



# Policy Coherence challenges in Romania in implementing the SDGs

15th Meeting of the National Focal Points for  
Policy Coherence

OECD Headquarters, Paris, 14 November 2018

Ileana Luminița **BĂLĂLĂU**

Adviser

Department of Sustainable Development – the Government of Romania



# Topics

- Sustainable Development in Romania:
  - The Strategy
  - Institutional Reform
  - Necessary frame for implementation and monitoring
- Romania's needs
- The Romanian Presidency at the Council of the European Union

# Sustainable Development in Romania

## Political Commitment

- In November 2015, the Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development was established within the lower house of the Romanian Parliament.
- On April 2016, both houses of the Romanian Parliament declared their support for implementing the 17 Goals.

## Consolidating the Institutional Framework

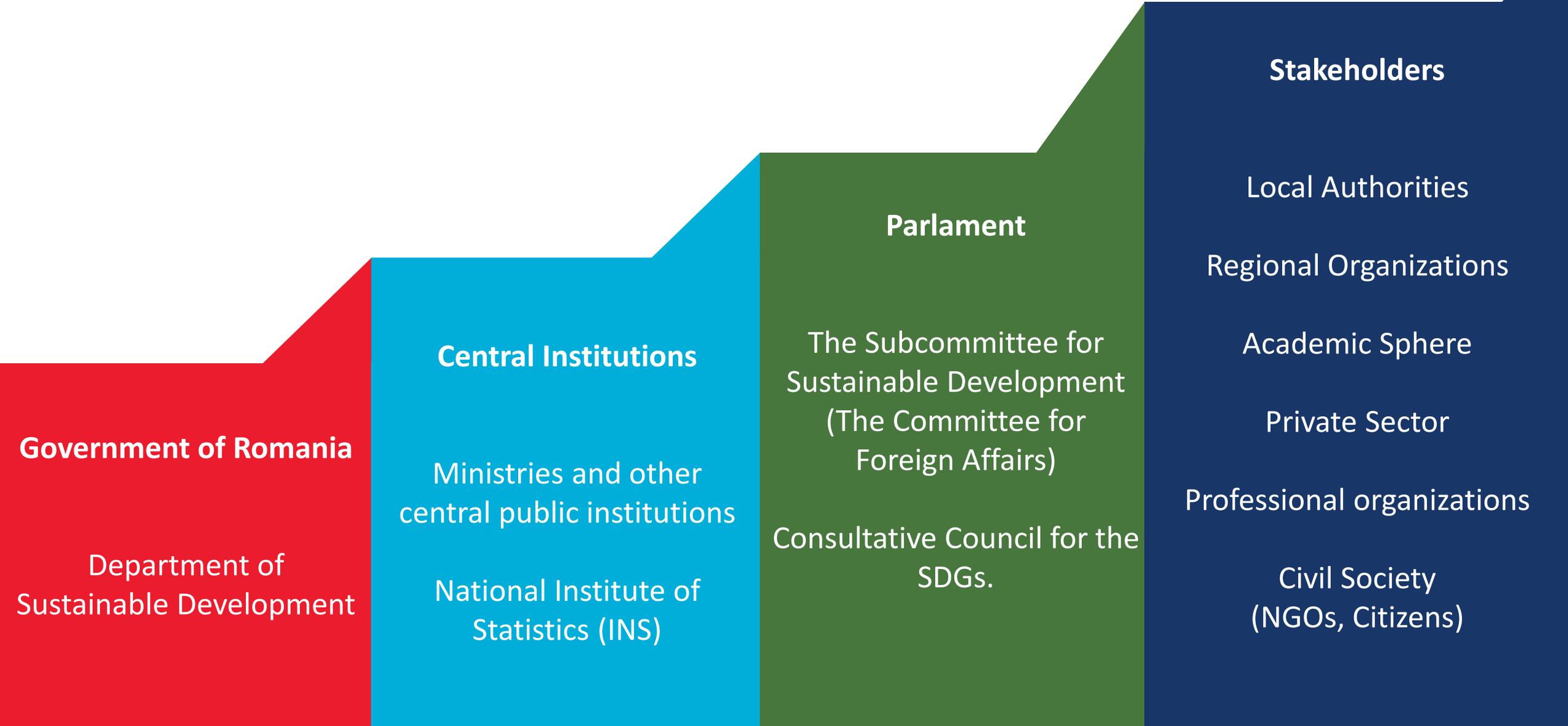
- On May 2017, the Department of Sustainable Development was established within the Prime Minister's Office through *Government Decision* 313/2017. The Department is tasked with coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on a National Level.

