



**State of the art:  
National SD Councils and similar multi-stakeholder bodies and  
their role in implementing the 2030 Agenda**

pre-HLPF Workshop, 8 July 2019

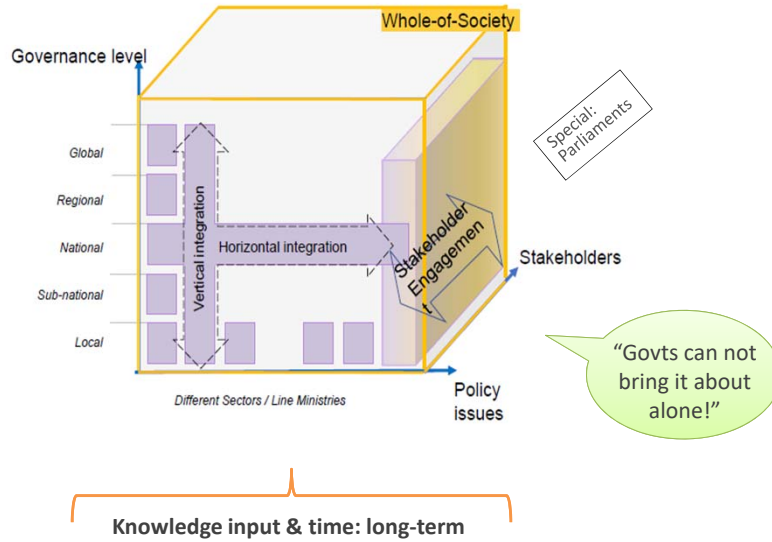
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**OVERVIEW**

- **Governance dimensions:  
Stakeholder participation and knowledge – empirical study EU 28**
- **Short history SD Councils (and others) & diffusion**
- **Types: forms follows function (or not really)**
- **Functions and ways of working**
- **Networks**
- **Conclusions**

### Coordinate system: Governance for sustainable development



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL POLICIES  
POLICY DEPARTMENT




STUDY

## Europe's approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: good practices and the way forward

-> All EU 28, including parliaments & EU level

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DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

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 Earth System Governance

### Governance dimensions - analytical framework

Governance dimensions	Governance elements - Questionnaire -	Related Agenda 2030 Core Principles	Related OECD Building blocks for PCSD
Leadership	<b>1. Political commitment &amp; strategy</b>		Political commitment (1)
<b>Sectors</b>	<b>2. Horizontal coordination</b>	<i>Indivisibility &amp; integrated approach ... 'breaking down the silos'</i>	Policy coordination (5)
<b>Levels</b>	<b>3. Vertical coordination</b>	<i>... policy coherence across governance levels</i>	Subnational and local involvement (6)
<b>Actors</b>	<b>4. Stakeholder Participation</b>	<i>Inclusiveness, Leave no one behind, Multi-stakeholder Partnerships &amp; Shared responsibility</i>	Stakeholder engagement (7)
<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>5. Monitoring &amp; Review</b>	<i>Accountability</i>	Monitoring and reporting (8)
	<b>6. Knowledge input &amp; tools (science-policy interface, tool use)</b>	<i>Partnerships, Knowledge</i>	Policy integration (2)
<b>Time: Long-term</b>	<b>7.1 Long- term perspective: institutions</b>	<i>Inclusiveness</i>	Long term perspective (3)
<b>Time: Policy continuity</b>	<b>7.2 Activities in Parliaments</b>	<i>Accountability</i>	Long term perspective (3)

