

# Preparedness of governments to implement the SDGs

2018 Sustainable Development Transition Forum  
Accelerating Progress towards the SDGs: Enhancing the Role of the  
High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

29 to 31 October 2018  
Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

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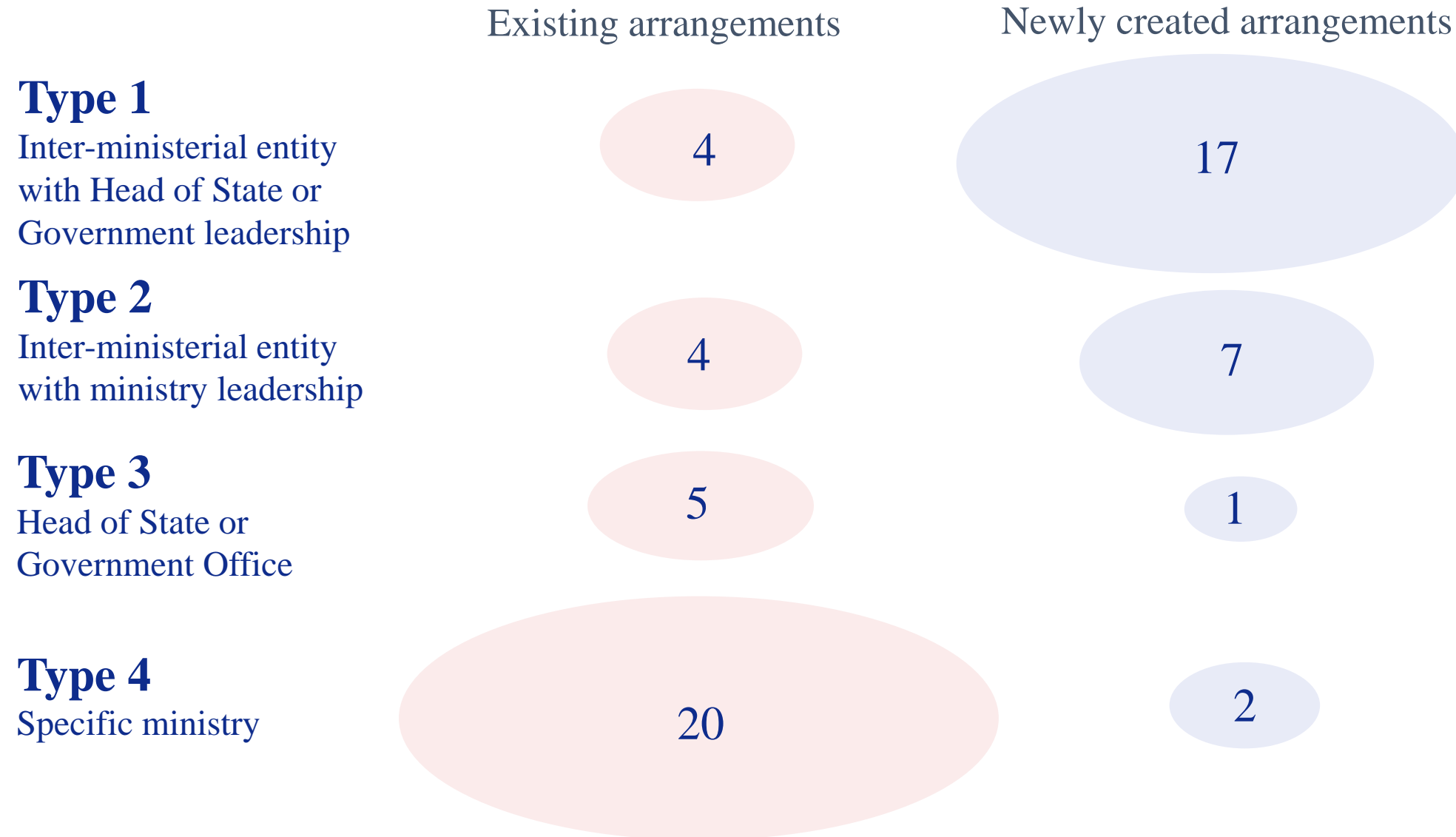
# “Adoption” of SDGs at the national level, seen from the global follow-up and review process

