



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: EVALUATION for 2030

2019 National Evaluation
Capacities Conference



Evaluation of Finland's Sustainable Development Policy (PATH2030)

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Government Policy

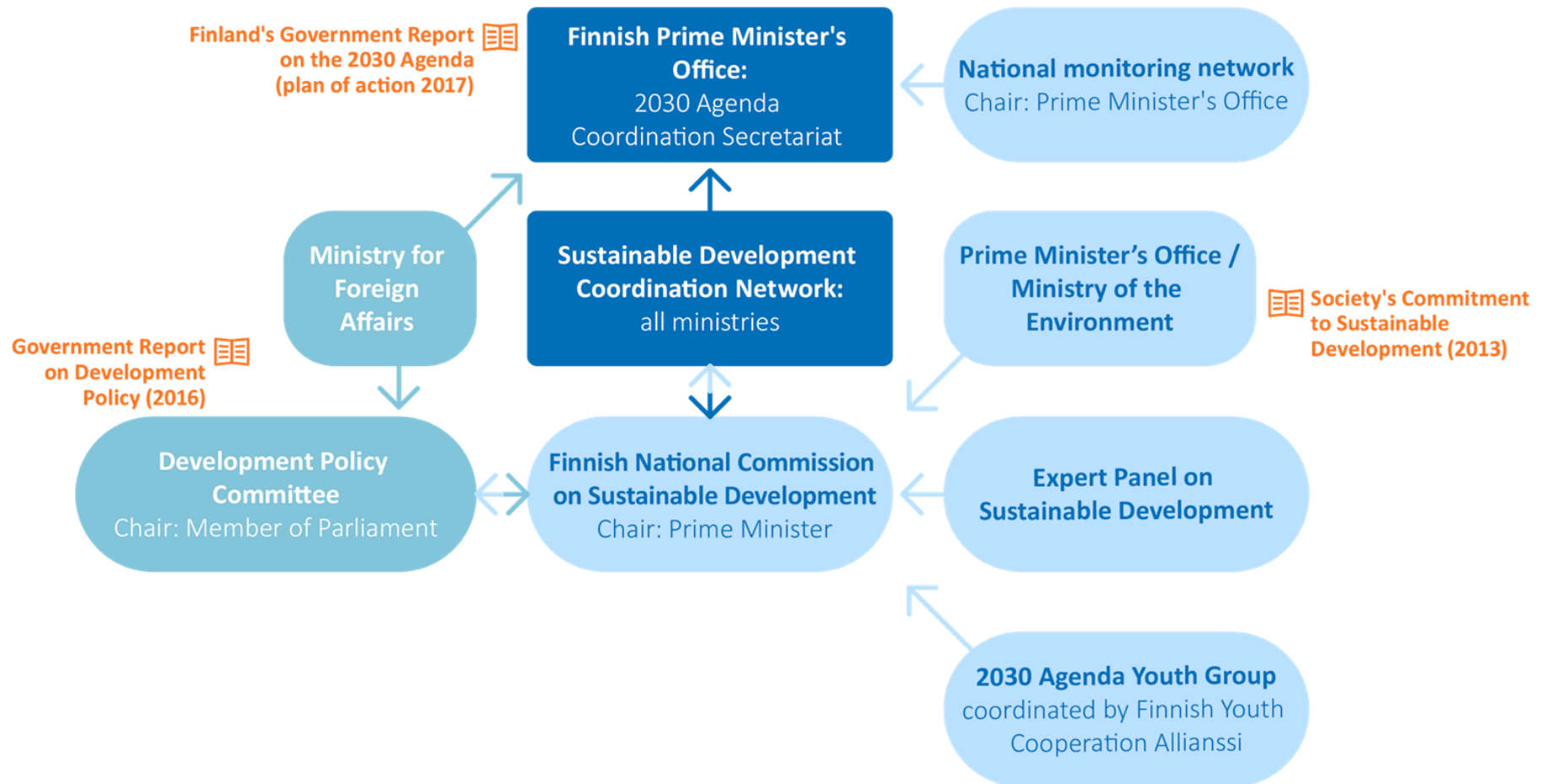
- Implementation of the Agenda2030 and progress **should be evaluated once during the Government period** (=every 4 years)
- Coordination: Primes Minister's Office => **truly cross-administrative sustainable development policy in all sectors of government**



Evaluation aimed to

- produce an **independent and comprehensive evaluation on sustainable development policy** , especially regarding Finland's national policy, the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Finland's foreign policy.
- To produce **concrete recommendations** on the future directions of Finland's sustainable development policy (taking into account different timespans and levels of ambition) as well as ways to evaluate it.