### Assessment scheme for country level assessments

	1	2	3	4	Examples of toprunners
Q2. Leadership & horizontal coordination	Leadership with 1 or 2 Ministries (external and/or domestic; often continued separation of the agenda)	Leadership at the centre of government (typically Prime Minister, or Deputy PM; or Finance Minister, if cross-cutting or central lead)	Visible <b>coordination</b> mechanism with clear engagement across <b>all</b> depts & ministries (often with leadership at the centre of government)	Improved coordination between external and internal implementation since SDGs, with all others aspects	4: BE, CZ, FI, DE, LV SK Planned 4: ES, SI, SE
Q4. Stakeholder participation	Consultation on SDS (and/or VNR)	Enhanced process and/or regular participation/ deliberation, some kind of coordination mechanism, forum, or dialogue	<b>Institution or mechanism for multiple stakeholders (e.g. SD council) (a), also linked/ with government (b)</b>	<b>All previous aspects plus additional steps</b> (e.g. stakeholder engagement w/ HLPF, speaking slots, additional bodies)	4: CZ, FI, FR, DE, HU, LT, LU, SK Planned 4: IT, MT, RO, SI, ES
Q.5					
Q6. Knowledge & tools	<b>Some light version of a tool (e.g. science involved in SD Council)</b>	1 tool in place (SIA / SDGs integrated in IA, <b>or</b> budget check, <b>or</b> new science-policy interface mechanism)	2 tools in place	3 tools in place	(3: DE, EL) Planned 4: DK, FI, FR, LV
Q 7.2 Activities of parliaments	Debate (typically in Plenary, often the VNR)	1 or 2 Cie's deal with SDGs	<b>new institutional arrangement (a special Cie or working method)</b>	Systematic scrutiny, sustainability check of the budget, or other tool use like SIA in law-making	3: DK, FI, FR, DE, HU, LV, RO, ES Planned 4: DK, FI, DE, ES

## Country fiches

Country Data Sheet: Spain				
	1	2	3	4
Political commitment & strategy				
Lead & horizontal coordination				
Stakeholder participation				
Monitoring and review				
Knowledge input and tools				
Institutions for the long-term				
Activities of parliaments				

Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
<b>1. Political commitment &amp; strategy</b>	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan / VNR	First SDS in 2007  <b>New:</b> commitments in 2018: Due to the recent change in government, most of the measures are work in progress	ESDN country profile, 2014 VNR 2018; Interviews
	Year of the VNR (if next)	2018 (2020/21, 2025, 2030)	VNR 2018
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	Action plan under preparation (2018-2020), a transitional, more action-oriented document that will prepare for the adoption of a long-term 2020-2030 SDS (planned to be approved in 2019 – by the institutions High Level Group (1), SD Council (2) and Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda (3) as described below)	VNR 2018, Interviews
	How are the SDGs covered?	All SDGs, with - some priority areas for action (in the Action plan 2018-2020): Poverty and social exclusion, equal opportunities, circular economy, urban agenda, climate change and energy transition, scientific and technical research for SDGs, social economy, open government, international cooperation at the service of the SDGs, and - 10 transformative measures	VNR 2018
<b>2. Lead &amp; Horizontal coordination</b>	Lead organisation(s)	<b>Was:</b> Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, & Inter-ministerial Group for NSDS, within economic depts of PM office   <b>Was most Agenda 2015:</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, with Special Ambassador for the Agenda 2030 and Vocal Advisor for the Agenda 2030 & Inter-ministerial Group for the Agenda 2030	ESDN country profile 2014; Interviews
		<b>New:</b> Under the aegis of the Prime Minister (and PM Office, – "Presidencia"): – High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda since 2018; with a support office in the PM	VNR 2018

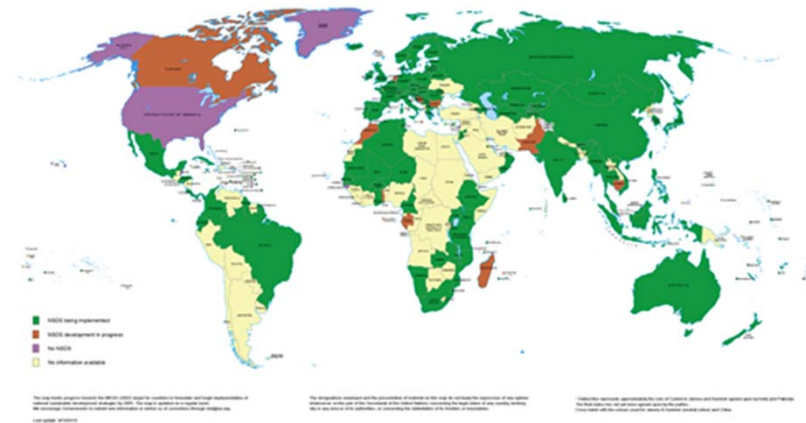
## Short history: SD strategies and councils after Rio

