



**Europe's approach to implementing the SDGs:
good practices and the way forward**

Study commissioned by the European Parliament

**Conference "SDGs at local level"
Committee of the Regions , ECON Commission
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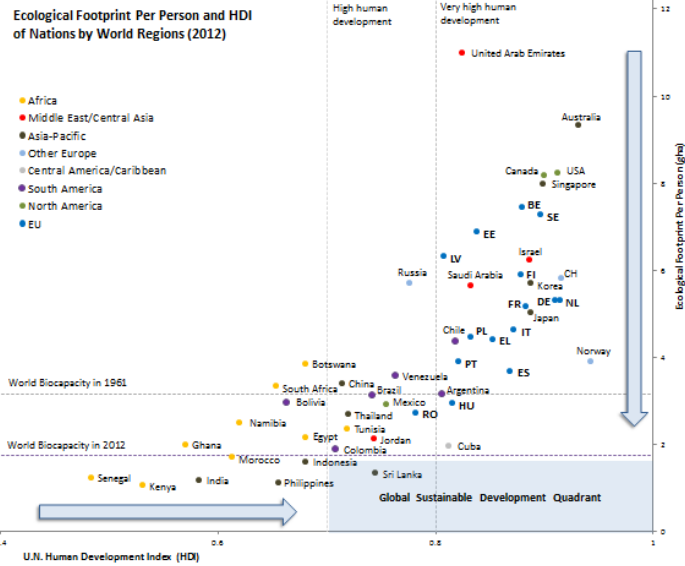


” My main message, Europe's message ..,
is:
it's also *our* turn now to step out of our
comfort zone. ...

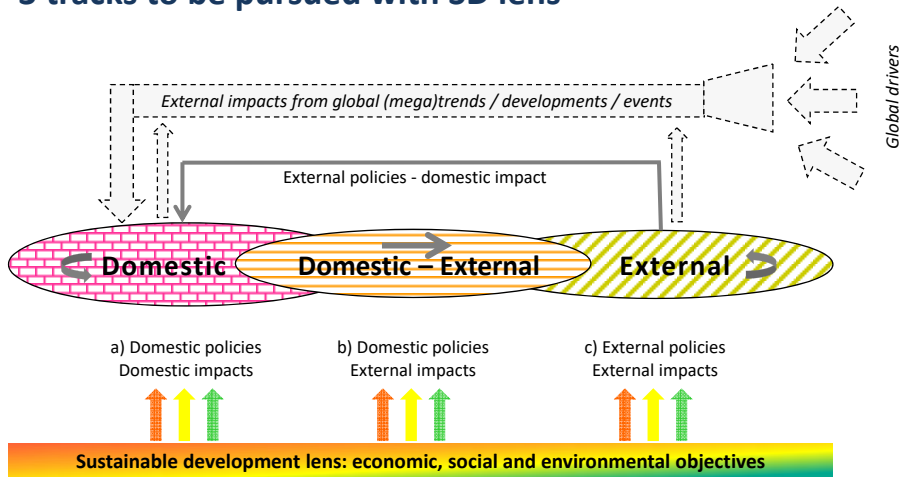
Ultimately, - it's all about governance.”

EU 1st VP Timmermans
UN SD summit , 27.9.15

Agenda 2030 principles: Universality – SDGs as framework for the different pathways



Universality with a national/regional perspective: 3 tracks to be pursued with SD lens



Niestroy (2016): How are we getting ready? DIE discussion paper



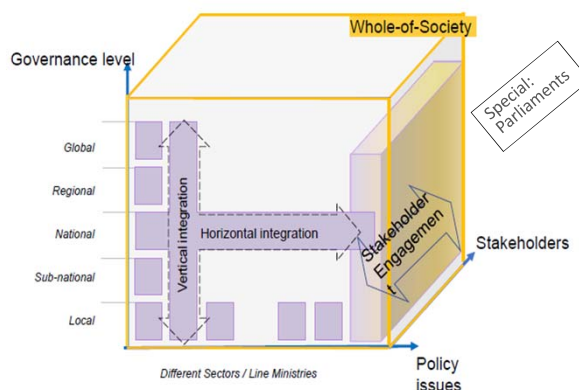
Coordinate system & objectives

1. SDGs at Member states level

- all EU 28, incl. a light assessment of the governance / 'institutional response'

2. SDGs at EU level

3. SDGs in Parliaments



Recommendations to the European Parliament

- to improve EU-wide implementation of the SDGs by the EU and its member states'
- how the European Parliament its role and cooperation with national parliaments.

