



The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Europe: Overview and Updates

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Introduction

This ESDN Quarterly Report (QR) will provide an overview of and update on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in various European countries, based on a survey the ESDN Office undertook and the most recent information on national implementation activities that can be found in the country profiles section on the ESDN homepage.

To be more specific, information for this QR was collected through a survey that the ESDN Office sent to the ESDN National Focal Points (NFPs) of the government ministries that are responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The survey, which was conducted between May and early July 2018, contained 8 main questions, with a few questions having sub-questions, that all pertained solely to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs within the respective country. The survey questionnaire, which can be found in Annex II to this QR, was sent to 22 NFPs. In total, the ESDN Office received a filled out survey questionnaire from 11 countries.

This QR and its subsequent chapters will be broken down by survey topics for the **11 countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, and Switzerland)** that have filled out the survey and provided the most current information and overview of what is transpiring within their country regarding Agenda 2030 and SDG implementation. An overview of identified trends will be included in the conclusions chapter and focus on potential reoccurring themes between European countries regarding their implementation mechanisms.

Countries for which no replies to the survey were returned, but the country's section on the 2030 Agenda on the [Country Profile](#) section of the ESDN website had been updated in 2017 or 2018, will also be included in the Annex (**9 countries in total: Austria, Croatia, France, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Slovakia, and Sweden**). Please find the information on these 9 countries in Annex I of this QR.

So overall, this QR provided an overview and update on the implementation activities for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs of 20 European countries.

The first section of this QR provides a brief overview of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it forms the basis of how countries will implement it at the national level.

Chapter 1 focuses on the **basic information on the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**. The basic information includes the specific national ministry or institution that leads the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the role of other non-leading ministries and institutions in the 2030 Agenda's implementation at the national level.

Chapter 2 focuses on the UN High Level Political Forum's (HLPF) **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)** and whether countries have already presented at one of the VNRs, which began in 2016, plan to present, as well as when they may present for a second time. Also included as a sub-question to the VNR section was the added benefit countries received by conducting the VNR.

Chapter 3 addresses current activities at the national level regarding SDG indicators and monitoring, as developing indicators and monitoring those indicators are important to track progress and success in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This chapter, therefore, looks into which national ministries are responsible for indicator development and monitoring, how the specific country developed its national SDG indicator set, or in some cases sets, and how the country reports on SDG indicators at the national and global level.

Chapter 4 discusses the current **mechanisms for vertical integration** that the national level of these European countries employ to ensure that the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have the best chance to not only be implemented at the national level, but also at the subnational level. In order to do that, vertical policy integration with respect to the 2030 Agenda is a key ingredient for overall implementation success. Therefore, NFPs were asked what vertical policy integration mechanisms they have in place at the national level to coordinate with the subnational level. In order to also identify some activities that the subnational level is currently doing regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, NFPs were asked to provide 1-2 examples of such activities.

Chapter 5 discusses the **mechanisms for horizontal integration** that must happen at the national level between ministries in order for them to have increased chances of success in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. NFPs were asked in the survey to provide the types cooperation mechanisms and procedures that are being used between the different national ministries to foster better policy coherence and horizontal policy integration with respect to the 2030 Agenda and its implementation at the national level. Additionally, NFPs were asked to share their experiences with using these horizontal integration mechanisms and how that has helped in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the coherence between ministries in that regard.

Chapter 6 focuses on how the national level is **evaluating and reporting** on its progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and the progress that has been made in achieving the SDGs and their sub-targets. NFPs were asked in the survey whether their country produces a national report that evaluates and reviews the country's progress towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as how often such evaluation reports are published.

Chapter 7 looks into how the national level is **engaging stakeholders** and allowing them to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The survey question asks how and what mechanisms are in place at the national level to ensure that stakeholder voices and viewpoints are being taken into account, as well as the national level's future plans regarding further stakeholder engagement and participation.

Chapter 8 concentrates on what the different European countries are already planning to do in the **future with regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realization of the SDGs**, and seeks to set up a timeline for what to expect over the coming months and years from the national level of these countries.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was formally adopted during the United Nation's Sustainable Development Summit which took place in New York from 25-27 September 2015. On this occasion, all 193 Member States of the United Nations agreed on adopting the 15-year plan, titled “**Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development**”. The adopted 2030 Agenda contains **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** please see Figure 1 below, accompanied by 169 targets, which shape national development plans. Initiated by the Rio+20 Conference, the SDGs are scheduled to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Compared to their predecessors, the SDGs are more all-encompassing and make the important pledge that “no one will be left behind”. The 2030 Agenda applies to developing, emerging, and developed countries alike, and recognizes the importance of partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society in its successful implementation.

Figure 1: The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Source [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Above all, the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations recognize that countries are the best at knowing their own contexts and how they can implement the SDGs within these specific contexts. The following paragraph stems directly from the 2030 Agenda and reinforces the necessity that countries should bear the task of implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:

§45 *“We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. Governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, subregional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others”.*¹

¹ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Paragraph 45.

Chapter 1: Basic information on the National implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

The **basic information** includes information on the specific national ministry or institution that leads the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the role of other non-leading ministries and institutions in the 2030 Agenda's implementation at the national level.

In the survey that was sent to the ESDN NFPs, the first topic addresses this basic information. The tables below depict the answers to survey topics related to the national government ministries or institutions that are responsible coordination and/or implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs for countries that filled out the ESDN survey.

The color-coding of the tables below was done for ease of reading, and not because particular colors mean different things. **Belgium, Czech Republic, and Estonia are in blue**, **Finland, Germany, and Greece are in Green**, **Hungary, Italy, and Poland are in yellow**, and **Slovenia and Switzerland are in orange**.

An overview of the main trends in the results of the tables below can be found in the conclusions section of this QR.

Country Topics	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
Leading national ministry or institution in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	<p>Federal Level: Federal Institute for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Flanders: Flemish Government, Department of Chancellery and Governance, Sustainable Development Unit</p> <p>Wallonia: Department of Sustainable Development Public Service of Wallonia - Secretariat General</p> <p>Brussels: Bruxelles Environnement + Perspective Brussels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art. 7bis of the Belgian Constitution establishes that every federal entity is pursuing the objectives of a sustainable development, in its social, economic and environmental dimensions, taking into account solidarity between generations. The federal entities are on an equal footing but have different competences. The implementation of the SDGs is therefore a shared responsibility between these authorities taking into account their respective competences. 	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic	The Government Office of Estonia
Other national ministries or institutions involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	<p>Federal Planning Bureau, Task force Sustainable development</p> <p>Inter-federal Institute for Statistics</p>	All other ministries that are members of The Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD), chaired by the Minister for the Environment, is an advisory body to the Government. The GCSD serves as the main body for inter-sectoral coordination of: the relevant policies among central administrative authorities, implementation of the 2030	Mainly Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but actually all the ministries are involved via the inter-ministerial Working Group on Sustainable Development.

		Agenda; monitoring and bi-annual reporting on the implementation of the sustainable development strategy; methodological coordination of conceptual documents...etc.	
Country	Finland	Germany	Greece
Topics			
Leading national ministry or institution in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	Prime Minister's Office	Federal Chancellery , Division 324 (Sustainable Development)	The General Secretariat of the Government (GSG) , a key centre-of government entity, is the entity responsible for monitoring and coordinating national efforts for implementation of the SDGs since December 2016, in order to ensure a whole-of-government approach and enhance coherence and direct cooperation with all governmental bodies and line Ministries.
Other national ministries or institutions involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in particular, are also very much involved in implementation. However, all line ministries, in their own capacities and sectors, are responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	All ministries are closely involved.	All national ministries are actively involved: under the coordination of GSG, an "Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for SDGs" with representatives from all line Ministries, has been officially re-established in December 2016 to oversee and steer national efforts for the implementation of the SDGs at the national level and, in particular, as a first urgent initial step, to undertake a mapping / gap analysis exercise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this overall scheme, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy is "thematically/technically" responsible for the implementation of 7 out of the overall 17 SDGs (i.e. 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 partly and 15) with past experience on the matter being the national Focal Point for the UNCSO for the period 1992-2002. • In parallel, the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the external

			dimension of national efforts to implement the SDGs.
Country	Hungary	Italy	Poland
Topics			
Leading national ministry or institution in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	The Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The Presidency of the Council of Ministers has the lead in coordinating and managing the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSDS). The NSDS was approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) in December 2017, in accordance with the provisions of Law 221/2015. It represents an update of the former Environmental action strategy for sustainable development (2002-2010), which has been widened to define broad guidelines for economic, social, and environmental policies that are aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030 in Italy.	Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology Economic Analysis Department (coordination of the 2030 Agenda implementation)
Other national ministries or institutions involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Technology and Innovation Parliament –incumbent speaker chairs the SD Council National Council for Sustainable Development (NFTT) National Economic and Social Council of Hungary (NGTT)	The Presidency of the Council of Ministers coordinates the implementation of the NSDS, with the support of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, for the internal dimension, and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, for the external dimension. Each Italian Ministry will be involved in the implementation process and will provide its own specific contribution according to its individual expertise.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Investment and Economic Development and other ministries engaged in the SDGs implementation, as well as Statistics Poland.

Country	Slovenia	Switzerland
Topics Leading national ministry or institution in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	Government office for Development and European Cohesion Policy is responsible for preparation and implementation of the new Slovenian development framework and, in that regard, also functions as a focal point for the 2030 Agenda and leads the coordination of the ministries on the 2030 Agenda.	Co-Lead: Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) and the Federal Office of Spatial Development (ARE). Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Other national ministries or institutions involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	All ministries are equally responsible for the implementation. The Statistical Office and the Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development are also involved through monitoring.	All seven Departments are involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Chapter 2: UN High Level Political Forum’s Voluntary National Reviews

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven” (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.²

§79 *“We also encourage Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes”.*³

The **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)** aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴

§84 *“The high-level political forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall carry out regular reviews, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013. Reviews will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. They shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants. They shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders”.*⁵

This chapter focuses on the UN High Level Political Forum’s (HLPF) Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and whether countries have already presented VNRs at one of the HLPFs, which began in 2016, plan to present, as well as when they may present for a second time. Also included as a sub-topic to the general information regarding the VNRs was the added benefit countries received by conducting their VNR.

The color-coding of the tables below was done for ease of reading, and not because particular colors mean different things. **Belgium, Czech Republic, and Estonia are in blue, Finland, Germany, and Greece are in Green, Hungary, Italy, and Poland are in yellow, and Slovenia and Switzerland are in orange.**

An overview of the main trends in the results of the tables below can be found in the conclusions section of this QR.

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

³ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Paragraph 79.

⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.

⁵ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Paragraph 84.

Country Topics	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
Year(s) a VNR was conducted	2017	2017	2016
Scheduled year for next VNR	Not decided yet, but most likely in the next HLPF cycle (2019).	2020 or 2021	It is not decided yet.
Added value of preparing and presenting the VNR	This extensive exercise, grouping all federated entities, their respective administrations, and civil society, has created, for the first time ever, a national overview of relevant actions that are contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With this exercise, Belgium wants to strength its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, while confirming that business as usual will not suffice to realize the SDGs and that additional work definitely needs to be done.	Besides the government's point of view, space was also given in the presentation to the non-profit and business sector. Non-governmental partners were represented by Taťána Gregor Brzobohatá, founder of the Foundation The Beauty of Help and Miss World 2006, and Robin Dufek, Commercial Director of JRK BioWaste Management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing the VNR and the gap analysis was the basis for the Estonian VNR and helped to gain an overview of what was already done in different SDG fields and what Estonia's strengths and challenges in SDG implementation are; It also helped to raise awareness for the SDGs, as all the ministries were involved and also the NGOs through the National Sustainable Development Commission.

Country Topics	Finland	Germany	Greece
Year(s) a VNR was conducted	2016	2016	2018
Scheduled year for next VNR	2020	2021	It has not yet been defined.