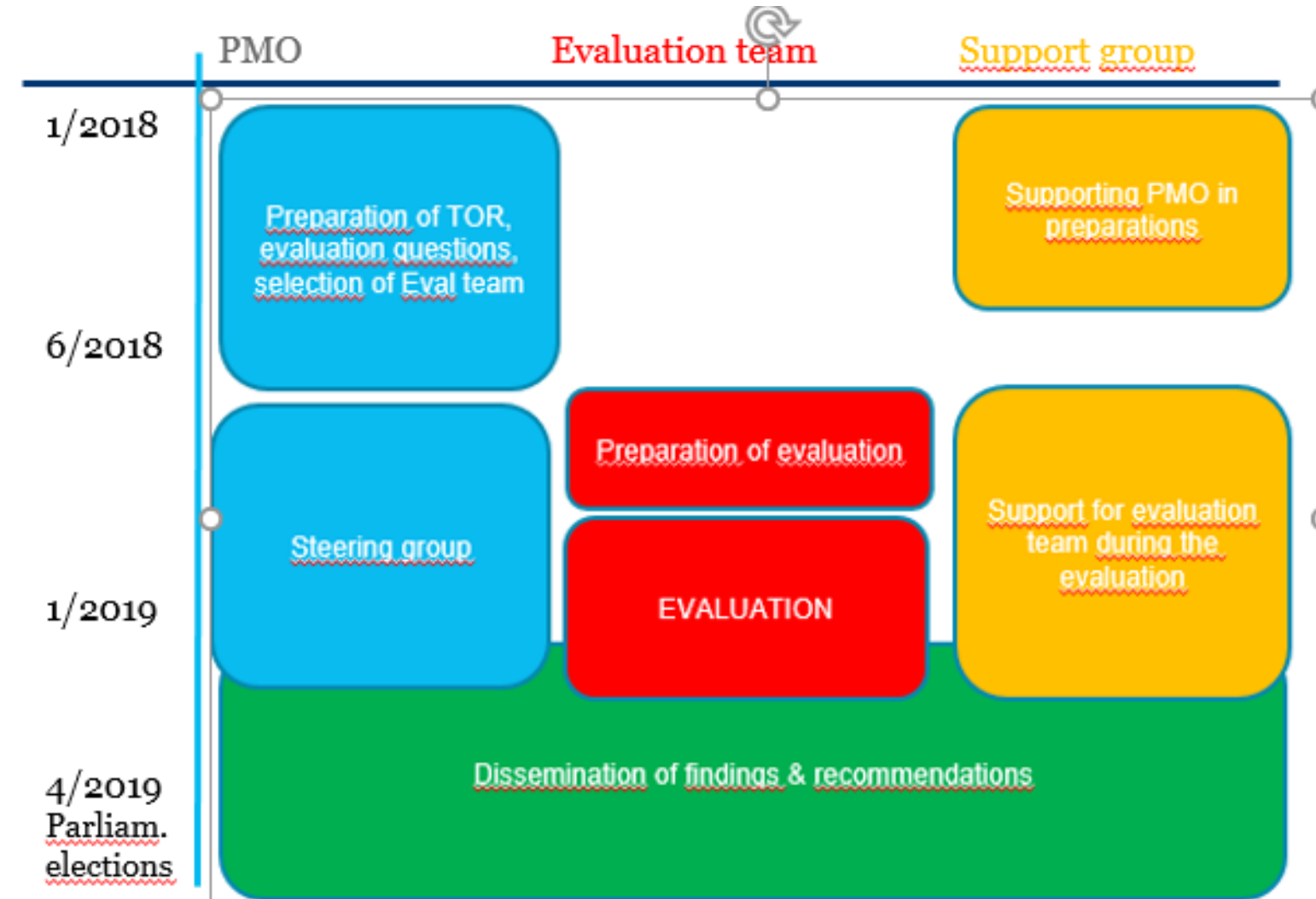
Sustainable Development Policy: Coordination model