Multi-level, multi-sector, multi-actor + knowledge input + time (long-term & parliaments)

➔ Analytical framework

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

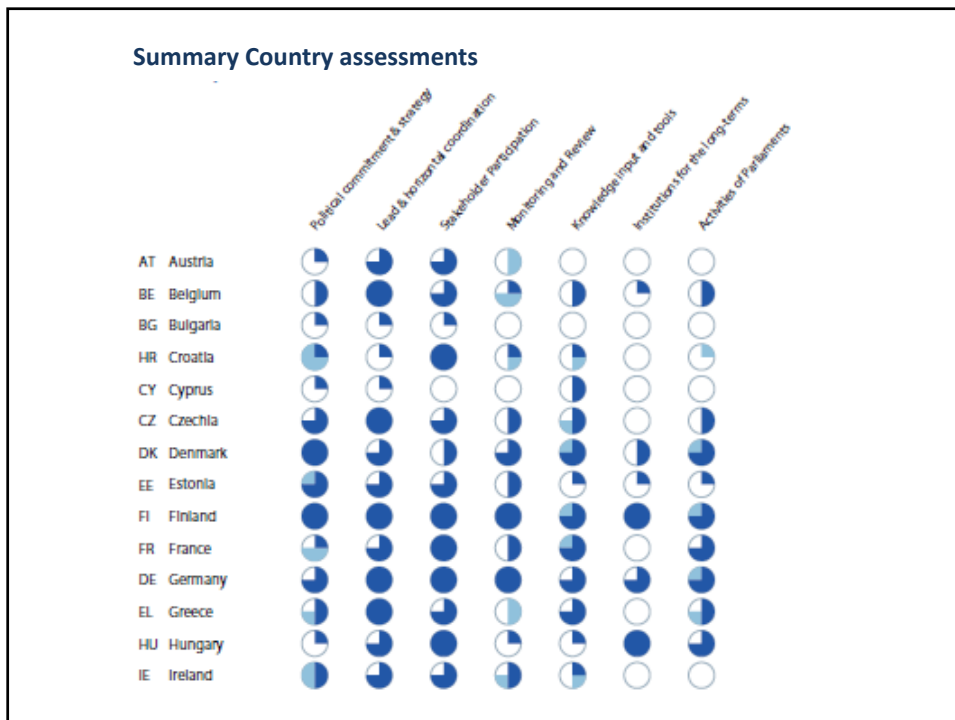
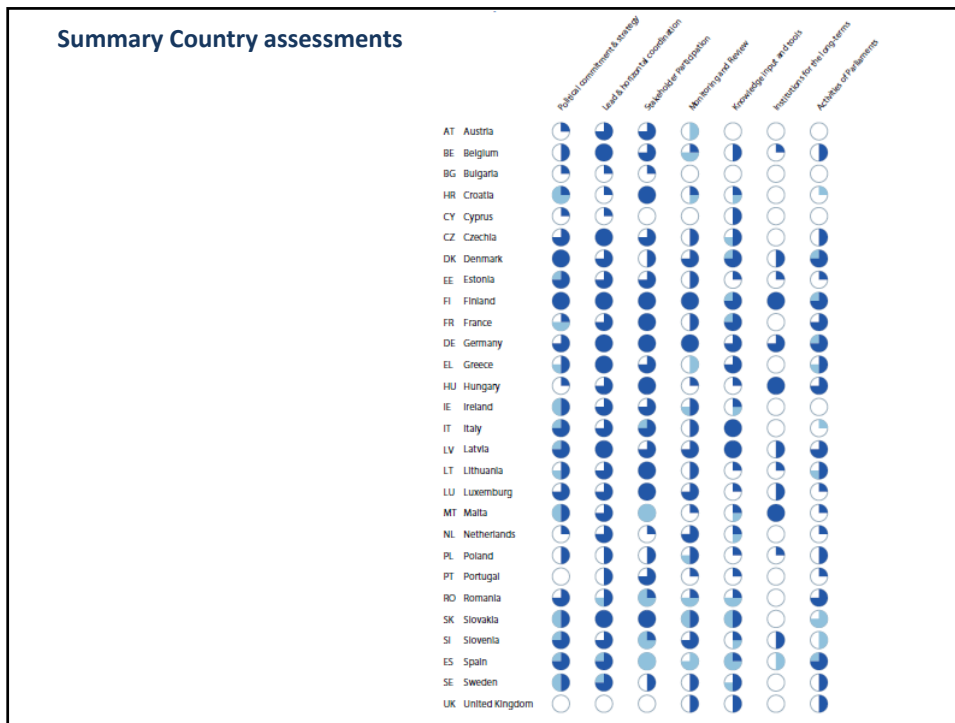
Country fiches (Annex 1)

