



## Analysis of the achievement of the SDGs by the Federal Government and potential spillovers

### Executive summary

commissioned by  
Federal Institute for Sustainable Development  
(FISD)



**INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**



Contact:  
[steven.knotter@ideaconsult.be](mailto:steven.knotter@ideaconsult.be)  
[devriendtsander@gmail.com](mailto:devriendtsander@gmail.com)

Rue Joseph II 40 B1  
1000 Brussels

T: +32 2 282 17 10  
[info@ideaconsult.be](mailto:info@ideaconsult.be)  
[www.ideaconsult.be](http://www.ideaconsult.be)



<b>1.</b>	<b>The assignment: Gap analysis and Spillover analysis</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	The Gap analysis	3
1.2	Spillover analysis	5
<b>2.</b>	<b>Main findings gap analysis</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1	SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere	10
2.2	SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	11
2.3	SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	13
2.4	SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning	14
2.5	SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	15
2.6	SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	16
2.7	SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	17
2.8	SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	18
2.9	SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	19
2.10	SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries	20
2.11	SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	21
2.12	SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	22
2.13	SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	23
2.14	SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	24
2.15	SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	25
2.16	SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	26
2.17	SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	27
<b>3.</b>	<b>Main Findings spillover analysis</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>33</b>
4.1	Recommendations gap analysis for policy areas	33
4.2	Recommendations Spillover analysis	36





## 1. The assignment: Gap analysis and Spillover analysis

### 1.1 The Gap analysis

#### 1.1.1 Gap analysis 2020

The gap analysis builds on the previously conducted gap analysis 'Defining the goals to be achieved in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda' (IDO vzw, 2020). In this analysis, the 17 SDGs and the 169 subSDGs were scrutinised, whether federal or regional, to see if they are SMART defined.

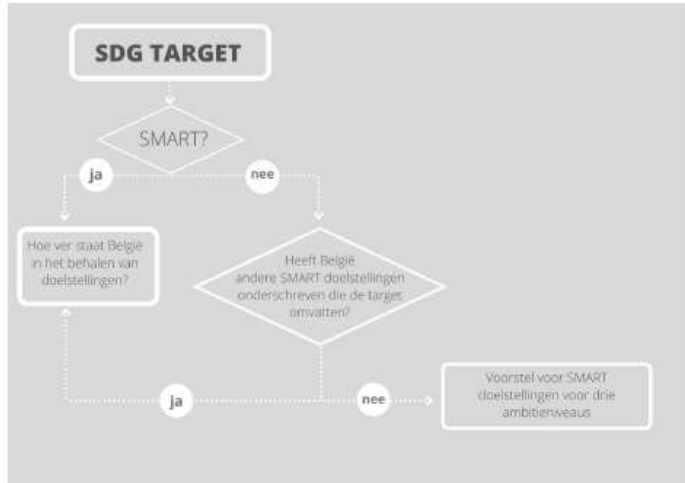
The study consisted of verifying for the 17 SDGs accompanying 169 SDG targets whether they are SMART-formulated. The following terminology is used in the study:

- SDGs: There are 17 'Sustainable Development Goals', endorsed by the UN in September 2015, e.g. 'SDG 1 End poverty everywhere and in all its forms'.
- Sub-SDG or SDG-Target: Each SDG consists of several sub-SDGs or targets, in total there are 169 UN targets that elaborate on the SDGs, e.g. 'SDG target 1.1 By 2030 eradicate extreme poverty for all people worldwide, living on less than \$1.25 a day'
- SDG indicator: Each target has one or more UNSTAT indicators, in total there are 242, e.g. 'Indicator 1.1.1 Share of population below international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographical location'.
- Targets: The specific targets, listed through this study, to be met by 2030. For some SDG targets, the targets can be derived immediately, for other SDG targets this is not the case. A subSDG can be further refined and then break down into several targets include, a subSDG can thus include several targets. In this study, the state of play was weighed against the target in each case.

Some subSDGs were already SMART as they were originally written. For those objectives that were not SMART formulated, it was investigated whether certain SMART objectives were found in policy plans, Belgian legislation, international treaties... certain SMART objectives were found. A status report was drawn up for these SMART sub-objectives. For the other non-SMART objectives, SMART objectives were proposed at the 'high' and at the 'average ambition' level. The diagram below was followed and in this way, a total of 119 SDG targets were identified as SMART and 50 as non-SMART.



Figure 1: Different types of SDG sub-objectives



Figuur 1 SDG targets: doelstellingen bepalen.

### 1.1.2 Gap Analysis 2024

The new gap analysis builds on the 2020 gap analysis. In this-analysis, a status report will be made for all 119 identified and 50 proposed (High & Average) targets. This will be done for the 'average' and 'high' targets for the first time. The sheet prepared per subSDG, together the overview is excel per target are the main output of this study.

Before drawing up the state of play, all objectives were subjected to a timeliness check: are these objectives still up to date, have new treaties been concluded, have objectives become more stringent, etc. Once the objectives were up to date again, the state of play was drawn up. The cascade principle was used to draw up the state of play. First, sources were searched at the national level such as Statbel or at its own national and regional institutions. If these searches did not yield satisfactory results, further searches were made for data at the European level (e.g. Eurostat), at European institutions, at the international level (e.g. OECD) or international institutions (e.g. WHO). Efforts were always made to include the most recent, accurate and complete source.

After data collection, the two methods were used to determine the GAP. A value in percentage was presented (method 1) and a value in number of standard deviations away from the target (method 2). If possible, a linear regression was performed to forecast to 2030.

Method 1: (see "Europe sustainability development report 2020/03 - Annex1 Methodology")

$$Y = \text{fulfilment or target, between 0 and 100\%} = xxx$$

$$= \text{Minimum of } (x - x_{min}) / (x_{max} - x_{min}) \text{ OR } 100\%$$

Where:  $x$  = measured value;  $x_{max}$  = best value(target);  $x_{min}$  = worst value

$$X' = 100\% - Y = \text{distance to target}$$

Method 2: (see "OECD Statistics Working paper 2020/03")

$$X' = \text{distance to target} = xxx$$

$$= \text{Minimum of } (xi - target) / \text{standard deviation OR}$$

$$= \text{Minimum of } (target - xi) / \text{standard deviation } s \text{ OR } 0$$

If binary target (Y/N): were the above methods not applied, value is 0% or 100%

Projection 2030: Where possible, an expectation is given whether or not the SDG target will be reached in 2030. Depending on the available data, this was done via growth rate (annual compound growth rate). Note that this



*growth rate is only based on past data and is therefore not necessarily continued. Some caution is therefore needed with such a prediction.*

The study provides a detailed sheet with the status of each subSDG and overview in Excel of the results per target. An overview for each SGD is given below first, after which all subSDG can be viewed in detail.

This assignment was carried out by: Blommaert Chris, Borgo Esmeralda, Devriendt Sander, Michielsen Kristien & Vanden Bussche Evelien (IDO - Institute for Sustainable Development) and Beyne Jan & Knotter Steven (Route2030 and IDEA Consult).

## 1.2 Spillover analysis

### 1.2.1 Context & objectives

In addition to a conventional gap analysis mapping the progress of the federal government's efforts to achieve the SDGs, FIDO requested an overview of the impact of federal actions and policies on third countries, specifically on partner countries and least developed countries, the so-called spillovers.

To achieve sustainable development, it is essential to gain insight into spillover effects and minimise the potential negative effect of policy actions aimed at sustainable development. After all, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a collective framework for advancing social, economic, and environmental progress globally. The achievement of the SDGs necessitates concerted efforts and policy coherence, particularly in the promotion of sustainable trade systems based on responsible consumption and production practices.

