work to develop the specific concept and guidelines for the assessment is currently being finalised.

Estonia

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.

Finland

In its 2030 Agenda implementation plan, the government commits to explore the use of a sustainable development impact assessment tool to identify systematically the unintended effects of policies. The existing impact assessment process for bill drafting will be improved to ensure better alignment with the SDGs and to enhance coherence between actions undertaken at national and global levels. Steps will also be taken by the Prime Minister's Office in 2018-2019 to include sustainable development impact assessment in key policy and legislative motions. The National follow-up system includes indicators on transboundary and intergenerational issues which can be used to inform decisionmaking.

Germany

All proposals for new laws and regulations are subject to a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA). The SIA is based on indicators, targets and management rules, which include intergenerational and transboundary dimensions. Since March 2018, laws and regulations can be checked against those through an online tool: www.enap.bund.de.

Greece

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.

Ireland

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.

Italy

Italy has not yet adopted any policy impact assessment legislation. However, environmental assessments of plans, programmes and projects provide information on transboundary effects on environmental issues. Within the Italian development cooperation system, mitigation of potential negative spill-overs of domestic policies on international cooperation activities are addressed by a coordination mechanism centred around the Deputy Foreign Minister with International Cooperation portfolio, who "is invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the meetings of the Council of Ministers dealing with subject matters that may directly or indirectly affect the coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation policies".

Japan


The SDG Promotion Headquarters consists of all ministries in charge of domestic and international issues and can take into account policy effects from domestic and international cooperation for the SDGs.

Latvia

The Government conducts bi-annual impact assessments. The assessments cover all sectoral policies included in the National Development Plan, including public health, inclusive education, inclusive employment and other areas and provide guidance for the planning of future policy. In 2009, Latvia introduced a legal obligation to conduct impact assessments for all draft legal acts. The analysis comprises impact on social groups and economic development and the budget, administrative burden, administrative costs and public participation in decision making.



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Lithuania 

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.

Luxembourg 

The ICD can identify and propose to address ex-ante potential transboundary and intergenerational effects. Once identified, ICD can discuss unintended effects and formulate unbinding recommendations to government. The government plans to establish a sustainability check, to strengthen policy coherence and better understand potential national and transnational effects of policies on sustainable development.

Mexico 

The adjustment of policies in light of their potential negative effects is the responsibility of each government body. The new National Council for the 2030 Agenda can provide a forum to identify in a co-ordinated manner policy choices that may affect other countries.

Netherlands 

Government future plans generally contain a trend analysis. Transboundary effects on (developing) countries are included in the Dutch PCD Action Plan on Policy Coherence for Development, which links the country's five priority themes to the SDGs. Further action is taken if necessary to avoid/reduce unintended effects.

Poland 

Poland uses tools to assess policy effects, including ex ante environmental impact assessments, assessments of compliance with the SRD, and evaluations of the impacts of Poland's domestic policies on priority countries for development co-operation. The guidelines for RIAs thus include consideration of transboundary impacts of national regulations on social and economic development in Poland's priority countries.

Portugal 

Camões I.P. is responsible for signalling potential negative effects. It does this through existing mechanisms of dialogue and co-ordination and by promoting conciliatory measures with the ministry responsible for the policy in question. The aforementioned efforts to establish PCSD priorities are also expected to facilitate the identification of negative impacts.

Slovak Republic 

Ways to assess and address spill-over effects of domestic policies on other countries are being discussed.

Slovenia 

Policy effects are considered as part of environmental and regulatory impact assessments, as well as through assessments of economic values. Mechanisms are currently being developed to adjust policies in light of new information on potential negative impacts during implementation.

Sweden 

The task to identify potential transboundary and intergenerational effects in policies is a part of the action plans that all ministries have drawn up.

Switzerland 

To analyse the effects of federal policies on SDG implementation, the government can request regulatory impact assessments on sustainability, health, energy and environmental issues. The available ex-ante and ex-post evaluation instruments are currently only used if there is concrete political interest and a favourable cost-benefit ratio.