<p>Added value of preparing and presenting the VNR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped to keep up the momentum for an urgent kick-off in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2016; • Raised awareness on the importance of the 2030 Agenda and need for ambitious action at the national level; • Helped in the decision-making to carry out a gap-analysis on the baseline, strengths, and weaknesses of Finland’s performance; • Boosted the process to prepare the Government Implementation Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. 	<p>Reporting gave additional impetus to discussions about the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.</p>	<p>The preparation of the VNR provided an important opportunity to set up a robust, long-term institutional mechanism for the SDGs follow-up, endorsing a “whole-of-government” approach.</p> <p>Under the coordination of the GSG, a mapping exercise was carried out, for the first time, by all ministries, in order to explore the existing and missing policy instruments for SDG implementation in Greece. Through this process, line ministries had the opportunity to identify which Goals and targets they are covering and by which policies and measures. This exercise resulted in defining the national starting point for achieving the SDGs and setting up (8) National Priorities to methodologically approach the SDGs.</p> <p>Given that the implementation of the SDGs goes beyond the responsibilities of the central government, Greece also adopted a “whole-of-society” approach, giving particular attention to ensuring strong stakeholder engagement from the stock-taking to policy design and implementation stages. In this context, actions and activities have been carried out with a wide array of non-state actors, highlighting the role of key stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs and raising awareness about the SDGs at all levels.</p>
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<p>Country</p>	<p>Hungary</p>	<p>Italy</p>	<p>Poland</p>
<p>Year(s) a VNR was conducted</p>	<p>2018</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>2018</p>

Scheduled year for next VNR	-	-	The date of the next VNR has not yet been determined.
Added value of preparing and presenting the VNR	<p>It should be noted, that general elections were conducted in Hungary on 08 April 2018. Due to the political campaign period before the general elections and further due to the general elections there was no formal parliament session held, where the MP's could be formally involved into the national review process.</p> <p>However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is coordinating and editing the Voluntary National Review [VNR] process and the National Council for Sustainable Development [NFFT] was involved by the Ministry to participate in the VNR process. The NFFT provided input data and information for the VNR process. The involvement of the Parliament into the review process was ensured through the NFFT, as an independent national advisory body of the Hungarian Parliament. Further stakeholders related to sustainability issues were involved as well in the review process, such as the Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, non-governmental organizations, and governmental experts and professionals.</p> <p>A conference about the Voluntary National Review will be organized on 31 May 2018 with the participation of several stakeholders and experts. This conference will provide a platform for public hearing for the review process with the participation of different stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic coordination; • Direct civil society representative involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing the SDGs into the national context; • Awareness-raising among all stakeholders for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; • Confirmation of the importance of policy coherence and multi-sectoral coordination; • Initiative of the Partnership for the implementation of SDGs (under the Partnership, the signatories sign jointly agreed declaration, apart from signing the declaration, the signatories make an individual commitment).

Country	Slovenia	Switzerland
Year(s) a VNR was conducted	2017	2016, 2018
Scheduled year for next VNR	2023 and 2029	2022
Added value of preparing and presenting the VNR	<p>The preparation of the first Slovenian VNR was closely connected and interlinked with the process of drafting the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, which was carried out in 2017. Slovenia decided to incorporate the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in its new national development framework to avoid duplication and to respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs, and priorities.</p> <p>However, the decision to participate at the HLPF and prepare the national review on implementing the SDGs in the second year since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda also had another reason. For Slovenia, the VNR process served as a significant and helpful tool to raise awareness among stakeholders, to internalise the ownership among ministries, and to understand the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to foster coordination and cooperation to track the progress in implementing the SDGs.</p> <p>Although the process of preparing the VNR has been government-led and government-driven, the review also included contributions from representatives of youth, civil society, and the private sector. Various stakeholders were also included in the drafting of key national development frameworks: the whole-of-society Vision of Slovenia and Slovenia's new development strategy.</p> <p>The review itself, as well as its presentation, produces several lessons-learned that Slovenia will benefit from in the next steps of the Agenda 2030 implementation. To successfully address all seventeen integral and indivisible SDGs and their 169 targets, a whole-of-government approach is paramount. The Slovenian approach is based on a clear political commitment that Slovenia, while realising its own development path sustainably and inclusively, is also firmly aware of its responsibility for world peace and prosperity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a common view on the gaps and challenges that Switzerland has to address in order to reach the SDGs on the national level; • Development of partnerships, trust and new institutionalized platforms for co-operation with the subnational level and with non-state actors.

Chapter 3: SDG Indicators and Monitoring

The well-known maxim: ‘If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it’, is not only relevant in the context of business operations, but is also helpful when it comes to global SD governance and the implementation of political priorities, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). Indicators provide an important measuring ability that enables a relation to be made between the current state of affairs, such as how a country is presently doing regarding reaching certain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and where a country would like to go, or be at, in the future. Indicators also allow progress to be tracked over time, which is important in keeping on track to reach targets and goals, as well as to inform the policy-making process as time goes on.

In the context of the SDGs, quality and timely data and metrics are a powerful ‘management tool’ that can help governments, businesses, and civil society identify main challenges and focus their usually limited financial resources accordingly. Going beyond strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation when based on indicators also help improve transparency and accountability, and thus help to ensure the overall success of the SDGs. The development of global, national, or regional indicators, and their regular monitoring, allows countries to evaluate their progress and learn from the successes of others.

In learning from past shortcomings, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the predecessors of the SDGs, which were characterized by long data delays, large gaps, and lack of metrics for important indicators, such pitfalls can be avoided when defining indicators, collecting data in a timely manner, and proactively dealing with gaps. To avoid repeating this mistake, and to ensure political and financial commitment, it is important that governments and the international community establish metrics and monitoring processes as early as possible for measuring progress made towards the SDGs.⁶

This chapter addresses current activities at the national level regarding **SDG indicators and monitoring**, as developing indicators and monitoring those indicators are important to track progress and success in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This chapter, therefore, looks into which national ministries are responsible for indicator development and monitoring, how the specific country developed its national SDG indicator set, or in some cases sets, and how the country reports on SDG indicators at the national and global level.

The color-coding of the tables below was done for ease of reading, and not because particular colors mean different things. **Belgium, Czech Republic, and Estonia are in blue**, **Finland, Germany, and Greece are in Green**, **Hungary, Italy, and Poland are in yellow**, and **Slovenia and Switzerland are in orange**.

An overview of the main trends in the results of the tables below can be found in the conclusions section of this QR.

⁶ Mulholland, E., Dimitrova, A., Hametner, M. (2018). “SDG Indicators and Monitoring: Systems and Processes at the Global, European, and National Level”, ESDN Quarterly Report 48, April 2018, ESDN Office, Vienna. p.4.

Country	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
Topics			
National ministry or institute responsible for developing SDG indicators	Inter-Federal Statistical Institute	Ministry of the Environment as the coordinator of the sustainable development agenda in cooperation with the Czech Statistical Office.	The work was coordinated by the Government Office.
Development of national SDG indicators and indicators sets	The Inter-Federal Statistical Institute is responsible for the systematic monitoring of the progress made in achieving the SDGs, and has set up a specific working group to that end. Its review of the UN list of 232 SDG indicators found that about 100 of them are readily available for Belgium. These will be progressively incorporated into a comprehensive inter-federal SDG follow-up and review mechanism. Some indicators will be adapted to better reflect the Belgian context. The statistical annex of the VNR included a list of 34 indicators (2 per SDG) that will be extended in the future.	One of the nine thematic committees of GCSD is the Committee on indicators of sustainable development. This committee, under the guidance of the Czech Statistical Office, is the platform for assessing the availability of Agenda 2030 indicators and setting up the monitoring process.	National SDG indicators were developed in cooperation with the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable Development (contains representatives from all the ministries National Statistics Office) and Estonian Sustainable Development Commission (stakeholders). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, a seminar was organized for ministries and stakeholders to define relevant SDG related topics for Estonia (i.e. What Estonia wants to measure). • Based on that the Government Office and Statistics Office drafted a proposal of the indicator list. • Then the ministries and stakeholders (Sustainable Development Commission) could make their proposals to the list. • Then there was a joint seminar for ministries and stakeholders and the Statistic Office for negotiating the final changes. • Finally the list of Estonian sustainable development indicators was approved by the Etonian Sustainable Development Commission (in December 2017)

<p>Reporting mechanisms for reporting on SDG indicators in the national and global context</p>	<p>At the national level, apart from the Voluntary National Review that was presented at the HLPF 2017, the Inter-Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development (IMCSD) organized an event in the framework of the National Sustainable Development Strategy that discussed progress of the 2030 Agenda in Belgium. The IMCSD has been mandated to follow-up the implementation of the Agenda in Belgium by coordinating the preparation of reports on progress made and challenges faced twice per legislature.</p> <p>Federal entities are also invited to evaluate their efforts on a timely basis. At the federal level: the Long-term Vision for Sustainable Development (2013) with 55 long-term objectives, 2050 as its horizon and a proposed set of indicators, and the federal sustainable development plans. Since 2009, the Task Force on Sustainable Development from the Federal Planning Bureau publishes annual assessments of the progress of SD indicators towards their objectives. These assessments are available on www.indicators.be. An update will be published in the spring 2019 at the latest. It should be noted that this website also includes about 60 “beyond GDP” indicators. The entire website will be restructured according to the SDG framework, at the latest in spring 2019.</p> <p>At the regional level: The Walloon Region has published its first SDG implementation report, adopted by the Walloon Government in April 2017. It includes an inventory of the Walloon strategies, programs and plans that contribute to achieving the SDGs, an analysis of 70 indicators selected to monitor SDGs in Wallonia</p>	<p>The document entitled "Implementing the Agenda 2030 in the Czech Republic", which contains a chapter devoted to the availability of indicators for the Agenda 2030 in the Czech Republic, is currently under preparation and should be approved by the government by the end of 2018. The Indicators report is planned to be submitted together with the assessing report of strategic framework Czech Republic 2030 every two years.</p>	<p>Estonian Statistics Office publishes indicator based sustainable development reports in every 2nd year. The next report will be published in December 2018.</p>
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	<p>and a set of good practices implemented by Walloon public institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Subsequently, the indicators presented in this report will be updated periodically in the form of a barometer to assess the progress of the Region in its transition to sustainable development.</p>		
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Country Topics	Finland	Germany	Greece
National ministry or institute responsible for developing SDG indicators	<p>National SD indicators: Prime Minister's Office.</p> <p>Global SDG Indicators, national coordination: Statistics Finland.</p>	<p>Federal Statistical Office.</p>	<p>The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as coordinator of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS) is responsible for the production of official statistics.</p>
Development of national SDG indicators and indicators sets	<p>In a multi-stakeholder indicator working group led by the Prime Minister's Office (representatives from the Ministries, research institutes, Statistics Finland, NGO's, industry organizations, labour unions and a youth representative).</p>	<p>As a controlling instrument, the German SDS includes indicators and targets that together depict the status of sustainable development in Germany and form the basis of the management of the SDS. The previously 38, and now 63 indicators, with their associated targets, allow an objective check of the status of development. When updating the indicators and targets for the new version of the SDS, the Federal Government was guided, among other things, by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater international orientation of the Strategy, embracing the impetus of the 2030 Agenda; • Reflecting political priorities for an ambitious implementation of the 2030 Agenda and enhancement of sustainability 	<p>Development of national SDG indicators/indicators sets In November 2017, Eurostat published the Sustainable Development in the European Union: Monitoring Report on Progress towards the SDGs in an EU context measuring around 100 indicators from the overall 232 indicators of the global SDG indicators' framework. The national statistical Annex of the VNR Report of Greece, is based on these 100 indicators measured by Eurostat, presenting the most relevant ones for Greece. A national set of indicators has not yet been developed but will be developed when a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs will be compiled next year, in 2019.</p>

		<p>policy while the number of indicators and targets remains limited;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance between desirable continuity of targets and indicators and meaningful enhancement; and • Preservation of controllability and communicability. <p>The new version of the SDS reformulates outdated objectives with reference to the year 2030 and defines new targets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For every SDG, at least one indicator-backed political target is listed, which identifies relevant need for action in the area without describing it comprehensively. Instead of being overly prescriptive, the indicators are like keys: they open up the topic area and reveal its relevance for the further development of German policy. They are linked to considerably more extensive and detailed indicator systems or data collections on the website of the Federal Statistical Office or data collections on the website of the Federal Statistical Office.</p>	
<p>Reporting mechanisms for reporting on SDG indicators in the national and global context</p>	<p>National process: open on-line platform (www.kestavakehitys.fi/seuranta) with 10 thematic indicator baskets entailing approximately 50 indicators that are updated on a yearly basis. Experts and public can give their comments on-line on the progress and chosen indicators. All data, trends and comments are compiled every spring to be elaborated in a national “State and future of Sustainable Development” –event organized by the Prime Minister’s Office in cooperation with the National Commission on Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>With respect to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, there are two different reports that Germany compiles: 1) A report on the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, which reports on the monitoring of targets and indicators as laid out in the German SDS and are published twice a year. (The current 2017 Report is also available and another report will be ready before the HLPF 2018.); and 2) A report to the UN regarding the UN’s SDG indicators. Both reports are prepared by the Germany Federal Statistics Office. It should be noted, however, that the report to the UN does not have a direct link to the German SDS, but looks at the SDG</p>	<p>On thematic SDGs, the competent ministry reports directly to the international Custodian Agency responsible, and in parallel, through ELSTAT towards Eurostat. On some general SDG indicators, ELSTAT, as the central coordinator of the Hellenic Statistical System, reports directly to Eurostat and to International Agencies.</p>

