



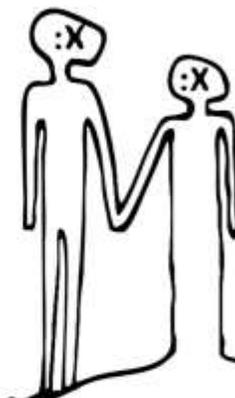
DEPARTMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Integrating SDGs in the Regulatory Impact Assessment



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The Romanian Government acknowledges the importance and value of grounding decisions on evidence, based on the best data and information available (Status quo)

Legal Framework of RIA:

- The system of RIA was initiated in 2006 in order to achieve the standards imposed to the country by the process of EU accession (the EU's '*acquis*').
- The Substantiation Notes (SN) (in the case of government decisions and ordinances) covered the socio-economic, environmental, financial and legal areas.
- In some areas (such as environmental policy), greater progress has been made towards a regulations evidence-based approach.

Institutional framework of RIA

- The Department for Coordinating Policies and Priorities (DCPP) from the General Secretariat of the Government is responsible for the implementation of the Better Regulation Strategy and the development of the Romanian RIA system.
- Administrative capacity remains a critical obstacle to the effective implementation of RIA procedures and requirements.

SDGs & RIA

- Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) from the Romanian Government is the lead institution in the SD strategy process.
- For now, we do not have an RIA approach based on SDGs. This would mean **a significant reform of regulatory process and requires action plans with the necessary legislative and policy instruments, awareness-raising activities and a plan for mobilising financial resources.**

Strengths

- ✓ OECD recommendations resulted from the project “**Linking policy planning and budgeting to support the implementation of the SDGs in Romania**”:

”to strengthen ex ante regulatory impact assessment (RIA) by examining economic, environmental and social impacts in equal measure and an integrated sustainability impact assessment that will take into account trade-offs, potential alternative futures, the impact on developing countries and the intergenerational outcomes of new strategies and legislation. To ensure that the integrated ex ante sustainability impact assessment is systematically conducted for all new legislation, a change in the law should be introduced and resources should be allocated to this end. The legislation should also clarify which data need to be gathered to measure short- and long-term economic, environmental and social impacts, as well as the actors in charge of conducting and validating the integrated assessment. Most importantly, it should clarify how the RIA will be used for decision making. For instance, the Department of Sustainable Development could clear all sustainability assessments, thus enhancing its pivotal position during strategy formulation at ministerial and inter-ministerial level”

- ✓ Considering OECD analysis, Romania initiated a request for technical support addressed to DG Reform, ‘**Enhancing policy transparency, development, coherence and coordination in Romania at the Centre of the Government**’ with the view to embed an SDGs perspective in policy planning methodologies across the public administration.
- ✓ The **change in the budgeting paradigm, based on the SDGs**, has started: a first political statement (2019) and the interest from the Ministry of Finance in searching the ways in integrating SDGs into national budgetary processes. A paradigm shift could also influence the analyses on the Financial Impact on the General Budget of Regulations.

Challenges/Department of Sustainable Development, a catalyst for sustainable development RIA

Regulatory facilitator

- DSD can propose measures to streamline the processes / documents related with sustainable development, proposed by the central public administration authorities and other institutions, in order to orient towards an objective perspective, in accordance with the national sustainable development strategy.

A better technical consultation process

- The DSD could help ensure the participation, transparency and quality of the RIA process, given the progress made in terms of the institutional framework for SD that will ensure the flow of information and dialogue with all stakeholders:
 - Coalition for Sustainable Development
 - Advisory Council.

National indicators for sustainable development

- In the not too distant future, we will have the set of national indicators for sustainable development, that can provide a solid basis for decision-making at all levels.

SD Ministries Hubs

- Strengthening the capacity of Sustainable Development Ministries Hubs could mean a new function for these hubs, to assess the impact of regulations on the SDGs, similar to that held by the Group for the Economic Impact Assessment of Normative Acts within the Ministry of Economy.

Sustainable development goals and RO better regulation

The RIA based on the SDGs must be achieved through a **usefulness and pragmatic SDG Impact Assessment Tool**, in order to not become a procedure that burdens the legislative and administrative system.

Therefore, such a possible assessment should be accompanied by **simple and eloquent procedures** that provide **tangible results** for citizens and contribute to achieving the SDGs.





#WillYou2030?

Thank you

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