



Concept Note VNR Lab

Innovative programs and public sector governance mechanisms in service of VNR processes: the Experience of Romania

Hosted by OISC/DESA and Government of Romania

Monday 17 July, 6 pm, UN HQ, Conference Room 11

Background

In July 2023, Romania is presenting its second VNR, developed under the coordination of the Department of Sustainable Development, a robust entity established at the center of the Government, under the Prime Minister's authority, with the aim of ensuring alignment of policies and measures for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Romania has created, through the National Sustainable Development Strategy, a multi-level governance framework and mechanisms to strengthen the policy coherence for sustainable development. Achievement of targets of the National Strategy is measured through the 291 national sustainable development indicators, 99 main and 192 additional.

For this current exercise, Romania reviewed all 17 SDGs in depth, presenting for each one of them the current status, policies and measures in the past 4 years, the crisis response to COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, support actions to increase the vulnerable groups' resilience according to the LNOB principle, challenges ahead, next steps and future priorities, examples of good practices from the local level, civil society and private sector.

VNR 2023 was carried out through a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participatory process, which mobilized various segments in order to accelerate the extended partnership for the successful implementation of all SDGs: representatives of national, regional and local authorities, business sector, unions, employers' associations, researchers and academia, youth, civil society, including vulnerable groups.

The VNR is complemented by a subnational report for the localization of SDGs, the children's report voicing the implementation of certain SDGs relevant to them, and also by a Youth Statement, through which they express their support for the 2030 Agenda.

Romania positioned itself as a regional hub of sustainable development expertise and in the medium term it will train 2,000 public servants at national and local level as *sustainable development experts*, a new profession in Romania, as well as establish a *Center of Excellence for public administration in the field of sustainable development*.

The purpose of this VNR Lab is to share Romania's best practices and inspire member states to assess if Romania's examples possess transferable applicability, as well as leverage the information received towards building tailored national success stories.

- 18.00 – 18.10 Welcome and introductory remarks**
Mr. Mircea FECHET, Romania's Minister of Environment, Water and Forests
Mr. Neil PIERRE, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination, DESA
- 18.10 – 18.25 The governance framework of sustainability in Romania**
Mr. László BORBÉLY, state counselor, coordinator of the Department of Sustainable Development
- Topics addressed:*
- *Department of Sustainable Development, government*
 - *Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development, government*
 - *The network of Sustainable Development Hubs, government*
 - *Consultative Council for Sustainable Development, academia*
 - *Coalition Sustainable Romania, private sector & civil society*
 - *Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development*
 - *Future plans*
- 18.25 – 18.35 Enhancing PCSD for the implementation of the SDGs throughout the policy cycle, at vertical and horizontal levels**
Mr. Ernesto SORIA MORALES, Head of the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Unit, OECD Public Governance Directorate
Ms. Ileana - Luminița BĂLĂLĂU, director of the Department of Sustainable Development
- 18.35 – 18.45 VNR 2023 drafting process**
Ms. Ștefania DEÁK, coordinator of Romania's VNR drafting process, Department of Sustainable Development
- Topics addressed:*
- *Data collection process for the VNR and consultations with stakeholders*
 - *Main challenges and lessons learned*
- 18.45 – 18.55 Subnational SDG implementation**
Ms. Simona-Silvia FECHETE, vicepresident for external relations, Association of Villages in Romania
Mr. Ciprian CIUCU, spokesman, Association of Municipalities in Romania
- Topics addressed:*
- *Experience sharing on local practices in SDG implementation, challenges encountered*
 - *Partnerships for SDGs at local level and promoting the SDGs to the community*
- 18.55 – 19.05 The importance of multi-level governance on the Localization of the SDGs at global level**
Mr. Rafał Kazimierz TRZASKOWSKI, president of ENVE Commission, European Committee of the Regions
- 19.05 – 19.10 Youth perspectives on the status of the 2030 Agenda in Romania**
Ms. Ioana DOSPINESCU, representative of youth associations in Romania
- 19.10 – 19.15 Good practices on mainstreaming child participation in decision making at local level**
Mr. Thomas GEORGE, Global Lead for Urban, UNICEF HQ
- 19.15 – 19.30 Q&A from the audience**
- 19.30 Farewell**