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Executive Summary

Introduction

This policy paper, the second of the series, continues InterCap's efforts in building the capacity of national stakeholders on PCD, initiating and supporting the establishment of National Networks focusing on the promotion of PCD, and provide a platform for the exchange and gathering of knowledge and expertise on PCD.

Reflecting on these aims, this paper builds on InterCap's policy and awareness-raising work over the course of the project's first year. It takes into account the input of the National Network's members on the urgent need for intelligence sharing and endeavours to provide a solid mapping of EU policies relevant to policy coherence for development, as well as to look at important milestone at EU and global level. Further, it provides a thematic example, by assessing migration policies through the lens of PCD. Ultimately, this policy paper makes respectful recommendations to relevant stakeholders, based on the above analysis and on good practices from other EU countries.

PCD Developments in Cyprus

The government of the RoC has been continuously falling behind on responding to their EU obligations and legal commitments of the Treaty of Maastricht and the Treaty of Lisbon regarding Policy Coherence for Development. The lack of adequate information and updated data has made it extremely difficult for any competent authority to make recommendations for the improvement of the government's performance on the matter. The 2015 PCD Report identifies the absence of official mechanism for PCD in Cyprus, while the 2019 PCD Report lacks data from Cyprus all together, as EU Member States Questionnaire was never submitted by the RoC. Further, the Voluntary National Review submitted by the Cypriot Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the UN in 2017 reporting on the implementation of the Agenda 2030, does not contain any reference on PCD or PCSD. So far the government of the RoC is not represented in any of the OECD initiatives related to PCD, such as the Informal Network of the National Focal Points on Policy Coherence, neither is a member of the PCSD Partnership.

An interesting development which could pose a testing field for the alignment of national policies with PCD is the current process of designing the National Action Plan on the Integration of Migrants (2020 – 2022). Embedding PCD principles in the design of the action plan, will ensure that integration policies will have a positive contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, while safeguarding that no negative impact will be caused to developing countries.



Mapping of EU Policies & Important Milestones

2015: Agenda 2030

The adoption of the Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) by world leaders in 2015 was a major step towards the recognition that we need to respond to global challenges and in order to do so, we need to address the systemic problems by working towards systemic solutions. Further, the 2030 Agenda reflected a major shift in approach to international development cooperation, as well as provided a clear appreciation of the global interconnectedness and the importance of addressing global challenges in a multistakeholder approach.

Within this framework, coherence is embedded within policy and institutional design as a determining enabler for strengthening the means of implementation of the SDGs (Goal 17). The universality and interlinked nature of the SDGs underlines the importance of policy coherence and mutually supportive policies, working in synergy. Further, apart from ensuring coherence among policies related to sustainable development (social, economic and environmental), it is equally important to safeguard that the design of non-development policies is respectful towards the principles of international development and minimizes the negative impact of these policies on developing countries.

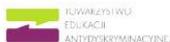
2015: Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)

Just a few months prior to the formal adoption of the Agenda 2030, heads of states and governments convened during the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, where they adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly. The AAAA provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning not just all financing flows, but most importantly, *by aligning policies* with economic, social and environmental priorities. According to the UN, the Action Agenda establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At least three of the concrete policy actions proposed refer to PCD:

a. While it reaffirms the respect towards each country's policy space and leadership to implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development, it calls for consistency with relevant international rules and commitments. Further, it provides a commitment *to pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development.*

b. It calls on relevant stakeholders, including the UN and regional organisations, to employ a coherent and comprehensive approach in their relevant strategies and policies in order to ensure that the diverse development needs of middle-income countries are addressed. Additionally, it recognises the importance of ODA for a number of middle-income countries to achieve sustainable development.

c. Finally, the Action Agenda emphasizes the importance of addressing systemic issues by taking into account economic, social and environmental challenges and by enhancing policy coherence across all three dimensions of sustainable development. Upon recognizing the importance of policy coherence for sustainable development, the Action Agenda urges countries *to assess the impact of their policies on sustainable development.*



2015: Better Regulation Agenda: Guidelines & Toolbox

The Better Regulation Guidelines, based on the 2015 Better Regulation Agenda, aims at improving the way EU policies and laws are designed and evaluated, ensuring that they are designed transparently, based on evidence, taking into consideration their potential impact and after consultation with citizens and stakeholders. The Better Regulation Guidelines, along with a comprehensive set of tools/guidelines cut across all policy areas and present the principles applied in each phase of the law-making cycle.