Our study aims to provide a qualitative assessment of different types of spillover effects from Belgium, mainly based on international spillover indexes, allowing for a prioritisation and facilitation of a more comprehensive approach to sustainable development. We also delve into the application of the principle of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in Belgian context. Furthermore, the study identifies and explores possible indicators and information sources to gain further insight into these spillover effects. Based on this we provide actionable insights and recommendations for the federal government to effectively manage spillover effects in its sustainable development policies and in advancing the SDGs.

### 1.2.2 Spillovers in the SDG-framework

The underlying reasoning within the SDG framework is that they cannot be considered in isolation and can only be realised fully if they are realised all at the same time. This also means that the SDGs cannot be achieved if actions generate spillovers that hinder other countries' ability to achieve the SDGs.

The SDG framework itself also explicitly encapsulates this in SDG 17.14 under the name of **Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)**, as an integral mechanism for implementing the SDGs. The OECD<sup>1</sup> distinguishes three main components of this mechanism:

- ▶ Foster synergies across economic, social and environmental policy areas (internal)
- ▶ Identify trade-offs and reconcile domestic policy objectives with internationally agreed objectives
- ▶ *Adress the negative spillovers of domestic policies*

This implies that policies with negative spillover effects are by definition not sustainable, and thus not optimally contributing to the SDGs. This is in turn again closely linked to the application of the **Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle** in SDG policies.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-2018\\_9789264301061-en#page85](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-2018_9789264301061-en#page85)

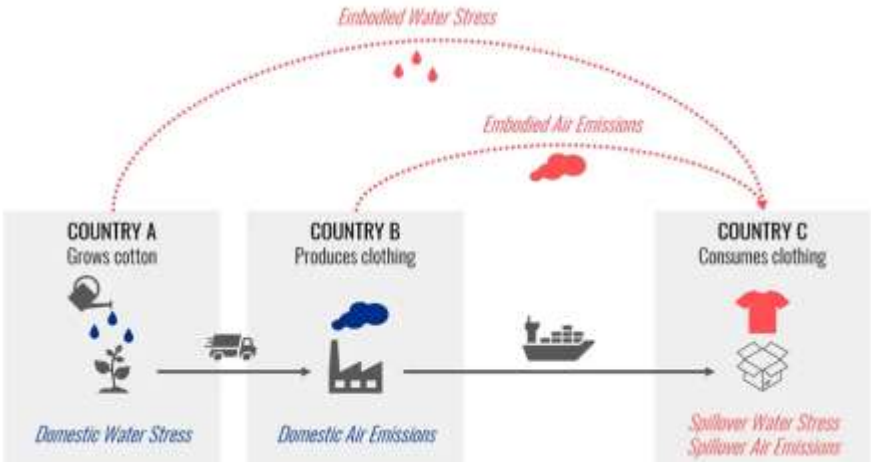


In general, SDG 17 plays a crucial role in addressing and monitoring spillovers from sustainable development work by fostering global partnerships, promoting collaboration, and strengthening institutions. By leveraging collective action and shared responsibility, SDG 17 contributes to building a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world for present and future generations. In the latest SDG index, major challenges remain for Belgium on International concessional public finance (official development assistance), Corporate Tax Haven & Financial Secrecy scores, Shifted profits of multinationals).

**A VIEW ON DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPILLOVERS**

Spill-overs are the economic, environmental and social impacts that (unsustainable) actions and policies in one region have on other regions, transcending geo-graphical boundaries. In general, High-Income Countries (HICs) often produce significant adverse effects on other nations, primarily stemming from unsustainable consumption and financial investment patterns. The image below (from the SDG Transformation Center) clearly shows how (in this case) country C has negative effects on country A and B, through the demand and consumption of clothing.

Figure 1: Example negative spillovers



Apart from negative effect of these classic non-sustainable practices, it is important to take account of the potential spillovers of policies aimed at sustainable development and transitions (circular economy, material & energy transition, ...). Investment in the energy transition in one country for instance may trigger shifts in global supply chains and influencing energy market dynamics worldwide.

In light of this understanding, prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs (SDSN) proposed a framework for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 through six key transformations. These transformations address not only the immediate challenges within individual countries but also acknowledge the broader global impacts, offering a systematic approach to mitigating spill-over effects and fostering sustainable development on a global scale. The six transformations are represented in the figure below.



Figure 2: Six SDG transformations

Six SDG Transformations underpinned by the principles of leaving no one behind and circularity & decoupling



A suitable starting point for embedding spillover effects into the Federal Plan Sustainable Development (FPSD) is to work along these six areas of transformation that are required if the 2030 Agenda is to be implemented. The areas of transformation highlight the interrelationships that already exist between various SDGs and are creating work structures that straddle the boundaries between government ministries.

The importance of countering and minimising (negative) spillovers is increasingly internationally recognised as an integral part of the SDGs, and efforts are undertaken in Belgium's surrounding countries to address and manage them. However, adapted monitoring and (application of) management mechanisms are still lacking or in development.

International initiatives such as the SDG Spill-over Index and the Global Commons Stewardship Index (GCSI) shed light on the spillovers, but challenges of these include data gaps on national levels and the reliance on non-rigorous or not sustained monitoring & reporting practices.



## 2. Main findings gap analysis



This analysis examined the 17 SDGs and the 169 subSDGs or subtargets. From the 169 subSDGs, 237 unique SMART targets were found to be endorsed by Belgium. Of the 237 targets, 101 have already been 100% achieved.

This summary gives a brief overview per SDG of how many targets there are, to what extent they are achieved and in what direction they are moving. If possible, we indicate whether the target will remain or be achieved by 2030. For each SDG, we make a few recommendations as to which subSDGs and targets deserve extra attention based on its actual state drawn up in the sheets. In each case, we also indicate the policy area first concerned.

On this basis, further follow-up is needed within the FPSs and the policy areas to identify the causes and the policy measures needed to turn the tide or accelerate the trend and achieve the objectives.



































In Section 4.1 we indicate for each policy domain which objectives should be treated as a priority or which require extra attention now and in the future.

For each of the subSDGs, a comprehensive sheet (fiche) was prepared containing the current targets, with for each of the targets a status, and if possible, a projection was made for 2030. These fiches constitute the main output of this study. In addition to these in this study, an excel file with the state of play for each objective is an integral part of this study. In the Excel file, the objectives can easily be filtered by FPS, policy area, etc. to create a tailor-made overview.

The table below gives an indication of where we stand as a country in achieving the SDGs. The first column gives an indicative evaluation of all targets achieved. It is possible that none of the targets have been achieved, but a high score is still achieved because all individual targets score very high. The last two columns show how many targets have already been achieved out of the total of all targets within the SDGs. This is shown for both the 2020 gap analysis and the current gap analysis. However, these columns cannot be compared 1 to 1. In the 2020 gap analysis, 119 targets were assessed, of which 58 were considered met. In this gap analysis, 237 targets were assessed, of which 101 were considered met.