	<p>Global process: Statistics Finland coordinates and compiles national information and data to be distributed to the UN Statistical Office according to agreed procedures.</p>	<p>targets and indicators as defined in the 2030 Agenda: it is updated annually by the Federal Statistics Office. Regarding the report on the implementation of the German SDS, the SDS itself is has been updated to reflect the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs, and the SDG targets, meaning Germany’s national reports are also aligned along the SDGs.</p> <p>In addition to the indicator report, which reports about the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, Germany regularly supplies data on the set of global indicators as part of the UN’s international data survey. For Germany, an initial compilation of the data available for all 17 SDGs has been provided by the Federal Statistical Office since July 2016. The development of the global indicators is not yet complete, http://www.destatis.de, but progress can be viewed at http://www.destatis.de/SDGDE. The data will be updated annually, each year before the high-level political forum.</p>	
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Country Topics	Hungary	Italy	Poland
National ministry or institute responsible for developing SDG indicators	<p>The Sustainable Development Committee of the Hungarian Parliament is a stationary panel of the Hungarian Parliament. Further, the National Council for Sustainable Development [NFFT] is an independent national advisory body of the Hungarian Parliament. National Statistical Office (KSH) is responsible for monitoring and reporting.</p>	<p>The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT).</p>	<p>Statistics Poland in co-operation with ministries, in particular Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology.</p>
Development of national SDG	<p>The international SDG indicators are reported to the UN by the KSH. Further, the National SD</p>	<p>In order to identify a common statistical framework as a tool for monitoring and assessing progress towards the objectives of the</p>	<p>The basis for assessing the progress in the implementation of SDGs in Poland is a set of indicators from the Strategy for Responsible</p>

<p>indicators and indicators sets</p>	<p>indicators are monitored and reported biannually by the KSH.</p>	<p>2030 Agenda, an Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs) was set up by UN Statistical Commission, on the 6th of March 2015. It is composed of Member States and includes regional and international agencies as observers. The IAEG-SDGs was tasked to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) is conducting the analysis of the indicators of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs with an inter-institutional approach, inside and outside the boundaries of the National Statistical System (SISTAN).</p> <p>ISTAT periodically presents an update and an extension of the set of indicators for measuring sustainable development and monitoring the SDGs' implementation status. In December 2017, ISTAT published 109 measures on the SDGs and 201 indicators. For 69 indicators, which were already released in May 2017, the time-series were updated or new breakdowns have been added. For 72% of the indicators, territorial disaggregation is also available. 74 indicators correspond to those defined internationally, 78 are similar or partially similar (i.e. where not all data are available, or where available data do not exactly meet the specifications required). In 49 cases, indicators have been integrated with additional "national context" indicators.</p> <p>ISTAT is also progressively releasing sets of indicators based on the Equitable and Sustainable Well-being (BES) Project, launched in 2011. It considers economic parameters alone</p>	<p>Development and from the UN global list. It has been supplemented with additional measures agreed with Statistics Poland.</p>
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		<p>as inadequate to evaluate the progress of societies and views them to be complemented by social and environmental information as well as by measures of inequality and sustainability. For the first time, in 2017, four BES indicators have been introduced within the Economic and Financial Document (DEF), following national legislation promoting the integration of BES within economic programming (L.163/2016). The chosen indicators for 2017 exercise are: trend of average income available, income inequality, and lack of participation in the labor market, CO2 emissions, and other climate-altering gasses. The DEF sets programmatic objectives for each variable.</p> <p>Starting from 2018, 12 indicators will be integrated into the DEF, two of which are related to the environmental dimension (CO2 emissions and index of unauthorized buildings). There are 30 National Indicators for Equitable and Sustainable Welfare (BES) reported among the SDGs indicators.</p>	
<p>Reporting mechanisms for reporting on SDG indicators in the national and global context</p>	<p>The international SDG indicators are reported to the UN by the KSH. Further, the National SD indicators are monitored and reported biannually by the KSH.</p>	<p>Periodically, ISTAT presents an update and improvement of the set of indicators measuring the implementation of the SDGs. It occurred in December 2016, in May 2017, and in December 2017. The next release is expected by June 2018.</p>	<p>Data for indicators for Poland have been made public. This information is presented (and will be systematically updated) in the system developed by Statistics Poland, especially for the purpose of monitoring sustainable development - the Application of Sustainable Development Indicators, available on the Statistics Poland website, under the link: http://wskaznikizrp.stat.gov.pl/</p>

Country Topics	Slovenia	Switzerland
National ministry or institute responsible for developing SDG indicators	<p>The new national development framework is significant for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda due to clearly defined ways of achieving national development goals and hence the objectives of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy coherence for sustainable development will be checked at the policy-making stage. • The implementation of sustainable development objectives at the national level will be systematically monitored on an annual basis together with national development objectives. • The development of capacities in the horizontal understanding of the national and international development context, together with strategic assumptions, will aid in better adapting the implementation of individual development goals. <p>The localisation of the goals and sub-goals of the 2030 Agenda allows the monitoring of the achieving of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda while monitoring the achieving of Slovenia's own, i.e. national, development goals.</p> <p>All the ministries were involved in the process of defining the set of indicators for Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, which was led by the Governmental Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Ministry of Finance and Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia also participated. The performance indicators will be under review for possible change, update, and further development if needed.</p>	Federal Statistical Office
Development of national SDG indicators and indicators sets	Through the process of preparing the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 that defines five strategic orientations for achieving the primary objective («High quality of life for all») and 12 development goals, key and performance indicators have been defined. Since the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are embedded in the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, this set of indicators is relevant also for the monitoring of Slovenian performance on 2030 Agenda.	Partially. Switzerland has a well-established Monitoring-System with 75 Indicators (MONET). This System was expanded with 59 new indicators. However, for some targets, there were no indicators identified, be it because of a lack of data or because no reliable indicator could be found.

	<p>Two to three main performance indicators are defined for each of the 12 development goals in the Strategy, with input and target values that represent the desired target values. In its annual development report, which includes a broad range of other development indicators in addition to the indicators defined in the Strategy for purposes of analysis, the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development monitors the achievement of the goals set out in the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030. When feasible, and where the data allows it, the indicators are monitored and analysed separately by sex, age group, and statistical region.</p>	
<p>Reporting mechanisms for reporting on SDG indicators in the national and global context</p>	<p>Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD) monitors the achievement of the goals set out in the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 and reports on them through the annual development report, which includes a broad range of other development indicators. The Statistical Office monitors the SDG indicators through: .</p> <p>Globally through the VNR.</p>	<p>They are part of the VNR and are published online.</p>

Chapter 4: Mechanisms for Vertical Integration

Before the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, a UN Expert Group held a meeting in January of 2015, in which they discussed policy integration in pursuit of the SDGs. They outlined many challenges that the 2030 Agenda (then called the Post-2015 Development Agenda) would face regarding **vertical policy integration** and multi-level governance. The key messages from the Expert Group were:

- The main challenge of policy integration stems from the fact that it is not business as usual – not normal practice – for governments to integrate. This will be particularly difficult given the complexities of sustainability and the post-2015 development agenda (what is now recognized as the 2030 Agenda);
- Elaborating a dense set of linkages between sub-national, national, regional and global governance arrangements will be essential in promoting policy integration efforts;
- The political, economic, scientific and governance dimensions of policy integration are often downplayed (as they often were during the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) period), yet will be critical to the success of policy integration as a target of the SDGs;
- Knowledge networks and institutional mechanisms to support cross-boundary thinking and problem-solving are critical supports for integrated policymaking;
- Sectoral and inter-sectoral policymaking should support one another. If integrated policymaking is to work, it should incorporate adequate understanding of the sectoral building blocks and sectoral incentives to participate. By its nature, the SDG framework is both sectoral and inter-sectoral (Policy integration, UN 2015, p. 3).⁷

This chapter discusses the current mechanisms for vertical integration that the national level of these European countries employ to ensure that the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have the best chance to not only be implemented at the national level, but also at the subnational level. In order to do that, vertical policy integration with respect to the 2030 Agenda is a key ingredient for overall implementation success. Therefore, NFPs were asked what vertical policy integration mechanisms they have in place at the national level to coordinate with the subnational level. In order to also identify some activities that the subnational level is currently doing regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, NFPs were asked to provide 1-2 examples of such activities.

The color-coding of the tables below was done for ease of reading, and not because particular colors mean different things. **Belgium, Czech Republic, and Estonia are in blue, Finland, Germany, and Greece are in Green, Hungary, Italy, and Poland are in yellow, and Slovenia and Switzerland are in orange.**

An overview of the main trends in the results of the tables below can be found in the conclusions section of this QR.

⁷ E. Mulholland & G. Berger (2017), Multi-level Governance and Vertical Policy Integration: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels of government, ESDN Quarterly Report 43, January 2017, ESDN Office, Vienna. p. 12.

Country Topics	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
Mechanisms and processes for subnational cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>National: The SDGs also touch on subnational competences, as such the since 2012 existing Interministerial Conference on Sustainable Development (IMCSD) gathering the respective ministers in charge of SD and Development Cooperation of the different federal authorities has been reinvigorated to enhance cooperation within the Belgian framework. The IMCSD has been mandated to follow-up the implementation of the Agenda in Belgium including by coordinating the preparation of reports on progress made and challenges faced, and implementing the NSDS. The presidency used to rotate between the members on a half-year basis, but, to ensure coherence, since 2016 the rotation will happen on an annual base. Currently, Flanders has taken up the presidency. Whereas the interaction with the European and multilateral level is concerned, existing coordination platforms for political and strategic orientation (e.g. Coormulti and DGE) will continue to serve as mechanisms to determine the common Belgian position by taking on board the positions of the federal and federated entities.</p>	<p>On the basis of a government resolution, a Strategic framework Czech Republic 2030 was adopted in April 2017. This document sets national priorities of the sustainable development, together with the principles and goals of the Agenda 2030 and other international obligations. It is an overarching strategic framework from which to base strategies at the sub-national level.</p>	<p>Local governments are involved in the Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities, which is a member of the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission.</p> <p>Estonia is looking for new and innovative ways to better involve the cities and municipalities into SDG implementation.</p>
Examples of subnational 2030 Agenda implementation activities	<p>Flanders: Of the activities of 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation at the regional and local level. Flanders endorses all 17 SDG's of the United Nations in its Vision 2050, the long term strategy of the Flemish Government. The 7 transition priorities (implementation of the long term strategy) will contribute to accomplishing the SDG's on the subnational level. This will mainly</p>	<p>The broad participation and involvement of stakeholders in the preparation of the document Czech Republic 2030 included cooperation with local and regional authorities, a series of regional round tables, public regional consultations. Since September till November 2017 Department of sustainable development organized 8 regional round tables/workshops about Czech Republic 2030 to gather input from</p>	-

