



Strengthening Government Capacities for Strategic Policy Planning and Foresight

EUROPEAN
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
WEEK
30-31 SEPTEMBER

28-29 SEPTEMBER 2020 - 09:00-13:00

BACKGROUND

This is the third workshop being held in Malta on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development since November 2019 within the framework of the project led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) funded by the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Programme (DG REFORM) to support the Maltese Government in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan.

In particular, in line with the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and the OECD Policy Framework on Sound Public Governance, this project will help to strengthen a coherent policy formulation process and overcome administrative silos to design cross-cutting, multi-dimensional and coherent policy solutions to the multi-faceted challenges inherent to the 2030 Agenda.

As Malta moves towards recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and is programming the EU Next Generation funds as well as shifting towards the integration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the EU Semester, current policy decisions will set the path for the decades to come. Policy coordination, strategic planning and foresight are therefore of utmost importance.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Permanent Secretaries and Sustainable Development Focal Points.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The aim of this workshop is to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogues, foresight and strategic planning tools which contribute to:

- Strengthening Government's capacities to address synergies, manage policy trade-offs and avoid negative spill overs when formulating public policies;
- Generate a shared understanding of potential future scenarios and greater ownership of the contents of the Sustainable Development Strategy;
- Improve processes for mid-term strategic planning by ensuring policy integration when translating long-term strategies into mid-term sectoral strategies with operational objectives; and
 - Strengthening capacities to translate mid-term strategies into cross-sectoral key performance indicators, annual actions and budget measures.

The workshop will contribute to the formulation of the forthcoming OECD institutional scan which will include recommendations for enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development as well as a review of specific policy tools and processes that are used in support of the SDGs. The institutional scan will be based on the information collected through previous workshops and a survey conducted in June 2020. Results of the meeting will contribute to the Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan that the Government is due to launch by mid-2021.



MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2020

09:00-09:30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30-10:00

Opening Remarks

Principal Permanent Secretary, Mr Mario Cutajar

Mr Christoph Klockenbring,
Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support
(DG REFORM), European Commission

OECD Representative

10:00-10:30

Strengthening the future viability of Malta's sustainable development aspirations and priorities

Presentation by Mr Joshua Polchar, Analyst and Mr Duncan Cass-Beggs,
Counsellor for Strategic Foresight, Office of the Secretary General, OECD

Presentation will focus on strategic foresight approaches for identifying various plausible future changes to the global and local context and explore what new opportunities or challenges these could create for achieving Malta's sustainable development aspirations and priorities.

10:30-10:45

Coffee Break

10:45-11:45

Participants' perspective

Participants will share their views on:

- Current Government priorities, including the principles enshrined in Malta's Sustainable Development Vision 2050, which might be subject to change in the post-COVID scenario.
- Potential innovative, 'no-regrets' strategies and actions that participants would like to see included in the new sustainable development framework in order to advance Malta's sustainable development aspirations and priorities in the context of uncertainty.

11:45-12:15

Conclusions and key takeaways for Day 2

12:15-13:00

Lunch



TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

09:00-09:30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30-10:00

Opening Remarks

Mr George Said,
Director Sustainable Development Directorate,
Office of the Prime Minister

Hon. Minister Carmelo Abela,
Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister
(Sustainable Development, Implementation
of the Electoral Manifesto and Social Dialogue)

10:00-10:45

OECD's approach to strategic planning

Presentation by Mr Adam Ostry,
Head of Unit Public Governance Reviews
and Partnerships, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

This session will introduce the tools that mainstream sustainable development when translating long-term strategies into mid-term plans, strategic objectives and cost their implementation.

TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

10:45-11:35

Strategic Planning: Simulation Exercise

Participants will be clustered into 3 groups around their sectoral expertise. Each group will work on one existing long-term Vision/ sectoral Strategy. Discussions will revolve around the following questions:

- From the selected sectoral strategy/vision, identify cross-ministerial operational objectives for the next 5 years that will contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Vision 2050. While formulating the objectives consider past evidence on policy results.
 - Identify concrete results and indicators to be achieved in the next 5 years and their contributions to the SDGs.
 - Link the objectives to the budget.
- Who are the key stakeholders that would have to be consulted during the formulation and implementation of the operational objectives?

OECD secretariat will accompany the simulation exercise via remote connection:

Ms Anna Piccinni, Mr Adam Ostry,
Mr Joshua Polchar and Mr Duncan Cass-Beggs

11:35-11:45

Coffee Break

11:45-12:15

Group rapporteurs will present the results of the simulation exercise

A short survey will be conducted to assess participants' views on the workshop.

12:15-12:30

Workshop conclusions and next steps

12:30-13:00

Lunch