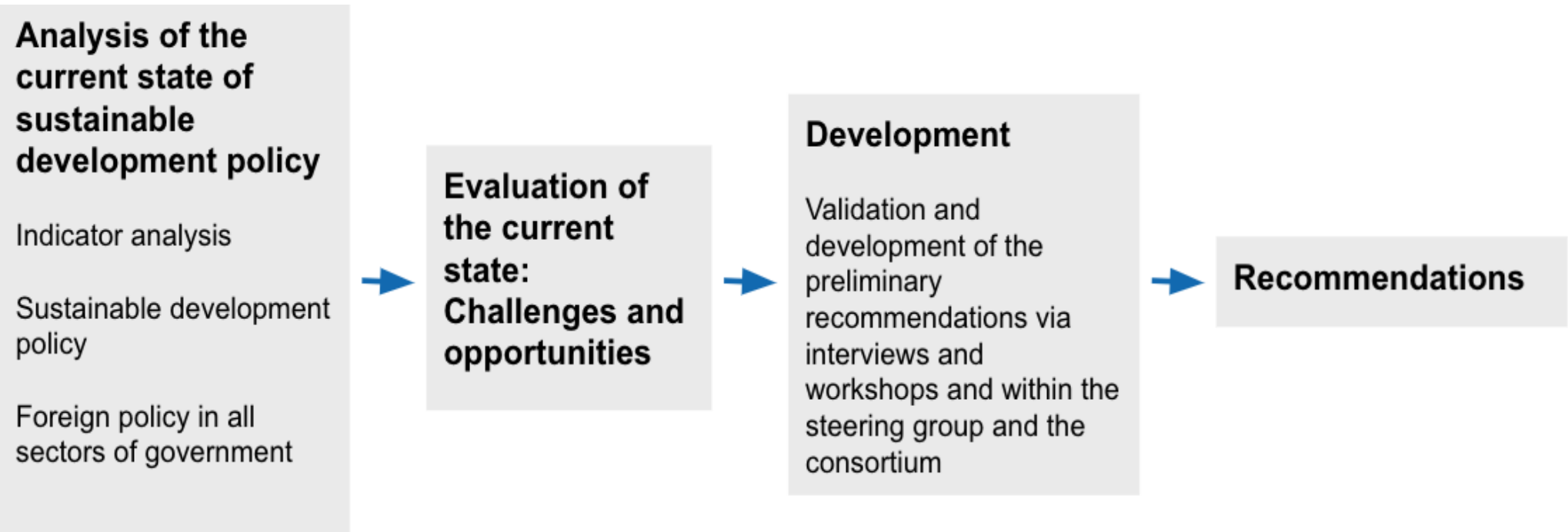
Planning of the evaluation

- **Initial discussions** on the evaluation between ministries and other parties started already in **2017**
- **Planning** started in **2018** under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office
 - Funded by the Government's analysis, assessment and research activities)
- Evaluation **conducted** August 2018 - February 2019
- **Results published** in March **2019**

Evaluation process



Evaluation process



The Evaluation Team

**DEMOS
HELSINKI**
Think tank

HELSUS
HELSINKI INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE


S Y K E
FINNISH ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

 **SEI** Stockholm
Environment
Institute

EXTERNAL EXPERTS



Developmental oriented evaluation

- ✓ **Multi-disciplinary** and cross-sectoral approach
- ✓ **comprehensive participation of key actors and stakeholders**
learning and sharing, innovative workshops, interviews and fora
- ✓ Survey
- ✓ Short, but **intensive** process
- ✓ Cross-administrative **steering group**
- ✓ **Support group** (stakeholders and partners, such as universities, research centers, sustainable development committees, Finnish Evaluation Society, etc.)

Key information sources

Indicators	SDG Index and Dashboards –indicators National SD indicators (10 indicator baskets), Helsus Policy Dialogue materials (expert evaluation and workshops)
Key policy documents	Government SD programs and strategies Planning documents for development co-operation projects
Survey (N=238)	Closed survey to key SD actors and practitioners Open survey to all interested
Interviews (around 80 interviewees)	Key professionals in SD Representatives of all ministries Scientific advisory panel for SD Key process stakeholders
Workshops (3)	Two open stakeholder workshops (around 80 and 40 participants) International evaluation workshop



Key messages from Finnish Evaluation

1. Sustainable development has become a broadly accepted aim in society. SD policy has succeeded in being inclusive.
2. Not a single country has yet introduced a **credible plan** for how the goals of the 2030 Agenda will be reached. Sustainable development should become the basis of future Government Programmes.