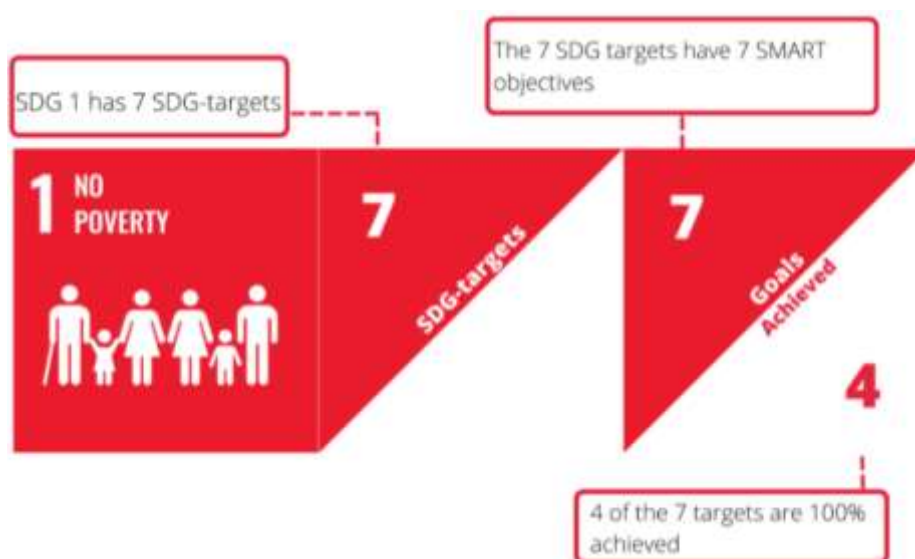




SDG	Current situation	Achieved 2020	Achieved 2024
		4/8	4/7
		2/14	5/21
		4/20	3/22
		4/6	6/14
		7/15	5/11
		5/9	4/7
		1/8	7/13
		6/14	8/13
		1/8	3/6
		13/21	9/14
		6/17	6/16
		5/13	10/15
		3/5	3/5
		5/13	6/15
		3/5	5/17
		12/16	9/20
		9/14	8/21



## 2.1 SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere



The table below shows, for each SDG target, how many SMART targets were found for Belgium and to what extent this target is achieved. If possible, it is indicated in which direction the targets are moving and whether they will be achieved by 2030. Some targets achieved now will not necessarily remain so in 2030. For some SDG targets and objectives, reference is made to other targets that assess the item. Below the table, the relevant policy areas are shown in brackets after each recommendation in each case.

	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
1.1	1	100 %		✓
1.2	1	28 %	↑	✗
1.3	1	100 %		✓
1.4	-	3.8, 4.1-3, 6.1-2, 7.1-2, 8.10, 9.1, 9.3, 9.c, 11.1-2, 11.6.		
1.5	3	100 %		✓
		0 %		✗
		0 %		✗
1.a	-	17.1-4		
1.b	1	100 %		

### Recommendation for SDG 1:

- For SDG target 1.2, target has not yet been reached. The trend is declining but not enough to reach the target by 2030 (Social inclusion and poverty reduction & Social Affairs).
- For SDG targets 1.1 and 1.b, targets have been achieved (Social inclusion and poverty reduction).
- SDG target 1.3 is as good as achieved (and has been set at 100%). A point of concern, however, is still the proportion of the working population receiving compensation in case of a workplace accident (Social Affairs).
- For SDGs 1.4 and 1.a, we refer to other targets.
- SDG 1.5 on natural disasters has been partially achieved, i.e. plans are in place to deal with natural disasters. The other two targets are no longer achievable due to the natural disaster in Wallonia in 2021. Natural disasters are also so unpredictable that these objectives are difficult to achieve. This raises the question of whether this objective formulation is then still sufficient because it does not say much about the causes and possibilities of preventive action. In this sense, Objective 1 (disaster risk management) is important (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).



## 2.2 SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
2.1	2	100 %		✓
		94 %	↓	✗
2.2	5	0 %	↓	✗
		100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		0 %	↓	✗
		undetermined		
2.3	1	61 %		
2.4	7	21 %	↑	✗
		4 %	↑	✗
		0 %		
		0 %	↓	✗
		0 %	↓	✗
		65 %	↑	✓
		100 %		✓
2.5	4	0 %	→	✗
		0 %	→	✗
		0 %	↓	✗
		0 %	↓	✗
2.a	-	17.2		
2.b	1	100 %		✓
2.c	1	0 %		

### Recommendation for SDG 2:

- For SDG target 2.b, the target has been achieved (Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).
- On SDG 2.1, we note that the proportion of the population facing moderate or severe food insecurity, while limited, is increasing rather than decreasing. This is a concern (Social inclusion and poverty reduction).
- SDG 2.2 requires additional efforts on preventing obesity and anaemia in women of reproductive age: both are worsening rather than improving. In terms of anaemia in women of reproductive age, figures also need to be updated. Regarding malnutrition in the elderly, figures should be systematically kept up to date (Public Health).
- For SDG target 2.4, the targets are generally not met (with the exception of the target on organic farming, which is not very ambitious: 'share must increase'). Only the target on antibiotic use in animal husbandry is



on track to be achieved by 2030. Regarding the nutrient balance, we recommend that Belgian data on this be re-transmitted to Eurostat (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).

- For SDG target 2.3, the target has not been achieved and no statement can be made on the evolution because the figures fluctuate too much (Economy).
- For SDG target 2.5, nothing has been achieved yet and, with no changed policy, there is nothing to indicate that this will change in the short term (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).
- For SDG target 2.a, we refer to target 17.2.



## 2.3 SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
3.1	1	100 %	↑	✓
3.2	1	100 %	↑	✓
3.3	4	15 %	↑	✗
		23 %	↑	✗
		3 %	↑	✗
		6 %	↑	✗
3.4	2	59 %	↑	✓
		96 %	↑	✓
3.5	3	27 %	↑	✗
		21 %	↑	✗
		46 %	↑	✗
3.6	1	61 %	↑	✓
3.7	4	-	→	✗
		76 %		
		-		
3.8	1	99 %	→	✓
3.9	1	-		
3.a	1	84 %	↑	✓
3.b	-	17.2		
	1	0 %	→	
3.c	1	-		
3.d	1	-		

### Recommendation for SDG 3:

- For SDG targets 3.1, 3.2 and 3.8, the targets have been achieved (Public Health).
- For SDG targets 3.4, 3.6 and 3.a, the target has not yet been reached, but the path seems to be on track by 2030 (Public Health & Mobility).
- For SDG targets 3.3 and 3.5, additional effort is still needed, so recommendation is to focus on the already defined (ambitious) targets for these SDG targets (Public Health).
- For SDGs 3.7, 3.9, 3.b and 3.c, the recommendation is to work on better data collection for monitoring these targets (Public Health & Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).



## 2.4 SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
4.1	1	94 %	↑	✗
4.2	1	98 %	→	
4.3	1	100 %		✓
4.4	1	100 %		✓
4.5	2	100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
4.6	4	0 %	↓	✗
		0 %	↓	✗
		0 %	↓	✗
		undetermined		
4.7	1	100 %		✓
4.a	1	100 %		✓
4.b	1	undetermined		
4.c	1	undetermined		

### Recommendation for SDG 4:

- For SDG targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7 and 4.a, the targets have been met. For SDG targets 4.3 and 4.5, this does not mean that there are no longer social barriers that could prevent equal access which is retained as a focus area. For SDG target 4.4, it will be important to follow up how these measures translate into the entrepreneurial spirit of pupils, students and trainees and how this affects positive study choices in preparation for employment and the professional world (Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Diversity).
- For SDG target 4.7, it remains important to monitor how these measures translate into the knowledge and skills of all learners (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).
- For SDG target 4.2, the target has not been achieved, but is stagnant and is considered met.
- For SDG targets 4.1 and 4.6, an additional effort is needed, the recommendation is to focus on the already defined target for these SDG targets (Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Diversity).
- For SDG targets 4.b and 4.c, the recommendation is to work on better data collection for monitoring these targets (Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).



