

Table P1: Measuring Policy Coherence

Theme	#	Question	Answer	Points	Answer Criteria	Supporting Evidence
1. Political Commitment	1.1	Is there a clear political statement at the highest level of government demonstrating commitment to PCSD? <i>For example, an explicit commitment to PCSD in national strategic documents, policies or legislation, including at sectoral level.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	There is a clear political statement at the highest level of government demonstrating commitment to PCSD, but the level of implementation is incomplete. (e.g. Some elements may be missing, preventing full implementation of the commitment to PCSD. This could be due to unclear oversight mandates, roles and responsibilities, insufficient funding, capacities or data, regulatory burdens, normative gaps, or lengthy bureaucratic processes.)	Bulgaria has declared being aligned with the Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development – PCSD with further actions required, especially amendment of the regulatory framework and strengthening of the existing policy coordination mechanisms and enhancement of the coherence between national policies and development cooperation. In April 2023, a Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 52/2023 establishing a coordination mechanism to monitor and report on progress towards the SDGs at the national level was approved. According to the mechanism, which is fully functional, the Council of Ministers is responsible for the overall process of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs in the country. For each goal, leading institutions have been assigned that are responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the respective SDG. In addition, pursuant the Council of Ministers Rule of Procedure, the "Strategic Development, Coordination and Concessions" Directorate supports the Council of Ministers by monitoring the progress of the national implementation of the SDGs. (CoM Rules of Procedure, art. 72 e), p. 2). The approval procedure for new strategic documents envisages that prior to the adoption by the Council of Ministers during the consultation procedure all strategic documents are checked for their contribution towards specific SDGs. Significant efforts have also been made to integrate the SDGs into the country's strategic documents. The National Development Programme "Bulgaria 2030" serves as the foundation for aligning national policies with global goals. It is structured around five strategic goals - accelerated economic development, demographic growth and reduction of inequalities. Their implementation is organised in five areas (axes) of development - Innovative and intelligent Bulgaria, Green and sustainable Bulgaria, Connected and integrated Bulgaria, Responsive and fair Bulgaria, Spiritual and vibrant Bulgaria. SOURCE: Rules of procedure of the Council of Ministers, Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 52/2023, NDP "Bulgaria 2030"- https://www.minfin.bg/bg/1394
	1.2	Has the government defined clear national priority areas for advancing PCSD? <i>For example, clear priority areas for addressing issues where trade-offs need to be managed or potential transboundary impacts need to be addressed, defined within a national policy, strategy, law or action plan for advancing sustainable development.</i>	In place, fully implemented	4	The government has defined clear national priority areas for advancing PCSD, and these are implemented covering all relevant aspects of governance. (e.g. The defined priorities are integrated into sectoral policies, strategies, and time-bound action plans, guiding efforts to achieve sustainable development goals, capitalising on synergies across sectors and considering potential transboundary impacts of policies. There is active coordination across sectors to align initiatives with these priorities, fostering an integrated approach throughout the government.)	Bulgaria's strategic frameworks for research and innovation explicitly tie into sustainability goals. Policies such as the National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030, the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures, and the Open Science National Plan promote the development of modern, energy-efficient research infrastructures, the use of environmentally responsible technologies, and the integration of sustainability principles into scientific projects. By prioritizing coordination among institutions, technology transfer, and capacity building in fields like renewable energy, green technologies, and AI, these strategies aim to advance high-quality, secure, and transparent research while contributing to sustainable development, climate action, and long-term societal resilience. The National Development Programme Bulgaria 2030 advances several Sustainable Development Goals through targeted measures in research and innovation. It contributes to Goals 8 and 9 by fostering open and responsible research practices and strengthening the national research ecosystem. The integration of Bulgarian researchers and institutions into international research networks supports Goals 7, 8, 9, and 10, while the internationalisation and dissemination of research results promote Goals 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9. Furthermore, the development and enhanced accessibility of national and international research infrastructures contribute to Goals 3, 8, 9, and 10, and efforts to improve the attractiveness of research careers and retain scientific talent align with Goals 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9. Collectively, these initiatives strengthen Bulgaria's capacity for sustainable and inclusive scientific progress.
