

Online Course
“Tools for Enhancing Policy and Institutional Coherence for SDG Implementation”
[DRAFT]

Introduction

Addressing effectively the integrated and transformative nature of the SDGs, entails new ways of working that transcend policy and institutional silos. It requires governments and stakeholders to work across sectors, actors, governance levels and timeframes. The first three years of implementation have revealed that policy-makers and stakeholders are struggling to manage and leverage linkages among goal areas and to operationalise a coherent and integrated implementation of the SDGs.

Objective

With the goal to improve the capacities of governments and other stakeholders to design, implement, monitor and assess coherent policies for achieving SDGs at home and abroad, as called for in SDG Target 17.14, the [PCSD Partnership \(#SDGAction12066\)](#) will offer a self-paced online course on tools for policy coherence in collaboration with the OECD, UN Environment and UN ESCAP.

This online course will familiarise participants with: (i) the concept of policy coherence for sustainable development; (ii) its practical application as a means of implementation for the SDGs; and (iii) tools being developed and piloted to assess SDGs interactions, support integrated planning – including for coherent NDC and SDG implementation – strengthen institutional mechanisms, and track progress as a basis for policy coherence for sustainable development. The objective is to enhance national capacities for addressing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a coherent and integrated manner.

Methodology

The online course is designed to offer a self-paced learning format to give participants the flexibility and freedom to learn about – and apply – the tools according to needs, capacities and wishes. It can be adapted to the context and specific needs of individual or collective users.

Expected Audience

This Online Course is designed to assist: government officials in national administrations and subnational and local authorities; parliamentarians, civil society organisations and private sector representatives involved in SDG implementation efforts as well as academics, researchers and students interested in addressing the SDGs in an integrated manner and enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

Outline

The online course is organised into the following four modules:

1. Introduction to policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD)
2. Tools for enhancing horizontal and vertical coherence
3. Tools for integrating sustainable development and the SDGs into national and local implementation strategies
4. Tools for assessing and tracking progress in policy coherence

MODULE 1. INTRODUCTION TO POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PCSD)

Module description

The 2030 Agenda states that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and indivisible, and should balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. To achieve this balance, the Agenda includes SDG Target 17.14 to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) as an essential means of implementation for all the Goals. This module will introduce participants to the subject of policy coherence for sustainable development. It will cover its conceptual evolution from different traditions (governance, sustainable development and development co-operation) as well as the rationale behind the need for enhancing PCSD in the implementation of the SDGs. The module will explain what PCSD means in the context of the 2030 Agenda (including different types and levels of coherence), and detail the key elements needed for enhancing policy coherence across the policy-making process. Practical case studies from both developed and developing countries will help to illustrate the challenges faced in, and potential solutions for, promoting policy coherence.

This module will be organised into four sections:

- 1.1. Conceptual background
- 1.2. Sustainable Development: what is the policy coherence challenge?
- 1.3. The integrated nature of the SDGs and policy coherence as a means of implementation
- 1.4. The three elements of PCSD: Institutional mechanisms, policy interactions, and policy impacts

Objective of the Module

Upon completion of this module participants will be able to:

- Explain the concept of policy coherence for sustainable development and its practical application in a national setting for implementing the SDGs;
- Better understand how environment, society and economy interact and identify ways to operationalise the integration of sustainable development into policy-making processes;
- Apply policy coherence criteria to detect how certain policy actions might support or hinder the achievement of SDGs and target;
- Identify key building blocks (institutional mechanisms) for enhancing PCSD.

Suggested content

Readings (Flagship reports, policy briefs, discussion papers):

MODULE 2. TOOLS FOR ENHANCING HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL COHERENCE

Module description

In adopting the 2030 Agenda, governments committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced manner and to implement the Agenda within their own countries and at the regional and global levels. Policy coherence is essential to: (i) balancing the often divergent economic, social and environmental priorities in achieving sustainable development; (ii) maximising synergies and managing trade-offs at all stages of policy-making, and (iii) ensuring that national, sub-national and local goals are aligned to the overarching goals at international level embodied in international agreements and frameworks. PCSD is also central to ensure that actions under one SDG reinforce progress on other SDGs and avoid the risk of progress on one SDG at the expense of another.

