



From **Reflection** to **Sustainable Action**:

Best Practices – Government of Romania

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Topics for today:

“How do we ensure that Sustainable Development remains high on the political agenda?”

- From Reflection to Sustainable Action on a National Level
 - Sustainable Development in Romania
 - Background & Institutional Framework
 - Romania’s Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 and Institutional Reform
- Romania’s Presidency of the EU CONS and the 2030 Agenda
- The EU’s Next Step

Sustainable Development in Romania

- **Political support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Romania** began in April 2016, when both houses of the Romanian Parliament declared their full support for the implementation of the 17 SDGs, a first among the 176 members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- In May 2017, the **Department of Sustainable Development** was established within the Government's Working Apparatus through *Government Decision 313/2017* to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs on a National Level
- **The Department's establishment** was the result of recognizing the importance of coordinating public policy that goes 'beyond' the traditional institutional framework by enhancing intersectoral cooperation.
- **The Department is responsible with:**
 - Coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy which was adopted by Government Decision in November 2018.
 - Centralizing, integrating, and monitoring data concerning the SDGs
 - Collaborating with public institutions, both national and international, as well as NGOs on European projects.

Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030

- The Department of Sustainable Development coordinated the revision process of Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy.
- The revision process took 1 year (5th of September 2017 – 20th of September 2018) with the aim was to evaluate the implementation of the previous strategy (2008) and to *adapt* it to the 2030 Agenda.
- The aim of our revision was to evaluate the implementation of Romania's previous Sustainable Development Strategy and to update it to the 2030 Agenda while including clear national priorities and measurable goals for monitoring its implementation.
- Structured along the 17 SDGs, Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy is Citizen-centered and sets Romania's priorities, targets, and measures necessary for implementation and the creation of a good monitoring framework.
- **The Public Consultation process** involved **aprox. 1400 people** and included 8 regional seminars with representatives from all levels of public administration (including the Romanian Ministry of Defense), civil society and the private sector. In addition, we organized national debates and conferences with trade unions, academia, research institutes, etc.
- **Its success depends on the active involvement of every stakeholder.**



Institutional framework

- The Strategy's holistic approach requires a change in the institutional framework to ensure a successful implementation. As such, the Strategy calls for the establishment of:
 - **An Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development** headed by the Prime Minister (Established by GD 272/2019).
 - **A Consultative Council on Sustainable Development**, composed of a group of specialists from academia, research institutes, and civil society.
 - **A Sustainable Development Network with hubs** in every relevant public institution with *Experts in Sustainable Development*.
 - A **Coalition for Sustainable Development** (with support from the Department when needed) of representatives from Civil Society.
- **To enhance our monitoring capabilities**, the Department of Sustainable Development is collaborating with Romania's Institute for Statistics on creating a **set of national indicators**.
- The Department is currently working on an **Action Plan** for implementing the Strategy which will take into consideration all proposals received during the Strategy's Drafting process, especially from Civil Society.



Institutional framework

Institutional Structure	Why?
Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development	Ensure that Sustainable Development remains a national priority and institutionalize the constant involvement of national leadership. It is a success, its first meeting was held on the 25 th of July.
A Consultative Council on Sustainable Development	Ensure the continuous involvement of the academic & research community in ensuring that our Sustainable Policies are evidence-based.
A Sustainable Development Network with hubs	Enables the Department to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs in an efficient manner by enhancing collaboration between different public stakeholders.
Coalition for Sustainable Development	Ensure a constant dialogue between the Government and Civil Society.
Action Plan	Provide institutional clarity in regards to implementation & a roadmap for cross-institutional collaboration (most targets are interinstitutional);
National indicator set	Through the use of European Funds, the Department, together with the National Institute for Statistics, will create a new indicator set to measure the implementation of Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy.

The 2030 Agenda and the European Union

- The head of the Romanian Department of Sustainable Development is currently chairing the **Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** at the Council of the European Union. On April 9th 2019, the Council adopted a set of conclusions titled “Towards an Ever More Sustainable Union by 2030” which sets out a vision for a Sustainable and Equitable Europe by 2030
- In July 2019, the EU will present its review at the High-Level Political Forum in New York held yearly under ECOSOC. In addition, this year in September, the SDG Summit will be held under the General Assembly where the next 4-year implementation cycle of the 2030 Agenda will be discussed.
- The Department, together with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with UNECE, organized, on April 16, in Bucharest, a high-level conference on Partnership on Implementing the 2030 Agenda with representatives, SDG coordinators, and stakeholders from the EU, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, and the Western Balkans.

Next Steps for the EU

- The Council Conclusions the Department helped prepared called for the “need to consider the main policy foundations for a Sustainable future of Europe as well as the principles of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs in the discussions on the next EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024.”
- The recently published **EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024** states that “Europe needs inclusiveness and sustainability, embracing the changes brought about by the green transition, technological evolution and globalisation while making sure no-one is left behind.” While there is more work to be done, this is a good beginning.
- The EU is also becoming a trailblazer in 2030 Agenda by leading “the response to global challenges, by showing the way forward in the fight against climate change, promoting sustainable development and implementing the 2030 Agenda.”
- It is up to the next Commission to get the *sustainable* gears turning in Europe by drafting a **EU SDG Strategy**. This requires both continuity and more collaboration between the different levels of European governance, between Member-States and the EU.





Thank you!

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