Key messages (continued)

4. The Finnish Government should produce a **credible national roadmap** for *how* Finland plans to reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda. This requires extensive national targets.
5. The **coherency of politics** should be strengthened, and **phenomenon-based budgeting is a good start**. All governmental goals should be guided by sustainable development, and Agenda2030 integrated into the strategies, actions and future briefings.

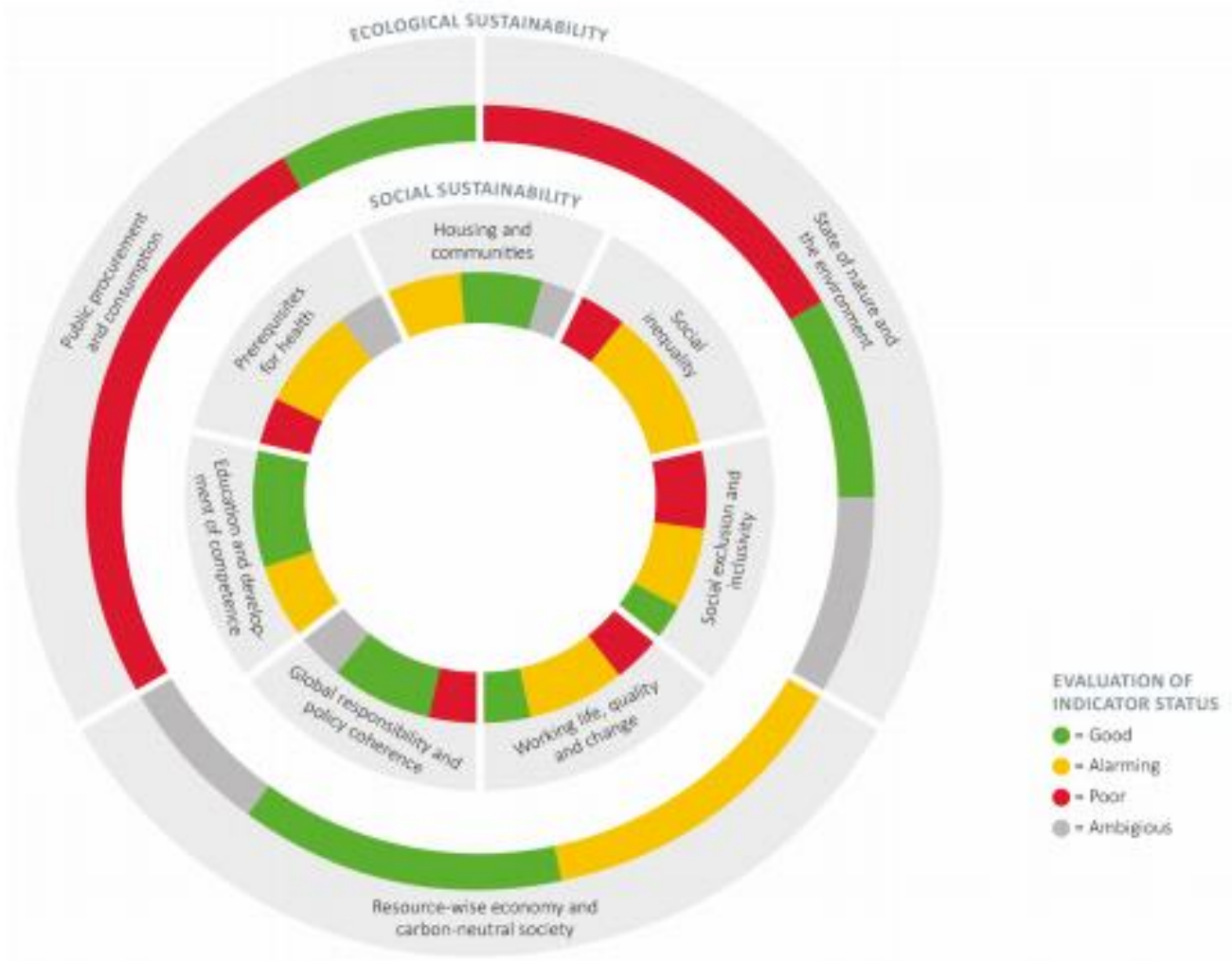


Key Finding

Finland's biggest challenges in sustainable development policy are related to climate change, consumption, the state of the environment, and growing societal inequality.