	1.3	Has the government defined clear institutional roles and responsibilities for promoting, overseeing, and implementing PCSD? <i>For example, a law or administrative directive has established a central unit, ministry, or inter-ministerial committee that has the mandate to promote, oversee or implement PCSD.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has defined clear institutional roles and responsibilities for promoting, overseeing, and implementing PCSD. However, these roles have only been partially implemented. (Several challenges could be causing the partial implementation, including limited financial, human, or technical resources, resistance from existing institutional practices, lack of inter-ministerial collaboration, normative or regulatory gaps and insufficient capacity-building for staff involved in PCSD.)	Bulgaria undertakes a whole-of-government approach to the implementation of the SDG. The Council of Ministers organizes and coordinates the management, monitoring, control and reporting of the implementation of the NDP BULGARIA 2030. In addition, The approval procedure for new strategic documents envisages that prior to the adoption by the Council of Ministers during the consultation procedure all strategic documents are checked for their contribution towards specific SDGs. In April 2023, a Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 52/2023 establishing a coordination mechanism to monitor and report on progress towards the SDGs at the national level was approved. According to the mechanism, which is fully functional, the Council of Ministers is responsible for the overall process of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs in the country. For each goal, leading institutions have been assigned that are responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the respective SDG. In addition, pursuant the Council of Ministers Rule of Procedure, the "Strategic Development, Coordination and Concessions" Directorate supports the Council of Ministers by monitoring the progress of the national implementation of the SDGs. (CoM Rules of Procedure, art. 72 e), p. 2). SOURCE: Rules of procedure of the Council of Ministers, Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 52/2023
	Subtotal Score for Theme 1. Political Commitment			10		

2. Long-term Vision	2.1	Has the government developed a strategic long-term vision for sustainable development to enhance policy coherence? <i>For example, a national vision statement, policy, strategy or action plan that sets objectives to identify, prevent, and mitigate actual and potential adverse impacts of decision-making on the wellbeing and sustainable development of future generations.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has developed a strategic long-term vision for sustainable development to enhance policy coherence, but the level of implementation is incomplete. (e.g. Several challenges could be hindering the full implementation. These could include poor integration into sectoral policies, undefined objectives, limited stakeholder engagement, inadequate monitoring, capacity constraints, normative gaps, and low public awareness.)	The strategic long-term vision is formulated through the National Development Programme Bulgaria (NDP Bulgaria 2030), a national strategic document for the development of the country with a horizon until 2030, approved by the Development Council at the Council of Ministers. The National Development Programme Bulgaria (NDP BULGARIA 2030) is a strategic framework document of the highest order in the hierarchy of national programming documents, determining the vision and general goals of the development policies in all sectors of the general government, including their territorial dimensions. It is based on a deliberate Analysis of the socio-economic development of the country after its accession to the European Union, aimed at identifying the key problem areas and gaps in the country's development policies, discussed with the socio-economic partners in the framework of the Economic and Social Council and the National Council for Tripartite Cooperation. In preparing the NDP BULGARIA 2030 special attention has been paid to the UN 2030 Agenda and to the SDGs. The Agenda and the Goals are regarded as a framework for the national development policies, while the Programme itself – as the Government's response for their implementation. NDP BULGARIA 2030 sets out three strategic goals (Accelerated economic development, Demographic upswing, and Reducing inequalities) for the implementation of which it groups the government interventions into five areas (axes) of development and sets 13 national priorities. The Programme takes into account the interlinkages between SDGs and has linked each development axis, as well as each priority in the document to the corresponding SDGs. SOURCE: Rules of procedure of the Council of Ministers, Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 52/2023, NDP "Bulgaria 2030"- https://www.minfin.bg/bg/1394
	2.2	Does the government use long-term strategic planning tools to enhance policy coherence? <i>For example, the use of tools such as impact assessments, strategic foresight, scenario development, integrated modelling tools or systems-thinking approaches in the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies to identify, prevent, and mitigate potential adverse impacts on the wellbeing and sustainable development of future generations.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government uses long-term strategic planning tools to enhance coherence. However, these tools have only been partially implemented. (e.g. Several challenges could be hindering the full implementation. These could include: resource constraints, insufficient political will, institutional resistance, normative gaps insufficient training, etc.)	