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



BIECTIVELE  
DE DEZVOLTARE  
DURABILĂ

# Existing Multi-Level approach





# ROMANIA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2030

- The Department of Sustainable Development coordinated the revision process of Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy.
- The revision process between 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 – 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2018
- The aim of this process was to evaluate the implementation of the previous strategy (2008) and to adapt it to the 2030 Agenda.
- Sets **Romania's priorities along the 17 SDGs.**
- Places **the Citizen** at the **center of Sustainable Development.**
- **Its success** depends on how The Department of Sustainable Development will put in place **the new Institutional Framework** the Strategy highlights as necessary for achieving the Goals and **creates the main tools for implementation, monitoring and reporting.**

# Necessary Institutional Reforms

- The Strategy's *holistic* approach requires a new institutional framework in order to “*meet the needs of future generations.*”
  - ➔ The Strategy calls for the establishment of:
    - **An Interdepartmental Committee on Sustainable Development**, headed by the Prime Minister.
    - **A Sustainable Development Network**, made up of *trained experts in Sustainable Development*, by creating a **hub in every relevant public institution**, which will enhance communication within public institutions.
    - **A Consultative Council for Sustainable Development**, a group of specialists from the academic sphere, research institutes, and representatives from civil society who will be tasked with giving guidance in implementing the Agenda 2030
- The Strategy also proposes helping in establishing a **Coalition for Sustainable Development** with representatives from Civil Society, which seeks to act as an NGO and advocates for the Goals.

# Frame for implementation and monitoring

- **Project proposal "Sustainable Romania"** - Development of the strategic and institutional framework for the implementation of the *National Strategy for Sustainable Development Romania 2030* – **submitted in October 2018** under The Romanian Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity" for the implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF) in the period 2014-2020, in **partnership with National Institute of Statistics - 3 years/approx. 5,4 mil Euro**
  - **Action plan** (3 thematic working groups with representatives from main stakeholders; expertise for evaluation of sectoral policies, recommendations for policy coherence in relation to the Strategies' objectives; 3 study visits for exchange of experience; drafting a normative act for the establishment of the Consultative Council for Sustainable Development and rule for functioning; 8 regional public debates; international conference for launching the Action plan)
  - **Communication plan** for the implementation of the Strategy
  - **Establishing the new set of sustainable development indicators** to monitor the implementation of the Strategy
  - Drafting and adoption of a normative act for the **standardization of administrative interaction procedures for the generation and use of sustainable development data** within the central and local public authorities with responsibilities in the implementation of the Strategy
  - **Vocational training** in the field of sustainable development of the designated personnel in the "hubs" of sustainable development from relevant institutions - 150 people
  - **First progres report in 2021** for the reference year 2020



# Romania's needs

- Guidance from OECD to put in place the new Institutional Framework and creates the main tools for implementation, monitoring and reporting
  - assessment of the existing resources for implementing the agenda 2030 and recommendations for improvement
  - budgeting for SDGs
  - the distribution of SDG's related tasks between the government center and the line ministries for policy coherence

# The Romanian Presidency at the EU CONS

- **2019** presents the opportunity for Romania to carry out, during the first semester, the Presidency of the Council of Europe.
- **Sustainable Development** will play a **pivotal role**, not just for Romania's upcoming presidency, but for the future of the Union as a whole.
- A representative of the Department of Sustainable Development Department is currently **chairing the Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the EU Council**. This working party is responsible with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda both internally and externally.
- The Department, together with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with UNECE, **will organize on the 16th of April, in Bucharest, a high-level conference on Partnership on Implementing the 2030 Agenda** (EU, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Western Balkans).



romania2019.eu



Thank you!

**Ileana Luminița BĂLĂLĂU, adviser**

t: *+40 722 400457*

e: *luminita.balalau@gov.ro*

**Department of Sustainable Development**

e: *office.ddd@gov.ro*

Website: *ddd.gov.ro*

*<https://www.facebook.com/departamentulpentrudezvoltaredurabila/>*