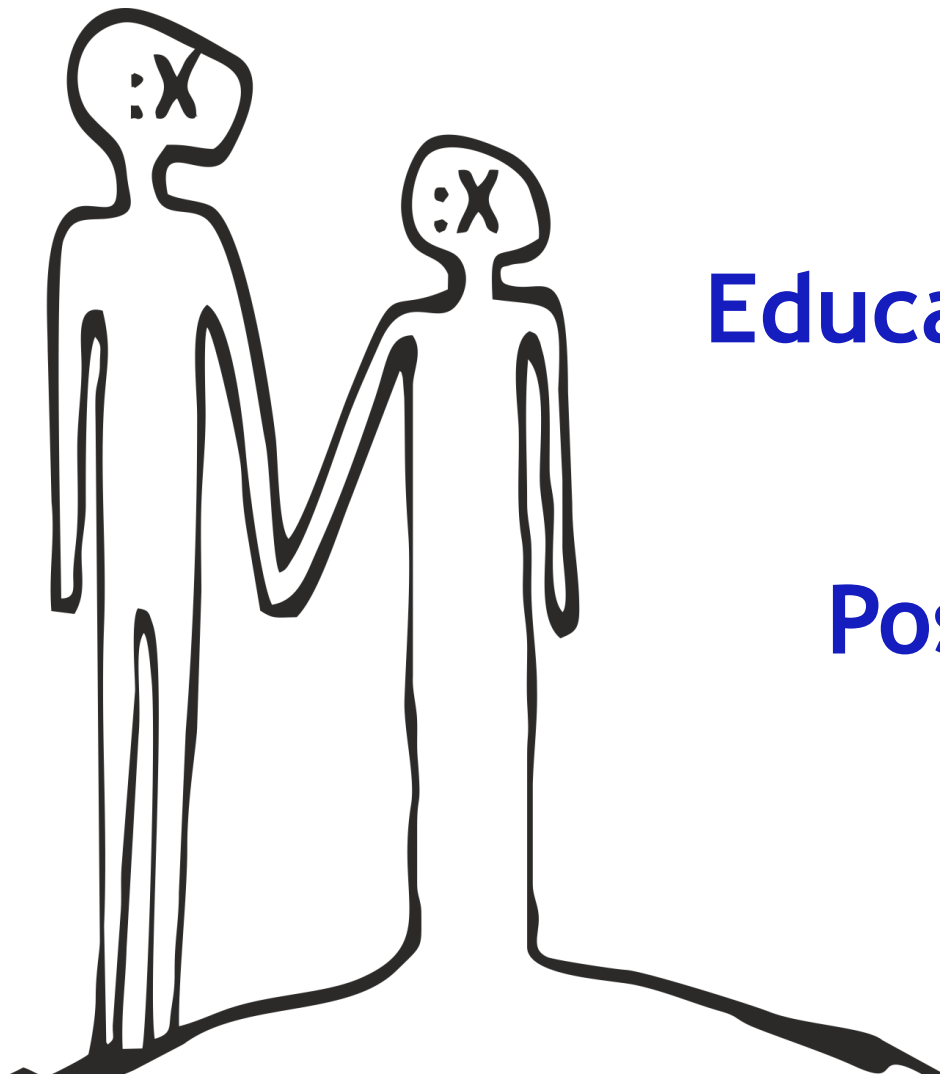




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# Education and Capacity Building for Sustainable Transition

## Postgraduate training Program EXPERT of SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Ileana-Luminița Bălăău, Director, Sustainable Development Department/General Secretariat of the Romanian Government - 27 May 2025, Warsaw - 2030 Agenda Stakeholder Forum - How to make Regulation, Competitiveness and Sustainability Work Together

