

# Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Tracking & review mechanism (SDG 17.14)

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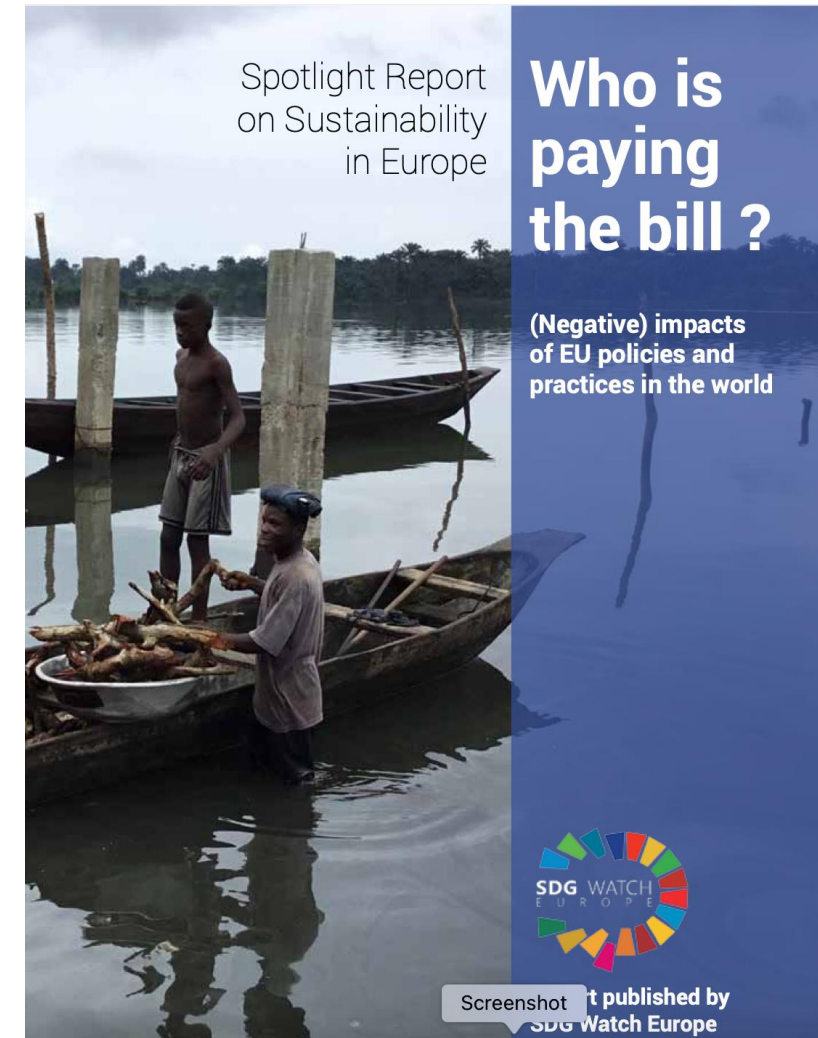


# Objectives of PCSD



# PCSD is KEY for Good Governance

- PCSD is an underestimated or even ignored, but very crucial part, of achieving the 2030 Agenda worldwide.
- Actions on one objective can cause negative or positive impacts on other environmental and/or social challenges.
- Looking at policy making through the lens of Sustainable Development demands a new way of governance, dealing with the root causes of poverty, inequality and environmental degradation and focusing on a long term vision and overall system change – no linear process
- Not having PCSD can and will undermine (all) policies



# Indicator on Target 17.14.1 on PCSD

Institutionalised  
political  
commitment

Long-term  
considerations in  
decision-making

Inter-ministerial  
and cross-sectoral  
coordination

Participatory  
processes

Policy linkages

Alignment across  
government  
levels

Monitoring and  
reporting for  
policy coherence

Financing for  
policy coherence

# Countries we reviewed

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- Austria, Belgium, Czech Republik, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden
- The European Commission



PCSD is  
spotted in  
several  
"places"

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Using the Agenda 21 mechanisms or create a new one for the 2030 Agenda, for detecting policy coherence for SD according to the SDG target 17.14, or

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Based on the PCD mechanism, with the ambition towards sustainable development (PCSD), or

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Country sets up a new mechanism for PCSD

	Institutionalisation of Sustainable Development (SDGs)			Institutionalisation of PCD			Institutionalisation of PCSD		
	in law	Long Term Plan or strategy	coordination between	in law	Long Term Plan or strategy	coordination between	in law	Long Term Plan or strategy	coordination between
<b>Austria</b>	no	no	all ministries	yes	no	no	no	no	no
<b>Belgium</b>	yes	yes	all ministries	yes	yes	several ministries	no	yes	all ministries
<b>Czechia</b>	no	yes	all ministries	no	yes	all ministries	no	yes	all ministries
<b>Germany</b>	no	yes	3 ministries	no	yes		no	yes	3 ministries
<b>Italy</b>	no	yes	several ministries	yes	no	several ministries	no	not yet	several ministries
<b>Netherlands</b>	yes	Yes	all ministries	no	Yes	several ministries.	No	yes	all ministries
<b>Slovenia</b>	no	yes	all ministries	no	yes	several ministries	no	Not yet	all ministries
<b>Spain</b>	no	yes	all ministries	yes	yes	several ministries	Not yet	yes	all ministries
<b>Sweden</b>	yes	yes	all ministries	yes	yes	all ministries	no	yes	all ministries



