



*STRENGTHENING POLICY COHERENCE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
THE ROLE OF REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS*

Belgian SDG Forum, 29 October 2020

Carina Lindberg & Yola Thuerer
OECD Public Governance Directorate





Presentation outline



- What is Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development PCSD?
- OECD Council Recommendation on PCSD
- Regulatory policy in the PCSD Recommendation
- Using RIA to promote policy coherence in SDG implementation
- Types of impact assessments in RIA
- Successfully integrating the SDGs into RIA



Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD)



...is more important than ever:

- Need to protect recent gains in achieving the SDGs
- Ensure that long-term efforts for “building forward better” are not undermined by short-sighted responses
- Need to balance short-term recovery measures and international commitments, e.g. climate change
- Need for coordinated exit strategies to build a long-term recovery





OECD Council Recommendation on PCSD

I. A strategic vision for achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in an integrated and coherent manner

1 Political Commitment and Leadership

to foster whole-of-government action for PCSD



2 Strategic Long-term Vision

to support policy coherence and orient the government and stakeholders towards SDGs



3 Policy integration

to capitalise on synergies and benefits across economic, social and environmental policies



II. Effective and inclusive institutional and governance mechanisms to address policy interactions

4 Whole-of-Government coordination

to mitigate divergences between sectoral priorities and policies



5 Subnational engagement

to promote coordinated actions and enhance coherence across levels of governments



6 Stakeholder engagement

to sustain broader support for PCSD and its implementation



III. A set of responsive and adaptive tools to anticipate, assess and address impacts of policies

7 Policy and financial impacts

to inform decision-making, increase positive impacts and avoid potential negative impacts



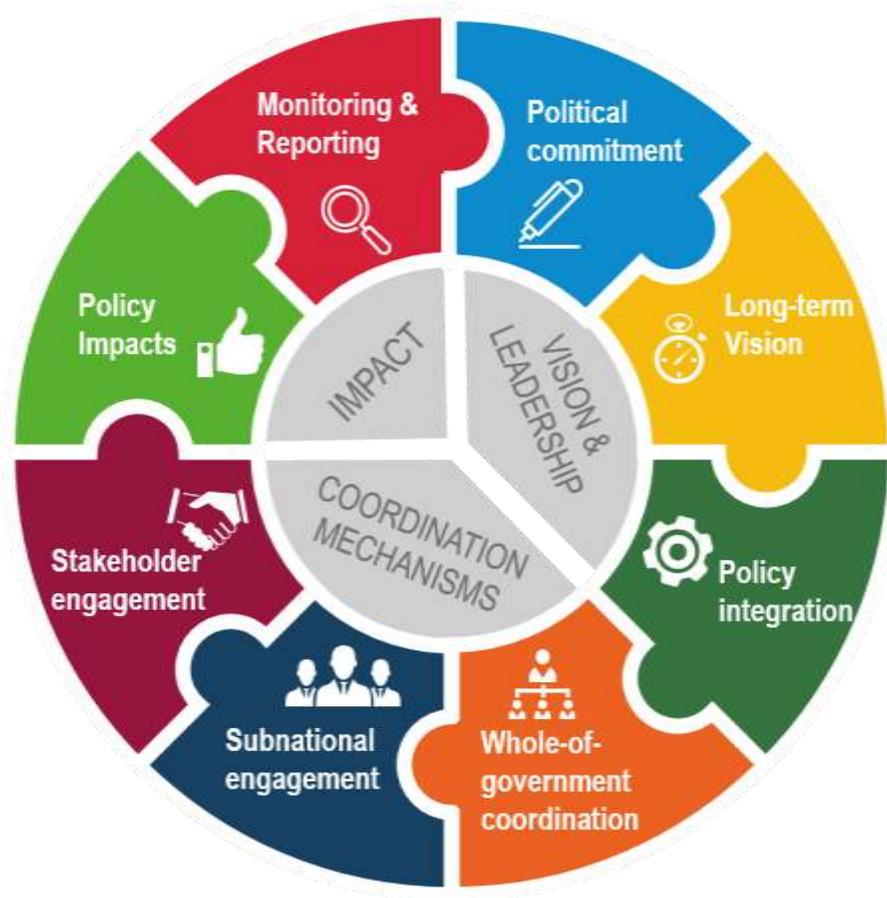
8 Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

to collect qualitative and quantitative evidence on the impact of policies and financing, and report progress on PCSD





Regulatory policy in the PCSD Recommendation



Improving policy integration:

”Incorporate a PCSD lens, as appropriate, into national development plans, sustainable development strategies, and financing plans and develop supporting tools, such as guidelines or **regulations**, as well as coordination mechanisms for ministries and government agencies to align their mandates, policies and sectoral objectives with broader sustainable development goals.”