The Better Regulation Toolbox provides a detailed roadmap on, inter alia, applying general principles for better regulation, *carrying out impact assessments and identifying impacts*, carrying out evaluations and consulting stakeholders. According to the guidelines, the impact assessment report must explicitly include a description of the environmental, social and economic impacts, explaining their significance. This is key in designing policies which embed sustainable development principles, as well as ensuring that any policies designed do not impact negatively on the environment, society and economy (three pillars of sustainable development).

2016: Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe, A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy

Another milestone for PCD endorsement with EU policies has been the further recognition within the EU's Global Strategy that a coherent and coordinated approach to the EU external action will be crucial for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

A key goal underlined within the Global Strategy is for development policy to become more flexible and aligned with the strategic priorities in foreign and security policy. The EU's Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy promises to *adopt a joined-up approach to its humanitarian, development, migration, trade, investment, infrastructure, education, health and research policies, as well as improve horizontal coherence between the EU and its Member States*. This has been yet another recognition that the EU needs to consider policies in a holistic manner while using PCD as its compass.

Further, the strategy reaffirms the EU's collective commitment to achieve the 0.7% ODA/GNI target in line with DAC principles. The document also stresses the catalytic role of the SDGs in *generating coherence between the internal and external dimensions of EU policies and across financial instruments*. The SDGs also provide an opportunity to expand and apply the principles of PCD to other policy areas and encourage joint analysis and engagement across Commission services, institutions, and Member States.

Another dynamic approach is presented within the Global Strategy regarding migration management. The strategy admits fragmentation of external policies relevant to migration and states that in order to address the migration phenomenon effectively, it is vital to overcome this fragmentation. *A balanced and human rights-compliant policy mix addressing the management of the flows and the structural causes* is also required



according to the strategy. Here the EU committed to *develop stronger links between humanitarian and development efforts through joint risk analysis, and multiannual programming and financing*. It also aims at *making different external policies and instruments migration-sensitive – from diplomacy and CSDP to development and climate – and ensure their coherence with internal ones regarding border management, homeland security, asylum, employment, culture and education*.

2016: Next steps for a sustainable European future: European action for sustainability, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

Through this Communication, the previous Commission reaffirmed the recognition of the sustainability challenges faced by the European societies today; confirmed that sustainable development is at the heart of the European Treaties; and verified the EU's collective commitment to implementing the Agenda 2030 by eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development worldwide by 2030, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Staff Working Document accompanying this Communication presents a full overview of how European policies and actions contribute to the SDGs, very importantly including the relevant EU funding instruments for each of the SDGs.

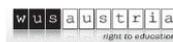
It is particularly interesting for this Policy Paper to look at the policies related to SDG17, especially Target **17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development**:

Under the **Domestic/EU-oriented actions** strengthening the implementation of PCD within the framework of the SDGs, the Staff Working Document underlines the following:

- The EU's commitment to a **Better Regulation Agenda** and the use of the Better Regulation Tools to better mainstream policies to the international development objectives (Please refer to the relevant section of this Policy Paper for details).

Under the **External actions** strengthening the mainstreaming of PCD, the working document underlines:

- The EU's commitment to **development effectiveness**, emphasized by its active participation in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, as well as the increasing use of Joint Programming by the EU and its Member States in order to improve the coherence and impact of EU interventions in partner countries.
- EU championing **aid transparency**, inter alia, by publishing detailed data according to the IATI standard, as well as the OECD reporting.
- The EU's leading role in promoting PCD: *By helping to promote the positive impact of EU policies in developing countries, this is an important contributor to policy coherence for sustainable development. For example, the policy dialogue around EU's budget support programmes on consolidating democracies, building capacity, pursuing sustainable and inclusive growth and*



eradicating poverty, contributes to enhancing policies in partner countries and strengthen capacities.

Multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the SDGs

Following the Communication on European Action for Sustainability, the Commission announced the setting up of a multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU. The platform is comprised by individuals and organisations with expertise on the subject and aims at supporting and advising the EC and all stakeholders on the implementation of the SDGs at EU level and exchange experiences and best practices.

2017: New Consensus on Sustainable Development

The Council of the EU takes ownership of the 2030 Agenda with the adoption of the New Consensus on Sustainable Development in 2017, where it promises *to implement the 2030 Agenda across all its internal and external policies* in a comprehensive and strategic approach.

The Consensus applies emphasis on taking into account the impact of all policies on sustainable development at all levels – nationally, within the EU, in other countries and at global level, in order to ensure PCSD.

Apart from reaffirming the EU's and its Member States' commitment to PCD, the Consensus suggests the use of *consultations, stakeholder engagement and ex-ante impact assessments and ex-post evaluations of major policy initiatives*, to strengthen the evidence base of policy impacts on developing countries. This evidence base will ensure that policy formulation is well informed and takes into account the potential impact on the achievement of the SDGs.

Further, the Consensus promises to guide efforts in applying PCD across all policies and all areas covered by the 2030 Agenda, especially noting the areas of trade, finance, environment and climate change, food security, migration and security.

A very important area addressed by the EU Council is that of migration. Recognising the complexity, global dimensions and systemic nature of migration, the text of the Consensus calls for addressing a diverse range of policy areas in order to tackle the challenges related to migration and forced displacement.

Policy Coherence for Development: 2019 EU Report

The most important political position of the EU on PCD over the recent years came just recently with a comprehensive Report which builds on the legal framework of the Treaty of Maastricht (1992) and the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) on Financing for Development, coupled with the new



political framework of the Agenda 2030 and the 2017 Consensus on Sustainable Development.

The EU Report on PCD is taking stock of PCD developments at EU and at Member States level over the period of 2015 - 2018, especially looking through the lens of the new development paradigm set by the Agenda 2030.

Within the Report, the Commission also makes an effort to clarify among the terms PCD and PCSD:

PCD and PCSD

*There is a fundamental difference between PCD and PCSD: **PCD is a legal obligation in the EU Treaty, whereas PCSD stems from the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.** In addition, in the case of PCSD, given that the SDGs are universal, policy makers have to secure multi-directional coherence by pursuing multiple goals globally, whereas for PCD, coherence is more focused, i.e. it is directed towards a single cause, which is the interest of developing countries. The new European Consensus on Development has confirmed the role of PCD as part of the EU's contribution to SDGs and to the broader objective of PCSD.*

Prior to the 2019 EU Report on PCD, an External Evaluation was conducted in order to gather more evidence around the impact of key EU policies on the objectives of sustainable development. The external evaluation, which covered the period 2009 - 2016, was the first comprehensive evaluation of PCD. Its aim was to assess the extent to which the EU has taken into account the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries, as well as assess the level of contribution of PCD implementation in poverty reduction and sustainable development according to the Treaty of Lisbon.

The evaluation involved an open public consultation, as well as various other consultations. It mainly assessed:

- the tools and mechanisms which have been put in place to enhance PCD, including the EU Member States' coordination network, reporting mechanisms, impact assessment and training
- the influence such tools and mechanisms have had on EU “non-development” policies and
- the extent to which changes in the design and implementation of those policies resulting from the incorporation of a PCD approach influenced outcomes and impact in developing countries.

Within the external evaluation's **main conclusions**, the leading role of the EU, as well as its political will and commitment towards mainstreaming PCD were positively underlined. However, it was noted that the EU's PCD approach is not clearly and sufficiently defined and, while it remains relevant at the strategic level, it still requires adaptation to the new SDGs context and current interconnected challenges. Further, even though certain EU policies can be considered as good practices and do incorporate a PCD approach, the EU PCD approach's effectiveness could be further improved. As regards to the PCD mechanisms, the evaluation pointed out their limited efficiency, despite some recent improvements. Ultimately, while the evaluation



indicates the importance of impact assessments to ensure PCD, it also admits that measuring the impact of PCD remains very challenging.