- The 2030 Agenda is not legally binding
  - Countries choose how to implement it, according to their national circumstances
- Strong national ownership / engagement in SDGs observed in many countries
  - For some countries, ownership / champions from the very beginning
  - Easier access to donors’ resources in the future?
  - “Good” framework for sustainable development?
- In many countries, SDGs already inscribed in the “hardware”: legal / regulatory, decrees, development strategies, planning and budgeting processes, etc.,
- Strong resonance with civil society
- HLPF / VNR show extensive national preparations and strong commitment of national governments
- Strong emphasis on data

# Horizontal integration

- Integration across sectors and institutions essential, given the integrated nature of the SDGs
- But challenging
- In the context of UN reviews of the SDGs, main focus has been on systemic (high-level) coordination mechanisms
- However, range of experiences at the sector level, not yet systematically drawn upon
  - IWRM, ICZM, ecosystem approaches, social protection, integrated approaches to health
- Critical importance of cross-cutting processes and tools:
  - national sustainable development strategies/plans,
  - budget and planning processes,
  - monitoring/evaluation/review processes
  - public service engagement,
  - role of parliaments and supreme audit institutions

# National institutional arrangements to coordinate and lead SDG implementation in a sample of 60 countries

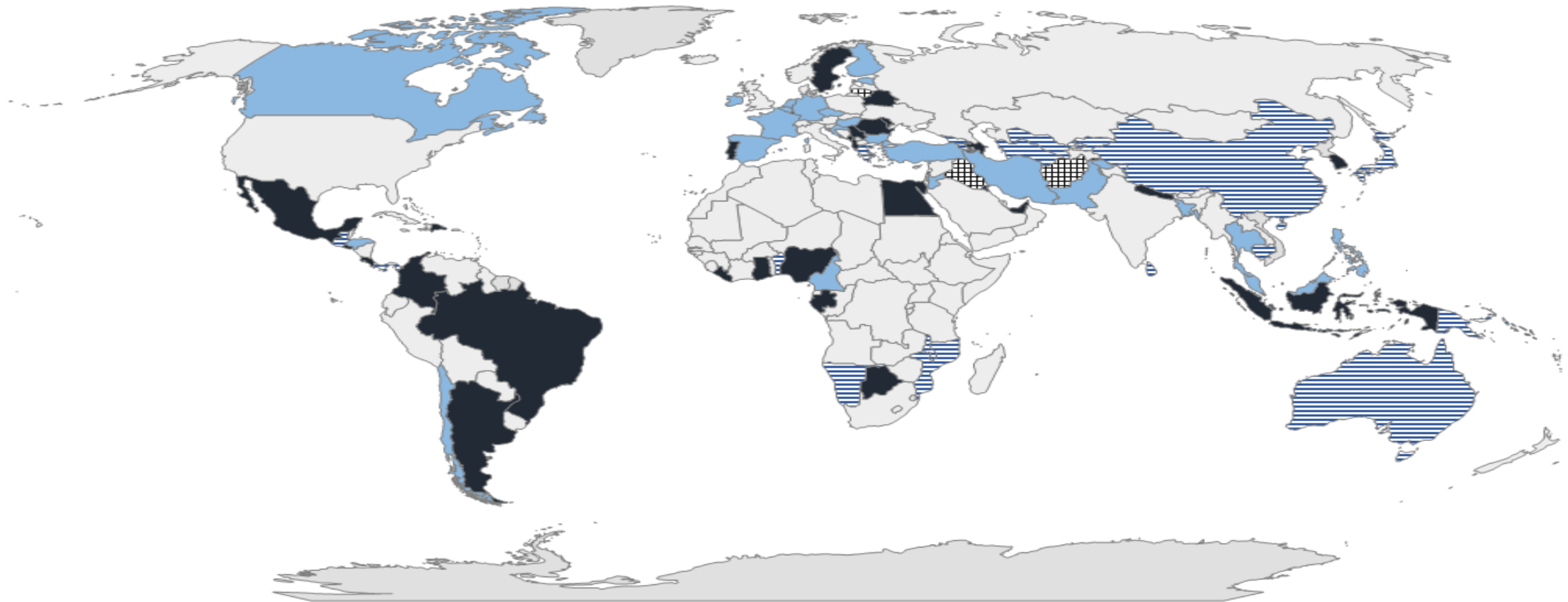


# Chapter 3 - Approaches and tools for vertical integration

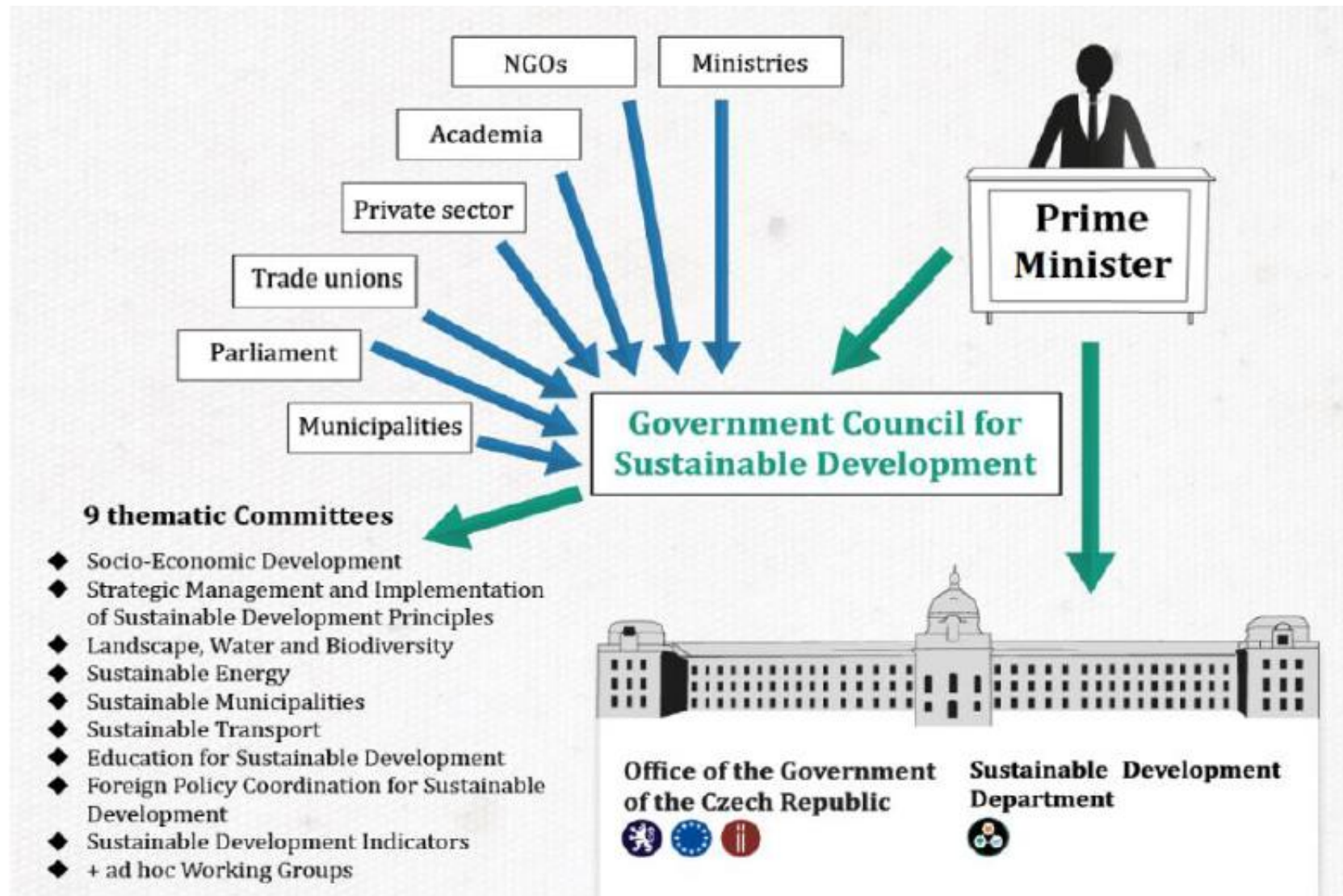
- Alignment or integration of SDGs in sub-national plans & strategies
- Analytical tools to identify priorities and prepare for implementation at local level
- National coordination/decision making structures include LG or are multi-level
- Multi-level budgetary processes
- Localizing indicators
- Vertically integrated monitoring and evaluation structures
- Participation of local authorities in voluntary national reviews at the UN
- Vertically integrated oversight and auditing