	<p>be monitored by existing structures. However, a new governance model, based upon the principles of the transition management approach, was conducted. Hereby responsible ministers were designated for each transition priority. Besides the responsible ministers, transition managers within the Flemish public administration were appointed. Flanders introduced an SDG lens into its new, multiannual Country Strategy Papers and held a stakeholders consultation moment on the 18th of April within a broader exercise to adapt its development cooperation policy to the new paradigm of the 2030 ASD. Specific to the implementation of the SDG's, the government of Flanders approved a set of goals tailored to the Flemish competences and circumstances, 'Visor 2030- a 2030 framework of goals for Flanders' on the 9th of March 2018. The stake-holders have been consulted and their input is being processed. Wallonia: The 2nd Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted on 7 July 2016, aims to help implement the SDGs along with other global or sectoral policies and plans. This Strategy fully integrates the SDGs adopted at UN level 10 months before the adoption of the strategy. The long-term vision of the strategy "reflects a region in which all 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the UN Summit will be achieved". SDGs are also presented as the short and medium term objectives for Wallonia in terms of sustainable development, and the axes of the action plan are related to SDGs. Specific actions of the Strategy are dedicated to monitor SDGs (i.e. the elaboration of a SDGs' implementation re-port in Wallonia, cf supra) and to raise awareness about the 2030Agenda. For example the Walloon government has</p>	<p>the regional stakeholders. Representatives of three important municipal associations are GCSD member organisations. Also one of the thematic committees of GCSD is Committee on Sustainable Municipalities, where are all key municipal associations and organisations represented.</p>	
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	<p>decided in April 2016 to include in each draft decision a chapter explaining to which SDGs the decision will contribute. . Brussels-Capital Region: The Brussels-Capital Region has undergone profound changes and is now facing new challenges such as rapid demographic growth, employment, training and education, poverty, environment, mobility and internationalization. From 13 January 2017 till 13 March 2017, the Brussels Government launched a public inquiry into the new draft of the Regional Sustainable Development Plan. The passing of this Plan is expected for mid-2018. This plan is a strategic tool to address the challenges of the 2030 Agenda in a comprehensive and coherent manner. It sets priorities to make the Brussels-Capital Region more attractive, more inclusive socially, economically, more competitive, more creative in research, greener and efficient in the use of energy and resources.</p>		
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Country Topics	Finland	Germany	Greece
<p>Mechanisms and processes for subnational cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs</p>	<p>Local and regional representatives in the National Commission on Sustainable Development, including the self-governing territory Aland island and two cities.</p> <p>Cities' and towns' operational commitments as part of the Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Cooperating with the pioneering / frontrunner municipalities (e.g. 39 climate-neutral HINKU-municipalities and 11 Sustainable FISU-municipalities)</p>	<p>As the NSDS is the strategy of the national government only, the NSDS is not binding for the federal states. Nevertheless, the cooperation between the national level and the federal states for NSDS implementation has been significantly increased. The federal states are involved in the definition process of concrete measures based on the NSDS. They participated in the consultation process to the Progress Reports 2008, 2012 and 2016.</p> <p>In 2008, 2012 and again in 2016, the federal countries have contributed own statements to the national government's Progress Reports, which were adopted by the Prime Ministers of the federal states.</p> <p>In their progress report-statements, the federal states advocate a stronger cooperation between them and the federal government on the NSDS and the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Since 2008, the cooperation especially in the fields of sustainable public procurement, reduction of land use and sustainability-indicators has been addressed in the regular meetings between the Head of the Federal Chancellery and the Heads of the Prime Ministers' offices of the federal states:</p> <p>The federal states welcome the lively exchange on public procurement between the federal government, the federal states themselves and the local authorities. The "Alliance for Sustainable Procurement" provides a platform</p>	<p>As all SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, particularly to their role in delivering basic services, their involvement is absolutely essential for the success of sustainable development. In this context, although an official mechanism has not been established, there is constant close "vertical" cooperation between all government levels (national, regional, local) for the integrated and coherent implementation of the 2030 agenda. More specifically, the GSG encourages and facilitates consultation with multiple stakeholders actively engaged in the SDGs implementation process, including regional and local authorities. Through the organisation of bilateral and multilateral meetings with representative stakeholders and its participation in workshops and roundtable conferences organised by regional and local authorities, the GSG aims to raise public awareness on the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, promote the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, and facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of SDGs.</p>

		<p>for the federal government to bundle know-how for public procurement at the federal level. The federal states take this as an opportunity to make experiences accessible and useful, whilst maintaining their autonomy. They intend to continue this exchange of knowledge, methods and instruments.</p> <p>In the field of reduction of land use/consumption of new land, the national, federal states and local levels work together to find sustainable solutions that meet the demand for land and, at the same time, protect the natural environment and the land required for farming.</p> <p>The federal states stress the significance of common sustainability indicators at the national and federal states levels. The orientation to universal, national indicators based on the indicators of the NSDS has proven valid and seems to offer the greatest possible compliance and comparability at the federal states level based on the existing data. This includes a mapping of federal states-specific targets with their own indicators.</p> <p>The participation of the federal states is also institutionalised in various working groups involving public administrators of the national government and the federal states as part of the Conference of Environmental Ministers (a forum in which the Environmental Ministers of the federal states and representatives of the Federal Ministry for the Environment meet), which mostly serve as a forum for exchange of experiences. SD is currently addressed in the working group “climate, energy, mobility</p>	
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		<p>sustainability (BLAG KliNa)", that has been operating since January 2008. In addition, there are further working groups in place providing a platform for an exchange of the federal level with federal states and municipalities (sustainable urban development; smart cities and SD, international urbanization, research and innovation: innovation platform „future city“).</p> <p>In terms of their responsibility on education policy, the federal states have consistently expanded their activities in the field of education for sustainable development with specific measures and programmes.</p>	
<p>Examples of subnational 2030 Agenda implementation activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The so-called Carbon Neutral Municipalities constitute a group of 39 municipalities in Finland that have been pioneering in greening their economies and acting as laboratories for sustainable development. These municipalities have brought together mayors, businesses, citizens and experts to create and carry out solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The involved municipalities are committed to an 80 per cent emission reduction target by 2030 from the level of 2007. The preliminary results are encouraging: new businesses and jobs have been established while the emissions have reduced substantially (30 %) and new energy solutions and procurement policies have led to considerable cost savings. 	<p>13 of 15 federal states have their own SD strategies in place as a reference framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Government of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany for example adopted its first SD Strategy in June 2016. It was the first German region that committed itself to implement the global SDGs that were adopted at the UN Summit in New York in September 2016. The centerpiece of the SD Strategy is a goal and indicator system for 19 main fields of action with which the regional government determines ambitious goals to be reached by 2030. The monitoring system comprises about 70 indicators. Every two years, an indicator report will be prepared, and every four years, the SD Strategy will be updated. Please find more information on the SD Strategy in German here, and the French version can be downloaded here.</p>	<p>There are many initiatives being implemented aiming to raise awareness and citizen participation for the SDGs and sustainable development in general. A good recent example is a weekly radio programme on the municipal radio station of Athens, organized in cooperation with the UN entitled "Athens has Goals" which is dedicated entirely to the SDGs, presenting and analyzing each one of the SDGs to the public each week. Another example is the promotion of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) in large Greek cities. The participation of municipalities implementing sustainable urban mobility interventions in the Europe-an Mobility Week, in terms of awareness raising, has increased remarkably over the past years, growing from 8 municipalities in 2013 to 86 in 2016, with many of them also ranking in the list of the 10 finalist European cities to receive a Sustainable Urban Mobility Award. In this context, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy introduced in 2015 the "Greek Award for the European Mobility Week", under the auspices of the President of the Hellenic</p>

			Republic. The award is given to the 10 best Greek municipalities participating in the European Mobility Week campaign, based on their achievements and commitment to the campaign goals.
Country	Hungary	Italy	Poland
Topics			
Mechanisms and processes for subnational cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>The implementation of Agenda 2030 is part of the National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSDS). The vertical integration is processed through the NFFT, as it has governmental and local governmental members. The Prime Minister's office is coordinating on governmental level.</p>	<p>In Italy, overall co-ordination of policies at the national and subnational levels is ensured through a system of public representative bodies of local and regional authorities (LRAs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The State-Regions Conference; •The Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces (CRPA); •The State-Cities and Local Autonomies Conference. <p>The State-Regions Conference fosters cooperation between the State, the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces by conveying the views of the Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces to the State. The Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) ensures coordination between the Provinces and the State. The State-Cities and Local Autonomies Conference is in charge of the coordination between the State and LRAs and monitoring of policies which may have an impact on the LRAs' competences. It holds joint meetings with the Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces on matters of common interest. A Joint Conference puts together the State-Region Conference and the State-Cities and Local Autonomies Conference. Its overall mission is to foster cooperation between the State and all the LRAs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in <u>consultations</u> (on-line form) of the Report on Implementation of SDGs in Poland - Report VNR. • Participation in events, initiatives and projects related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

		<p>With regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the sub-national level, a wide multilevel consultation approach was at the core of the NSDS, in line with the guiding principles of the 2030 Agenda, which included the consultation of the Italian Regions and of the State-Regions Conference, all along the elaboration process of the NSDS. The consultation process was functional to the implementation of a document deeply shared with the different actors according to their competences.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Government, through the State and Regions Conference and in accordance with Art.34, of the Legislative Decree n.152/2006 (as amended), enhances local and regional authorities to be active and to take part to the implementation process. In this regard, the above-mentioned Art.34 foresees that Regions adopt the regional strategies for sustainable development within twelve months from the approval of the NSDS by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE), defining the contribution to the achievement of the national strategic objectives.</p> <p>In this context, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (hereinafter Ministry for the Environment), has developed and launched a set of actions, to foster a more effective integration and governance of the principle of sustainability in public policies, both in the context of the programming period 2014-2020 of the European Structural and Investment Fund (hereinafter ESI Funds) and through national financial resources.</p>	
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		<p>Among these actions, a significant role is assigned to the CREIAMO PA Project - Competences and Networks for the Environmental Integration and for the Improvement of the Public Administration Organizations (hereinafter Project or CREIAMO PA), the project initiative managed by the Ministry for the Environment (beneficiary), financed under the National Operational Program Governance and Institutional Capacity 2014-2020.</p> <p>In particular, CREIAMO PA supports regional authorities in the integration of environmental sustainability in plans, programs and policies, aiming at launching a transformative process towards the implementation of sustainable development at territorial level.</p> <p>The Project is structured into nine Intervention Lines. Seven "thematic" Lines are linked to the priorities identified by the Seventh Environmental Action Plan (as per Decision 1386/2013/EU), and two "transversal" Lines are instrumental in implementing the first ones.</p> <p>With reference to the issues most directly related to 2030 Agenda, the CREIAMO PA Project includes a special integrated "package" of actions to support the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at the territorial level. More specifically, its actions are articulated within the Intervention Line 2 "Support for the integration of environmental sustainability objectives into administrative actions for the implementation of national strategies", Work Package 1 "Implementation</p>	
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		<p>and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda (hereinafter L2WP1).</p> <p>In detail, the L2WP1 includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conferences addressed to institutions and civil society, according to the working method adopted for the elaboration of the NSDS and in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda; • Involvement of the regional institutions through: • Regional working table (Regions and Ministry of the Environment): to provide operational support to the paths towards the definition of the regional strategies for sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; • 7 training on the job modules addressed to Regions; • Review and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. 	
Examples of subnational 2030 Agenda implementation activities	<p>There is a strong alliance of local governance related to the Climate Policy (http://klimabarat.hu/)</p> <p>Civil Roundtable for sustainable development Goals (http://ffcelok.hu/)</p>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference "Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: goals for the world, challenges for the country, responsibility for all", 05/06/2017 • Conference "SDG 17: partnerships for sustainable developments goals", 06/12/2017 "The National Stakeholder Forum", 27/06/2018

	Country	Slovenia	Switzerland
Topics			
Mechanisms and processes for subnational cooperation in the implementation of		Due to the uninterrupted strategic approach to development and the monitoring of the achieving of Slovenia's development goals, the Slovenian government will establish a Development Council, which will include representatives of social partners, the private sector, civil	The main contact points on the subnational level are the cantonal centres for sustainable development. They recently formed a network, which is the main platform to coordinate the countrywide implementation on the subnational level.

the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	society, professional institutions, regional and local governments and the national government.	
Examples of subnational 2030 Agenda implementation activities	-	The degree of implementation varies strongly. The majority of communities and cities does very little or doesn't know the agenda at all. However, there are some cantons as well as cities, that are strongly committed the 2030 Agenda and developed own strategies. For instance, the Canton of Basel-Stadt bases its legislative planning on the SDGs. But also smaller communes are using the 2030 Agenda to foster sustainable Development, such as Pully, which made an indicator-based analysis on its gaps and challenges to reach the SDGs.

Chapter 5: Mechanisms of Horizontal Integration

The integration of economic, environmental and social issues should be taken into account when implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In order to do this effectively with respect to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, enhanced interministerial cooperation is needed, as the SDGs are interrelated and interconnected that all national ministries must be involved in the implementation process if it is going to be successful. Horizontal policy integration attempts to deal with knowledge silos forming between national ministries and attempts to bring ministries together to discuss policies and their potential effects on all aspects of sustainable development to find balanced solutions.

This chapter discusses the **mechanisms for horizontal integration** that must happen at the national level between ministries in order for them to have increased chances of success in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. NFPs were asked in the survey to provide the types cooperation mechanisms and procedures that are being used between the different national ministries to foster better policy coherence and horizontal policy integration with respect to the 2030 Agenda and its implementation at the national level. Additionally, NFPs were asked to share their experiences with using these horizontal integration mechanisms and how that has helped in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the coherence between ministries in that regard.

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An overview of the main trends in the results of the tables below can be found in the conclusions section of this QR.

