

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, fully implemented	4	There is a clear political statement at the highest level of government demonstrating commitment to PCSD, implemented in all relevant aspects of governance. (e.g. The government has made a clear political statement at the highest level, demonstrating commitment to PCSD. The political leadership actively promotes PCSD and supports sustainable development goals, ensuring that policies, laws and institutional arrangements align with these goals, including at sectoral level, as applicable. This commitment is translated into concrete mechanisms and actions across all relevant sectors and policies. This includes integrating PCSD into relevant policies and legislative frameworks, strategic planning, and operational activities, fostering a culture of sustainability throughout the government. Stakeholders are engaged, public support is mobilised, and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place to track progress and ensure accountability.)	Highest level of government's commitment is demonstrated by having a long-term strategy Estonia 2035, which is implemented through national sectorial development plans approved by the government. This means that sustainable development goals are prioritised at the highest level in the hierarchy of strategic planning documents and implemented throughout relevant sectorial development plans. In terms of prioritisation, the strategy Estonia 2035 sets the priority areas for development for the whole country. The Estonian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategu 2024-2030, based on the Foreign Policy Strategy clearly highlights PCSD. The Estonian development cooperation is viewed in the framework of DSGs. Estonia has identified 11 SDGs that the country focuses on in our development cooperation based on our competences.
	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, partially implemented	3	The government has defined clear national priority areas for advancing PCSD, but the level of implementation is incomplete. (e.g. Some factors may be preventing full implementation. These could include insufficient funding, capacity, data, siloed institutional approaches, normative or regulatory gaps, including at sectoral level, or lengthy bureaucratic processes.)	Sustainable development goals are prioritised at the highest level in the hierarchy of strategic planning documents and implemented throughout relevant sectorial development plans. In terms of prioritisation, including tradeoffs, the strategy Estonia 2035 and its action plan sets the priority areas for development for the whole country and it is consistently implemented throughout different strategic planning levels up to the state budget strategy
	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.)	There have been changes in this answer. Each sectorial development plan has an advisory board, which oversees the implementation and its role includes overseeing the progress on the sustainable development. In October 2024, the Government Office proposed not to continue the work of the Commission. The Commission had fulfilled most of its goals. The Government Office still holds an e-mail list both of the Commission and SDG network which is to be used when the next VNR process will begin later in 2025. Also, the Government Office is a member of every sectoral development plan, making sure that SDG goals are on the agenda. Therefore, we suggest the score should not be lowered.
	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, fully implemented	4	The government has developed a strategic long-term vision for sustainable development to enhance policy coherence, which is implemented in all relevant aspects of governance. (e.g. A long-term vision or strategy is in place establishing long-term goals and targets for sustainable development and guiding short-term decision-making to consider the wellbeing and sustainable development of future generations. This strategic vision is integrated into all relevant sectoral strategies and policies and translated into concrete actions to identify, prevent, and mitigate potential adverse impacts on future generations. This process involves engaging stakeholders, securing legislative and public support, and developing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.)	Estonia 2035 is fully linked with sustainable development goals, including its monitoring is done by specific indicators, which are also linked with the sustainable development. https://tamm.stat.ee/kategooriad/estl-areng . These goals are implemented through sectorial development plans, underneath which there are programmes that make up the state budget strategy. So there are no signs that the goals are poorly integrated into sectoral policies or that the objectives are undefined. Monitoring of Estonia 2035 is done regularly, including in front of the Parliament and also in the government during budget negotiations.
	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, fully implemented	4	The government uses long-term strategic planning tools to enhance policy coherence, and these are implemented covering all relevant aspects of governance. (e.g. The government commonly uses long-term strategic planning tools (e.g. impact assessments, strategic foresight, scenario development, integrated modeling tools, or systems-thinking approaches) in formulating and implementing strategies and policies. These tools help identify, prevent, and mitigate potential adverse impacts on the wellbeing and sustainable development of future generations. These tools are proactively used to inform policy- and decision-making.)	The whole strategic planning system has integrated sustainable development goals and it is regulated with the state budget law and government decree on strategic planning. There are systematic impact assessments carried out at least three years before the sectorial development plan ends and this is foreseen in the relevant act: https://www.rigikataja.ee/akt/123122019005 . Strategic foresight is done in the Foresight centre, which is a think tank located in the Parliament. The analysis produced mostly look at how the sustainable development goals are being achieved, even if it is not labelled as such.