- 1992 **Agenda 21**  
- commitment for SD strategies and improved stakeholder involvement  
- initiative to establish SD Councils as a means for this  
→ strong take up in the global south,  
in EU a few for 'Rio+5' 1997, BE, FI, UK ...
- 2002 J-burg P.o.I. Chapter XI: promotion of SDCs  
→ a strong wave in Europe for SDSs (incl. EU),  
and a few new SDCs, eg. DE, IE, LU ...
- > 2008 Termination of several SDCs (and others) in Europe  
Picture in the global south somewhat unclear (see UN DESA map)
- 2012 Councils in EU: exist in about 15 EU MSs (also more than one)
- > 2015 Agenda 2030: countries with a SD strategy and/or council  
were able to kick-start and become frontrunners

## National SDSs worldwide ...unverified picture

(UN DESA, 2010)

### National sustainable development strategies: The global picture 2010



Niestroy, 22.8.12, SWP

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## Agenda 2030 and SDCs

### Rio+20 Outcome document

- (enhanced) stakeholder involvement at international level
- para 98 on SD strategies
- para 101 broadened the term SDCs and says:  
“strengthen national, sub-national and/or local institutions or relevant multi-stakeholder bodies and processes, dealing with sustainable development”

### ➤ 2015 Agenda 2030:

- existing SDCs spearheading
- Complementary bodies (science) set up
- more MS *platforms* (EU + several member states)
- new SDCs underway, e.g. in Spain
- new arrangements in Parliaments (e.g. DK), more focus by others

Niestroy, 22.8.12, SWP | [with updates](#)

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Types: form follows function				
	1	2	3	
Q2. Leadership & horizontal coordination	Leadership with 1 or 2 Ministries	Leadership at the centre of government	Visible coordination mechanism with clear engagement across all depts & ministries	Some of these bodies used to be called SD Council (in EU 28 not found anymore, -> elsewhere?)
				Mixed compositions: continue to exist (e.g. Finland, longest standing SDC)
Q4. Stakeholder participation	Consultation on SDS (and/or VNR)	Enhanced process and/or regular participation/ deliberation, some kind of forum, or dialogue; platform	Institution or mechanism for multiple stakeholders (e.g. SD council) (a), also linked/ with government (b)	= core of SDCs * Economic and Social Committees : other tradition, cover two dimensions of SD, sometimes take on the third (e.g. FR, IE) -> good practice, potential to spread?
				Science & society / transdisc.: Knowledge from different sources; & different research processes ('co-creation')
Q6. Knowledge & tools	Some light version of a tool (e.g. science involved in SD Council)	1 tool in place (SIA / SDGs integrated in IA, or budget check, or new science-policy interface mechanism)	2 tools in place	1. Scientific (policy) advisory councils /expert groups : individual areas (incl. environment, see EEAC) - "silos" 2. Broader or for SD have emerged: - Expert panel SD ( FI), science SDC (SE), science platform sustainability 2030 (DE) – also with more focus on parliaments:
Q 7.2 Activities of parliaments	Debate ...	1 or 2 Cie's deal with SDGs	new institutional arrangement	HU special case: existing MS SDC in Parl.

## Summary - models of council

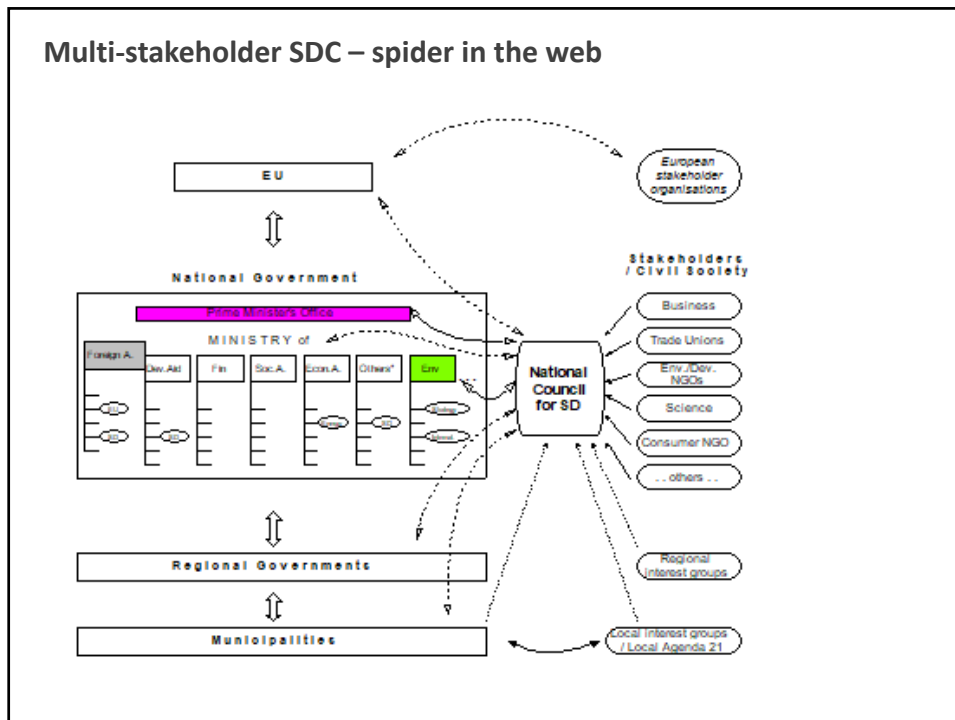
### Stakeholder participation -> Multi-stakeholder setting