The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) (ex-ante & ex-post) has been mandatory for all legal acts initiated by the central administration since 2016 and is regulated by the Legislative Acts Law, the Organizational Rules of the Council of Ministers (CoM) and its Administration, the Ordinance on the Scope and Methodology of Performing Impact Assessment. In Bulgaria the draft legal instruments are subject to a mandatory ex-ante RIA (as per the Normative Acts Law) and we believe this is an important tool to anticipate, assess and address the impacts of policies to advance SDGs. The ex-ante impact assessments shall be coordinated with the administration of the Council of Ministers. The ex-post impact assessment shall be made within 5 years after the entry into force of the new law, code or secondary legislation of the Council of Ministers or within a shorter period defined by the authority. SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	2.3	Has the government established dedicated institutional arrangements or mechanisms to support a long-term vision for PCSD? <i>For example, independent bodies, a commissioner, council, or ombudsperson for future generations, can promote long-term vision for PCSD that outlives electoral cycles or government terms.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has established dedicated institutional arrangements or mechanisms to support a long-term vision for PCSD. However, their tasks have only been partially implemented. (e.g. The full implementation of government measures can be hindered by political interference, insufficient resources, bureaucratic resistance, poor coordination among ministries or departments, public opposition, complex legal frameworks, normative gaps or other gaps in monitoring and evaluation.)	The National Strategy for Development of Scientific Research 2017–2030, also known as "Better Science for Better Bulgaria," serves as the primary policy document guiding the country's research and innovation system. This strategy outlines major objectives, such as achieving long-term economic growth and improving the quality of life, by transforming Bulgaria into an attractive center for advanced research and development of new technologies. It emphasizes the importance of retaining and attracting talented scientists and establishes a strong correlation between funding and research results. The strategy includes specific objectives and activities, including increasing public funding for research, synchronizing legislative changes, and reforming management and administration structures related to research. The Law on Research and Innovation Promotion in Bulgaria, adopted on April 24, 2024, establishes a comprehensive legislative framework aimed at enhancing the country's research and innovation landscape. It outlines principles, mechanisms, and instruments for developing and implementing state policies to promote research and innovation, with a focus on aligning national efforts with the European Research Area. Key provisions of the law include the establishment of an Innovation Council as a permanent advisory body to the Minister of Education and Science, the promotion of open science while respecting intellectual property rights, and the facilitation of broad access to scientific publications resulting from publicly funded research.
	Subtotal Score for Theme 2. Long-term Vision			9		
	3.1	Does the government have a budgetary process that integrates sustainable development into sectoral policies, and to address synergies and trade-offs across economic, social and environmental policy areas? <i>For example, through the use of SDG budgeting (i.e. tagging budget measures, etc.) or checklists.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has developed a budgetary process to integrate sustainable development into sectoral policies, and to address synergies and trade-offs across economic, social and environmental policy areas, but its implementation remains partial. (e.g. Several challenges could be hindering full implementation, including the complexity of integrating sustainable development priorities into existing frameworks, difficulties in data collection, balancing resource allocation across competing goals, weak institutional capacity, insufficient political will and commitment, normative gaps, and financial constraints.)	The National Development Programme Bulgaria (NDP BULGARIA 2030) is a strategic framework document of the highest order in the hierarchy of national programming documents, determining the vision and general goals of the development policies in all sectors of the general government, including their territorial dimensions. The UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are regarded as a framework for the national development policies, while the NDP BULGARIA itself – as the Government's response for their implementation. The Programme takes into account the interlinkages between SDGs and has linked each development axis, as well as each priority in the document to the corresponding SDGs. The Ministry of Finance annually issues instructions to the Budget authorizers by delegation on the preparation and presentation of their budget estimates in the framework of the budgetary procedure. In the Guidelines for the preparation of the budget forecasts of the Budget authorizers by delegation for the period 2024-2026, the following guidelines are given - "Policies shall be developed in accordance with the development policies in all sectors of the government as defined in the NDP BULGARIA 2030, and shall be linked to the key indicators for measuring the degree of achievement of the benefits/impacts for the society from the implementation of a policy." SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023