„PNRR. Finanțat de Uniunea Europeană - Următoarea Generație UE“

Website - <https://mfe.gov.ro/pnrr/>

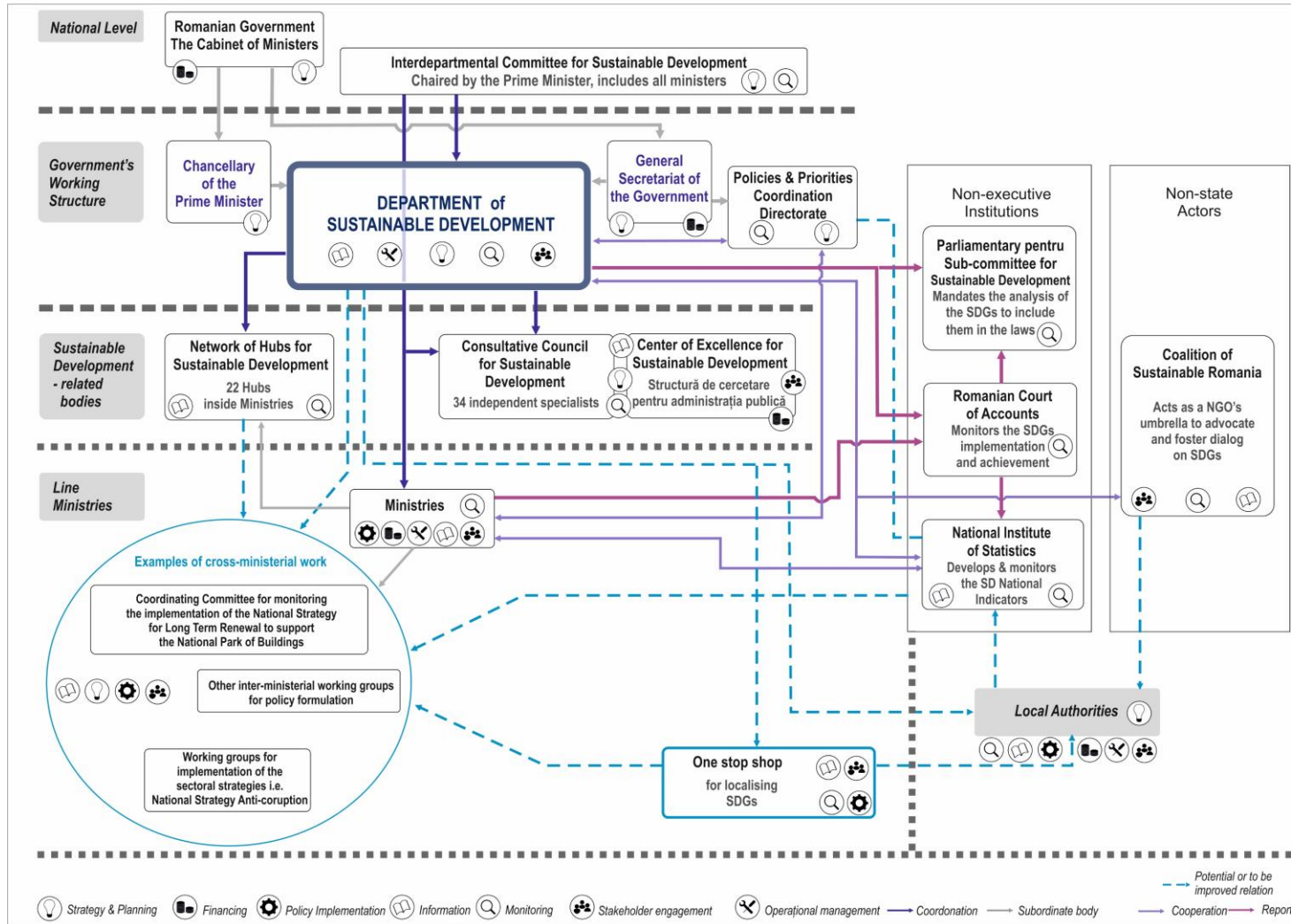
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## Institutional Governance Framework for Sustainable Development in Romania



### OECD guidance on:

- identification of implementation gaps and strengthen of DSD's capacities to guide the implementation of the NSDS 2030.
- tracking the implementation in line with PCSD principles.
- apply tools and mechanisms for driving policy integration, coherence and harmonization with the NSDS 2030 targets.

Important progress has been made and Romania's institutional structure for SDG implementation is well grounded in PCSD principles. (OECD, 2022)



## Key PCSD challenges and bottlenecks identified by the OCDE experts in 2022 and opportunities



**Limited use of governance tools** for SDG implementation throughout the policy cycle



*New opportunities with 3 GD on RIA, ISP, Budgeting*



Large disparities in SDG implementation at local level and **few mechanisms for vertical coherence**



*New opportunities with One-stop-shop*



**Limited correlation and monitoring of Romania's many sectoral policies** to inform the implementation of the NSDS



*NSDIs, NAP implementation roadmap and monitoring framework, Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan*



**Limited human resources**



*New opportunities with NRRP initiatives – professional training for 2000 Sustainable Development Experts and Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development*



**Limited technical expertise/capacity**



**Limited funding**

# EXPERT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In public administration

- ❑ The **professional who acquired institutional knowledge in the field of sustainable development**, and who has the role of incorporating the values and principles of sustainable development in the sectorial and local strategies, policies and projects to support the nationwide policies coherence of sustainable development;
- ❑ **Change-Agent** who drives sustainable development through problem-solving and innovation, promoting long-term growth in communities;
- ❑ According to the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO), the occupation belongs to the group "Professionals in policy administration" - ISCO 08 2422.







# The Occupation Expert of Sustainable Development

## STEP 1 - Develop the occupational standard

### Vision:

- ☐ Create a network of highly skilled experts ready to act as catalysts for change in their communities.