Assessment of sustainable development in Finland via national indicators



Equivalences between Finland's sustainable development indicator baskets and the SDG Index and Dashboards Report

State of nature and the environment



- Dead wood in forests and high nature value farmland
- Phosphorus and nitrogen load on the Baltic Sea from Finnish rivers
- Atmospheric sulphur, nitrogen and fine particulate emissions in Finland
- Environmental protection expenditure included in the statistics in Finland



Housing and communities



- Housing expenditure
- Access to grocery stores
- Number of people over the age of 75 living in their own home
- Flood risk
- Intact community structures and conditions for public transportation



Equivalences between Finland's sustainable development indicator baskets and the SDG Index and Dashboards Report

Social inequality



- Numbers and regional distribution of beneficiaries of basic social assistance
- Income disparities (Gini coefficient, low income rate, income development in the lowest and highest 10th percentile)
- Satisfaction with life among young adults (aged 18 to 25)
- Numbers of quota refugees and asylum seekers/positive decisions on asylum applications



Resource-wise economy and carbon-neutral society

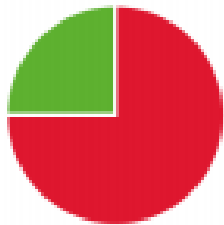


- Greenhouse gas emissions and removals
- Natural resource/raw material consumption, breakdown
- Growing stock increment and drain
- Share of renewable energy in energy use
- Tekes (Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation) funding for resource efficient and carbon neutral solutions



Equivalences between Finland's sustainable development indicator baskets and the SDG Index and Dashboards Report

Public procurement and consumption



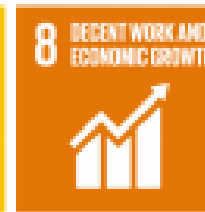
- Carbon footprint of consumption
- Consumption of vegetable, meat and fish based foods
- Trends in municipal waste
- Average carbon dioxide emissions of cars and vans registered for the first time



Social exclusion and inclusivity



- Experience of exclusion or loneliness
- Voting rate
- Young people excluded from work or education
- Confidence in the society and its future among the young
- Trend in Finland by the Corruption Perceptions and World Press Freedom indexes



Equivalences between Finland's sustainable development indicator baskets and the SDG Index and Dashboards Report

Working life, quality and change



- Women's average earnings compared to men's
- Employment rate (Statistics Finland, Labour Force Survey)
- Good working life
- The global responsibility of the working life



Global responsibility and policy coherence

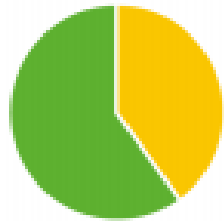


- Finland's development cooperation funding trend
- Finland's developments using the sub-index of the Commitment to Development index in assessing Finland's trade policy
- Finnish participation in international crisis management
- Finland's imports and exports measured in tons and by material type



Equivalences between Finland's sustainable development indicator baskets and the SDG Index and Dashboards Report

Education and development of competence



- Societal skills and literacy
- Research and development costs, share of GDP
- Life-long learning and participation in training
- The number of daycare centres, schools and educational institutions with a focus on sustainable development
- Use of library services



Prerequisites for health



- Morbidity index
- Self-rated health and well-being in different population groups and regions
- Equal health and social services in different regions
- Violence against women / use of shelters



Dissemination

The results and recommendations were widely discussed with the stakeholders in spring 2019

- ✓ 6 discussions with **political parties**
- ✓ 4 **parliamentary committees** discussed the results together
- ✓ Presentations and discussions in **several ministries**
- ✓ **Workshop of national commission on SD**
- ✓ **Government negotiations:** the leading party had **SDG's as a basis of the programme draft**

Evaluation Report and Policy Brief

PATH2030-publications online in English:

- Policy Brief:

<https://tietokayttoon.fi/julkaisu?pubid=30301>

- Report:

