

# Aligning the European Recovery and Resilience Plans with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

The role of policy coherence and public service leaders





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# Tuesday, 16 March 2021, 16:00-17:30 (CET), via Zoom

### **Purpose**

This side event focuses common policy coherence challenges involved in aligning national recovery plans from the COVID-19 in the region with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the role of policy coherence in supporting green and digital transitions as well as overall resilience.

The event will convene a panel of representatives and experts from the region to share experiences in enhancing policy coherence for ensuring a sustainable recovery that supports progress towards SDGs. Panellist and participants in an interactive session will:

- Learn from country experiences in developing national recovery and resilience plans aligned with SDGs.
- Exchange good country practices in addressing trade-offs and synergies between sectors essential for ensuring green and digital transitions in an inclusive way.
- Explore institutional mechanisms, civil servants' skills and government's capacities necessary to ensure a sustainable recovery and deliver on the SDGs.

### **Background**

The national recovery and resilience plans that European governments are now putting in place offer an opportunity to steer transformations towards more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies. These plans also can help accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, operationalising a sustainable and inclusive recovery aligned with the SDGs is not to be taken for granted. At the national level, the interactions between inclusiveness, the green and digital transitions, productivity, and resilience often imply trade-offs.

A sustainable and inclusive recovery calls for enhancing policy coherence, and strengthening governments' capacities to address trade-offs between economic, social and environmental priorities as well as next generations needs into today's policy decisions. The public workforce needs to be better equipped to make use of evidence to address complexity, anticipate threats, respond to interconnected transboundary challenges, engage with citizens and other stakeholders, and learn from successes and failures to ensure green and digital transitions in an inclusive way.

How can recovery measures support progress towards achieving the SDGs? How to ensure green and digital transitions without compromising growth, employment or competitiveness? How to achieve recovery without over-reliance on carbon-intensive industries? Can one country's sustainable recovery and resilience efforts be undermined by another's domestic policy choices? What governance mechanisms and tools can be used to balance competing sectoral priorities, minimise trade-offs and facilitate synergies across key sectors essential for a sustainable recovery? These are some of the difficult questions that policy makers will have to face when formulating recovery and resilience plans.

### **Expected outcomes**

- Inform the discussions and contribute to the deliberations of the UNECE Forum on Sustainable Development about "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and action and delivery on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region".
- Provide input and good practices to an ongoing OECD consultation that aims at developing a practical Guidance Note to support countries enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD), in line with the <u>OECD</u> Recommendation on PCSD.

## **AGENDA**

Opening	
16:00	Opening remarks
	<ul> <li>Mr. László Borbély, State Counselor, National SDG Coordinator, Government of Romania</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Setting the context: Linking the SDGs with Covid-19 recovery: The role of policy coherence and public service leaders - by OECD</li> </ul>
	(The session will start with an <b>interactive poll</b> on the governance mechanisms and tools used by countries in aligining recovery with the SDGs, which will be followed by a panel discussion. The results of the quick interactive poll will feed into the conclusions
<i>Moderate</i> Aligning	national recovery and resilience plans with SDGs: challenges, opportunities and country experiences
16:20	Moderators, Mr. László Borbély and OECD
	– Panelists
	Mr Siegfried Mureşan, European Parliament rapporteur
	Mrs Céline Gauer, Head of Task Force Recovery and Resilience, EU Commission (tbc)
	<ul> <li>Mr Cristian Ghinea, Minister of Investments and European Projects, Romania</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mr George Said, Director for Sustainable Development, Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development (MESD), Malta (tbc)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mrs Aneta Piątkowska, Deputy Director of Economic Analysis Department in the Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology, Poland</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Mr. Yannis Derbali, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Climate, Environment Sustainable Development and Green Deal, Belgium</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Ms. Annika Lindblom, President of the ESDN Association</li> </ul>
	Questions for discussion
	<ul> <li>How can recovery measures support progress towards achieving the SDGs?</li> <li>How to ensure green and digital transitions without compromising growth, employment or competitiveness?</li> <li>How to achieve recovery without over-reliance on carbon-intensive industries?</li> <li>Can one country's sustainable recovery and resilience efforts be undermined by another's domestic policy choices?</li> <li>What governance mechanisms and tools can be used to balance competing sectoral priorities, minimise trade-offs and facilitate synergies across key sectors essential for a sustainable recovery?</li> </ul>
17:10	Questions and Answers
Closing r	emarks
17:25	<ul> <li>Ms Tatyana Teplova, Head of the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Goals Division, OECL Public Governance Directorate (tbc)</li> </ul>
17:30	End of the event

Please  $\underline{\text{register here}}$  to receive the connection details via Zoom with your registration confirmation. For more information, please  $\underline{\text{contact}} \underline{\text{pcd.contact}} \underline{\text{oecd.org}}$