## 2.5 SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
5.1	1	100 %		
5.2	1	100 %		
5.3	1	100 %		
5.4	1	95 %	↑	
5.5	4	80 %	↑↑	×
		73 %	→	×
		100 %		✓
		49 %	↑	×
5.6	1	100 %		✓
5.a	-	5.1		
5.b	2	74 %	↑	×
		37 %	↑	×
5.c	-	5.1		

### Recommendation for SDG 5:

- Quite a few targets of SDG 5 were achieved (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 5.a and 5.c). It should be mentioned that these are often 'legally achieved' and that the social translation of this legislation still needs attention (Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Diversity & Public Health & Economy).
- Additional attention is still needed for SDG targets 5.4, 5.5 and 5.b, especially for a number of sub-targets moving in the negative direction (Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Diversity & Social Affairs).



## 2.6 SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
6.1	1	100 %		✓
6.2	1	100 %		✓
6.3	2	55 %	↑	✗
		7 %	↑	✗
6.4	2	100 %		✓
		0 %	→	
6.5	1	100 %		✓
6.6	-	6.3		
6.a	-	17.2, 17.9		
6.b	-	17.2, 17.9		

### Recommendation for SDG 6:

- For SDG targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.5 are met. 6.1 and 6.2 are considered met, there is a very small remaining fraction that will most likely never reach the target (Public Health & Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).
- For 6.3 (and therefore also 6.6), very large efforts are still needed to reach the target, by 2030 the targets will not be met (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).
- For 6.4, annual follow-up is necessary (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development)





## 2.7 SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
7.1	4	100 %		✓
		0 %	↓	✗
		95 %	→	✗
		0 %	→	✗
-	7.2			
7.2	1	79 %	↑	✓
7.3	3	15 %	→	✗
		66 %	→	✗
		100 %		✓
7.a	4	100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
-	4.b			
7.b	1	100 %		✓
	-	7.a		

### Recommendation for SDG 7:

- For SDG targets 7.1 and 7.3, additional effort is needed, so recommendation is to focus on the already defined targets for these SDG targets. As the nuclear phase-out is likely to increase this energy dependency, it is important to focus more on alternative supplies, whether in Belgium itself or not (SDG 7.2) (Energy & North Sea).
- For SDG target 7.2, the target has not yet been reached, but the path seems on track by 2030 (Energy & North Sea).
- For SDG targets 7.a and 7.b, the targets have been achieved (Foreign Affairs, European cities and foreign trade & International solidarity).



## 2.8 SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
8.1	1	100 %		
8.2	1	100 %		
8.3	-	8.2, 8.5, 9.5, 8.10		
8.4	-	12.1, 12.2		
8.5	1	90 %	↑	✗
8.6	1	90 %	↑	✓
8.7	3	100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		17 %	↑	✗
8.8	2	95 %	↑	✗
		100 %		✓
8.9	1	0 %		
8.10	1	100 %		✓
8.a	1	100 %		✓
8.b	1	100 %		✓

### Recommendation for SDG 8:

- SDG targets 8.1, 8.2, 8.10, 8.a and 8.b have been achieved. 8.1, 8.2 are to be followed up annually (Economy & Work & Finance, Taxation and Anti-Fraud & Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity)).
- SDG targets 8.5 and 8.6 are moving in the right direction, for 8.5, additional efforts are needed to reach the target by 2030. For 8.6, the target seems achievable in the short term (work).
- For 8.7, the targets are legally met but continued attention is needed on compliance (Justice).
- For 8.8, annual follow-up is required (Work).



## 2.9 SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
9.1	3	100 %		✓
		67 %	↓	✗
		60 %	↓	✗
9.2	-	9.4-9.a-b		
9.3	-	9.a-b		
9.4	-	6.4		
		12.2		
		1	↑	✗
9.5	1	100 %		✓
9.a	-	17.2-5, 17.6-9		
9.b	-	17.6-8		
9.c	1	100 %		✓

### Recommendation for SDG 9:

- On SDG 9, a lot of targets are more applicable to developing countries.
- SDG targets 9.5 and 9.c have been achieved, annual follow-up remains necessary (Science policy & Foreign Affairs, European cities and foreign trade & International solidarity)
- For 9.1 and 9.4, a lot of additional efforts are still needed to achieve the targets (Mobility & Economy).



## 2.10 SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
<b>10.1</b>	1	100 %		✓
<b>10.2</b>	2	100 %		✓
	-	1.2		
<b>10.3</b>	1	100 %		✓
	-	1.3		
	1	0 %		
<b>10.4</b>	3	100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
<b>10.5</b>	1	100 %		✓
<b>10.6</b>	-	16.8		
<b>10.7</b>	3	100 %		✓
		0 %		✓
		75 %		
<b>10.a</b>	1	100 %		✓
<b>10.b</b>	-	17.2-3		
<b>10.c</b>	1	undetermined		

### Recommendation for SDG 10:

- For SDG targets 10.1, 10.4, 10.5 and 10.a, the targets have been achieved. For target 10.4, continued vigilance is needed (Social inclusion and poverty reduction & Finance, Taxation and Anti-Fraud).
- SDG target 10.2 has been partially achieved. We additionally refer to SDG target 1.2 (Social inclusion and poverty reduction).
- SDG target 10.3 has been partially achieved. We additionally refer to SDG target 1.3 which is as good as achieved. However, there is no sustainable decrease in the depth of poverty risk (Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities, Diversity & Social Inclusion and Poverty Alleviation).
- SDG 10.7 has been partially achieved. Once the European migration pact is implemented, the score here will increase. However, having regulations in place is not enough, progress still needs to be made practically as well (Asylum & Migration).
- For SDG targets 10.6 and 10.b, we refer to other targets.
- The result for SDG target 10.c is undetermined. We recommend collecting more data (Finance, Taxation and Anti-Fraud).



## 2.11 SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
11.1	3	86 %	↑	✗
		0 %	→	✗
		100 %		✓
11.2	-	9.1		
		9.1		
		3	↑	✗
11.3	-	0 %	↑	✗
		100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
11.4	1	17.9-18		✓
11.5	-	100 %		✓
11.6	5	1.5		
		62 %	↑	✗
		96 %	↑	✓
		86 %	↑	✗
		100 %		✓
11.7	3	0 %	→	✗
		99 %	→	✗
		undetermined		
11.a	1	100 %		✓
11.b	-	1.5, 10.2, 12.2, 13.1-2		
11.c	-	17.2, 17.9		

### Recommendation for SDG 11:

- For SDG targets 11.1, 11.2, 11.5, 11.6 and 11.7, an additional effort is needed (Mobility & Social Affairs & Metropolitan Policy).
- For SDG target 11.4, participation in UNESCO is considered fulfilled, but recommendation would be to also make a financial contribution as in the past (Mobility & Social Affairs & Metropolitan Policy).
- SDG target 11.a has been fully met.



## 2.12 SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
12.1	1	100 %		✓
		0 %	→	✗
12.2	4	100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
12.3	3	100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
		14 %	↕	✗
12.4	2	0 %	↕	✗
		100 %		✓
12.5	-	11.6		
12.6	1	100 %		✓
12.7	2	100 %		✓
		0 %	→	✗
12.8	-	4.7		
12.a	-	7.b, 17.6-8		
12.b	-	8.9		
12.c	2	100 %		✓
		0 %	→	✗

### Recommendation for SDG 12:

- For SDG targets 12.4, 12.7 and 12.c, additional effort is needed (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development & Economy & (Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).
- For SDG target 12.3, no data was found for 1 target so recommendation is to collect data for these targets (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development & Economy).



## 2.13 SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
<b>13.1</b>	-	1.5		
	1	100 %		✓
<b>13.2</b>	2	100 %		✓
		24 %	↑	✗
<b>13.3</b>	-	4.7		
	1	undetermined		
<b>13.a</b>	-	7.a		
<b>13.b</b>	-	7.a		
	-	7.a		
	1	100 %		✓

### Recommendation for SDG 13:

- For SDG targets 13.1 and 13.2, additional effort is still needed, so recommendation is to focus on the already defined targets for these SDG targets ((Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).
- For SDG targets 13.a and b, this is fulfilled for the time being, the recommendation is to continue to follow up annually as well as to subscribe to a new target for the international financial climate contribution until 2030 (Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).