Country Topics	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
<p>Cooperation mechanisms and procedures used between the different national ministries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs</p>	<p>At the national level, an administrative steering group under the authority of the Inter-ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development is in charge for the supervision of technical working groups' activities.</p> <p>At the federal level, horizontal coordination is undertaken through the Interdepartmental Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) and through the sustainable development units (SDU) created in the respective federal administrations. Additional institutions involved are the Task Force on Sustainable Development (TFSD) of the Federal Planning Bureau (FPB), the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (IFSD) and the Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FCSD).</p> <p>The ICSD as mechanism of horizontal policy coordination is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the preliminary draft and the draft of the Federal Plan (FPSD); • Coordination of the development and update of the Long-term Vision for SD; • Coordination of the report by its members which provides information about the implementation of the measures through which each administration has contributed to the objectives of the FPSD; • Coordination of policy regarding sustainable development (e.g. through working groups on public procurements, CSR, international policy, etc.). 	<p>The Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD), chaired by the Minister of the Environment, is an advisory body to the Government based at the Office of the Government. The GCSD serves as the main coordinating body for different national ministries. (all ministries except Ministry of Defence)</p>	<p>Ministries are involved through the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable development.</p>

	<p>Reference can be made to various outcomes of the mechanisms for horizontal policy coordination, inter alia the Federal Plans for Sustainable Development; Action plans in line with the FP from the SD units of the various federal administrations; opinions by the FCSD; reports by the members of the ICSD; and evaluation reports of the FPB.</p> <p>Next to those institutions, the Sustainable Impact Assessment (SIA) tool has been integrated in a Regulatory Impact Assessment since the January 2014. The long term vision for sustainable development gave the structure to new ex ante impact assessment tool and the past experience of the SIA has been taken into account to improve the quality of the process. More information on http://ria-air.fed.be.</p> <p>At the Flemish level, horizontal integration is undertaken through the Working Group on Sustainable Development (WGSD) consisting of representatives of the different Flemish departments. There are two groups: one on policy and one on implementation. The Flemish sustainable development policy is the main topic of the first working group. The implementation working group exchanges good examples and inspires the implementation of sustainable behaviour and practices inside the Flemish administrative organisations. Besides this, a centre of expertise on sustainable development is being formed, in which more Flemish entities are involved.</p> <p>As far as the Brussels-Capital Region is concerned, the Brussels Office of planning ("Bureau Bruxellois de la planification") is in charge of the design and monitoring of studies</p>		
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	<p>and strategic development plans, included the Regional Sustainable Development Plan. The draft foresees as well the establishment of a support committee to support and stimulate the process.</p> <p>At the Walloon level, horizontal integration is undertaken mainly through the implementation of the SD strategy. Indeed the strategy is the project of the whole Government and its implementation is under the responsibility of different Ministers and administrations each of them being in charge of the implementation of specific measures within the action plan. An independent sustainable development advisory unit has also been established in 2013. This unit is consulted by the Government as regards compliance with SD principles of certain projects or legislative proposals. Here are some of the features of this new instrument: (a) Policy proposals in the very early stages (global policy overview) are submitted to the advisory unit by policy makers; (b) All other policy proposals may be submitted to the unit, either by policy makers or by officials from the administrations in charge of policy design; (c) The unit may also put forward its own proposals on any relevant subject to policy makers; (d) The resulting assessment contains recommendations for improving the policy proposal; (e) Governmental ministers are obliged to provide arguments when recommendations are not taken into account; (f) The integrated assessment is carried out on the basis of sustainability criteria, grouped in five categories, which are then refined using a holistic approach including horizontal and vertical integration, intra- and intergenerational equity, participation; (g) The</p>		
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	advisory unit is eager to exchange views with other organisations carrying out SD assessments on public policies.		
Main experiences using these cooperation mechanisms in the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs implementation activities	As already discussed the Interministerial Conference for Sustainable Development (IMCSD) – gathers the respective ministers in charge of SD and Development Cooperation of the different authorities. Apart from the political level it exists of an administrative steering group and three technical working groups (on NSDS, international policy, and public procurements).	It is essential to establish long-term ties with ministry representatives.	Every ministry is responsible for implementation of SDGs in their field of responsibility. The working group is helpful, when horizontal action is needed (Estonian position in EU or UN SDG related negotiations, agreeing the national sustainable development indicators, drafting SDG related reports, etc.).

Country Topics	Finland	Germany	Greece
Cooperation mechanisms and procedures used between the different national ministries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>Inter-Ministerial Network: SD focal points from all line Ministries supporting the Agenda2030 secretariat services of the Prime Minister’s Office and preparing the work of the National Commission on Sustainable Development.</p> <p>National Indicator Working Group: representatives from the line Ministries ensuring that different aspects of sustainable development are reflected in choosing the indicators and measuring the progress.</p>	<p>The SD strategy is the key framework for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the institutions of the SD strategy are at the same time important institutions for implementing the 2030 Agenda:</p> <p>Since 2000, the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development exists as a high-ranking steering, coordinating and monitoring body for sustainable development. It decides about the strategy and its further development (subject to later formal approval of the cabinet), and keeps a close eye on its implementation. The Committee is composed of state secretaries (representatives of the minister, top level of civil servants) from all ministries. It is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery, who is the main leader in the national SD process.</p>	<p>An Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for SDGs was established in December 2016, under the coordination of the GSG, with representatives from all line ministries acting as focal points on SDGs-related issues. This Network has been responsible for carrying out a mapping/gap analysis exercise (described above in point 2) and for actively engaging in the preparation of the VNR.</p>

		<p>In Germany, the responsibility for national SD policies does not lie with one of the ministries but with the Chancellery itself. This is considered a key success factor for SD in Germany. The Chancellery does not only have a coordination role, but is also steering the process and providing important inputs to the relevant ministries. It shows the special importance that the federal government attaches to SD policies and is based on the fact that sustainable development is a cross-cutting subject. Political leadership for the NSDS falls under the "guidance competence" of the Chancellery, and its administrative implementation takes place through a link between the Chancellery and the respective ministries responsible for the specific issue at hand. A permanent inter-ministerial working-group for sustainable development (chaired also by the Chancellery) prepares for the meetings of the State Secretaries' Committee.</p> <p>The Committee meets about four times a year. Beginning in December 2008, the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development worked on the basis of a working programme comprising important topics for sustainable development. Subjects of the meetings since spring 2012 included education for SD, CSR, the 2013 Peer Review on the national SDS, the Post-2015 Agenda, sustainable urban development, sustainable consumption and sustainable finance policy. To the Committees' meetings, the Chair regularly invites respective experts, e.g. from science, NGOs and/or businesses.</p>	
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		contact persons for all issues relating to Sustainable Development and will be involved in the preparation of the Sustainable Development Impact assessments.	
Main experiences using these cooperation mechanisms in the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs implementation activities	<p>Key success factors for effective implementation, monitoring and review, as well as policy coherence.</p> <p>SD focal points' capacity and capability to influence in sustainable development in their sectors / administrations varies considerably. Their role should be strengthened and legitimized.</p>	Please see above.	Through this cooperation mechanism, all ministries involved identified and assessed gaps and challenges encountered in the process of planning and implementing the 2030 Agenda, ensuring that the national priorities for the SDGs and activities are tailored to the particular national context and circumstances. Moreover, this process contributed to achieving better coordination between line ministries, ensuring policy coherence "horizontally" across all policy sectors and enhancing the ministries shared commitment and responsibility in implementing the SDGs.

Country Topics	Hungary	Italy	Poland
Cooperation mechanisms and procedures used between the different national ministries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Technology and Innovation are responsible for the horizontal integration.	<p>The multilevel consultation approach, at the core of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, included the consultation of all the Italian Ministries and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. It was developed in several phases until the approval of the NSDS (see Figure 1).</p> <p>The Presidency of the Council of Ministers coordinates the implementation of the NSDS (see Figure 2), with the support of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, respectively for the domestic and external dimension.</p> <p>Each Italian Ministry will be involved in the implementation process and will provide its own specific contribution according to its individual</p>	<p>The institutional system for sustainable development in Poland ensures a clear division of competences in the area of strategic planning, operational programming, management and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the integrated approach. The institutional system enables the social and economic partners to participate in the preparation of integrated strategic papers and includes them in the monitoring and evaluation of development policy at all levels of development management.</p> <p>For the purpose of preparation of the Polish review of the achievement of SDGs, a special Task Force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD) with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs has been appointed. The</p>

		<p>expertise. In particular, the Ministry of Economy and Finance will be responsible for linking the implementation of the Strategy with the official economic policy documents and for coordinating the modeling required to define the related objectives. The implementation of the NSDS will be linked, in fact, with the National Reform Programme (NPF) and the Economic and Financial Document (DEF). In addition, the Ministry for the Environment will ensure the involvement of civil society, coordinating the Forum on Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Moreover, it is foreseen an annual monitoring of the NSDS implementation status also based on the indicators provided by the National Institute of Statistics and by institutions belonging to the National Statistical System (SISTAN).</p>	<p>Task Force includes representatives of ministries, social organisations, social and economic partners, NGOs, public statistics, civil society, academia and youth.</p>
<p>Main experiences using these cooperation mechanisms in the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs implementation activities</p>	<p>The governmental experiences are not available, yet.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Participatory model of cooperation (Task Force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development with the 2030 Agenda) may constitute good practices/experiences for other countries. The applied practices of integrating various environments around the challenge of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals increase the sense of shared responsibility of various environments for the success of transformational changes towards sustainable development of the country. Ultimately, the active participation of stakeholders in public policy-making increases their confidence in the authorities and their willingness to engage in dialogue to find common solutions.</p>

Country Topics	Slovenia	Switzerland
<p>Cooperation mechanisms and procedures used between the different national ministries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs</p>	<p>The Permanent Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Development Planning was established by the Government at the beginning of 2017 as a coordination mechanism to promote policy coherence and to solve possible policy conflicts. Its work was crucial in the preparation of the VNR, since the focal points at the ministries represented a communication network with their own coordination architecture at their respective ministries.</p> <p>The coordination mechanism enabled coherent and prompt communication that also resulted in gradually internalising the ownership of the SDGs among ministries, as well as raising awareness of the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda.</p>	<p>The coordination between federal offices and departments is assured by the Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC).</p>
<p>Main experiences using these cooperation mechanisms in the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs implementation activities</p>	<p>The working group allows more effective coordination and an active contribution to the compilation of the central strategic and implementing documents of the Republic of Slovenia and also oversees the inclusion of the 2030 Agenda in draft documents and the transfer of information about the importance of the 2030 Agenda in individual areas.</p>	<p>The ISDC allows for a good exchange of viewpoints and interests. It also helps to shape strategic instruments such as the Sustainable Development Strategy. On the other side, the ISDC is not able to take decisions on new goals and measures, which are not already part of the policy of the involved offices.</p>

Chapter 6: Evaluation and Review

The effectiveness of an SD strategy in achieving its objectives should be evaluated continuously with a set of SD indicators (mostly quantitatively), reviewed/evaluated in regular intervals (mostly qualitatively), and results and reports from monitoring and review should be considered in the continuous adjustment and the cyclical renewal of an SD strategy so that evidence-based policy learning takes place.

This chapter focuses on how the national level is **evaluating and reporting** on its progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and the progress that has been made in achieving the SDGs and their sub-targets. NFPs were asked in the survey whether their country produces a national report that evaluates and reviews the country's progress towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as how often such evaluation reports are published.

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An overview of the main trends in the results of the tables below can be found in the conclusions section of this QR.

Country Topics	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
National reports that evaluate and review progress made towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>At the national level, the sustainable development strategy stipulates that every legislature two events will be organised on the implementation of the 2030ASD. The first of these events took place in November 2017. All federal authorities also have their own dedicated process for evaluation and review.</p> <p>At the federal level since 2009, the Task Force on Sustainable Development, from the Federal Planning Bureau, publishes annual assessments of the progress of Belgium's sustainable development indicators towards their objectives. These assessments are available on the Federal Planning Bureau's website (www.indicators.be). An update will be published in the spring 2019 at the latest. It should be noted that this website also includes about 60 "beyond GDP" indicators. The entire website will be restructured according to the SDG framework in spring 2019 at the latest.</p> <p>At the regional level: the elaboration of a report about the implementation of SDGs in Wallonia is scheduled every 3-4 years. As mentioned in section 3, the list of the 70 indicators presented in the first report will be updated periodically in the form of a barometer to assess the progress of the Region.</p>	<p>Not yet, but Progress towards national goals (of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030) will be monitored by the bi-annual analytical Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability.</p>	<p>Statistics Estonia publishes regular indicator based sustainable development reports.</p> <p>The VNR also acted as the progress report for SDG-s, as it covered all the SDGs and SDG related mechanisms.</p>
Frequency of publications of evaluation and review reports		It's planned as bi-annual reporting.	Next sustainable development report will be published in December 2018. It will be first SDG related national statistical report.