Country Data Sheet: Lithuania				
	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	█	█	█	█

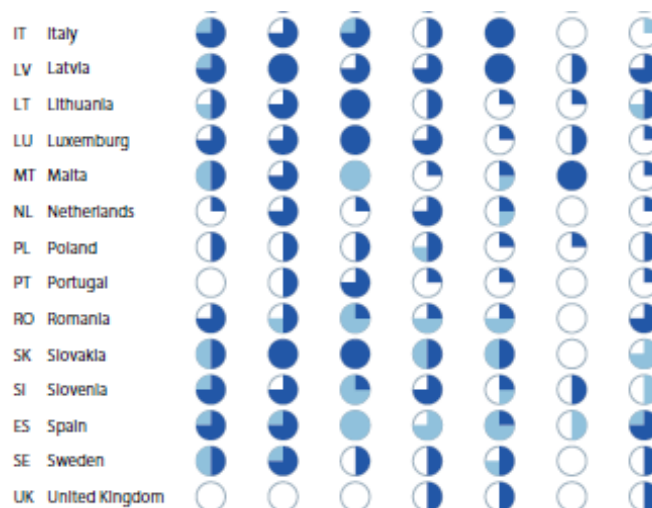
Governance perspective	Governance arrangements	Results	Source
1. Political commitment & strategy	Year of any commitment / SDG implementation plan	First NSSD 2003, updated in 2009 and 2011, with a time horizon until 2020 (and Goals that are to be implemented until 2020)	ESDN country profile, 2014
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2016-2017 analysis of the compatibility of the 2030 Agenda with the national strategic planning documents, including the NSSD: most of the SDGs and targets are reflected in Lithuania's strategic planning documents and the Government's four-year action programme. - Until the end of the term of the NSSD in 2020, the 2030 Agenda will be implemented through the enforcement of the existing strategic planning documents and monitoring of indicators provided for by them. - It is planned to update Lithuania's Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' for the period 2020-2030 with the SDGs. This 'Lithuania 2030' strategy was adopted in 2012 and focuses on economic development and promotion of open society. 	VNR 2018
	Year of the VNR (& schedule for next)	2018	
	Type of overarching (SD) strategy or similar	NSDS / Lithuania's Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' (given the time horizon of Agenda 2030, and the shorter one of the NSSD, it is planned to update 'Lithuania 2030'. It will lay down development goals for Lithuania until 2030 and a vision until 2050)	ESDN country profile, 2014, VNR 2018

Assessment scheme for country level assessments - Chapter 3

	1	2	3	4	Examples of toprunners
Q1. Commitment and strategy	Some cross-sectoral long term strategy or 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 all 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, or Special attention to measuring spillover effects and/or 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, or budget check, or 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	