3. The Integration of Sustainable Development into Policy and Finance	3.2	Does the government have dedicated mechanisms or tools to integrate sustainable development into the sectoral or financing plans of line ministries? <i>For example, strategies, guidelines, regulations, provisions or coordination mechanisms for ministries and government agencies to align their mandates, policies and sectoral objectives with sustainable development priorities.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has developed dedicated mechanisms and tools to integrate sustainable development into the sectoral and financing plans of line ministries. However, these mechanisms have only been partially implemented. (e.g. Several factors might contribute to the partial implementation. These could include insufficient funding, capacity constraints, bureaucratic burdens, coordination issues, data unavailability normative gaps, etc.)	NDP Bulgaria 2030 takes into account the interlinkages between SDGs and has linked each development axis, as well as each priority in the document to the corresponding SDGs. The Mid-Term Programmes for Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid define thematic and crosscutting priorities that have been aligned to the SDGs in order to reflect Bulgaria's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Relevant legislation include: •Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 110/2010 establishing a Development Council at the Council of Ministers; A new Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 77/2023 establishing a Development Council at the Council of Ministers was adopted; •Decree of the Council of Ministers No 52/2023 establishing national coordination mechanism on monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs at the national level •Order No. P-119/04.07.2023 establishing a Permanent Working Group of the Development Council to support the implementation of its tasks related to the SDGs (Art. 2, Point 8 of CoM Decree No. 77/2023). •Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 33/2020 approving Vision, objectives and priorities of the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 (NDP BULGARIA 2030) •Protocol of the Council of Ministers No. 67/2020 approving the detailed version of the NDP BULGARIA 2030; •Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 671/2022 approving Action Plan for the implementation of the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 for the period 2022-2024; •Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 247/2022 approving the 2022 update of the National Reform Programme •Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 184/2020 approving the Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in the Republic of Bulgaria and its presentation at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	3.3	Does the government have established mechanisms or measures to promote the mobilisation of public, private, domestic, and international resources for sustainable development? <i>For example, specific programmes or policies informed by policy coherence to enhance the contribution of domestic resources to sustainable development; incentives or frameworks to attract private investment for sustainable development projects; partnerships between the government and private sector to finance sustainable development initiatives, etc.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has established mechanisms or measures to promote the mobilisation of financial resources to support PCSD. However, these mechanisms have only been partially implemented. (e.g. Some factors may be preventing full implementation. These could include insufficient funding, capacity, coordination, or insufficient stakeholder engagement.)	The Bulgarian government allocates state subsidies for scientific research through the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) via the National Science Fund (NSF). Enterprises are the largest contributors to research and development (R&D) expenditure in Bulgaria, accounting for 68% of the total R&D spending. This involvement underscores the private sector's role in driving innovation and supporting sustainable development initiatives. International Collaboration: Bulgaria actively participates in international research funding mechanisms, notably the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme. Approximately 40% of Bulgaria's R&D expenditures are sourced from abroad, including EU structural and investment funds and international grants.
	Subtotal Score for Theme 3. The Integration of Sustainable Development into Policy and Finance			9		
4. Whole-of-government Coordination	4.1	Has the government established high-level coordinating mechanisms with clear mandates to ensure whole-of-government coordination for PCSD, including at sectoral level? <i>For example, a high-level coordinating mechanism or body whether located within the Centre of Government or a lead line ministry as appropriate, with a clear mandate, resources and capacities to anticipate and resolve policy divergences, including on potential negative impacts of policies, and tensions arising from diverging priorities and different sectoral interests.</i>	Under development	1	There are no high-level coordinating mechanisms in place; however, there are formal plans to develop them, or they are currently under development.	In April 2023, a Decree of the Council of Ministers No. 52/2023 establishing a coordination mechanism to monitor and report on progress towards the SDGs at the national level was approved. According to the mechanism, which is fully functional, the Council of Ministers is responsible for the overall process of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs in the country. For each goal, leading institutions have been assigned that are responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the respective SDG. In addition, pursuant the Council of Ministers Rule of Procedure, the "Strategic Development, Coordination and Concessions" Directorate supports the Council of Ministers by monitoring the progress of the national implementation of the SDGs. (CoM Rules of Procedure, art. 72 e), p. 2). SOURCE: Rules of procedure of the Council of Ministers,
	4.2	Are there formal governance structures or informal channels in place to support communication between sectoral ministries and departments for enhancing PCSD? <i>For example, inter-ministerial committees that stimulate open exchange of ideas and innovative thinking to address cross-cutting policy objectives and develop integrated solutions.</i>				At the expert level, the Inter-agency Development Policy Working Party, chaired by the MFA and involving all ministries, is in charge of providing more operational coordination support in the formulation, promotion and implementation of the Bulgarian development policy. SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023