Country Topics	Finland	Germany	Greece
National reports that evaluate and review progress made towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>The comprehensive evaluation process kicks-off in August 2018. Results will be available by February 2019 to guide the national parliamentary elections in April 2019. The evaluation and its results and recommendations will also contribute to Finland's VNR 2020.</p> <p>Gap-analysis on Finland's baseline, strengths and weaknesses regarding the 17 SDGs was conducted in spring 2016, indicating Finland's preparedness to achieving the SDGs.</p>	<p>The latest analysis by the Federal Statistical Office (2016) shows that 27 indicators with a more positive status or trend are offset by 29 indicators with a more negative status or trend; for seven indicators, no status/trend can be identified at present. Even if many targets have positive trends, there are still areas with little or no progress. An explanation of the evaluation procedure used by the Federal Statistical Office can be found at the Statistical Office's website.</p>	<p>The National Implementation Plan for the SDGs, scheduled for 2019, will foster the adoption of an integrated approach to the planning and implementation of the SDGs at different governance levels and across policy sectors promoting policy coherence for sustainable development. It is expected that this Plan will be coupled with a concrete component on the Follow up and Review of the implementation of the SDGs in Greece. In this respect, the Hellenic Parliament will play an instrumental role in the follow-up and review process as progress reports on the execution of the National Implementation Plan for the SDGs are expected to be submitted, at regular intervals, to the Hellenic Parliament for discussion and review in the context of joint meetings of parliamentary committees (reflecting all the thematic aspects of the SDGs thus promoting the integration of all three dimensions of sustainable development) where all political parties are represented.</p>
Frequency of publications of evaluation and review re-ports	<p>According to the Government's Implementation Plan (2017), a comprehensive evaluation / review on policies and measures will be conducted every 4 years, first in 2019.</p> <p>Previous comprehensive sustainable development evaluation on national policies was conducted in 2009 ("National assessment of sustainable development 2009").</p>	<p>Every two years, the Federal Statistical Office publishes an independent Indicator Report with information about progress towards meeting goals.</p>	<p>It is planned that such evaluation and review report will be elaborated annually.</p>

Country Topics	Hungary	Italy	Poland
National reports that evaluate and review progress made towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	The National Council for Sustainable Development [NFFT] conducts biennial Monitoring Report on the National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development.	The NSDS foresees an annual monitoring of its implementation status also based on the indicators provided by the National Institute of Statistics and by institutions belonging to the National Statistical System (SISTAN).	Poland plans to periodically monitor the implementation of the SDGs and prepare a national report on the progress made.
Frequency of publications of evaluation and review re-ports	The first Monitoring Report (2013-2014) assesses the implementation of all relevant SDGs in Hungary and their compliance with the already existing Hungarian National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development. The assessment resulted that all of the relevant SDGs has compliant Hungarian national targets or goals allocated in the National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development of Hungary. The second evaluation report covers the period of 2015 – 2016 and was published at the end of 2017.	Each year. The first report is still to come.	This year's VNR report is the first evaluation and it is available under the link: http://www.mpit.gov.pl/media/58470/Poland_VNR_20180615.pdf

Country Topics	Slovenia	Switzerland
National reports that evaluate and review progress made towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	-	Switzerland made a respective assessment analyzing all 169 Targets. The results are summarized in a report, which served as basis for the VNR. This report outlines the progress of Switzerland so far and the main gaps challenges for the future.

<p>Frequency of publications of evaluation and review re-ports</p>	<p>IMAD reports on development of Slovenia on an annual basis. Since 2018 the Development report is prepared in line with the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 and the set indicators. Development report 2018 (IMAD): http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/razvoj_slovenije/2018/POR2018_novo.pdf</p>	<p>Review reports (VNRs) are planned to be published all four years (2022, 2026, and 2030). Evaluation reports are made irregularly: the last evaluation of the Sustainable Development Strategy was carried out in 2011:</p> <p>https://www.are.admin.ch/are/de/home/medien-und-publikationen/publikationen/nachhaltige-entwicklung/evaluation-strategie-nachhaltige-entwicklung-2008-2011.html (only in German).</p>
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Chapter 7: Stakeholder Participation in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

This chapter looks into how the national level is **engaging stakeholders** and allowing them to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The survey question asks how and what mechanisms are in place at the national level to ensure that stakeholder voices and viewpoints are being taken into account, as well as the national level's future plans regarding further stakeholder engagement and participation.

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An overview of the main trends in the results of the tables below can be found in the conclusions section of this QR.

Country Topics	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
Stakeholder involvement in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	Belgium has a long history regarding stakeholder participation. The National Council for Sustainable Development came into being in 1993, and became the Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FCSD) with the Federal Act of May 1997 that defined the Federal SD strategy. This stake-holders advisory council, organizes the participation of major groups to SD policy-making and is one of the concerned institutions for the preparation adoption, implementation and improvement of SD Policies. Grouping the regional advisory councils the FCSD participated in the creation of the VNR and the NSDS for example	Czech Republic 2030 is the result of a participatory process lasting more than a year, coordinated by the Office of the Government (Sustainable development department). It involved hundreds of experts from different sectors, including the work of the nine GCSD Committees and several working groups, a series of round tables formed around the key areas, public regional consultations, CSO platform consultations and discussion in both chambers of Parliament. Also two ministers (Minister of the Environment and Minister of Industry and Trade) are members of the GCSD.	Stakeholders are mainly involved via the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission. The commission involves organizations from all SDG related fields (environment, universities, children, business, health, energy, local government, etc.).
Future plans to involve stakeholders more in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	-	In May 2018 Ministry of the Environment launched the web platform for Voluntary Commitments as a tool to involve the public in the SDGs implementation.	In April 2018 the Estonian Coalition for Sustainable development was founded by active stakeholders who want to do closer cooperation in implementing the SDG-s. The government Office and Ministry of Environment also joined the coalition. The Coalition is planning to create a web-based platform for better involving different actors from different sectors into SDG implementation.
Country Topics	Finland	Germany	Greece
Stakeholder involvement in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	Stakeholders are integral part of Finland's approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda. They are involved in great number in the National Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as in the sister committee on Development Policy. Society's Commitment to Sustain-able Development has been designed	The review of the NSDS started in October 2015 shortly after the 2030 Agenda was adopted. A series of 5 stakeholder conferences (Berlin, Dresden, Stuttgart, Bonn and Hamburg) opened the discussion on a new NSDS 2016. Periodical newsletters informed about the activities and sustainability discussions taking place. A draft of the new/reviewed NSDS 2016 has been	In order to cultivate a culture of dialogue and partnership, GSG and line ministries support transparent and inclusive consultation with multiple stakeholders actively engaged in the SDGs implementation process (civil society and social partners, the private sector, academia and research community, regional and local authorities). In particular, an ongoing dialogue is

	<p>especially for the stakeholders to participate with concrete actions. The strategic framework of the Society's Commitment was negotiated in the National Commission, thus the views of the stakeholders are incorporated in the vision, principles and strategic objectives of the Commitment.</p> <p>Stakeholders were also involved in the preparation of the Government's Agenda2030 Implementation Plan, as well as in the design and development of the national SD indicators.</p>	<p>published by the end of May 2016 and opened for a second consultation phase via internet. In addition, dialogue meetings with the federal states as well associations and organisations took place during summer 2016.</p> <p>The new NSDS aims at strengthening stakeholder involvement. Plans for this include a regular dialogue format ("Sustainability Forum") and the greater involvement of social stakeholders in the preparation of meetings of the State Secretaries' Committee ("Dialogue Group"). The first Sustainability Forum took place in July 2017. The government presented progress on implementing the 2030 Agenda. Social organisations reported on their activities and discussed implementation measures of the government. Preparations for setting up the Dialogue Group are underway. In science, various initiatives have been launched to support the implementation of the SDGs. The Federal Government has embraced these initiatives and offers a platform on which scientific support for the implementation of the SDGs will be pooled ("Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit 2030").</p> <p>The German Council for Sustainable Development was established by the German Government in April 2001. Its members are appointed by the Chancellor. Currently it is composed of 15 members from various social groups, the business sector as well as from the science and research community. Its mission is to advise the German government on all matters relating to SD and to contribute to the further development of the NSDS. In addition, the</p>	<p>taking place with some of the major national stakeholders, through the platform provided by the Economic and Social Committee of Greece (ESC), the constitutionally recognized institution for the contact of social dialogue. The ESC is working, following the model of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), on the basis of a tripartite structure representing the interests of three main groups involved, directly and indirectly, in achieving the SDGs at different levels: (i) employers-entrepreneurs; (ii) public and private sector employees; and (iii) other categories of interests groups such as farmers, self-employed people, professionals, consumers, environmental agencies, disabled people's confederation, gender equality and multi-child associations, and regional and local government.</p>
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Future plans to involve stakeholders more in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	Finland will continue with the existing participatory practices.	-	Stakeholders' engagement in the SDGs implementation process is expected to be further enhanced through involvement in the elaboration and implementation of the National Implementation Plan for the SDGs (de-scribed above in point 6), in 2019.

Country Topics	Hungary	Italy	Poland
Stakeholder involvement in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>The Hungarian Parliament introduced institutions and regulations regarding sustainable development in 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFFT, the National Council for Sustainable Development, established by the Parliament and works within the 	<p>Following the principles of the 2030 Agenda, civil society has been involved since the very initial phase of the NSDS definition process. In this way it was supported a bottom-up approach, aimed at collecting requests and contributions concerning both the challenges and priorities to be faced and the long-term vision to be built.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership in the 2030 Agenda National Stakeholders Forum; Membership in the Taskforce for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development with 2030 Agenda and its SDGs; and

	<p>institutional system of the National Assembly, is the managing agent of the process;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is also a permanent committee dedicated to sustainable development of the national Assembly; • The composition of the NFFT ensures the stakeholder dialog: members are from Parliament, Government, academia, economy, churches and NGOs; • NFFT organized several conferences and forums since 2015 in and outside of the building of the Parliament in order to enhance the level of understanding and interest regarding SDGs; • Civil Roundtable for Sustainable Development Goals, which coordinates numerous NGO's active in the field of Sustainable Development; and • Business Council for Sustainable Development Hungary (BCSDH) – Action2020 Program to support the implementations of the SDGs in corporations and in the business sector. 	<p>More than 200 NGOs have been involved providing a valuable contribution to the context analysis and useful inputs to reflect the vision of the 2030 Agenda into the NSDS. Universities and research agencies were also hugely involved to verify and consolidate the technical-scientific basis and contents of the context analysis. Stakeholders involved in the NSDS definition process are directly engaged in carrying out initiatives linked to SDGs and NSDS implementation. Among the others, the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), established in February 2016, gathers over 180 civil society organizations, several Italian universities and different stakeholders engaged in contributing to the 2030 Agenda. ASviS launched in May 2017 the first edition of the annual Sustainable Development Festival, a large-scale awareness raising campaign to foster cultural-political reflections on the issue across the country.</p> <p>With regard to the involvement of stakeholders in the NSDS implementation process, as mentioned in the NSDS document approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) in December 2017, the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea will ensure forms of public consultation by creating a Forum on sustainable development open to civil society and relevant stakeholders building on the positive experience of the NSDS consultation process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in consultations (on-line form), April 2018.
<p>Future plans to involve stakeholders more in the implementation</p>	<p>The cooperation about the Agenda 2030 is a continuously growing process in Hungary.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Development of co-operation within the National Stakeholder Forum as platforms for the cooperation of representatives of various circles in the partnership for the active implementation of SDGs in Poland.</p>

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Country	Slovenia	Switzerland
Topics		
Stakeholder involvement in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>Everyone is responsible for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and all its goals. Governments cannot and should not act alone. Slovenia is aware of the importance of establishing partnerships and cooperation with external stakeholders. Thus, Slovenia will strengthen cooperation with many stakeholders in the society in the field of sustainable development on two levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the introduction of the Slovenian Development Strategy context and a regular dialogue (horizontal aspect) in the Economic and Social Council, the Expert Council for International Development Cooperation the Slovenian network of UN Global Compact, the Government Council for Youth, working bodies of the National Assembly, the National Council, the Government Council for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations, associations of local communities and other stakeholder platforms; • Finding a systematic way through which all these stakeholders would be involved as equally as possible in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while simultaneously avoiding creating new institutional forms and more administrative procedures. 	<p>Via consultations (last time via an online consultation), via events (Dialogue 2030) and via an accompanying group consisting of business associations, civil society and scientific organizations.</p>
Future plans to involve stakeholders more in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	Yes	Switzerland will continue the established processes of involvement.