Summary Country assessments



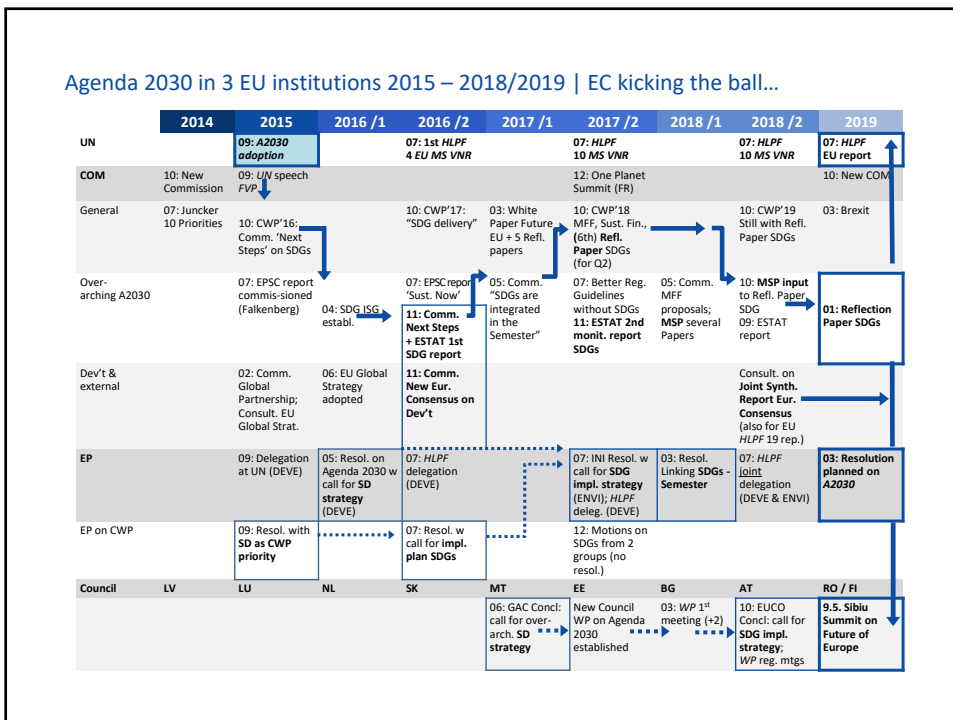
SDG at Member State level – RESULTS

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

SDGs at EU level: timeline

Agenda 2030 as taken up in the three EU institutions 2015 – 2018/2019

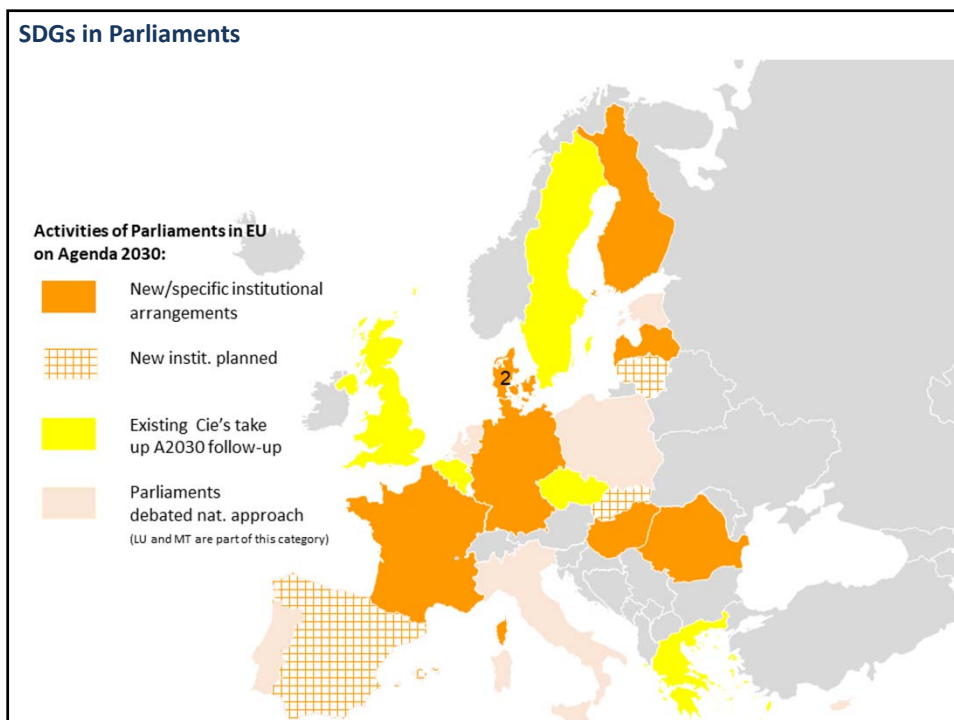
	2014	2015	2016 /1	2016 /2	2017 /1	2017 /2	2018 /1	2018 /2	2019
UN		09: A2030 adoption		07: 1st HLPF 4 EU MS VNR		07: HLPF 10 MS VNR		07: HLPF 10 MS VNR	07: HLPF EU report
COM	10: New Commission	09: UN speech FVP				12: One Planet Summit (FR)			10: New COM
General	07: Juncker 10 Priorities	10: CWP'16: Comm. 'Next Steps' on SDGs		10: CWP'17: "SDG delivery"	03: White Paper Future EU + 5 Refl. papers	10: CWP'18 MFF, Sust. Fin., (6th) Refl. Paper SDGs (for Q2)		10: CWP'19 Still with Refl. Paper SDGs	03: Brexit
Over-arching A2030		07: EPSC report commissioned (Falkenberg)	04: SDG ISG establ.	07: EPSC report 'Sust. Now' 11: Comm. Next Steps + ESTAT 1st SDG report	05: Comm. "SDGs are integrated in the Semester"	07: Better Reg. Guidelines without SDGs 11: ESTAT 2nd monit. report SDGs	05: Comm. MFF proposals; MSP several Papers	10: MSP input to Refl. Paper SDG 09: ESTAT report	01: Reflection Paper SDGs
Dev't & external		02: Comm. Global Partnership; Consult. EU Global Strat.	06: EU Global Strategy adopted	11: Comm. New Eur. Consensus on Dev't				Consult. on Joint Synth. Report Eur. Consensus (also for EU HLPF 19 rep.)	
EP		09: Delegation at UN (DEVE)	05: Resol. on Agenda 2030 w call for SD strategy (DEVE)	07: HLPF delegation (DEVE)		07: INI Resol. w call for SDG impl. strategy (ENVI); HLPF deleg. (DEVE)	03: Resol. Linking SDGs - Semester	07: HLPF joint delegation (DEVE & ENVI)	03: Resolution planned on A2030
EP on CWP		09: Resol. with SD as CWP priority		07: Resol. w call for impl. plan SDGs		12: Motions on SDGs from 2 groups (no resol.)			
Council	LV	LU	NL	SK	MT	EE	BG	AT	RO / FI
					06: GAC Concl: call for over-arch. SD strategy	New Council WP on Agenda 2030 established	03: WP 1 st meeting (+2)	10: EUCO Concl: call for SDG impl. strategy; WP reg. mtgs	9.5. Sibiu Summit on Future of Europe