## 2.14 SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
<b>14.1</b>	6	100 %		✓
		undetermined		
		undetermined		
		undetermined		
		undetermined		
<b>14.2</b>	1	100 %		✓
<b>14.3</b>	1	undetermined		
<b>14.4</b>	1	14 %		✗
<b>14.5</b>	1	100 %		✓
<b>14.6</b>	1	100 %		✓
<b>14.7</b>	1	45 %	↑	✓
<b>14.a</b>	1	undetermined		
<b>14.b</b>	1	100 %		✓
<b>14.c</b>	1	100 %		✓

### Recommendation for SDG 14:

- For SDG targets 14.2, 14.5, 14.6, 14.b and 14.c, the targets have been met. For SDG target 14.7, the aquaculture-related target is likely to be met by 2030 (North Sea & Foreign Affairs, European Cities & Foreign Trade & International Solidarity & Agriculture/Safety Food Chain).
- For SDG target 14.1, no statement could be made on the majority of targets. Recommendation to systematically count evolution available online (North Sea).
- For the SDG target 14.4, we observe strong fluctuations. Additional policies are needed to achieve the target in 2030. The indicator itself can be improved by including a larger number of fish species in the assessments (North Sea).
- For SDG targets 14.3 and 14.a, the targets have not been met. Policy on these targets urgently needs to be addressed (North Sea & Science Policy).





## 2.15 SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
15.1	1	42 %	→	✗
15.2	4	0 %	↓	✗
		0 %	↓	✗
		0 %	↓	✗
		undetermined		
15.3	3	0 %		✗
		undetermined		
		undetermined		
15.4	-	17.9		
15.5	2	0 %	↓	✗
		undetermined		
15.6	1	100 %		✓
15.7	1	100 %		✓
15.8	1	100 %		✓
15.9	2	100 %		✓
		100 %		✓
15.a	1	undetermined		
15.b	1	0 %		✗
15.c	-	15.7, 17.9		

### Recommendation for SDG 15:

- For SDG targets 15.6, 15.7, 15.8 and 15.9, the objectives have been achieved. Note that targets in each case refer to the existence of policy frameworks or legislation rather than concrete results in terms of biodiversity (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).
- For SDG targets 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.a and 15.b, the achievement of the target is at 0% or 'undetermined' (no data available) (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development & Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).
- SDG target 15.1 is partially achieved but barely evolving. This indicates that additional policies to protect biodiversity are necessary. Depending on the concrete interpretation, the implementation of the recently adopted Nature Restoration Act could provide the necessary tools for this (Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development).
- SDG target 15.4 is not relevant for Belgium. Regarding international commitments, we refer here to SDG target 17.9. Also for SDG target 15.c, we refer to other SDG targets, i.e. 15.7 and 17.9 (Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).



## 2.16 SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



	Objectifs	Etat de la situation (%)	Evolution	2030
17.1	1	100 %		
17.2	2	65 %	↓	✗
		60 %	↓	✗
17.3	1	100 %		✓
17.4	1	100 %		✓
17.5	1	100 %		✓
17.6	1	qualitative		
17.7	1	qualitative		
17.8	1	qualitative		
17.9	1	qualitative		
17.10	1	qualitative	↑	
17.11	2	0 %	↑	
		0 %	→	
17.12	1	qualitative		
17.13	1	0 %	↓	✗
17.14	1	qualitative		
17.15	1	indéterminé		
17.16	1	100 %		
17.17	1	100 %		
17.18	1	100 %		
17.19	1	100 %		

### Recommendation for SDG 16:

- SDG targets 16.2, 16.9, 16.a and 16.b. 16.2 is legally achieved and requires continued attention (Justice & Home Affairs & Foreign Affairs, European Cities & Foreign Trade & International Solidarity)).
- For 16.1, 16.4, 16.7 and 16.10, some targets are achieved but those not achieved are going in the wrong direction (Home Affairs & Justice & Persons with Disabilities).
- For SDG targets 16.3 and 16.5, the values are going in the wrong direction of the targets, additional efforts will be necessary (Justice).
- SDG target 16.6 can be viewed annually but will need to be high on the political agenda to keep the debt burden manageable (Institutional Reforms).
- For 16.8, the picture is not clear which makes it impossible to make a statement at present (Foreign Affairs, European Cities and Foreign Trade & International Solidarity).



## 2.17 SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



	Goals	Current situation	Evolution	2030
17.1	1	100 %		
17.2	2	65 %	↓	✗
		60 %	↓	✗
17.3	1	100 %		✓
17.4	1	100 %		✓
17.5	1	100 %		✓
17.6	1	kwalitatief		
17.7	1	kwalitatief		
17.8	1	kwalitatief		
17.9	1	kwalitatief		
17.10	1	kwalitatief	↑	
17.11	2	0 %	↑	
		0 %	→	
17.12	1	kwalitatief		
17.13	1	0 %	↓	✗
17.14	1	kwalitatief		
17.15	1	onbepaald		
17.16	1	100 %		
17.17	1	100 %		
17.18	1	100 %		
17.19	1	100 %		

### Recommendation for SDG 17:

- SDG targets 17.2, 17.11 and 17.13 still require a lot of additional efforts to achieve (policy areas International Solidarity, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Finance & Taxation)
- SDG targets 17.1, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.10, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19 are considered achieved based on initiatives taken, but more can be done all the time. These indicators need continuous monitoring (policy areas International Solidarity, Foreign Affairs & Trade)
- For SDG targets 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.12, 17.14, only a qualitative assessment can be made. It is almost impossible to make conclusive statements on this, and the target will require continuous monitoring (International solidarity, Foreign Affairs & Trade, Home Affairs for 17.14).
- No statement can be made for SDG target 17.15 (Foreign Affairs & Trade)



### 3. Main findings spillover analysis

#### BELGIUM'S PERFORMANCE ON SPILLOVERS

The [SDSN SDG Spillover Index](#) evaluates national performance on a spectrum spanning from 0 to 100 based on ecological, social, financial, and security spill-over dimensions, each linked to a number of parameters (see figure 4 below). In 2023, Belgium received a spillover score of 50.57 out of 100, ranking 160th out of 166 countries. In 2024, Belgium's score slightly decreased to 49.5. Especially compared to other OECD countries who score with an average of 69,9, Belgium scores below average. It thus faces major challenges in reducing negative spillovers compared to other OECD countries. This issue is also prevalent in surrounding countries, and there is a growing awareness and need for more active policy engagement.

Figure 3: SDSN Spillover index, comparative situation for Belgium, the Sustainable Development Report 2023

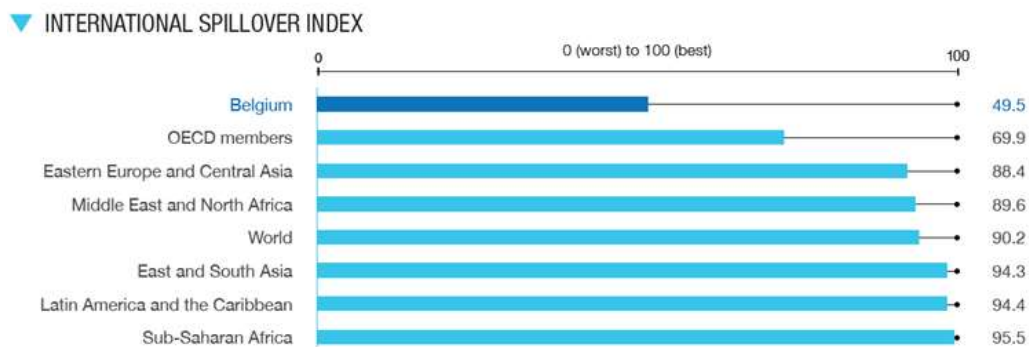


Figure 4: Belgian scoring on specific types of spill-over effects



#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS EMBODIED IN TRADE

Belgium faces several critical spillover effects embodied in trade that require targeted policies and actions from federal public services and policy domains.