# General outcomes

- PCSD is not taken seriously enough
- Often seen as ticking a box – without consequences (political commitment -> clear strategy with targets ?-> resources ? -> review mechanism ?)
- No mandate to adjust policies in case of incoherencies – too voluntary
- No real indicators for measuring externalities, especially not for the Global South – how to measure progress?
- Sustainable Development is not overarching – so often the undermined strategy as the “jobs & growth” strategy is still the most important one



# Recommendations to Member States (1)

1. MS should have their commitment to achieve **PCSD as a core policy objective** and the instruments to achieve that should be embedded in a national governance structure that is also responsible for the implementation of Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).
2. PCSD is to be implemented by the whole government, with **all ministries involved**.
3. MS should have the implementation of Sustainable Development as the **highest and overall ambition**, without being undermined by other more economic growth focussed plans, and PCSD as **key element**. The recently required National Recovery and Resilience Plans must be totally in line with the 2030 Agenda objectives too.
4. Implementing the 2030 Agenda should be planned in an overall strategy for Sustainable Development, including an action plan, targets, timetables and division of tasks. Including clear **PCSD targets**.
5. Having a clear coordination between all governance levels is necessary, as well as a **mandate to adjust policies** on (sub)national levels in case of incoherencies. To do so, a special multi-sectoral institution within the government should be established and given the mandate to lead in policy arbitration processes.

## Recommendations to Member States (2)

6. Effective, inclusive and meaningful **civil society participation** is an absolute condition for creating ownership and better implementation of PCSD, including **partners from the Global South**.
7. MS should not put a burden on third countries/Global South when achieving their own Sustainable Development, therefore **impact assessments of all domestic policies should be measured to minimize negative impacts**. Where impact studies of transboundary effects of national policies on the Global South are unavailable (such as climate, gender equality, tax policies and migration), earmark funds from applied research agencies should be reserved to bring facts and figures on the existing trade-offs and potential win-wins.
8. Much more research and data are needed to measure spill-overs of domestic policies. **Quantitative and qualitative indicators** should be developed and used in PCSD reporting.
9. **A mandatory monitoring scheme for measuring progress** on the implementation of the (sub)national 2030 Agenda, including reporting on PCSD (SDG 17.14) should be put in place.
10. **A cost** for establishing the necessary mechanisms for achieving PCSD should be part of the national budget.

# Preview of results study for EC/DG REFORM

Louis Meuleman  
(ps4sd.eu)

- Study title: Management of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: Towards measuring progress
- **Objective: How to use the SDG 17.14.1 indicator and UN & OECD guidance in EU countries' practice?**
- Case studies: Finland, Italy, Romania
- Input: UNEP, OECD, Eurostat
- Publication: +/- January 2022

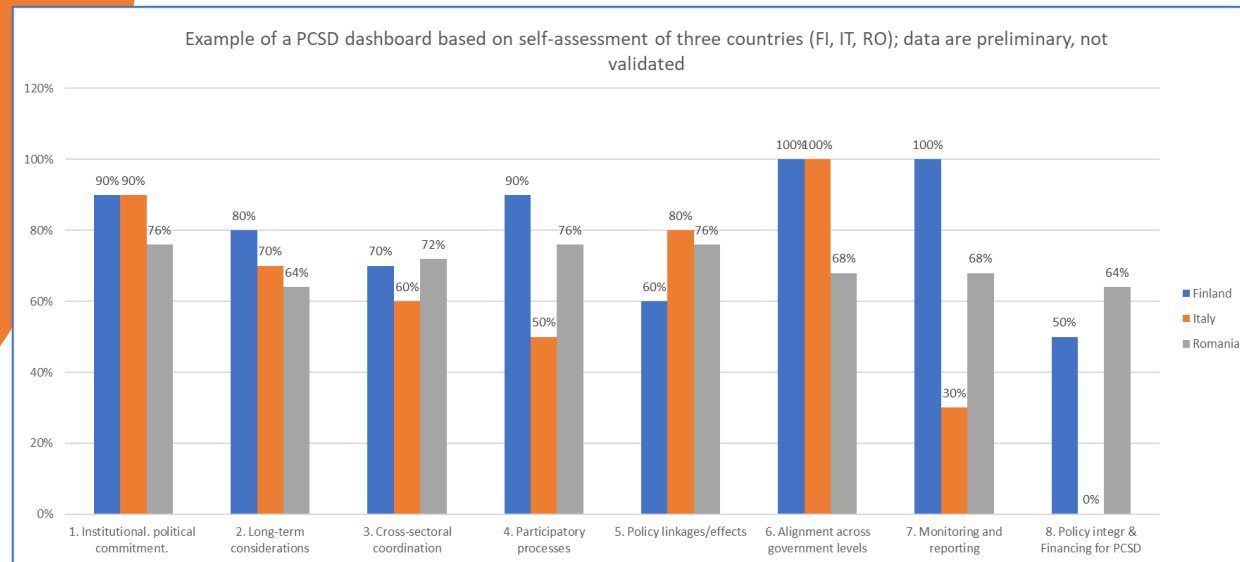


# Preview of results

EC/DG REFORM study

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- Overall: Confirmation of CONCORD study conclusions, incl. on stakeholder involvement
- Start collecting data on PCSD -> the indicator can become statistically more relevant in the future -> a joint process of countries & EU Commission
- Data from self-assessments are a good basis for Peer 2 Peer exchanges on PCSD performance
- The European Commission could develop a PCSD action plan and dashboard for its own Services



# Thanks !

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