This module will allow participants to learn about tools being developed and piloted to assess and address SDGs interaction and enhance horizontal and vertical coherence in SDG implementation. The module is organised into four sections:

- 2.1. Introduction
- 2.2. Addressing highly interconnected SDGs
 - Framework for assessing SDG interactions (SEI)
- 2.3. Connecting the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda
 - NDC-SDG Connections (DIE-SEI)
 - Climate Watch database on SDG-NDC Linkages (WRI)
- 2.4. Science- Policy Interface Framework for SDG implementation (EC-JRC)

Objective of the Module

After completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Identify potential synergies and trade-offs between SDGs and among targets applicable at national or local level, and with a view to setting PCSD priorities;
- Apply analytical tools to organise SDG implementation, prioritise actions, use resources and foster multi-sectoral dialogue based on assessments of SDG interactions;
- Identify mutually reinforcing solutions to advance the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in a coherent manner, and develop integrated approaches to the SDGs and NDCs;
- Use evidence-based analysis for implementing the SDGs.

Suggested content

Readings (Publications, reports, policy briefs, discussion papers)

Visuals and interactive elements (Interactive online tools; slideshows, graphs, infographics, videos, audio, and links)

Case studies

MODULE 3. TOOLS FOR INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SDGs INTO NATIONAL AND LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Module description

The 2030 Agenda states that SDGs and targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Translating the global aspirations in the SDGs into concrete and coherent actions at the national and subnational levels requires planning tools that guide policy-makers and stakeholders based on a systemic, integrated and long-term approach to sustainable development challenges. This module will allow participants to learn about tools that are being used to support the development of plans and strategies for SDG implementation at the national and local levels. The module is organised into six sections:

- 3.1. Introduction
- 3.2. Knowledge platforms and analytical tools to support national SDG Implementation
 - Integration of the SDGs into National Planning (UNESCAP)
 - Help Desk (UNESCAP)
 - Poverty Stop Light (V. Sapovadia)
- 3.3. Modelling tools for integrated implementation of the SDGs
 - Integrated Simulation Tool (iSDG), Millennium Institute
- 3.4. Strategic Foresight for SDGs (OECD)
- 3.5. Localising the SDGs
 - SDG Local Implementation Model (Habitat Association)
- 3.6. Certification standards to support integration of SDGs into projects
 - The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISTa), (Verra).

Objective of the Module

Upon completion of this module participants will:

- Gain knowledge of the tools available to support integration of the SDGs into policy-making;
- Learn about experiences in applying systems thinking to SDG integration;
- Learn about how integrated simulation models can be used to design national strategies for SDG implementation and analyse alternative scenarios.

Suggested content

- Readings (Publications, reports, policy briefs, discussion papers)
- Visuals and interactive elements (Interactive online tools; slideshows, graphs, infographics, videos, audio, and links)
- Case studies
- Quizzes

MODULE 4. TOOLS FOR ASSESSING AND TRACKING PROGRESS IN POLICY COHERENCE

Module description

Progressing towards sustainable development entails that the objectives of increasing economic growth and material wealth must take into account social and environmental objectives. Implicit in the concept of sustainable development is the principle of inter-generational equity, which implies that future generations should have at least well-being opportunities similar to those now available. Sustainable development also puts emphasis on equity across and within countries. Indicators are needed to: (i) illustrate policy-makers and stakeholders the linkages and trade-offs between economic social and environmental values; (ii) assess longer implications of current decisions and behaviours, and (iii) take into account the economic, environmental and social externalities imposed beyond national borders. This module will allow participants to learn about methodologies being developed to support countries and stakeholder to track progress on policy coherence for sustainable development both at the national and international levels. This module is structured into five sections:

- 1.1. Introduction
- 1.2. Methodology for SDG Indicator 17.14.1 (UN Environment)
- 1.3. PCSD Framework (OECD)
- 1.4. Parlamento 2030 (CIECODE)
- 1.5. Communicating the 169 targets, The New Division by Trollbäck+Company

Objective of the Module

Upon completion of this module participants will be able to:

- Gain knowledge on the different types of indicators which can be used to capture linkages and trade-offs between economic, social and environmental policy areas; assess long term impacts, and distinguish essential functions and institutional mechanisms for policy coherence;
- Identify ways to measure transboundary and long-term impacts in the context of SDG implementation;
- Define approaches to track progress on policy coherence at the national level and support the follow-up of the SDG national implementation.

Suggested content

- Readings (Publications, reports, policy briefs, discussion papers)
- Visuals and interactive elements (Interactive online tools; slideshows, graphs, infographics, videos, audio, and links)
 - “Measuring the environment. The link between Environment Statistics, Science and the SDGs” – Slideshow (UN Environment)
- Case studies
- Interactive exercises

Timeline

Activities	2018				2019			
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Apr	May
Develop and sent draft proposal to members of the PCSD Partnership.	■							
Develop and Outline / Module break down	■							
Submit registration of online course to UNDESA/UNITAR	■							
Collect information about the content from Partners	■	■	■					
Receive materials from Partners		■	■	■	■			
Develop introductory module			■	■	■			
Develop website and upload the content						■	■	
Beta testing							■	
Launch the online course and dissemination								■