**Export of hazardous pesticides & pesticides deemed hazardous to human health** - FPS Public Health can strengthen regulations and enforcement on pesticide exports

**Scarce water consumption vs. renewable water resources** - FPS Environment can implement stricter water usage policies, promote water-saving technologies, and support international cooperation on sustainable water management

**Victims of modern slavery & forced labor** - FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue can enhance labour rights inspections, enforce anti-slavery laws, and promote ethical labour practices in trade agreements



**SO2 emissions embodied in imports & emissions of SO2 in goods and services** - FPS Public Health can set stricter emission standards and incentivise cleaner production technologies

**Nitrogen emissions embodied in imports & emissions of ammonia, nitrogen oxides, nitrous oxide & reactive nitrogen** - FPS Environment can implement policies to reduce nitrogen emissions

**Export of plastic waste & amount of plastic waste exported** - FPS Environment and FPS Economy can promote circular economy initiatives, improve waste management practices, and regulate plastic waste exports more strictly

**CO2 emissions embodied in imports & emissions in goods and services** - FPS Environment can enforce carbon footprint reduction measures, support renewable energy adoption, and integrate CO2 reduction targets in trade policies

**Marine biodiversity threats embodied in imports** - FPS Environment and Public Health can enforce stricter regulations on marine biodiversity protection, promote sustainable fishing practices, and limit the import of goods threatening marine species

**Terrestrial & freshwater biodiversity threats embodied in imports** - The FPS Environment can enhance regulations to protect biodiversity, support conservation initiatives, and encourage the import of sustainably sourced goods

## ECONOMY & FINANCE

Belgium faces significant public finance-related spillover effects that require focused policies and actions from federal public services and policy domains.

- ▶ **Amount of official development assistance as a share of gross national income** - FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Development Cooperation can work to increase Belgium's ODA, aligning it with the UN target of 0,7% to GNI
- ▶ **Tax haven** - FPS Finance can implement stricter regulations to prevent tax evasion and aggressive tax planning.
- ▶ **A jurisdiction's potential to poach the tax base of others** - The FPS Finance can advocate for and adopt global standards that limit harmful tax practices.
- ▶ **Financial secrecy score** - The FPS Finance can enhance transparency in financial transactions by enforcing stricter reporting requirements and sharing financial information with international tax authorities.
- ▶ **Shifted profits multinationals** - The FPS Finance can work to prevent profit shifting by multinational corporations through robust transfer pricing regulations and participation in international tax reforms

According to the spillover index, Belgium has made progress in mitigating fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports and the export of major conventional weapons.

The Global Commons Stewardship Index (GCSI) provides more insights on countries' domestic and spillover impacts on global commons. It rates Belgium under 'extreme impact' for overall negative impacts on the global commons, with particular challenges on the domains of:

- ▶ Terrestrial biodiversity loss – land use related, deforestation
- ▶ Nutrient cycles – nitrogen, phosphorous;
- ▶ Water cycles – water consumption, water stress

## RELEVANT WORK BY STATBEL AND THE FEDERAL PLANNING BUREAU

STATBEL has been mapping relevant data related to spillovers, such as on greenhouse gases, production of electricity, number of (electric) cars, meat consumption, pesticides, oil spills, fishery at sea, nitrate in the river and soil, corruption, and international aid. This provides opportunities to create a set of comprehensive indicators specific to Belgium to monitor the main spillover effects, based on



- ▶ a comprehensive categorisation of relevant indicators according to the economic, environmental, and social spillover dimensions.
- ▶ develop composite indices for each dimension through normalization and aggregation techniques
- ▶ multiply existing indicators by factors reflecting their broader impacts, e.g. Lifecycle analysis (LCA), Input-output analysis, Expert elicitation
- ▶ Create a monitoring framework that continuously integrates new data from STATBEL and other sources, that feeds into the policy cycles

The Federal Planning Bureau presents the production-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (regional air accounts) and the carbon footprint (input-output model) of the three Belgian regions. Belgium can use the insights from this study to delve deeper into the 'consumption perspective' by adopting several strategic actions to better measure and manage potential spillover effects.

### MECHANISM OF POLICY COHERENCE FOR (SUSTAINABLE) DEVELOPMENT IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

As explained, spillovers are intrinsically linked to the principle of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) (SDG 17.14). Integrating the principle into the sustainable development strategies should ensure that possible negative spillovers on third (developing) countries are taken into account in the implementation of such strategies.

On paper, the PCSD is complementary to and encapsulates the longstanding and legally enshrined principle of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). In subsequent Federal Plans for Sustainable Development (FPSD), the importance of policy coherence for development (PCD) and sustainable development (PCSD) was stressed, and concrete actions and mechanisms were described to ensure this, both politically and administratively.

The third FPSD announced the establishment of a new working group (WG) on policy coherence within the ICDO, with the aim to also coordinate the monitoring of the PCD principle, as a central part of the PCSD-principle. Under responsibility of Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD) this WG should liaise with different departmental focal points as well as with the Advisory Council for Policy Coherence in Development to improve coordinated application of the mentioned coherency principles. However, such a WG is currently not formally in place.

We conclude that these mechanisms are underutilised and lack robust policy support, making it difficult to enforce and evaluate policy coherence in the implementation of the FPSD. The different bodies established to guard over this principle lack the capacity and competences to enforce PC(S)D to counter spillovers. A number of clear reasons become apparent for this:

- ▶ PCD is still considered functionally separated from PCSD, even though the FPSD recognises both are intrinsically linked. This makes that inputs and efforts from the ABCO (Advisory Council for Policy Coherence in Development) and DGD on this front are not fully understood or captured in policy processes.
- ▶ There is a lack of systemic data and information gathering or comprehensive monitoring methodologies capable of providing an overarching view of (potential) spillovers in context of PCSD. E.g. The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) tool is not consistently applied, particularly in light of PCD as necessary information and resources are lacking.
- ▶ The policy positioning of PCSD and spillovers does not serve its consistent application. It remains too much the individual concern of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD), whereas it can only be effectively addressed by all FOD/SPFs for their policy domains. Furthermore, thematic expertise on PCSD is dispersed throughout the organisation, and the formal mechanisms to follow-up and coordinate with relevant other policy entities are lacking.



- ▶ Enabel, the Belgian development agency, plays a crucial role in implementing sustainable development policies. While its focus is on partner countries, aligning its efforts with domestic policies can help address spillover effects.

### STRUCTURAL DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING

With increasing international attention and awareness of spillovers and the need to obtain a better view and understanding of them in context of achieving the SDGs in a coherent way, efforts have been undertaken at both the European and national levels. These efforts include experimenting with different approaches and measurements for different types of spillovers. A standardised approach however is still lacking.

The main evolution on this front is a shift from production-based to a consumption-based approach. 'Production-based' means, for example, direct observation of CO2 emissions as they are generated, while 'consumption-based' refers to, for example, CO2 emissions that are generated throughout the supply chain and are hence 'embedded' in the products and services consumed. These CO2 emissions are generated before the products are consumed, in different locations, and scattered across supply chains that may involve many countries. This approach is also adopted in the SDSN Spillover Index.

