











Good institutional practices in promoting policy coherence for sustainable development

Building Block	Description
 Political Commitment	<p>Italy's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) was approved in 2017 with policy coherence for sustainable development as one of the main pillars of the "external dimension". Policy coherence is also enshrined as an overarching principle in the Reform Law 125/2014. According to Art. 2, Italy makes the "utmost effort to guarantee that its policies, even when not directly linked to development cooperation, shall be consistent with the purposes and founding principles of this Law, so that they might foster the achievement of the development goals."</p>
 Policy Integration	<p>The implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) is closely linked with the existing national programming documents, namely the National Reform Programme and the Economy and Financial Document, as well as with the binding objectives set by the European Semester (i.e. EU 2020 targets). The NSDS provides for concrete SDG activities on the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: "People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership" as well as a set of "sustainability vectors" – crosscutting, transversal areas of action that are essential to guiding, managing and monitoring the integration of the SDGs into national policies, plans and projects. These vectors include: Improved knowledge on: (i) natural ecosystems and ecosystem services, (ii) the qualitative and quantitative status and use of natural, cultural and landscapes resources, and (iii) equality, human dignity and social inclusion, as well as an (iv) integrated system of knowledge to formulate and evaluate development and an (v) improved availability and access to data and information. Furthermore, the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda have been integrated into the 2017 National Action Plan by including national quantitative targets, baseline values, and providing for monitoring, review mechanisms and models to measure domestic and international policy impacts.</p>
 Strategic Long-term Vision	<p>The NSDS is a long-term strategy aiming to translate the 2030 Agenda into action in a way that goes beyond the scope of electoral cycles. The establishment of a Permanent Forum for Sustainable Development, comprised of stakeholders from civil society, local authorities and SDG experts, aims to further strengthen accountability and policy continuity. In addition, the Ministry of Finance assesses the long-term impacts of the budget on national well-being on a yearly basis.</p>
 Policy and Financing Impacts	<p>Italy has not yet adopted any policy impact assessment legislation. However, environmental assessments of plans, programmes and projects provide information on transboundary effects on environmental issues. Within the Italian development cooperation system, mitigation of potential negative spill-overs of domestic policies on international cooperation activities are addressed by a coordination mechanism centred around the Deputy Foreign Minister with International Cooperation portfolio, who "is invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the meetings of the Council of Ministers dealing with subject matters that may directly or indirectly affect the coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation policies".</p>
 Policy Coordination	<p>The Presidency of the Council of Ministers has the lead in coordinating and managing the NSDS, with the support of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, for the domestic and external dimension respectively. The Ministry of Finance is tasked with creating strong synergies between the NSDS implementation and national economic policies as well as coordinating policy evaluation. The government will provide an annual review of the NSDS implementation as well as an assessment of interim-results. To incorporate the SDGs into the national institutional and administrative structure, a "Permanent Committee on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Sustainable Development Goals" was established within the Chamber of Deputies in 2015. Regarding the external dimension of the NSDS and international cooperation in particular, the government established a coordination mechanism to prevent and resolve conflicts between aid and non-aid policies. The mechanism seeks to ensure alignment of the development activities with the structure and overall strategic objectives provided for by the 17 SDGs as well as the government's Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document.</p>
 Local and Regional Involvement	<p>The government promotes local and regional authorities to be active and take part in the implementation process through the State and Regions Conference. The NSDS has been endorsed at regional and local level, through the adoption of the document in the State and Regions Conference. Italy's legal system allows for local authorities to be an integral part of Italian development cooperation and play an active role in its definition and implementation.</p>
 Stakeholder Engagement	<p>The government involved a number of national public research institutes (namely the CNR, ISPRA, ENEA, and ISTAT) in the definition and implementation of policies to ensure an approach based on scientifically founded information. More than 400 Universities, research centres and NGOs were contacted for their factual and prospective inputs. Similarly, broad stakeholder participation was guaranteed during the drafting process of the Policy Planning Document of Italian Development Cooperation, which is structured along the 17 SDGs and is an integral part of the NSDS. In addition, Italian Law provides for a National Conference on Development Cooperation that strongly encourages engagement with civil society and other key stakeholders.</p>
 Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation	<p>The Italian statistics office is in charge of analysing the available indicators and for improving their coverage and significance in order to identify relevant trends in SDGs achievement, national well-being and sustainable development. Drawing on the collected data, an implementation report on the NSDS is published on a yearly basis. Development cooperation activities are assessed in a distinct annual report, measured by a system of qualitative and quantitative indicators in accordance with the effectiveness indicators developed by the OECD-DAC.</p>