- SDCs:
  - governmental coordination mechanism ( ... not an SDC in the sense of Agenda 21 & A 2030)
  - government & stakeholder members: "mixed"
  - independent
- More loose forms: SDG 'platforms', 'forum' etc., EU MSP is like a (large) SDC
- Economic and Social Committees (ESCs):
  - = other tradition (social partners): two dimensions, sometimes env. was added (e.g. FR, IE)

### Knowledge input -> Expert/science based

- Scientific (policy) advisory councils / expert groups
  - individual areas (incl. environment, see EEAC) - "silos"
  - for sustainability (e.g. SE, and UN – for GSDR)
- Complementing an existing MS setting
  - Expert panel (FI), – also more focus on parliament planned
  - Science platform sustainability 2030 (DE) – also with the task to engage the science community

## Multi-stakeholder SDC – spider in the web



## SDCs: Stimulate informed debate – levels of modality

- **Advisor: typically: publishing advice, reports, policy papers**
  - integrating different dimensions – strive for coherence
  - *raising the bar for agreements – requires a setting with much interaction etc.*  
-> function for government: indicator!, eg EU MSP, also commissions for specific problems but: often better in a permanent SDC where trust can be built up
  - also involving (more) stakeholders in drafts, fact finding and discussing advice
  - freedom of agenda setting has awareness raising effects
- **Agent: the process-oriented interlocutor**
  - being in direct dialogue with government departments at various levels... advising, spin-doctoring
  - using a variety of formats for dialogue with civil society, scientists, politicians, business, relevant institutions, across different sectors / triggering new actors – also for scaling up
  - initiating redesign research for SD => now for the science platforms
  - linking levels => more work at and with subnational level since A2030
- **Communicator: reaching out, stimulating, ...**
  - new/fresh/other means of communication/media use
  - political communication (schools, youth, elderly / contests in design etc.)
  - involving the interested/wider public, e.g. SD “panel”

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## Models of Councils - Functions


	Government body	Gov. lead / mixed	Independent
Government policy coordination / improve coherence	X	(X)	--
Advisor	--	(--)	X
Agent	(--)	X	X
Communicator	(--)	(X)	X

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## Networks

- **EEAC – European network of advisory councils for environment and sustainable development** [www.eeac.eu](http://www.eeac.eu)
- **Economic and Social Committees:**
  - **CES – Europe** <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/ceslink/en>  
-> some SD dealt with ?
  - **AICESIS – global** <http://www.aicesis.org/>  
-> seems to work mainly on labour issues ?
- **Initiative GN NCSDs – for a global network**  
[www.ncsds.org](http://www.ncsds.org)



**EEAC Member Councils (2019)**

Belgium, FRDO-CFDD :	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Belgium (FI) Minaraad:	<a href="#">Env &amp; More</a>
France, CNTE:	<a href="#">Env &amp; More</a>
Germany, RNE:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Germany, SRU:	<a href="#">Env &amp; More</a>
Germany, WBGU:	<a href="#">Env &amp; More</a>
Hungary, NFFT:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Hungary, OKT:	<a href="#">Env &amp; More</a>
Ireland, NESI:	<a href="#">MS-SEC</a>
Montenegro, NCSDDC:	<a href="#">Env &amp; More</a>
Luxembourg, CSDD:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Netherlands, Rli:	<a href="#">Env &amp; More</a>
Spain (cat), CADS:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Portugal, CNADS:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>