	4.3	Are there specific capacity-building programs or other resources in place for public servants, government officials, or staff to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development? <i>For example, to improve skills that take civil servants beyond their traditional operating environment and challenge them to think and act in new, cross-disciplinary ways to foster coherence in policymaking.</i>	Not in place	0	There are no capacity-building programmes or other resources in place, and there are no plans or actions to develop them.	SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	Subtotal Score for Theme 4. Whole-of-government Coordination			1		
5. Sub-national Engagement	5.1	Are there provisions or mechanisms in place to align national and sub-national plans, policies, budgets, or regulatory frameworks for sustainable development? <i>For example, National Sustainable Development Strategies outline relevant action and mandate sub-national engagement; or data exchanges and other engagements between government levels are institutionalised in other ways.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The provisions or mechanisms are in place to align national and sub-national plans, policies, budgets, and regulatory frameworks for sustainable development, but are only partially implemented. (The full implementation of government mechanisms can be hindered by challenges including resource constraints, lack of political will, institutional resistance, insufficient training, complex legal or political frameworks, normative gaps and inadequate engagement.)	The Integrated Territorial Development Strategies of the six planning regions for the period 2021-2027 analyse the economic, social and environmental situation, needs and development potentials of the relevant planning region. They take into account the development projections and investment intentions for the respective region. The six Integrated Territorial Strategies are in line with the vision objectives and priorities of the NDP 2030. Accordingly, the Municipalities' Integrated Development Plans for the period 2021-2027 are consistent with the Integrated Territorial Strategies. SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	5.2	Are there formal governance structures or informal channels in place to support communication between national and sub-national levels of government for enhancing PCSD? <i>For example, interterritorial commissions, the participation of local governments in National Councils for the 2030 Agenda, and focal points for the implementation of SDGs at the regional and local level.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has established formal governance structures or informal channels to support communication between national and sub-national levels of government, but are only partially implemented. (e.g. The full implementation of government mechanisms can be hindered by a lack of political will, insufficient resources, bureaucratic resistance, poor coordination, normative gaps or inadequate engagement.)	The Second Voluntary National Review is an official report that presents the progress of the Republic of Bulgaria in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2015–2024. Prepared under the coordinating role of the Administration of the Council of Ministers, the review is the result of joint efforts by national institutions, local authorities - including the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria, non-governmental organizations (including locally based), academia, the private sector and citizens.
	5.3	Are there mechanisms or processes in place to ensure coordinated action between national and subnational agencies on international initiatives or development co-operation for sustainable development? <i>For example, national agencies provide advisory services, networks, or matchmaking for sub-national entities engaging in international initiatives or development cooperation.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has established mechanisms or processes to coordinate national and sub-national action on international initiatives or development cooperation for sustainable development, but these are only partially implemented. (e.g. The full implementation of government mechanisms can be hindered by insufficient resources, bureaucratic resistance, poor coordination among ministries or departments, inadequate engagement, or complex legal frameworks.)	Insufficient data to pre-fill, please respond.
	Subtotal Score for Theme 5. Sub-national Engagement			9		
	6.1	Are there participatory mechanisms in place to ensure stakeholders are informed and engaged proactively in different phases of the policy cycle for sustainable development, or in the development of PCSD initiatives through a whole-of-society approach? <i>For example, dedicated laws, public consultations, advisory committees, focus groups, online platforms, regular meetings or other means enable engagement and participation in decision-making making, to gather feedback, address coherence issues, and collaborate on solutions involving different levels of society.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The participatory mechanisms are in place for stakeholder engagement in sustainable development policy-making through a whole-of-society approach, but these are partially implemented. ⊘ (e.g. Several factors can limit implementation. These could such as insufficient political will, inadequate stakeholder engagement, normative gaps or a lack of resources or capacity.)	The National Statistical Institute maintains a dedicated Portal for Sustainable Development, where detailed information on SDGs is available. It also contains the national list of more than 215 indicators to monitor progress, officially adopted by the Government by CoM Decree 613 from 2023.