<http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161601>

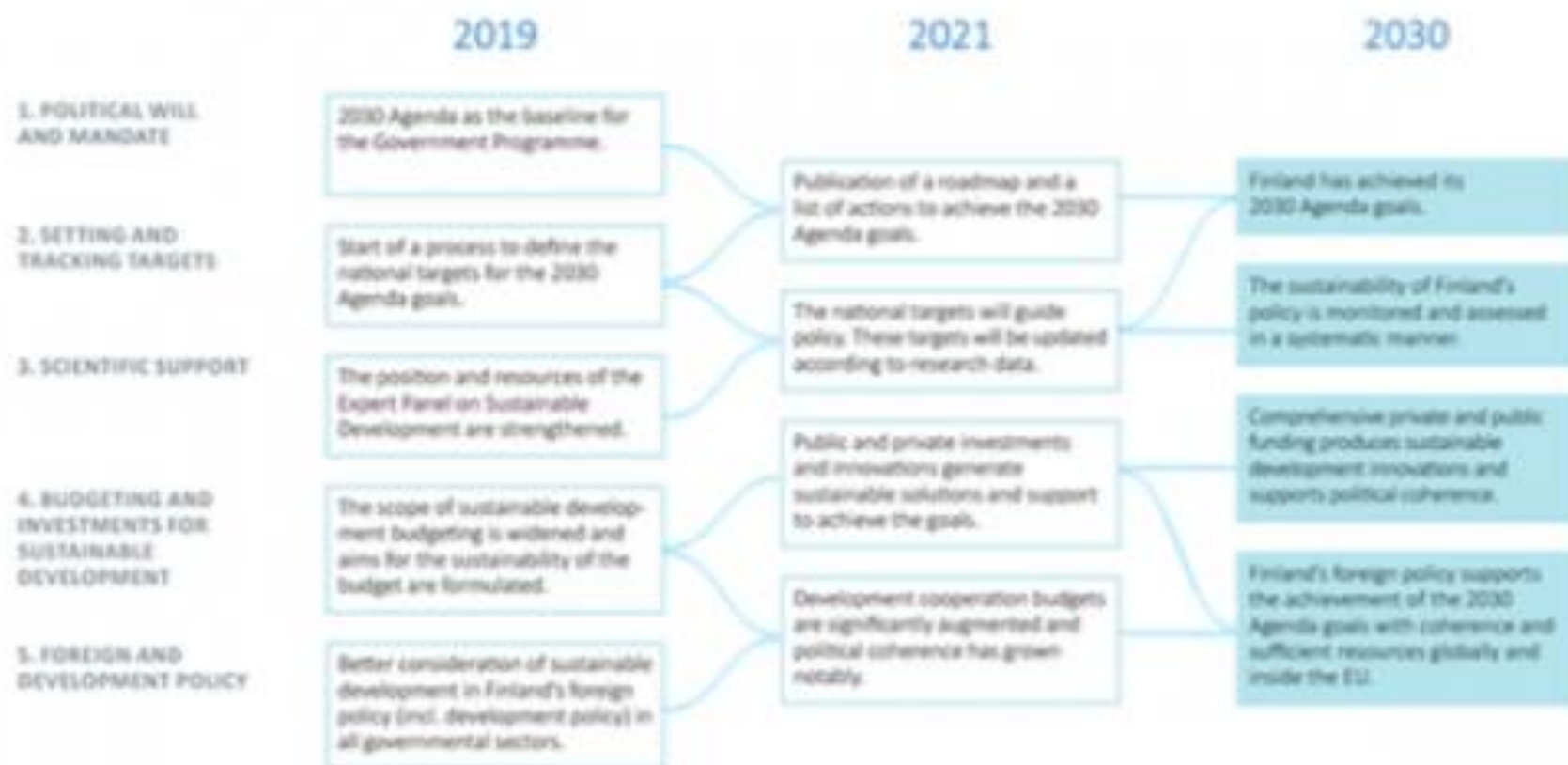


Question remains:

17 main goals, 169 sub-targets and only 10 years time. What path should Finland take to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030?



Transformation pathways to more impactful sustainable development policy



Two knowledge products

- ✓ A briefing paper “Evaluating sustainable development: how the 2030 Agenda can help”
<https://pubs.iied.org/17713IIED/>
- ✓ A **handbook/guide** on evaluation and the SDGs will be published in the GEF Conference, *Third International Conference on Evaluating Environment and Development* in October 2019





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Thank You