**EEAC Partners**

Austria, NCSDD:	<a href="#">MS-SDC**</a>
Denmark, P2030:	<a href="#">MS-SDC*</a>
Czech Republic: NSDC:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Estonia, NCSDD:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Finland, NCSDD:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Romania, NCSDD:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Spain, NCSDD:	<a href="#">MS-SDC</a>
Sweden, NCSDD:	<a href="#">S-SDC</a>



**GN NCSDS**  
GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL COUNCILS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SIMILAR BODIES

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A global map of NCSDS by type across all six continents.



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**News**  
First Annual General Meeting of the Global Network took place in April, in Incheon, Korea.

**Discussion Board**  
Online platform for NCSDS and stakeholders to share info and ideas

## CONCLUSIONS

- **Governance dimensions: Involving, engaging and committing the whole of society & stakeholders remains key.** Agenda 2030 underlines this even more
- **Societal/stakeholder participation and action can take various forms** (incl. bottom-up), **but some (light) institutionalization**, incl. a support function (secretariat / service provider), **serves durability and stamina, and is needed for legitimacy**
- **SD Councils have shown to be quite successful in many ways, functions and activities:**
  - > Capture lessons for their design and operation (context specific!), incl. the need to reach out more, consider a broader spectrum of stakeholders/groups (-> LNOB)
  - > Room for improvement on the agility side (-> look more at impact): initialising, catalysing and brokering actions of main groups, and with this contribute to implementation
  - > Can be themselves a stabilising factor – for politically difficult times (eg HU), with limits
- **And they are quite cheap!** (compared to other ways that would fulfil these functions)
- **Keep the knowledge brokering close to the multi-stakeholder arena :** support the more interest driven arena with analyses etc. of ‘honest brokers’ (see DE and FI; evaluation in FI: “strengthen scientific support”)
- **A global or regional network** of such bodies (needs to be defined by type & objectives) **brings about institution building through peer learning** , and with this : acceleration, building stronger message together, bringing actions in own contexts about (through knowing what/how others are doing things etc.), the model(s) to diffuse

## RESEARCH AND DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES



**THANK YOU !**

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**Science Platform Sustainability 2030**

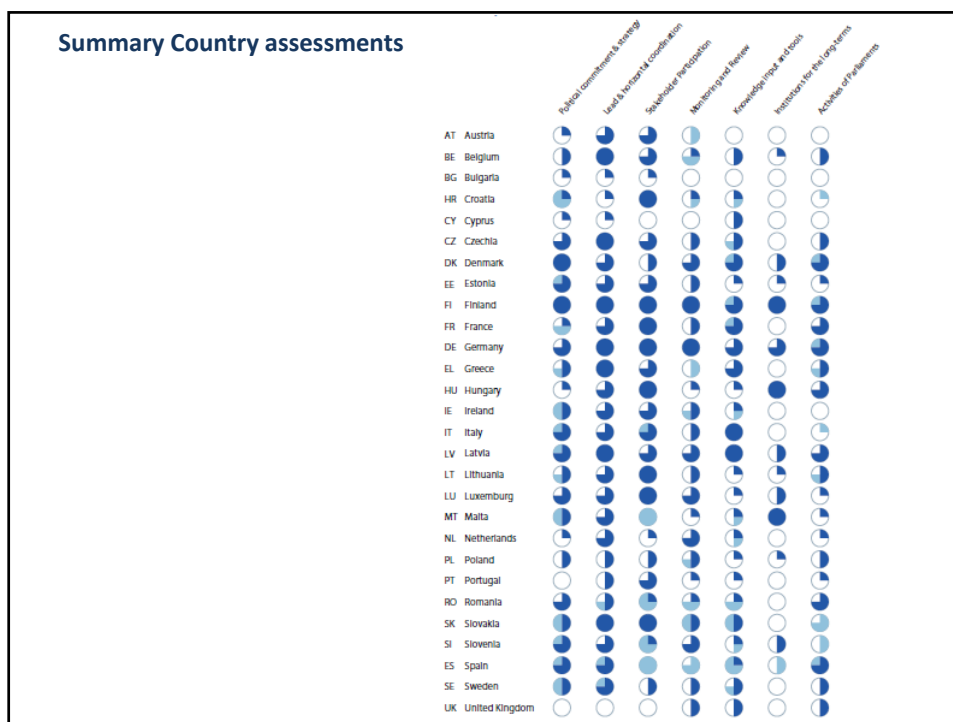
[www.wpn2030.de](http://www.wpn2030.de)