6. Stakeholder-engagement	6.2	Are there mechanisms in place to reach out to marginalised and vulnerable groups in society and advocate for their needs and participation in decision-making to advance inclusive sustainable development? <i>For example, to consult or engage different groups as co-designers on action plans that mainstream, in an integrated manner, the principle of leaving no one behind in public policies and reform measures, placing emphasis on targeted measures which support those who are furthest behind and promote human rights, gender equality and social inclusion.</i>	Under development	1	There are no mechanisms in place; however, there are formal plans to develop them, or they are currently under development.	Insufficient data to pre-fill, please respond.
	6.3	Has the government put mechanisms in place to promote stakeholder engagement in policy coherence for sustainable development at various levels of governance, to advance best practice and encourage peer learning? <i>For example, engagement through global or national campaigns, policy dialogues, intergovernmental processes, capacity building initiatives, and societal mobilisation.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has in place mechanisms for collaboration with various stakeholders on initiatives to raise public awareness, mobilise support, and advocate for policy coherence for sustainable development at various levels of governance, but these have only been partially implemented. (e.g. Several factors can limit implementation. These could such as insufficient political will, normative gaps and inadequate stakeholder engagement.)	The Bulgarian Platform for International Development assists the promotion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It brings together 15 organizations with various fields of activity. There are two major coalitions operating in the area of environmental SDGs – the ForTheNature Coalition and the Bulgaria Climate Coalition. By bringing together more than 80 non-governmental organizations, they are working for strengthening citizens' involvement in environmental issues, for sustainable development-oriented business and for a law-abiding state. The National Youth Forum gathers the energy of 50 international, national, local and political youth organizations from across the country with the motto "It's time for the youth to take the floor!" The organization is working to create and adopt a new National Youth Strategy, in which the UN Sustainable Development Goals should be clearly outlined. Many of the initiatives in the private sector are carried out by the Bulgarian Network of the UN Global Compact. The association, which brings together more than 30 organizations, presented its Strategic Plan 2015+ just 5 months after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in New York. Eight of the UN Sustainable Development Goals have been selected. SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	Subtotal Score for Theme 6. Stakeholder-engagement			7		
7. Impact Assessment	7.1	Does the government have any mechanisms or tools in place to conduct regular policy impact assessments to identify any positive and negative impacts on sustainable development? <i>For example, established tools such as cost-benefit analysis, indicator frameworks for tracking policy effectiveness, or other tools such as Regulatory, Environmental, Gender and Social Impact, and Strategic Assessments are regularly used across government sectors to evaluate and align policies with sustainable development objectives.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has developed mechanisms or tools to conduct regular policy impact assessments for identify any positive and negative impacts on sustainable development, but these are only partially implemented. (Several challenges could be hindering the full implementation. These could include limited capacity, resources, or training, normative gaps.)	In Bulgaria the draft legal instruments are subject to a mandatory ex-ante RIA (as per the Normative Acts Law) and we believe this is an important tool to anticipate, assess and address the impacts of policies to advance SDGs. The RIA process is transparent and participatory and ensures stakeholder consultations considering approved standards for public consultations. RIAs are made publicly available at the portal for public consultations www.strategy.bg . The ex-ante impact assessments shall be coordinated with the administration of the Council of Ministers. The ex-post impact assessment shall be made within 5 years after the entry into force of the new law, code or secondary legislation of the Council of Ministers or within a shorter period defined by the authority. SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	7.2	Has the government established ex-ante and ex-post policy impact assessments that consider transboundary impacts? <i>For example, established tools such as cost-benefit analysis, transboundary impact assessments, multistakeholder consultations, indicator frameworks or other tools are regularly used across government sectors to evaluate the transboundary impacts of policies on sustainable development.</i>	Not in place	0	There are no ex-ante and ex-post policy impact assessments in place, and there are no formal plans or actions to develop them.	SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	7.3	Does the government have any mechanisms in place to build capacity in the public service to collect and analyse evidence on how different policies, laws or regulations impact sustainable development? <i>For example, training designed to allow civil servants to strategically address positive and negative impacts of policies, laws or regulations on sustainable development.</i>	Under development	1	There are no mechanisms in place; however, there are formal plans to develop them, or they are currently under development.	Insufficient data to pre-fill, please respond.