Chapter 8: Next Steps in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

This chapter concentrates on what the different European countries are already **planning to do in the future with regards to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realization of the SDGs**, and seeks to set up a timeline for what to expect over the coming months and years from the national level of these countries.

The color-coding of the tables below was done for ease of reading, and not because particular colors mean different things. **Belgium, Czech Republic, and Estonia are in blue**, **Finland, Germany, and Greece are in Green**, **Hungary, Italy, and Poland are in yellow**, and **Slovenia and Switzerland are in orange**.

Country Topics	Belgium	Czech Republic	Estonia
<p>Next steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs</p>	<p>Federal Level:</p> <p>SDG implementation will occur through existing mechanisms of the federal strategy for sustainable development and a dedicated implementation plan to broaden the commitments. The existing Interdepartmental Commission on SD (ICSD) will be the platform to implement the SDGs in the existing instruments:</p> <p>The long-term vision on SD exists since 2013 and encompasses 50 goals towards 2050, the ICSD will match this with the new SDGs so as to create synergies.</p> <p>The Federal Plan for SD coordinates action between the different Federal Ministries (officially known as Federal Public Services) for the following five years, it will take into account the SDGs.</p> <p>A mapping exercise of the federal policy has been conducted which anchors the SDG targets within the Federal Ministry or at the level of subnational governments. Right now consultations with the different Ministers and their administrations are taking place to further enhance this exercise.</p> <p>Annual reports from the ICSD will contribute to the follow up and review of the SDGs</p> <p>The Federal reports on SD, from the Federal Planning Bureau will also contribute to the</p>	<p>The implementation plan of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 is in preparation. The first Report on Quality of Life and its Sustainability should be issued in 2020.</p>	<p>At government level – integrating the SDG-s into all government strategies. Most of the action plans will end in 2020 and the new planning cycle has begun. Estonia decided not to prepare a separate Action Plan for SDG implementation (to avoid duplication in planning and reporting). The implementation of SDG-s is planned through sectoral strategies and action plans. During the new planning period, Estonia wants to create clear links between SDG-s and national strategies.</p> <p>At the stakeholder level, Estonia works on creating the SDG platform for bringing different SDG related actors and create synergy in SDG implementation.</p> <p>Estonian Sustainable Development Commission is planning to prepare a shadow report for the indicator based sustainable development report. To give their opinion about the indicator based results).</p> <p>SEI Tallinn together with Government Office, Ministry of Environment and the Estonian Statistics Office are organizing the Sustainable Development Forum in December 2018. It's a regular event in every 2nd year, to gain attention for different SDG related issues.</p>

	<p>follow up and review of Agenda 2030, through their database of SD indicators and work on policy evaluation tools.</p> <p>Furthermore the Federal Ministries (officially known as Federal Public Services) will be stimulated and supported to implement the SDGs in their operations and policy by an array of tools (SD objectives in their own action plan, public procurement procedures etc.).</p> <p>Finally, the advisory body composed of representatives from civil society organizations will also review the progress towards SDGs.</p> <p>The SDGs also touch on subnational competences, as such the already existing Inter-ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development is reinvigorated to enhance cooperation within the Belgian framework. One of the themes of this IMCSD will be the implementation of the SDGs in the National Strategy on SD. Whereas the interaction with the European and multilateral level is concerned, existing coordination platforms for political and strategic orientation (e.g. Coormulti and DGE) will continue serve as mechanisms to determine the common Belgian position by taking on board the positions of the federal and federated entities.</p> <p>In terms of external action, the Belgian development cooperation will focus especially on the needs of LDCs and fragile states/environments. At least 50% of ODA should be channeled towards LDC's and fragile states and the Belgian government recently decided on a list of partner countries for the</p>		
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	<p>Belgian development cooperation. In this list, 12 out of 14 partner countries are LDCs. 13 out of the 14 partner countries are African countries and 8 of the 14 countries are considered by the OECD as fragile states.</p> <p>Furthermore, Belgium will work through SDG references in multi-annual cooperation arrangements with multilateral partner organizations, and through multilateral efforts to make the whole UN development system more « fit for purpose ». Thematic priorities across the board in the Belgian international development efforts in support of Agenda 2030 will be a right-based approach and inclusive, sustainable growth.</p> <p>Finally, Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) has recently been identified as a political priority, giving rise to a legal framework and corresponding institutional architecture. These aim to identify and mitigate potential policy trade-offs impacting developing countries, as much as to foster a whole of government approach with regards to migration, peace and security (diplomacy, defense, development, law & order (3D-LO)), trade and finance, climate and food security. The 2030 ASD will serve as the overarching guiding instrument to further discussions in this context.</p>		
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Country Topics	Finland	Germany	Greece
Next steps in the implementation of the 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kicking-off the evaluation process in August 2018 • Integration of sustainable development in the state budget 2019, process ongoing 	The next indicator report on the strategy is envisaged for 2018; the next progress report is to be published in 2020.	See sections 6 and 7 above.

Agenda and the SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the Commitment2050 digital platform, new version ready in the second half of 2018 Getting prepared for Finland's EU Presidency in autumn 2019 with Agenda2030 / sustainable development high on the agenda 	<p>For some of the issues that would merit the inclusion of a corresponding national goal in the National Sustainable Development Strategy, suitable indicators have yet to be defined. It is therefore envisaged that new indicators and goals leading up to 2030 be elaborated quickly for further areas pivotal to sustainability policy (covering, among other issues, avoidable food losses in Germany, consideration of sustainability criteria in public procurement with a focus on government agencies and facilities of the federal administration, education for sustainable development, soil protection).</p> <p>The interministerial working group on sustainability indicators has been tasked with the assessment of an action-oriented indicator for land use."</p> <p>The Federal Government will continuously update the indicators and goals. The next step is already scheduled for 2018, when the goals set are to be reviewed and decisions are to be made about adding new indicators and adapting the management rules. An update of the Strategy will take account of progress made in the development of new indicators and goals.</p>	
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Country Topics	Hungary	Italy	Poland
Next steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	The implementation of the NSDS.	<p>The main steps towards the implementation of the NSDS, already mentioned in the previous paragraphs, are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further governance mechanisms are expected to be put in place in the next 	To increase the effectiveness of achieving SDGs in the coming years, the following matters seem particularly important for Poland: Selective intervention - mainly in the areas where increased outlays bring measurable effects; Education for sustainable development; Effective system for monitoring sustainable

		<p>months, clarifying roles and competences of all the involved institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional working table will be fully operational and will provide a methodological support for the development of the regional sustainable development strategies. • An implementation document will be developed and will include objectives at 2030, linked to quantitative targets, as well as monitoring and review mechanisms and analytical models capable of measuring the impacts of policies on the NSDS objectives. • The NSDS foresees an annual monitoring of its implementation status also based on the indicators provided by the National Institute of Statistics and by institutions belonging to SISTAN. • The Forum on sustainable development will be launched in the second half of 2018 providing a wide role of the civil society in implementing the NSDS and the 2030 Agenda in Italy. 	<p>development; Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, as well as well-functioning coordination structure.</p>
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Country	Slovenia	Switzerland
Topics		
Next steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	<p>Slovenia will implement the 2030 Agenda at the national level, through the implementation of Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030, which represents the umbrella development plan of the country, and abroad through international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance on the basis of a new resolution regarding it, and the revised International Development Cooperation Act.</p> <p>The new national development strategy is also significant for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda due to clearly defined ways of</p>	<p>Based on the VNR 2018, Switzerland will define thematic fields, on which Switzerland will put emphasis for further action. In these fields, they will define goals and measures. These will be published in the next Sustainable Development Strategy 2019-2023.</p>

	<p>achieving national development goals and hence the objectives of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy coherence for sustainable development will be checked at the policy-making stage.• The implementation of sustainable development objectives at the national level will be systematically monitored on an annual basis together with national development objectives.• The development of capacities in the horizontal understanding of the national and international development context, together with strategic assumptions, will help to better adapt the implementation of individual development goals.	
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Main Trends in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs : Overview and Conclusions

In this chapter, an overview is provided of the **main trends from the survey** on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in 11 European countries. The overviews are separated by the main topics that were addressed.

Basic information on the National implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

All of the 11 countries have at least one ministry that is responsible for the overall coordination of implementation efforts regarding the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Some countries split and define coordination along national and international lines. The international aspects of the 2030 Agenda are usually carried out by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, while internal national coordination can be taken up by another ministry heavily involved in the implementation of the SDGs, which can be the Government Offices, as is the case for Finland, Estonia, Germany, Greece and Slovenia. Other countries base the internal coordination in other line ministries, such as the Ministry of the Environment, as is the case for the Czech Republic.

While all countries have main coordinating ministries, almost all countries acknowledge that all line ministries bear some responsibility in the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs that correspond with their specific areas of expertise.

UN High Level Political Forum's Voluntary National Reviews

All 11 countries will have completed at least one VNR by July 2018. Switzerland will be presenting its second VNR at the HLPF 2018 after it presented its first VNR in 2016. Greece, Hungary, and Poland are the countries that will be presenting their very first VNRs this July for the HLPF 2018. Many of the 11 countries already have plans to present their next VNRs at future HLPFs, as the UN states that countries should try to complete the VNRs around three times over the course of the 2030 Agenda's implementation period.

The preparation of the VNRs seemed to help many countries in performing gap analyses of where they stand in relation to the SDGs and reaching targets, and as such were used to assess strengths and weaknesses. The VNRs also allowed countries to put the SDGs into a country-specific context and set out methods of coordination at the national level for implementation very early on.

On another note, the VNRs were valuable, because they allowed countries to bring in many stakeholders, such as sub-national and local governments, businesses, CSOs, NGOs, civil society, etc., very early on in the implementation process, which helped in fostering partnerships and trust.

SDG Indicators and Monitoring

The statistical offices of many of the 11 countries are heavily involved in the definition of SDG indicators and monitoring. The Government Office of Estonia, however, was involved in the development of indicators for Estonia. When it comes to developing indicators for national and global use, many countries report on both, but in different ways. Many countries use the VNRs as a means to report at the global level, whereas national reports vary in how often they are conducted and published. Some countries try to publish multiple reports each year, such as in Germany and Hungary; annually, such as in Finland, Italy, and Slovenia; and every few years, such as in Belgium, the Czech Republic, and Estonia.

The development of indicators is very different in each country, as country contexts are very different. However, the processes that are employed are somewhat similar between the countries in defining their national priorities is a common thread.

Mechanisms for Vertical Integration

For many countries that have national sustainable development strategy (NSDSs) that reflects the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the NSDS serves as a guiding document for the sub-national level. Countries have also developed interministerial groups, sustainable development commissions, etc. that have sub-national, urban, and local governments represented within them and who are consulted on implementation measures regarding the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as much of the burden of implementation will necessarily fall to the sub-national level. An interesting case is that of Germany, which although its NSDS is aligned with the SDGs, is not legally binding for the Federal German States to implement the NSDS. At the same time, the German national level and Federal States have actually seen a higher degree of cooperation with regard to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Mechanisms for Horizontal Integration

All countries have some type of coordination mechanism within the national government ministries that attempt to bring all representatives of all national ministries together to discuss implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and range from interministerial working groups to government councils and commissions for sustainable development.

Countries mainly found that the introduction of such interministerial working groups are essential in establishing long-term ties with other ministry representatives. These closer ties and regular meetings that these particular mechanisms make possible are beneficial in the overall coordination of making more effective policies that limit duplication efforts, as well as opposing policies, which increases policy coherence across all ministries. These interministerial working groups are also helpful when reports need to be drafted and indicators developed, as it is important to have inputs from many ministries and gain their expertise and insight.

Evaluation and Review

The evaluation and review process is very closely linked to the indicator and monitoring process.

Many countries use the VNRs as a means to report at the global level, whereas national reports vary in how often they are conducted and published. Some countries try to publish multiple reports each year, such as in Germany and Hungary, annually, such as in Finland, Italy, and Slovenia, and every few years, such as in Belgium, the Czech Republic, and Estonia.

Stakeholder Participation in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Many countries recognize that it is not the sole responsibility of the government to implement and work towards the SDGs, but rather it is a whole of society approach. Finland, Greece, and Slovenia make very strong assertions on this point. While some countries may have stronger cooperation mechanisms with stakeholders, every country sees the benefit of working and cooperating with stakeholders and have set up different mechanisms to make sure this happens. These mechanisms range from consultation sessions, such as in Switzerland, to stakeholder dialogue platforms in many other countries. Many countries will seek to integrate stakeholders further, or at least continue to involve stakeholders as they have been doing in the past using established mechanisms that seem to be working very well.