### Inclusion of the occupation in the Romanian Classification of Occupations - COR 242232

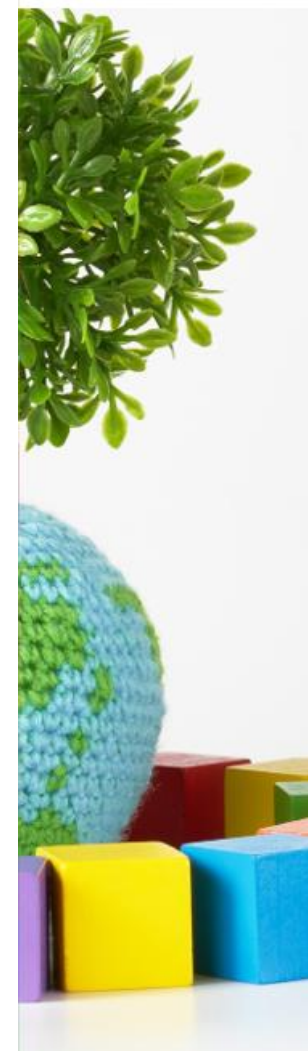
- ☐ July 2018

### Creation and approval of the Occupational Standard

- ☐ November 2020 - January 2021: drafting the occupational standard;
- ☐ February 2021: approval by the National Authority for Qualifications

### The occupational standard:

- ☐ defines activities, competencies, access requirements related to the level of studies (higher education with a bachelor's degree) and educational plans.





## The Occupation Expert of Sustainable Development Step 2 - Legalize the occupation

### Amendment to the Administrative Code (GD 138/2021):

- ☐ Article 610<sup>1</sup> provides for the role of Sustainable Development Expert;
- ☐ Existing roles with  $\geq 50\%$  SD duties are transformed.

### Role of the expert:

- ☐ Support the implementation of Romania's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2030;
- ☐ Align local and sectoral policies with the national sustainability goals





## The Occupation Expert of Sustainable Development Step 3 - Offer professional training

Professional training programmes for "Experts of Sustainable Development" in public administration



2022: Postgraduate PILOT programme, [\*SIPOCA 613 Project - Sustainable Romania\*](#), funded from the Social European Fund through the Administrative Capacity Operational Programme 2014-2020 - 300.000 Euro

Results: 150 graduates from the central public administration



2025: Postgraduate programme, funded through the *National Recovery and Resilience Plan* - 7.940.088 Euro

*Results: 2,000 graduates at central and local public administration level*



# 2025 programme - Course Context and Purpose

- ❑ **Overarching mission:** to prepare experts for impactful roles within public institutions and to align their work with Romania's strategic priorities regarding sustainable development.
- ❑ Structured around the occupational standard, with content enhancements and a targeted training plan focused on developing competencies crucial to the mission of the experts to influence public policy, evaluate the impact of sustainable solutions, and enhance communication within the context of sustainable development, thereby positioning them as pioneers in implementing and advocating for sustainable practices.
- ❑ Focus: Theoretical training and practical skill development to meet local, regional, and national sustainability needs.



## Benefits for the institutions

- ❑ Sustainable development expertise applied in public administration
- ❑ Improving the efficiency of internal processes and strengthening the institutional capacity to monitor public policies
- ❑ Alignment with the objectives of relevant policies and strategies for sustainable development
- ❑ Meeting the legislative requirements for the position of sustainable development expert





# Program Structure and Main Activities

## Desfășurarea cursului

Perioada: martie - iulie 2025

Durată: 220 ore (teorie,  
practică, aprofundare, mentorat)

Format: 35% online și 65% cu  
prezență fizică

Grupă: Maximum 16 participanți  
pentru sesiunile cu prezență  
fizică

Certificare: Program acreditat



### Metodology:

- ✓ Course is built on the occupational standard for sustainable development expert, being structured on **modules that combine classical teaching, case studies, teamwork and individual mentoring**
- Emphasis placed on **the practical application of knowledge** through projects adapted to the professional reality of each participant.
- **Certification:** at the end of the program, participants are evaluated and certified, obtaining a nationally recognized diploma, according to the occupational standard (COR 242232)



## Developed Competencies and Skills

### 6 Key competencies:

- ❑ Substantiating and documenting sustainable development solutions within public policies (strategies, projects, initiatives) and advising stakeholders;
- ❑ To measure and evaluate the impact of applied sustainable development solutions at the community level;
- ❑ Monitoring, reporting progress and disseminating good practices in implementing sustainable development solutions;
- ❑ Creating bridges of communication with the community to disseminate the principles and values of sustainable development;
- ❑ To identify sustainable development needs at the community level;
- ❑ To work in multidisciplinary teams to generate sustainable development solutions at the community level.