SDG at EU level – Results & Recommendations

1. Commission 3 years behind in terms of strategy setting.
1. & 6. Mainstreaming the SDGs - better regulation tools, structural funds
=> still to be done: revise the BR guidelines with Agenda 2030.
2. Rather favourable situation for improving horizontal coordination
=> build upon and become frontrunner!
2. & 3. New Working Party for Agenda 2030 – most innovative and active
=> improve: bring more MS action proactively to the table.
3. & 5. How to monitor? Many argue, also ENVI ... European Semester => #We too.
Monitoring by Eurostat ... => a participatory process needs to be set up.
4. & 6. Multi-stakeholder platform – useful
=> improve interaction & science input

=> ALL HANDS ON DECK! ... **Create a winning two-level dynamic!**
add collaborative mechanisms to the traditional coordination



Summary CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS / for the subnational level

- **All: “Create a winning two-level dynamic”:** Dynamise the collaboration between the EU and the national level, – in all institutions and organisations. => **and multi-level**
- **EU:** Need for comprehensive, multi-level post-2020 SDG implementation strategy.
 - Integrate the SDGs in the EU’s economic monitoring (European Semester) and budgeting processes, including in the investment priorities of MFF. => **relevant for multi-level**
 - Build on useful governance for two-level cooperation – like the Semester, and e.g. the EIR (Environmental Implementation Review) => **relevant for multi-level**
- **Member States:** Scale up good practice through peer learning mechanisms at all levels, improve internal – external links => **where applicable**, get more operational with SDG strategies => **subnational could showcase very well!** (procurement, budgeting ...)
- **Parliaments:** Improve internal governance to better serve mainstreaming of the SDGs in legislation and budget. Become a stronger ‘scrutinizer’ and monitor SDG implementation.
- **All:** Deliver an ambitious EU progress report to the HLPF 2019 and take a leading role at SDG Summit, international leadership needed!
 - Cooperate towards a “Joint Synthesis Report” (all areas, both levels)
 - Collaborate on maintaining a systematic knowledge base like started herewith
 - Get to a Joint Sustainability Declaration of the 3 Presidents end of 2019!



Thank you !

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Study available at:

www.ps4sd.eu

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EXPO_STU%282019%29603473