We highlight three initiatives in the table below:

<p><a href="#">Eurostat work on spillover indicators &amp; 'footprint' indexes</a></p>	<p>Refinement of the consumption-based approach into different model-based footprint measurements:</p> <p><b>Material footprint</b> quantifying the worldwide demand for material extraction (biomass, metal ores, non-metallic minerals and fossil energy materials/carriers) triggered by consumption and investment by EU households, governments and businesses. Calculated by converting the weight of processed goods traded internationally into the corresponding raw material extractions they would have required - the so-called Raw Material Equivalents (RME).</p> <p><b>Carbon footprint</b> based on the air emission accounts, that estimate the volume of emissions 'avoided' on the EU territory through imports, i.e. hypothetical emissions that would have taken place if the imported goods had been produced in the EU, considered an approximation of the emissions occurring in the rest of the world</p> <p><b>Air pollution footprint</b> based on 'real' sulphur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from MRIO data, estimating the embedded air pollution in the production of EU-imports</p>
<p><a href="#">An analysis of Germany's international spillovers</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A <b>geographic and sectoral disaggregation of GHG emissions</b> from German (import) consumption, based on the <b>Multi Regional Input Output (MRIO) tables</b>, allowing to identify the indirect impacts of international exchanges across circa 120 different economic sectors and the countries where the spillover effects occur</li> <li>▶ Germany integrates the consumption-based indicator <i>Global environmental impact by private household consumption</i> into its national SDG indicator set, tracking the German household consumption footprint in terms of 1) use of raw materials 2) energy consumption and 3) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Aim to broaden this to imported deforestation or forced labor within supply chains</li> </ul>
<p>Dutch studies on: <a href="#">International impact of the Dutch circular transition</a> <a href="#">External implications of the Dutch circular transition</a></p>	<p>Applies consumption-based footprint approach to gain insight into strong linkages of the Dutch economy with global trade in raw materials and resources &amp; discarded products and waste.</p> <p>It calculates that the <b>Dutch consumption-related footprints for GHG-emissions and land use</b>, and maps the <b>Dutch exports of waste</b> (plastics, minerals from the construction sector and waste from the food industry) and <b>discarded products</b> (textiles and electronic equipment).</p> <p>It finds e.g. that around 10% of all Dutch discarded electrical and electronic equipment in 2018 was exported for re-use, mostly to Eastern EU Member States and Western Africa. Around 35% of post-consumer textiles was exported, largely ending up in African countries where it is reused or discarded</p>



	<p>The report further highlights the potential positive and negative implications of increasing demand for critical &amp; strategic raw materials (cobalt, lithium, also bioresources) from LMICs and the trade/export of reusable goods and waste. Economically, the circular transition potentially leads to employment losses in current mining and manufacturing industries, but also to growing demand for repair/remanufacturing, waste collection, sorting and recycling and renewable resources. However, this is also associated with unsafe working conditions, as handling e-waste and discarded textiles often involve hazardous and toxic substances that can be released into the air, water and soil if not dismantled and recycled properly (in Western Africa only 0.4% of the e-waste generated domestically in 2018 was managed in an environmentally sound manner).</p> <p>The reports emphasise traceability and due diligence to encourage more sustainable practices in supply chains.</p>
--	---





## 4. Recommendations

### 4.1 Recommendations gap analysis for policy areas

Despite all the efforts already made and the objectives already achieved, additional efforts are still needed to achieve several important goals. Below, we give an overview of the objectives that require extra attention and are considered a priority, by policy area.

This selection was made based on objectives that:

- are moving in the wrong direction, or
- are moving in the right direction but not fast enough to meet the target in 2030 (based on a linear trend), or
- could have major social impact if they deteriorate or are not met.

On this basis, further study work is needed to follow up within the FPSs and policy areas to identify the reasons for not reaching the target and what policy measures are needed to turn the tide or accelerate the trend and achieve the targets. For an overview of all targets per policy domain, please refer to the overview in excel.

#### Foreign Affairs, European affairs and foreign trade & International solidarity

- SDG 17.2 mentions that 0.7% of GNI should be spent on ODA by 2030, and 50% development aid should go to least developed countries. These targets are not met until 2022, nor do they show any structural favourable evolution. More efforts are therefore needed in this area from the foreign affairs & international solidarity policy area
- 'SDG 17.11 Significantly increase developing countries' exports, with the aim of doubling the LDCs' share of global exports.' This share remains between 2% and 2.5% for Belgium since 2014, and thus also requires additional effort and action to evolve favourably by 2030
- 'SDG 17.14 Strengthen policy coherence for sustainable development' the mechanisms and structures are in place but will also require stronger functional implementation.

#### Home affairs - Justice

- 'SDG 16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related mortality rates globally' and in particular the goal "Feelings of security must rise", this goal goes in the wrong direction.
- 'SDG 16.5. Sustainably eliminate corruption and bribery in all its forms' and in particular "End corruption and bribery (based on Europe Sustainable Development report 2020, this corresponds to a value of 88.6 on the "Corruption perception index") is moving in the wrong direction, vigilance is needed.
- 'SDG 16.10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, according to national laws and international agreements' and in particular "Press freedom reaches minimum 90 on Press Freedom Index" has fallen sharply in recent years, additional vigilance is needed.

#### Energy - Economy

- 'Ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030' requires an additional effort. As the nuclear exit is likely to cause this energy dependency to increase, it is important to put more effort into alternative supplies, whether in Belgium itself or not. Monitor that energy poverty will not increase.
- 'SDG 7.3. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030' and, in particular, "energy productivity should reach 11.1 euros per kilogram of oil equivalent by 2030 in Belgium" are moving very slowly and well short of the target.



## Work - Economy

- 'SDG 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in line with national conditions' is now met but needs continuous attention to maintain prosperity.
- 'SDG 8.5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, as well as equal pay for work of equal value' and, in particular, the target "Target an employment rate of 80%" is moving in the right direction but insufficient to meet the target.

## Finance, taxation and anti-fraud - Economy

- 'SDG 16.6. Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels' and in particular "Maximum fiscal deficit of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP)" requires additional attention to sustain prosperity.

## Gender equality, Equal opportunities, Diversity - Persons with disabilities - Social affairs

- 'SDG 5.2. Eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, including on trafficking in women and sexual and other types of exploitation' is legally met but needs continued attention.
- 'SDG 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and for equal leadership opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life' needs sustained attention.
- 'SDG 5.b. Increase the use of innovative technology, in particular information and communication technology, to achieve women's empowerment' and, in particular, the targets 'There is a gender balance in working ICT specialists' and 'By 2030, 80% of people aged 16-74 have basic digital skills.' require extra attention.
- 'SDG 4.6. Ensure by 2030 that all youth and a large number of adults, both men and women, are literate and numerate' evolves in the wrong direction and requires additional attention, this is a regional competence.
- 'SDG 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels' and in particular '3% of those employed in federal office have disabilities' evolves in the wrong direction and needs additional attention.

## Social inclusion and poverty reduction - Social Affairs

- 'SDG 1.2. By 2030, reduce the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions, by at least half has a downward trend' but requires additional attention to be achieved by 2030.
- 'SDG 10.3. Ensure equal opportunities and eliminate inequalities, including by removing discriminatory laws, policies and practices and by promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard' and, in particular, "The rate of depth of poverty risk should fall." requires extra attention.

## Climate, Environment, Green Deal and Sustainable Development - North Sea

- 'SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts' as a whole requires additional attention and can be considered an absolute priority.
- 'SDG 2.4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that can increase productivity and production, help sustain ecosystems, increase adaptive capacity in combating climate change, extreme weather events, drought, floods and other disasters, and progressively improve land and soil quality' requires additional attention but is primarily a regional competence.
- 'SDG 2.5. By 2020, conserve the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated crops and bred and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, including through seed and plant banks that are properly managed and



diversified at the national, regional and international levels; and promote access to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed' requires additional attention but is primarily a regional competence.