## Reserve slides

Assessment scheme for country level assessments					
	1	2	3	4	Examples of toprunners
Q1. Commitment and strategy	Some cross-sectoral long term strategy <b>or</b> some NSDS but with no recent update	Overarching strategy (or action plan) for sustainable development new or updated since SDGs (adopted or work in progress)	Overarching strategy or action plan with some visible operationalisation (measures, actions ...)	Strategy linked to national budget	4: DK, FI Planned 4: EE, IT, LV, MT, SI, ES, SE
Q2. Leadership & horizontal coordination	Leadership with 1 or 2 Ministries (external and/or domestic; often continued separation of the agenda)	Leadership at the centre of government (typically Prime Minister, or Deputy PM, or Finance Minister, if cross-cutting or central lead)	Visible coordination mechanism with clear engagement across <b>all</b> departments & ministries (often with leadership at the centre of government)	Improved coordination between external and internal implementation since SDGs, with all others aspects	4: BE, CZ, FI, DE, LV SK Planned 4: ES, SI, SE
Q4. Stakeholder participation	Consultation on SDS (and/or VNR)	Enhanced process and/or regular participation/ deliberation, some kind of coordination mechanism, forum, or dialogue	Institution or mechanism for multiple stakeholders (e.g. SD council) (a), also linked/ with government (b)	All previous aspects plus additional steps (such as, stakeholder engagement w/ HLPF, speaking slots, additional bodies)	4: CZ, FI, FR, DE, HU, LT, LU, SK Planned 4: IT, MT, RO, SI, ES
Q5. Monitoring & Review	<i>regular</i> progress reports	Indicators updated since SDGs	Quantified and timebound targets, <b>or</b> Special attention to measuring spillover effects <b>and/or</b> Special attention to leave no one behind	<u>Recent</u> external review (e.g. recent peer review)	4: FI, DE (3: DK, LV, LU, NL, SI) Planned 4: SK (Planned 3: IE, RO, ES)
Q6. Knowledge & tools	Some light version of a tool (e.g. science involved in SD Council)	1 tool in place (SIA / SDGs integrated in IA, <b>or</b> budget check, <b>or</b> new science-policy interface mechanism)	2 tools in place	3 tools in place	(3: DE, EL) Planned 4: DK, FI, FR, LV
Q 7.1 Institutions for the long-term	Include priority, but no additional steps. (e.g. strategy for 2050), - [Future in another frame]	A further measure about the long term but is not institutionalised (e.g. working group, strategy), - [Future is the dominant frame, not institutionalised]	Explicit within another institution or measure (e.g. constitution/law, a special WG w/in another body), - [Future is within another institution]	A specific institutional measure to address this: like Ombudsman for future gen., parliamentary committee, - [The institution is for the future]	FI, HU, MT / DE
Q 7.2 Activities of parliaments for A 2030	Debate (typically in Plenary, often the VNR)	1 or 2 Cie's deal with SDGs	new institutional arrangement (a special Cie or working method)	Systematic scrutiny, sustainability check of the budget, or other tool use like SIA in law-making	



### SDG at Member State level – RESULTS

Progress 😊	Challenges 😞
<b>Majority of countries has or plans to update their NDP or SD strategy with the SDGs – across the political spectrum</b>	These strategies are not always operational (half the cases)
<b>Half of the countries have clear coordination mechanisms between ministries, often with Prime Minister leadership</b>	Link between domestic and external dimension remains and vertical coordination remain weak
<b>Extensive efforts to improve stakeholder participation in most countries</b>	In a small minority of countries, stakeholder participation remains absent
<b>Most States have regular progress reports and indicators on the SDGs</b>	Room for improvement in the area of target setting and independent review
Several countries plan new SIA or budget checks and some are advanced	<b>Sustainability impact assessments and budget checks are still rare</b>
Increasingly parliaments have special committees or arrangements dealing with Agenda 2030	<b>Overcoming parliamentary silos, using legislative, budgetary and scrutiny role for SDG advancement</b>