Analysing and assessing policy and financing impacts:

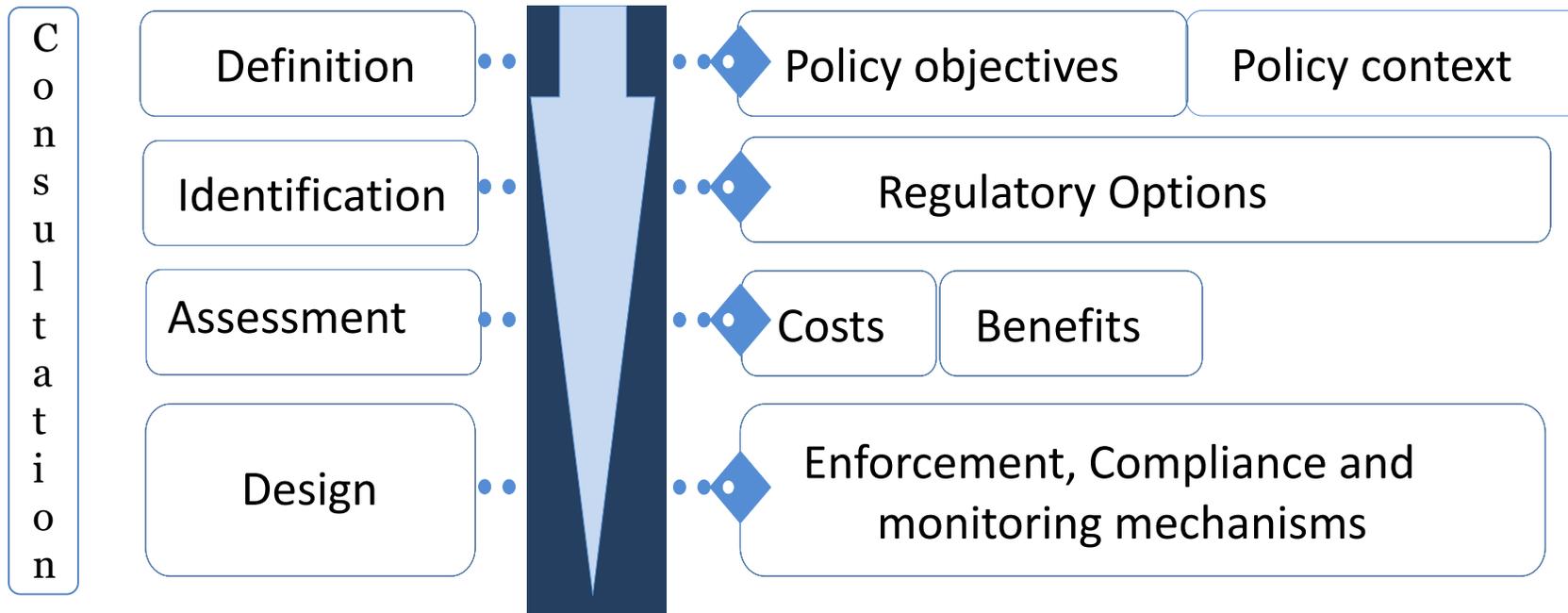
”Introduce, where possible, regular **assessments** to identify and assess potential positive and negative impacts on sustainable development, building on any existing tools such as **Regulatory**, Environmental, Gender and Social Impact and Strategic Assessments.”



Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) to promote policy coherence and the SDGs