The external evaluation makes four **main recommendations**:

1. The EU to further clarify its commitment to PCD
2. Adapt mechanisms and resources based on the clarified scope of PCD
3. Make PCD outputs more explicit and consider impact monitoring from the onset of policy formulation
4. Enhance the role of EU Delegations in impact monitoring

The European Commission responded very eagerly to the findings of the External Evaluation, as well as to its main recommendation. The 2019 Report on PCD remarks the Commission's efforts to integrate PCD in its overall work on the implementation of the SDGs, in broadening its focus to more priority areas.

Further to its willingness to renew its conceptual approach towards PCD, the Report expresses the Commission's eagerness to improve its PCD reporting approach. In an effort to adapt PCD reporting to the new political framework, thus promote the notion that PCD is key to the overall efforts for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the Commission moved towards better integrating PCD reporting within the overall EU reporting on the SDGs.

Ultimately, the 2019 Report on PCD proposes a set of improved **tools and mechanisms to promote PCD**, responding to the shortcomings recognised in the external evaluation. The measures proposed at EU level include:

- Multi-stakeholder approach in designing of policies
- Open public consultations
- Ex-ante impact assessments
- Enhancing the role of EU delegations and harnessing their feedback
- Capacity building (online training, face-to-face training, meetings with PCD focal points in Member States)
- Investing in research

It is also very important for this Policy Paper to look at the mapping of tools and mechanisms established at the national level of EU Member States' to promote PCD:

- Luxembourg has an inter-ministerial committee for development cooperation and an inter-departmental commission on sustainable development which work in close cooperation. The inter-ministerial committee for development cooperation has adopted a new institutional mechanism to discuss PCD issues and identify incoherences, which are then directed to the relevant ministry.
- In Denmark new legislation is accompanied by analyses of possible impacts on developing countries. The impact analyses inform the Parliament's deliberations on each piece of legislation thereby enabling informed decisions.
- In Belgium, the Law for Development Cooperation subscribes to the obligation of PCD and stipulates that all draft laws or royal decrees shall be presented to the Council of Ministers to be examined in advance by the Belgian Development Cooperation as to their possible impact on developing countries.

- The Dutch government reports annually to its Parliament on progress made on its PCD action plan. This Action Plan was drawn in 2016 to promote coherence more systematically between the different policy areas that impact developing countries. This plan sets out goals linked to the SDGs, actions and indicators.

2019: Council Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development

The recent Council Conclusions on PCD endorsed the Commission Report on PCD, as well as called on the Commission services, the EEAS and the Member States to make better and systematic use of existing tools and mechanisms at the initial stages of all relevant policy and legislative proposals, emphasizing the need for taking into account transboundary effects before, during and after the implementation of policy and legislative proposals. The Conclusions also recognised the weaknesses identified in the external evaluation and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to improving the policies according to the principles of policy coherence for development.

2019: Reflection Paper: Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030

As mentioned previously, in an effort to adapt PCD reporting to the new political framework set by the Agenda 2030, the Commission started moving towards integrating PCD reporting within the overall EU reporting on the SDGs. In the Reflection Paper '*Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030*' the Commission promotes PCD as a critical condition for delivering on the SDGs.

Further, it stresses the underlying principles, PCD should be grounded on: planning, evidence-based policies, thorough impact assessments, inclusiveness, effectiveness, respect for subsidiarity and proportionality, and measurement and monitoring. The reflection paper also makes an account of the policies and initiatives of the Juncker Commission related to the implementation of the SDGs, as well as a forecast of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) of the EU and how it will contribute to achieving the SDGs. After all, the European Parliament had called for '*the post-2020 MFF to reorient the Union's budget towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that sufficient funding is allocated to effectively achieving the SDGs; calls for enhanced mainstreaming of sustainable development in all funding mechanisms and budgetary lines, reiterating that long-term policy coherence plays an important role in cost minimisation*' already in 2017.

June 2019: EU Strategic Agenda 2019 - 2024

While this paper was in progress the European Council announced its new EU Strategic Agenda, applicable for the next 5 years. Though the Agenda makes reference to promoting sustainable development and implementing the Agenda 2030, there is no solid reference to ensuring coherent policies to the principles of sustainable development.