	Subtotal Score for Theme 7. Impact Assessment			4		
	8.1	Does the government have any information management systems or similar mechanisms in place to coherently identify and centralise data, indicators and (or) other information for monitoring progress on sustainable development? <i>For example, centralising existing reliable data, indicators, and information to monitor economic, social, and environmental externalities imposed beyond national borders (transboundary impacts).</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The information management systems or similar mechanisms exist, and the government has identified and centralised data, indicators and (or) other information to monitor progress on sustainable development, but has only partially implemented these. (e.g. Some factors may be preventing full implementation. These could include a lack of data or indicators, or a lack of awareness of or training to allow civil servants to access the system, normative gaps persists; or the systems or mechanisms are not yet fully operational.)	Data is of crucial importance to measure progress in sustainable development. The National Statistics Institute launched in December 2019 Monitorstat – a web-based platform for tracking SDGs progress (https://monitorstat.nsi.bg/). It contains all indicators of the Eurostat SDGs framework and multiple indicators from the global SDGs framework. Monitorstat has been used to inform about policies for sustainable development. An update of the Monitorstat is planned for the period of 2023 – 2025 under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria. The overall goal is to support the efforts of planning, monitoring and control over the implementation of national policies, as well as to ensure the sound basis for monitoring of the national progress toward the SDGs. The project will be implemented in close cooperation with the administration of the Council of Ministers. In addition, the National Statistical Institute coordinates the preparation of a national list of indicators, which will allow to measure national progress towards the SDGs. According to the approved schedule, the list of indicators should be approved by the Council of Ministers by the end of July. SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023

8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting	8.2	Does the government have mechanisms in place to provide regular and transparent reporting to relevant national bodies (e.g. Parliament, ministerial or other bodies) on progress on PCSD? <i>For example, regular reports to the parliament, ministerial or other bodies about progress on PCSD. Information on progress can also be included in VNRs and in reporting on development co-operation activities.</i>	In place, partially implemented	3	The mechanisms for regular and transparent reporting to relevant national bodies are in place, but are only partially implemented. (Several challenges could be hindering the full implementation. These could include the administrative burden or a lack of regular data collection, normative gaps.)	An analysis will be prepared to guide the elaboration of the second NDP BULGARIA 2030 Action Plan. The analysis will include information on the dynamics of the indicators from the national list of indicators measuring progress in the implementation of the SDGs. This will allow to highlight policy areas of concern that will be used in the formulation of the measures to be included in the second Action Plan of the NDP Bulgaria 2030. The Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the implementation of the UN SDGs in the Republic of Bulgaria has been done in line with the UN guidelines and aims to analyze and share the results achieved and good practices, to highlight challenges and gaps, lessons learned and prospects for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs, including through specific policies, programmes, plans and strategies. The document presents the activities of the government, business, civil society, academia, young people and the local level for the fulfilment of the SDGs in Bulgaria and the implementation of an integrated approach for the accomplishment of the UN 2030 Agenda at local, national, and regional level. The national policy to achieve the national framework for sustainable development as well as the progress on each of the SDGs are a substantial part of the VNR. The preparation of the document provided a valuable opportunity to take stock of the progress in achieving the SDGs and to strengthen coordination on sustainable development policies within the government. SOURCE: OECD Review, 2023
	8.3	Does the government have mechanisms in place to ensure that findings on PCSD are regularly evaluated and used to take adaptive action, including with regards to synergies and potential trade-offs between sectoral policies? <i>For example, evaluation systems systematically assess the coherence of policies with different sectoral priorities and policies, providing actionable insights for policymakers.</i>	Under development	1	There are no mechanisms in place; however, there are formal plans to develop them, or they are currently under development.	Insufficient data to pre-fill, please respond.
	Subtotal Score for Theme 8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting			7		
	Total Score			56		