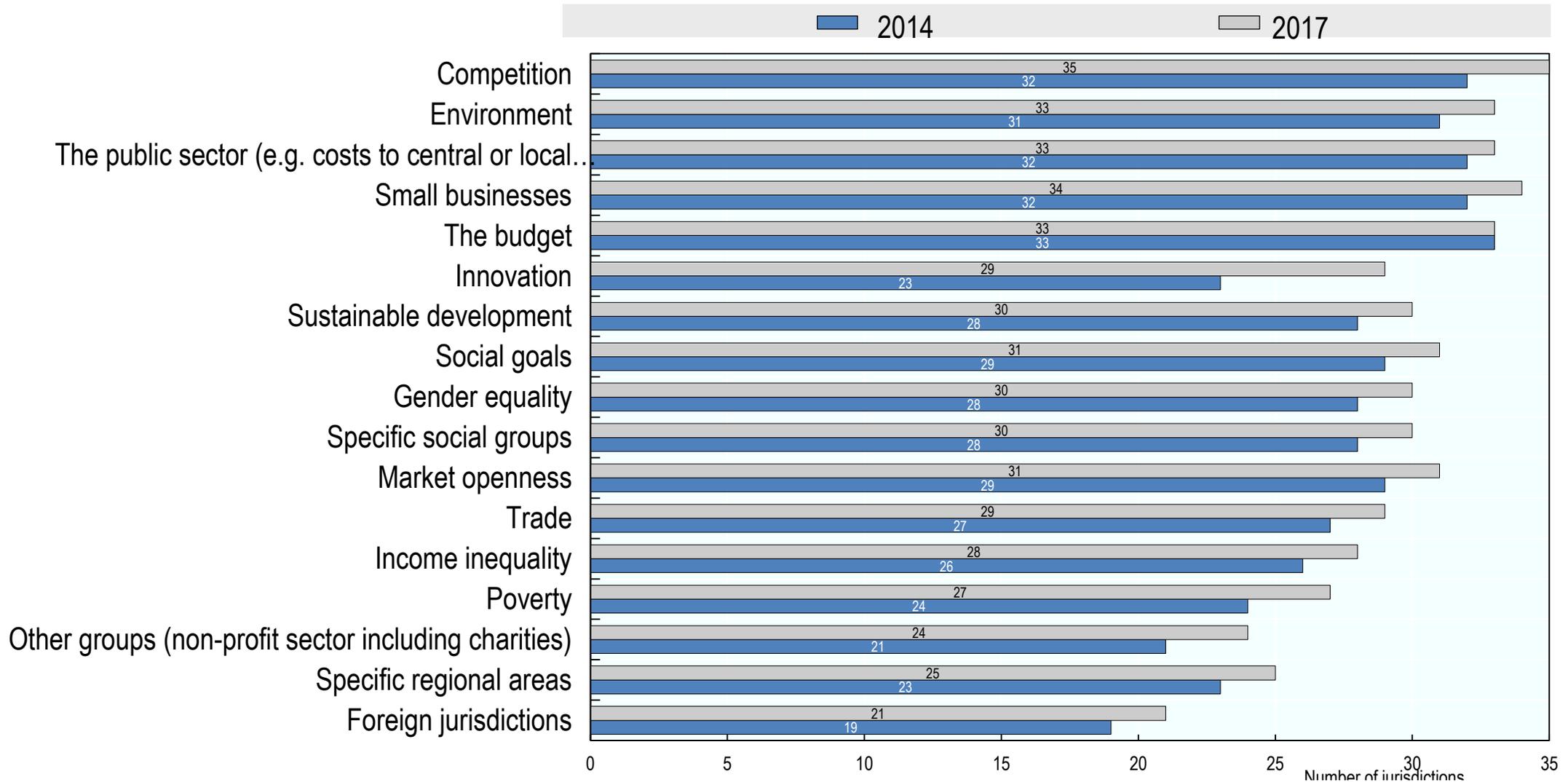
RIA is a formal and systematic “policy tool” and “decision process” to examine and measure the likely benefits, costs and effects of new or existing regulation



Evidence-based Decision Making



Types of impacts assessed in RIA



Note: Data is based on 34 OECD member countries and the European Union. Source: Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Surveys 2014 and 2017, <http://oe.cd/ireg>.



Successfully integrating SDGs in RIA



1. Make use of **institutional mechanisms and tools for PCSD** to “translate” SDGs into country context;
2. Add country specific SDGs to existing RIA system as an “**impact bundle**”;
3. Strengthen the **RIA framework**:



1. Commitment and buy-in for RIA

- Governments should express political support for SDG assessment, securing stakeholder support is essential

2. Governance of RIA – have the right set up

- Ensure regulatory oversight to provide advice and quality control of SDG impact assessment

3. Embedding RIA through strengthening capacities

- Provide training and guidance for new SDG impacts

4. Targeted and appropriate RIA methodology

- Target RIA resources to the most burdensome regulations

5. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of RIA

- Conduct systematic evaluation of RIA system



Thank you!

For more information, please visit:

-  www.oecd.org/pcsd
-  www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/public-governance-sdgs
-  www.oecd.org/governance/regulatory-policy