Another approach: OECD's PCSD

OECD has been leading the discussions on policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD), an approach and policy tool that supports the integration of the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development across all stages of policy making, facilitating integrated approaches to proposed solutions for the SDGs. As defined in SDG 17.14, PCSD is a key means of implementation for achieving the SDGs.

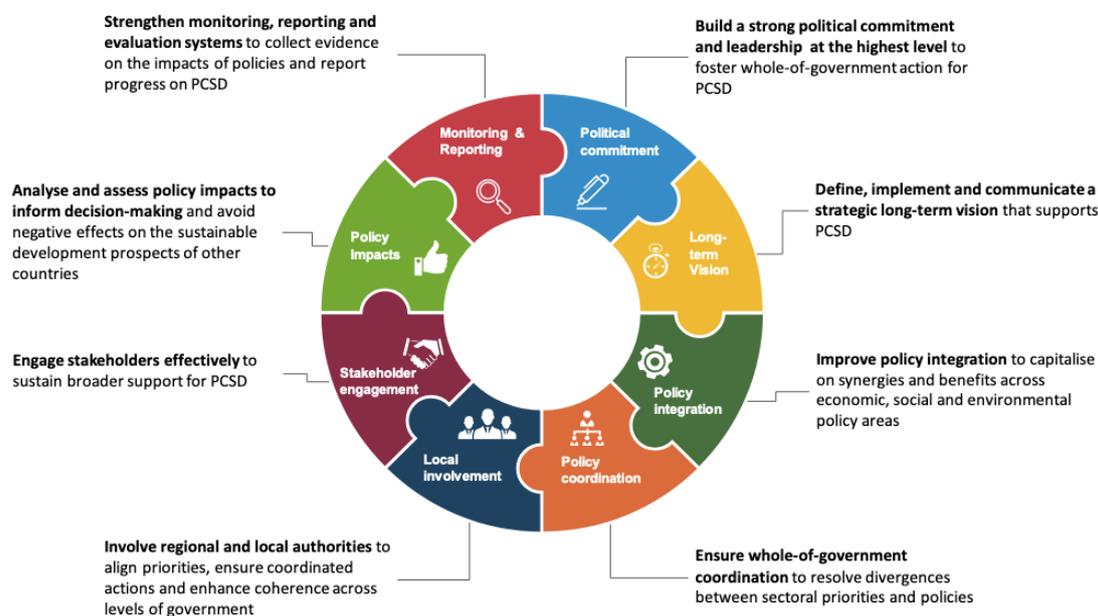
Based on the principle that the SDGs cannot be implemented independently from each other and that we need to approach them in a holistic manner, the OECD promotes the notion that PCSD can help identify and manage the interlinkages between the global goals and overcome any negative impacts. OECD's 2019 edition of PCSD series proposes *a set of enablers*, which are common to all countries and can *facilitate governments' efforts to enhance PCSD*. This set of enablers represent structures, processes and working methods at different stages of the policy making cycle and fall under three main themes:

- A **strategic vision for achieving the SDGs** underpinned by a **clear political commitment and institutional leadership** to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.
- Effective and inclusive **institutional and governance mechanisms** to address policy interaction across sectors and align actions between levels of government.
- A set of **responsive and adaptive tools** to anticipate, assess and address domestic, transboundary and long-term impacts of policies.

In a very encouraging note OECD's research supports that the essential building blocks for solid PCSD system to enable the implementation of the SDGs are already in place in many countries; what is needed is to align them better with the principles and nature of the 2030 Agenda.



The Building Blocks for PCSD



In a very promising insight of their 2019 Report on PCSD (not published yet), OECD proposes four key areas which can support governmental institutions to enhance PCSD:

1. Identifying critical interactions to catalyse progress in the implementation of the SDGs
2. Strengthening institutional and governance mechanisms to enhance policy coherence
3. Monitoring and reporting to collect evidence on the benefits of policy coherence
4. Engaging in partnerships to strengthen the impact

A very important element of OECD's work on PCSD, relevant to this policy paper is a comprehensive online toolkit, directed to decision-makers and practitioners, which provides *practical guidance, self-assessment checklists, good practice examples and tools to analyse, enhance and track progress on policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs.*

Migration through the PCD Lens

An important aim of this policy paper is to present a thematic example for policy (in)coherence for development, which can provide a starting point for the members of the National PCD Network, policy-makers and other stakeholders. The choice of migration was no surprise, as this complex matter has landed on top of the EU's

political agenda within the past decade, and has become a burning issue, especially considering the rising numbers of forced migrants.