Next Steps in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

As each country has its own specific context and goals, it is worthwhile to read the next steps of each country separately to see where they are heading in the foreseeable future. Some countries will attempt to develop national sustainable development strategies that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, whereas others will continue to develop indicators and work towards improving how they will reach the SDGs.

Annex I

Austria

Austria's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in April 2018.

Austria has launched the implementation of the SDGs with a Decision by the Austrian Council of Ministers in January 2016. In line with the universal, integrated and interrelated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Decision of the Council of Ministers emphasizes a mainstreaming approach: The sectoral ministries will utilize their existing multi-stakeholder strategy and programming processes to take the SDGs into account in the respective national policy frameworks. Thereby, well-established structures of numerous national policy frameworks will be deployed for the SDG implementation.

Additionally, the SDG Focal Points of each Ministry teamed up in an inter-ministerial working group co-chaired by the Federal Chancellery and the Ministry of Foreign affairs – with particular involvement of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. This working group accelerates information sharing on the Agenda 2030 and provides guidance on national reporting.

In March 2017, the working group published the Outline 2016 - Contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the Austrian Federal Ministries (German). The Outline 2016 provides information on the general approach taken, the national policy processes and on the international dimension of the SDG implementation in Austria. It provides a basis for further discussions with Parliament, civil society and other stakeholders.

Further work is planned on the development of an indicator framework compatible with the Eurostat guidance as well as involving all levels of state and the private sector to support the SDGs

Croatia

Croatia's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in January 2017.

The new Environment Action Plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2016 – 2024 is under development and is in line with environmental aspect of SDGs.

Project for drafting of Strategy for adaptation to climate change which includes detailed modelling of climate changes in Croatia has started (May 2016).

France

France's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in October 2017.

France has promoted sustainable development since the adoption of its first sustainable development strategy in 2003 and the appointment of an Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development under the authority of the Prime Minister and located within the Ministry of Environment, which is in charge of Sustainable Development.

Since 2008, the Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development is also Commissioner General for Sustainable Development with a team of 500 people.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals builds on and strengthens this institutional mechanism.

The Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development coordinates the work of every ministries in order to ensure a better horizontal coordination of public policies towards achieving the SDGs in very close relation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is in charge of international solidarity. Being as well the vice-Chair of the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE), the Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development ensures that the SDGs implementation is discussed between administrations and civil society's organisations.

In order to launch the SDGs implementation in France, in view of the "Voluntary National Review" presented at the UN High Level Political Forum in 2016, a broad consultation workshop was organised during the European Sustainable Development Week gathering representatives from civil society's organisations from every areas : representatives from the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE) involved in environmental issues, from the National Council for Development and International Solidarity (CNDSI) involved Development Aid, and representatives from the other areas of society, especially the educational and social areas.

The summary from the workshop, called " La synthèse des ateliers de lancement de la mise en oeuvre nationale des objectifs de développement durable - Juin 2016" is available in French at: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/objectifs-developpement-durable>.

This broad consultation of stakeholders from every communities is to be perpetuated and sustained regularly.

After laying the groundwork with the report to the HLPF, the implementation action plan which is currently being drafted aims at:

- undertaking a diagnosis and gap analysis;
- co-elaborating the implementation action plan regarding public policies, paying special attention to interrelations between the objectives and targets, and defining national priorities, indicators and means of action; and
- ensuring the follow-up and reporting at national and international levels

On the 30th of November 2016, the Interministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development chaired by the Prime Minister confirmed the French commitment towards the implementation of the SDGs and of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Latvia

Latvia's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in January 2017.

Latvia has a well-coordinated planning system. Any changes to the existing NDP as well as new targets, actions and measures for the next NDP will be introduced through mid-term reviews of the currently effective policy frameworks and plans. It is during the mid-term reviews that the 2030 Agenda for SD indicators and targets can be discussed, new actions considered and respective costs assessed. For the NDP2020 the mid-term review will take place in 2017.

The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre has developed an assessment of the 169 targets against the national policy planning documents. First, the SDGs are divided in the three main groups (apply to domestic policy, development cooperation, global issues). Second, the responsible institution and, if

applicable, institutions with shared responsibility are identified. The goals solely applicable to development cooperation (bilateral or multilateral) are mapped. Third, the SDG indicators for each of the targets are mapped against the Latvia2030 and NDP2020 performance indicators. Fourth, the responsible institution gives opinion regarding the need to include the non-existent or partially covered SDG indicators in NDP2020 or the next NDP. Last, possible discussion issues are noted.

A preliminary comparison of the 2030 Agenda sub-goals to targets and performance indicators in current Latvian policy documents reveals that Latvia already has many domestic level indicators with targets that match the 2030 Agenda goals and targets.

The development of new planning tools or processes at the regional and local level has not been envisaged for the near future, since the existing ones are comprehensive, extensive and sufficient.

Both the localized SDG targets and the assessment thereof will be integrated into the medium term planning system.

Latvia's policy-making process is inclusive, and cooperation is ongoing at many different levels. When ministries begin work on policy documents, they usually inform the public via their web-sites; they also have working groups and standing committees on issues dealing with development. All policy documents are published on the Cabinet of Minister's website before being accepted and are open to comments from interested stakeholders in an inclusive negotiation process. A monthly meeting takes place between the Prime Minister and the interested NGOs. Latvia's plans of mainstreaming the SDGs in the planning process were presented and discussed at these meetings. The Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre and line ministries respond to requests from NGOs, the UNESCO Latvian National Committee and other non-state actors about future plans. NGOs will be providing information on their roles in implementing the NDP2020, which already includes many targets in line with the SDGs. Data and analysis is shared by the academic sector. The Employers' Confederation and the Confederation of Trade Unions participate regularly in policy discussions, and they are also members, together with representatives of the academia, in the National Development Council. Therefore, no formal partnerships will be signed, since this would rather exclude stakeholders than guarantee inclusivity in the national implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in October 2017.

In May 2016, the Government Council agreed on a renewed composition of the grand-ducal regulation regarding composition, organisation and functioning of the Commission with the objective having appropriate organizational structures to ensure the implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In April 2016, the Council was asked by the Minister for Environment as minister in charge, to advise the Government on the association of Luxembourg's civil society and private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable de Development.

Malta

Malta's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in January 2017.

Policy integration in government is central to the sustainable development paradigm and presents a key governance challenge in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is particularly the case

in view of the rising complexity of social problems and global issues with important national and local impacts such as climate change. Effective policy integration is all the more important given the range of expertise from different institutions and sectors required to tackle the SDGs, as well as demands for more innovative, responsive and equitable service delivery, which transcend the competencies of individual ministries. While policy integration is central to the sustainable development paradigm, bringing about the delivery of integrated policies is a daunting challenge, especially in developing countries where, for example, administrative silos are prevalent.

Montenegro

Montenegro's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in April 2018.

The Government of Montenegro is in the process of revision of existing National Strategy of Sustainable Development (NSSD). Namely, the first National Strategy of Sustainable Development of Montenegro adopted in 2007 was a step towards making an effort to materialize and make concrete the declarative commitment of Montenegro to be an ecological state. Since its adoption, the NSSD has been revised in the evaluation process in its part containing the Action Plan when a number of goals, measures and related indicators were revised, which was done in accordance with the reports on implementation and progress made by other programmes, and also in accordance with their results that had been achieved in Montenegro in the meantime. Since the time-frame for implementation of the Action Plan of this Strategy has expired and since many changes have taken place in Montenegro in the meantime, particularly in terms of reforms related to EU integration and harmonization of national legislation with the EU Acquis, and also given that new sustainable development programmes and initiatives have been launched at the national and international levels, conditions are in place for revision of the NSSD which needs to be harmonized with the new policies and strategies, especially global intergovernmental process of defining Post 2015 Agenda.

The process of development of the new NSSD was initiated after Rio+20 Conference. Drafting process is coordinated and technically supervised by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, i.e. it is supervised by the National Council for Sustainable Development, climate Changes and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The Platform for NSSD 2015-2020 has been developed, but it was identified that additional researches/analysis were needed and it influenced redefining of dynamics and methodology of further revision of the NSSD for the period after 2015. The National Council has approved redefined Outline which has seven chapters and defines following questions:

1. Why does Montenegro revise the NSSD MNE?;
2. In what way are policies relevant for sustainable development implemented?;
3. International framework that is relevant for development of the NSSD MNE for the period after 2015 in the context of identifying needs and priorities of sustainable development in Montenegro in the coming period;
4. Methodology for developing the NSSD MNE for the period after 2015;
5. Vision of and guidelines on sustainable development of Montenegro (NSSD MNE for the period after 2015);
6. Priority directions and related general sustainable development goals of Montenegro (NSSD MNE for the period after 2015);
7. Priority topics and matters related to sustainable development in Montenegro for the period after 2015;
8. Action Plan;
9. Management Plan for Implementation of the NSSD for the period after 2015;
10. Project Portfolio of the Action Plan; and
11. Financing Sustainable Development Policy.

The draft of the new NSSD has been prepared, but it is also important to include results of ongoing global process of Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals which will shape national policies on sustainable development. NSSD will define the dynamic for implementation of the plan for SDGs, related target and indicators, successive integration into national statistical and monitoring and reporting system in a way to enable full harmonization with SDG platform until 2020 and establish the NSSD implementation monitoring based on SDGs in 2021. It is expected that NSSD will be adopted by the Government by the end of June 2016.

Slovakia

Slovakia's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in August 2017.

The Slovak Government has adopted Baselines for the national implementation for the 2030 Agenda for SD and SDGs in March 2016. According to the document the Slovak Government agreed with divided responsibility for the implementation for the 2030 Agenda between the Government Office (national implementation) and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (activities of Slovakia and Slovak entities abroad). The first overall assessment of achievement of objectives should be done by the end of 2019. The Minister of Foreign and European Affairs should prepare and realize the Concept of the implementation for the 2030 Agenda in the international environment. Currently this Agenda of the Government Office is supposed to be transferred to the Office of Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Information Society.

More information can be found at:
<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=25381>.

Sweden

Sweden's Agenda 2030 section in its "Country Profile" was updated in October 2017.

The Swedish government recently appointed a multi-stakeholder National Committee to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda throughout Swedish society. The Committee will put forward a proposal for an action plan. Civil society organizations, municipalities, academia, private sector and trade unions are at the core of this endeavor.

Sweden welcomes the initiative by the Secretary General to establish an SDG Advocacy Group of eminent persons to promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in which Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden participates.

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) should become a truly relevant arena for peer-learning and science-based and effective follow-up of SDG-progress. Everyone should make efforts to contribute and ensure multi-stakeholder contribution and participation.

Themes

Sweden has taken the lead in several areas: Committed to be the first fossil free welfare nation in the world. Global Deal to promote decent work in Sweden, but also in EU and globally. Feminist government pushing gender equality, including work to promote peaceful societies. Cohosting a UN-Conference on implementing SDG 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans and marine resources together with Fiji. Sweden will do their share and thereby promote the universal nature of the Agenda.

Annex II

Question	Answer
National Implementation of the 2030 Agenda	
1. Basic Information	
Which national ministry or institution leads the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?	
Which other national ministries or institutions are involved?	
2. UN High Level Political Forum's Voluntary National Reviews	
Which year(s) has a Voluntary National Review been conducted?	
For which year is the next Voluntary National Review scheduled?	
What was the added value for the national level when preparing and presenting the VNR	
3. Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and Monitoring	
Which national ministry or institute is responsible for developing SDG indicators?	
How did your country develop its national SDG indicators/indicator set?	
How does your country report on SDG indicators in the national and global context?	
4. Mechanisms of Vertical Integration	
What are your country's mechanisms/processes for cooperating with the sub-national level in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?	
Please provide a short overview (if possible with 1-2 examples) of the activities of 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation at the sub-national level.	

5. Mechanisms of Horizontal Integration	
What cooperation mechanisms/procedures between the different national ministries does your country use in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs?	
What are your main experiences with using these cooperation mechanisms in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs?	
6. Evaluation and Review	
Does your country have a national report that evaluates and reviews your country's progress towards achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?	
How often does your country publish evaluation and review reports? Please provide links to evaluation reports.	
7. Participation	
How are stakeholders involved in the implementation processes of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?	
Are there future plans to involve stakeholders more in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?	
8. Next Steps in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs	
What are the next steps your country is taking regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?	