### Deeper application of knowledge and competencies in 5 targeted areas

1. Climate change
2. Circular economy
3. Sustainable rural and urban ecosystems
4. Developing institutional capacity for implementing the SDGs
5. Attracting funding for sustainable development projects



# Impact

- ❑ Development of the key skills for the green and digital transition among 2,000 civil servants, transformed into promoters of sustainability;
- ❑ Increasing the capacity of public administration to plan, implement and evaluate public policies aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the European Green Deal;
- ❑ Strengthening a national network of sustainable development experts, capable of acting inter-institutionally and intersectorally to achieve the SDGs.





# Tools and Resources

- ✓ **Course materials across 4 modules:** public administration, economic dimension, social and environmental dimension of sustainable development
- ✓ **Practical applications and case studies** - structured over 120 hours of practical training, including 1:1 mentoring sessions to develop a project applicable to the learner's institution.
- ✓ **Code of Talent microlearning platform** - gamified microlearning to reinforce learning, with activities, assignments, and integrated online testing (midterm and final exam).





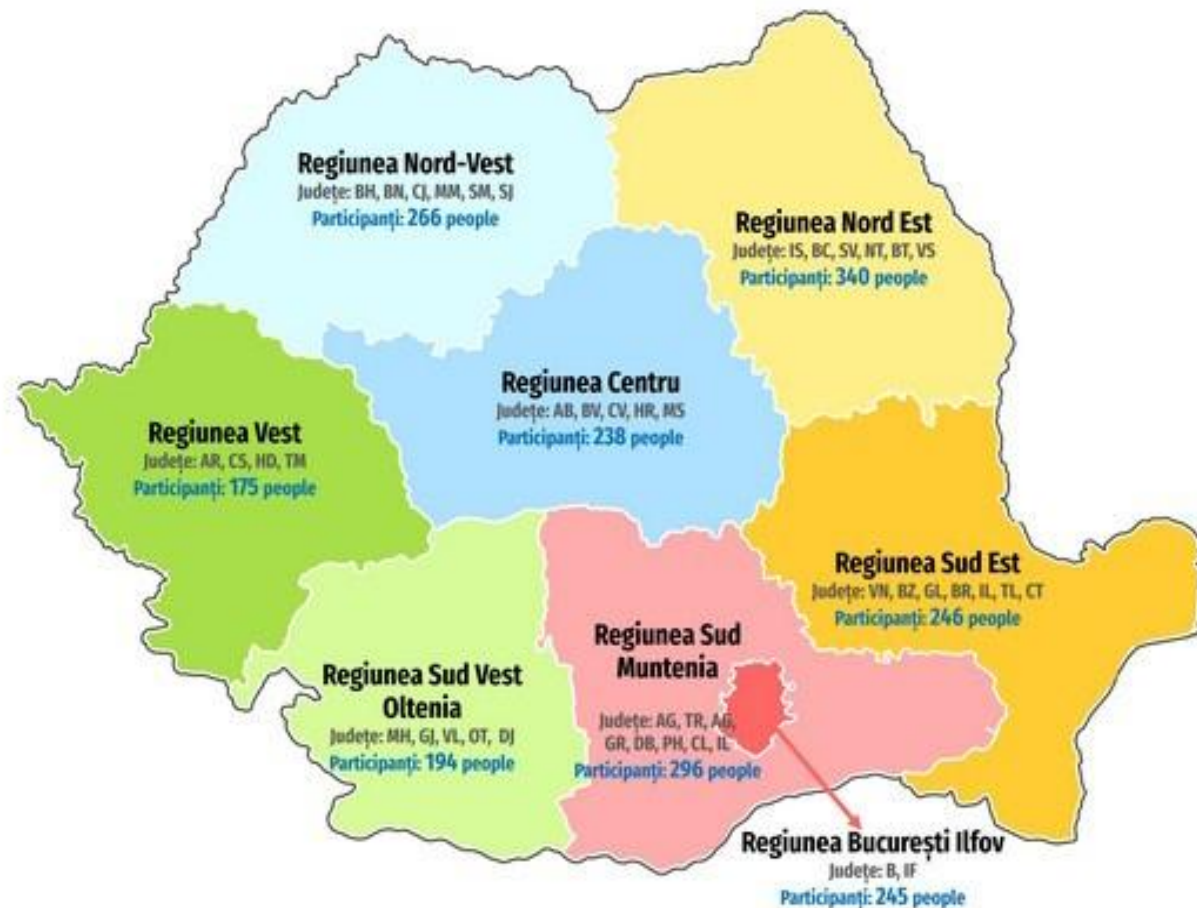


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# Map of trainings and partners



ACADEMIA DE STUDII ECONOMICE  
DIN BUCUREȘTI



ROMÂNIA - MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII  
UNIVERSITATEA „DUNĂREA DE JOS”  
DIN GALAȚI