Policy coherence for development is crucial in addressing migration as a complex global phenomenon. The EC had already recognised the critical role of PCD in migration within its 2011 Communication entitled **The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)**. The public consultations which preceded the Communication indicated a *need for stronger policy coherence with other policy areas and a better thematic and geographical balance*. One of the key recommendations of the GAMM was to establish a comprehensive framework for migration management, in collaboration with partner countries. This framework was foreseen to be embedded in the EU's overall foreign policy framework, *including development cooperation*, and aligned with the EU's internal policy priorities. Finally, within its conclusions, the communication emphasizes the commitment of the EU to continue promoting PCD, with a view to *identifying and addressing possible inconsistencies in the legislation and policies of the EU and its Member States and to reinforcing capacity and mechanisms in non-EU countries in this domain*.

Building on the previous efforts of embedding policy coherence for development in migration policies, the Commission presented another Communication in 2015: **The European Agenda on Migration** represented EU's compass on aligning policies, creating synergies between stakeholders and channelling funds towards a comprehensive and coherent approach to migration. The Agenda called once more for an enhanced coherence between different policy sectors, such as development cooperation, trade, employment, foreign and home affairs policies, in order to strengthen the EU's legal migration policy.

The Agenda on Migration also drew ideas from an earlier EC Communication, entitled **Maximising the Development Impact of Migration**, which contributed to the UN High-level Dialogues and the next steps towards broadening the development-migration nexus. This communication recognises PCD's key importance for the effective integration of migration into development policies, and calls for its application at all levels, including national frameworks, regional, local and multilateral levels. The crucial role of local authorities is also emphasized in development planning, where migration and development policies should be designed together, in order to address the significant impact of urbanisation and migration in societies worldwide.

Though not legally binding, the recently published **UN Global Compact for Migration** supports the existing legal and policy frameworks, especially the Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and their recognition that migration and sustainable development are multidimensional and interdependent. It strengthens the EU's position that we need to integrate migration into development planning and sectoral policies at all levels, in order to strengthen policy coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation, and ultimately contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

In the Staff Working Document on **Key European Actions supporting the 2030 Agenda**, which was mentioned earlier in this paper, the Commission makes solid reference to relevant policies and action at external and domestic level which contribute positively to the implementation of the SDGs. Looking at the aspect of migration, one can find relevant reference in most of the SDGs, though there is a direct



connection to SDG10: *Reduce inequality within and among countries*. The account of EU funding instruments related to the matter also makes evident how interconnected migration and development policies are: The European Neighbourhood Instrument, the European Development Fund, the Development Cooperation Instrument, the Partnership Instrument and the Humanitarian Aid funding instrument are mentioned among others from the external instruments. As for domestic funding instruments the document lists the European Structural and Investment Funds, the Employment and Social Innovation programme, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Civil Protection Mechanism, the Emergency Support Instrument and the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.

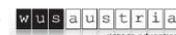
The mapping of policies, actions and related funding instruments which contribute to the implementation of the SDGs has great value for the EU and its member states, and it should be taken as an example for national policy makers. Such exercise can provide a good overview of the national policies and highlight the missing links, the missing coherence between policies and missing coherence to the principles of sustainable development.