	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 institutional arrangements include the whole strategic planning system, which means that all sectorial plans need to be consistent with Estonia 2035 strategy and implement its directions to achieve goals. As sustainable development goals have been integrated to this system, they are systematically also implemented in different policy areas.
	Subtotal Score for Theme 2. Long-term Vision			11		
3. The Integration of Sustainable Development into Policy and Finance	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.)	"Estonia 2035" long-term strategy sets out five long-term strategic goals that are based on the base principles. Strategic goals are value-based goals that are the basis for making the country's strategic choices and to the implementation of which all Estonian strategic development documents contribute. They are also taken into account in the state budget strategy and in the preparation of the government's action programme. SOURCE: OECD 2023 Questionnaire to Adherents for assessing the implementation, dissemination and continued relevance of the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
	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.)	Estonia 2035 long-term strategy and all the sectoral development plans put together need to reflect their contribution to the sustainable development goals. In national long-term development plan „Eesti 2035“ all the strategic goals have been linked to SDGs, in addition all the SDGs are linked in more detail in the action plan of necessary developments of the „Eesti 2035“. Also, „Eesti 2035“ is implemented through sectorial development plans that according to the act (in Estonian) have to show the links to SDGs. Sectorial development plans are implemented through programme documents and this is where strategic planning and finances meet since our State Budget consist of all the programmes. This means that we can trace down to the budget what exactly has been done to achieve a certain SDG (it is mandatory to show links to SDGs in the programme document). SOURCE: OECD 2023 Questionnaire to Adherents for assessing the implementation, dissemination and continued relevance of the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
	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.)	Estonia 2035 is a whole-of-society strategy and it has integrated sustainable development goals into its goals, indicators. Sectorial development plans need to take into account that goals can often be achieved together with different stakeholders, and they are included in the advisory boards of the sectorial development plans.
	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>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has established high-level coordinating mechanisms with clear mandates to ensure whole-of-government coordination for PCSD, including at sectoral level. However, these mechanisms have only been partially implemented. (e.g. Several challenges can lead to the partial implementation, including shifts in political leadership and priorities, insufficient technical resources, normative gaps, bureaucratic and stakeholder resistance, etc.)	There have been changes in this answer. Each sectorial development plan has an advisory board, which oversees the implementation and its role includes overseeing the progress on the sustainable development. In October 2024, the Government Office proposed not to continue the work of the Commission. The Commission had fulfilled most of its goals. The Government Office still holds an e-mail list both of the Commission and SDG network which is to be used when the next VNR process will begin later in 2025. Also, the Government Office is a member of every sectoral development plan, making sure that SDG goals are on the agenda. Therefore, we suggest the score should not be lowered.
	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>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has established formal governance structures or informal channels to support communication between sectoral ministries and departments for enhancing PCSD. However, these mechanisms have only been partially implemented. (e.g. Full implementation may be hindered by bureaucratic rigidities, inflexibility, resource constraints, poor communication, resistance to change, normative gaps, and external factors like political instability or economic downturns.)	The Government Office still holds an e-mail list both of the Commission and SDG network which is to be used when the next VNR process will begin later in 2025. Also, the Government Office is a member of every sectoral development plan, making sure that SDG goals are on the agenda. Therefore, we suggest the score should not be lowered.
	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>	Under development	1	There are no capacity-building programmes or other resources in place; however, there are formal plans to develop them, or they are currently under development.	We do organize higher-level environmental courses, but they focus on climate and environmental topics, and connections are also made to areas such as the economy or energy. The participants are decision-makers from various sectors and generally not government officials. In developing the target group of top public sector executives, we take into account global megatrends and developments (such as the pandemic, security and refugee crises, etc.); the country's long-term development strategies ("ESTONIA 2035") and government priorities; research and analyses related to leadership quality; as well as conclusions and recommendations made during previous development activities
	Subtotal Score for Theme 4. Whole-of-government Coordination			7		
	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.)	yes, the provisions are in place and set out in the state budget law and https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/123122019005