- 'SDG 6.3. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, halting the discharge of hazardous chemicals and materials, and minimizing their emissions while also halving the share of untreated wastewater and significantly increasing recycling and safe reuse globally' and in particular 'Good water quality for all types of water: groundwater and rivers' requires additional attention but is mainly a regional competence.
- 'SDG 11.6. Reduce the adverse environmental impact of cities per capita by 2030, including by paying particular attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management' requires continued additional attention but is primarily a regional competence.
- 'SDG 14. Conserve and make sustainable use of the oceans, seas and maritime resources' could benefit overall from better data collection.
- 'SDG 15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation globally in a sustainable manner' is going in the wrong direction and needs additional attention.

### Mobility

- 'SDG 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and cross-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, emphasising affordable and equitable access for all' and in particular 'The modal share of individual transport modes should reach 50% by 2050, in 2030 67.6% (or 32.6% by bus or train)' and "The modal share of road transport should be 50% in 2050, 63.7% in 2030 (37.3% rail or inland waterway)" are moving in the wrong direction and require additional attention.

### Public Health

- 'SDG 2.2. Eliminate all forms of unhealthy diets by 2030, including meeting internationally agreed targets on growth retardation and underweight in children under 5 by 2025; and also meeting the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons' needs additional efforts on preventing obesity and anaemia in women of reproductive age: both are worsening instead of improving. In terms of anaemia in women of reproductive age, the figures also need to be updated. Regarding malnutrition in the elderly, figures should be systematically maintained.
- 'SDG 3.3. End epidemics such as AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, as well as combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases by 2030' requires additional efforts to achieve the goals.
- 'SDG 3.4. By 2030, reduce premature mortality linked to non-communicable diseases by one-third through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being' and in particular to achieve the target "By 2030, premature deaths from chronic diseases should not exceed 68.6 per 100,000 population under 65 years of age" requires sustained efforts. This is moving in the right direction and can be achieved by 2030 betting on prevention is essential.
- 'SDG 3.5. Strengthen prevention and treatment of abuse of addictive substances, including drug use and the harmful use of alcohol' requires additional efforts. Efforts should be made to change norms and raise awareness
- 'SDG 3.7. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2030, including family planning, information and education services, and for integrating reproductive health into national strategies and programmes' requires additional efforts also towards data collection.



## 4.2 Recommendations Spillover analysis

we distinguish two blocks of recommendations to strengthen the monitoring and management of spillovers. The first one involves **developing new institutional indicators** that consider new challenges such as consumption-based indicators. The second block are recommendations linked to adopting **robust monitoring and policy coherence mechanisms**.

### DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE INDICATORS TO MEASURE SPILLOVER EFFECTS

Action: Create a set of comprehensive indicators specific to Belgium to monitor the main spillover effects. These indicators should cover economic, environmental, and social dimensions, including natural capital and resource use.

Benefit: Provides a detailed and accurate picture of how Belgium's actions affect global sustainability and addresses gaps in natural capital accounting.

#### A. Integrate negative spillovers for all environmental indicators by using consumption-based, in addition to production-based, indicators for GHG emissions

We recommend that the federal government adopts a consumption-based approach (in addition to production-based) to develop indicators, carry out analyses, and gain insight into its spillovers. Consumption- or supply chain based (modelled) 'footprint' indexes, both from an import but also export perspective, specified by sector or product group, could also provide relevant insights for the Belgian federal government. The international examples mentioned can serve as models for this.

Belgium could adopt a holistic approach by clustering SDSN SDG transformations (such as the energy transition, circular economy) and systematically identifying potential spillover effects across various domains. This approach involves proactively integrating spillover considerations into policies and development initiatives to mitigate negative impacts on third countries.

We also recommend looking into the Dutch practice of thoroughly analysing the international effects of shifts in supply chains of raw (strategic) materials and resources, and flows of reusable goods and waste (resource & circular transition).

Ideally all such efforts are not limited to each country individually, but include coordination on international level, for instance through Eurostat or other international networks of planning agencies.

Furthermore, we recommend involving both DGD and Enabel in these efforts, as these are the entities with most experience and direct insight into the effects of Belgian (and EU) policies on partner countries. Enabel's recent efforts to further modernise and refine its evaluation practices and methods, focussing on intended as well as unintended effects of their actions could provide highly relevant insight for the monitoring and evaluation of the FPSD.

#### B. Ensure that disaggregation is possible, as this is key to informing actionable policy options and to responding to societal concerns on multidimensional inequality.

By developing gap indicators that highlight differences among different demographics (such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and urban/rural location) as well as sectors and factors of production (such as labor and capital), policymakers can better understand where inequalities exist and tailor interventions accordingly.

#### C. Increase the frequency of publication and international comparability of indicators.

Through some strategic approaches:

- ▶ Engage proactively in EU policy forums
- ▶ Advocate for consistency and compatibility
- ▶ Demonstrate leadership and best practices



- ▶ Form alliances and coalitions
- ▶ Promote transparency and accountability

### STRENGTHENING POLICY COHERENCE FOR (SUSTAINABLE) DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Action: Set up a centralized system within the Federal government to coordinate and streamline the monitoring of spillover effects.
- ▶ Benefit: Enhances coherence and efficiency in data collection and analysis, and addresses the inadequacies in current nature data and accounting systems.

#### **A. Continue to collaborate with the national and international community to ensure the coherence of indicators, through UN SDG processes dedicated to the improvement of data and other relevant processes.**

Strengthen the application of the principle of Policy Coherence of (Sustainable) Development, with renewed emphasis on the international coherence next to internal coherence. This implies instating the ICSD working group on PCSD, with a clear role for DGD to liaise with relevant antenna at each Federal public service (FPS) to coordinate the way this is taken into account into policy processes. The PCSD can thus function as a leverage for each policy domain to contribute to (international) sustainable development goals, and truly make this a joint responsibility and effort, beyond the strict realm of development cooperation.

To bolster policy coherence for sustainable development within the federal government, it is crucial to enhance the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process. Modernisation should integrate the RIA more extensively into policy formulation processes, positioning it as an ex ante tool. This evolution requires comprehensive guidelines for each RIA question, incorporating data, evidence, and examples. Additionally, obligatory discussions on the RIA's findings within interdepartmental working groups would ensure comprehensive consideration across governmental bodies. Furthermore, there is a general need for additional capacity (knowledge and resources) within the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD) and across the federal government to execute this effectively.

To effectively integrate the principle of policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) and address potential negative spillovers on third countries, it is essential to enhance international cooperation, particularly at the EU level. The FPS Foreign Affairs should play a pivotal role in this effort by actively engaging in and promoting collaboration with European and international counterparts. Belgium should advocate for a stronger alignment of sustainable development strategies with EU policies to ensure that negative spillovers are systematically addressed.

#### **B. Test the policy and budget responsiveness of indicators in order to select indicators that can lead to concrete policy changes, to incentivise uptake by policymakers.**

we suggest a step-by-step approach to test the policy and budget responsiveness of indicators for measuring the spillover effects:

**Establish pilot projects** to test the responsiveness of policymakers for different indicators.

**Conduct impact assessments** to evaluate the effectiveness of indicators in influencing policy changes.

**Engage stakeholders** in the process of selecting and refining indicators.

**Link indicators to performance metrics:** used for evaluating government programs and initiatives.

**Promote transparency** in how indicators are chosen, monitored, and reported