Observing the matter through the lens of the Agenda 2030, migration and development policies should aim at harnessing the positive effects of migration, both for the countries of origin as well as for the hosting countries, while reducing any negative effects. For example, the promotion of decent work, youth employment, social protection policies in developing countries could potentially reduce the need for economic migration, as well as decrease the brain drain, meaning highly skilled professionals leaving developing countries for a better career, a phenomenon with significant negative effects for the country of origin. Human capital is one of the most valuable assets for a country, not just for its economic growth and the reduction of poverty, but also for its democratisation and the promotion of human rights. Therefore, development cooperation strategy has a significant role in responding to political and economic instability and addressing human rights' violations, fragility, conflict, environmental vulnerability, unemployment and extreme poverty, which can be root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. Tackling the causes of inequality outside Europe through a combination of external actions, including EU's foreign and security policy, development policy, enlargement and neighbourhood policies, and the EU's trade and investment policy, can have a catalytic role in promoting sustainable development in developing countries, which would ultimately reduce the negative effects of migration.

Report from National Network on PCD

Recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus:

- The Republic of Cyprus, being a Member State of the European Union, needs to respond to the legal commitments of the Treaty of Maastricht and the Treaty of Lisbon. Thus, the RoC is required to align its policies with the principles of sustainable development.



- In accordance with the above, the Republic of Cyprus is urged to bring the issue of Policy Coherence for Development higher within its priorities, both regarding internal, as well as external policies.
- It is essential for the Republic to engage in a mapping exercise, which will outline the relevant actors and stakeholders, including civil society and representatives from academia and other experts and interested parties, and strengthen their understanding around PCD by creating an evidence base of policy impacts on developing countries.
- The current initiative for the establishment of a National Network on PCD can act as an incubator for the formation of an enhanced network which will involve stakeholders from relevant public authorities, academics, experts from NGOs and international organisations.
- The Republic of Cyprus is strongly encouraged to respond to the EU Member States Questionnaire which was required during the preparation of the 2019 EU Report on PCD. Responding to the Questionnaire would have a twofold effect: a) This exercise will allow the RoC to outline its mechanisms on PCD, its priorities and recommendations, and b) The RoC will demonstrate its commitment towards mainstreaming coherence to sustainable development principles along its policies.
- It is recommended that the competent Cypriot authorities engage with OECD initiatives related to Policy Coherence for Development, such as the Informal Network of National Focal Points on Policy Coherence, as well as the PCSD Partnership. The exchange of good practices with peer authorities through the engagement in such initiatives would be invaluable. Further, through the OECD's Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Framework screening tool, competent institutions can review an integrated checklist of elements which need to be considered when preparing, implementing or evaluating SDG approaches.
- The RoC is strongly encouraged to build a PCD system, based on a comprehensive framework, with clear political and legal intentions and designated political leader(s). This framework should include mechanisms which would align PCD across institutions and policy sectors, procedures for consultation with all interested groups and communication and cooperation systems. Comprehensive knowledge systems, including impact assessments should feed into decision-making processes. And accountability should be ensured through regular reporting and peer-reviews.

PCD and Migration:

- The design of the National Action Plan on the Integration of Migrants (2020 - 2022) should be designed along the principles of PCD. Tools suggested within the 2017 Consensus, such as ex-ante impact assessments and ex-post evaluations should be duly employed, in order to guarantee that any potential impact to developing countries is taken into consideration.
- Local authorities are encouraged to utilise the PCD approach when working on urban development, taking into consideration the increasing migration in urban centres. Sustainable urban environments are difficult to establish, but as they reflect a miniature sustainable society, they can provide an extraordinary example in the efforts to implement the SDGs.



Recommendations to Civil Society and Academia:

- Civil society organisations are urged to include the promotion of PCD within their priorities in order to strengthen the work of the National PCD Network and support the governmental efforts in mainstreaming PCD within their policy design. Their expertise on the matter and their ability to bring examples of good practice from other EU member states could be valuable towards this end.
- Civil society representatives are encouraged to take active participation in the National PCD Network and reinforce its work. A stronger and unified civil society voice would greatly contribute to the Network's advocacy efforts.
- Similarly, academia is encouraged to support this work by bringing their own contribution. Academics are already in collaboration with governmental bodies through consultative roles on incorporating EU policies into national law. Therefore, stressing the importance of PCD is essential to urge the government of the RoC to bring it higher within its political priorities.
- Academic research could also strengthen the evidence base of policy impacts on developing countries. As suggested by the 2017 Consensus, such evidence base will ensure that national policy formulation is well informed and takes into account the potential impact on the achievement of the SDGs.



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