5. Sub-national Engagement	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.)	All the relevant stakeholders are participating in the advisory boards for the sectorial development plans, including for example representatives of the local government representation organisations
	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>	Not in place	0	There are no mechanisms or processes in place, and there are no formal plans or actions to develop them.	
Subtotal Score for Theme 5. Sub-national Engagement				6		
6. Stakeholder-engagement	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.)	Each sectorial development plan needs to engage different stakeholders to their advisory board.
	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>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has established mechanisms to reach out to marginalised and vulnerable groups in society and advocate for their participation in decision-making, to advance inclusive sustainable development, but these are only partially implemented. (e.g. Several factors can limit implementation. These could include insufficient political will, inadequate stakeholder engagement, normative gaps or a lack of resources or capacity.)	
	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 Kesta.me platform is not updated on a daily basis and is therefore available from the public internet archive https://veebiarhiiv.digar.ee/a/20250117140103/https://kesta.me/
Subtotal Score for Theme 6. Stakeholder-engagement				9		

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.)	The act that regulates sectorial development plans foresees that at least three years before the end, each sectorial development plan is evaluated through impact assessment. This means that also sustainable development goals implementation is addressed. yes, all sectorial development plans undergo ex ante and ex post evaluations, where transboundary impacts are being considered. Impact assessment guidelines are currently reviewed and updated. yes trainings are organised to allow civil servants to strategically address positive and negative impacts of policies, laws or regulations but not specifically on sustainable development. However, the cross-sectoral fields which they need to assess, include gender equality
	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>	In place, fully implemented	4	The government has established ex-ante and ex-post policy impact assessments that consider transboundary impacts. These mechanisms have been fully implemented, covering all relevant aspects of governance. (e.g. Established tools such as transboundary impact assessments, spillover analysis frameworks, or multi-stakeholder consultations are used to regularly assess international implications of government policies. There is effective use of these mechanisms to facilitate informed decision-making in the policy and planning process.)	
	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>	In place, partially implemented	3	The government has mechanisms in place to provide capacity building for the public service to collect and analyse evidence on how different policies, laws or regulations impact sustainable development, but these mechanisms have only been partially implemented and rolled out to civil servants. (e.g. Several challenges could be hindering the full implementation. These could include resource constraints or insufficient political will.)	
	Subtotal Score for Theme 7. Impact Assessment			10		
8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting	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.)	In cooperation with Statistics Estonia, indicators were agreed for monitoring the movement towards the goals set in the Sustainable development strategy and Estonian long-term strategy Estonia 2035. SOURCE: OECD 2023 Questionnaire to Adherents for assessing the implementation, dissemination and continued relevance of the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. https://tamm.stat.ee/kategooriad/eeesti-areng There is a regular and transparent reporting on Estonia 2035 and sectorial development plans and programmes, both at the government's and the Parliament's level. As the SDG-s are integrated it can be said it is included in the system.
	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.)	

	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>	In place, partially implemented	3	The mechanisms are in place for the evaluation of PCSD, including synergies and potential trade-offs between sectoral policies, but they are only partially implemented and used to inform decision making and ensure that adaptive action is taken. (Several challenges could be hindering the full implementation. These could include the administrative burden, limited technical capacity or a lack of data, normative gaps persist, or the mechanisms are not yet fully used to take adaptive action)	This is done when updating the programmes and sectoral development plans. As the long-term goals already include some of the tradeoffs then of course any policy initiative should help to move towards the goals and if not then justifications need to be provided.
	Subtotal Score for Theme 8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting			9		
Total Score				71		