# National Councils for sustainable development

- No NCSD found (110)
- New NCSD created specifically for the SDGS (34)
- ▣ Existing NCSD but role in SDG implementation unclear (18)
- Pre-existing NCSD, involved in SDG implementation (28)
- ▣ NCSD reportedly in the process of being established (4)



# High-level institutional arrangements: Czech Republic



Source: VNR of the Czech Republic, 2017

# Whole-of-society approach in Finland

Revised Society's Commitment to sustainable development,  
8 national goals for 2050, SDG's integrated

Government Report on  
the 2030 Agenda  
implementation  
"National  
Implementation Plan"

Society's Commitment -  
tool, commitments  
made by public sector  
companies, civil society  
& individuals

Sustainable  
development & CSR  
plans of individual  
companies &  
organisations

Implementation

Source: Government of Finland, voluntary national review (2016)



# Examples of awareness raising on SDGs at local levels: Belgium

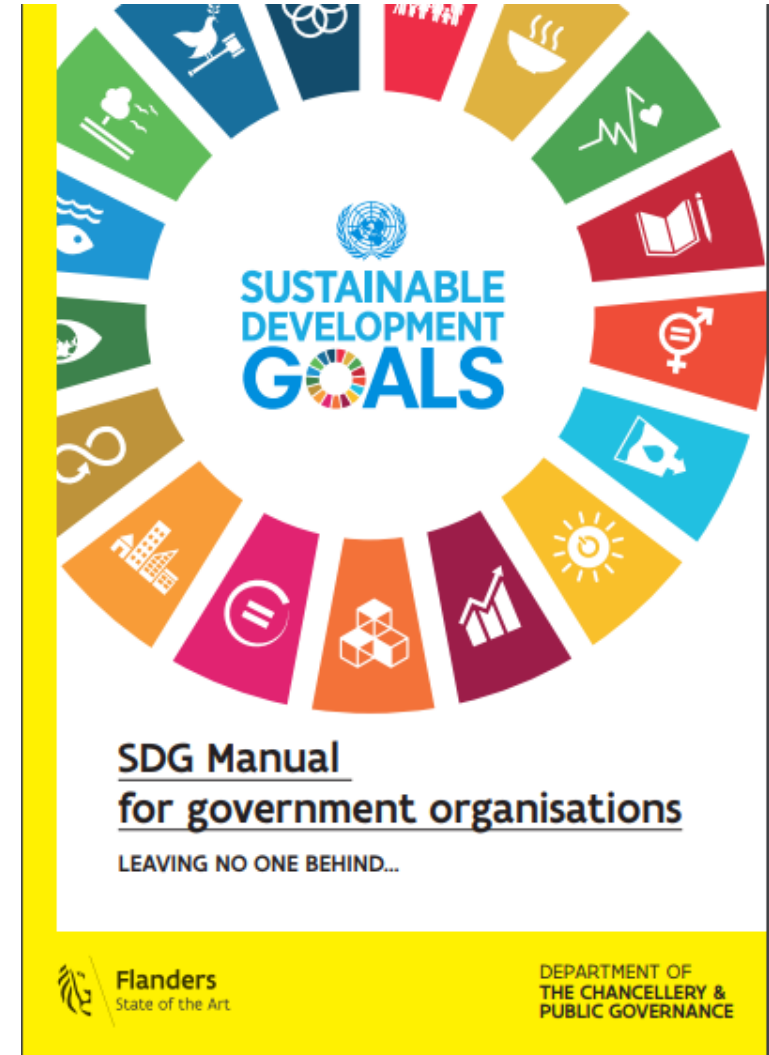


**SDGs in Your Municipality**

**50** Practical Awareness-Raising Examples

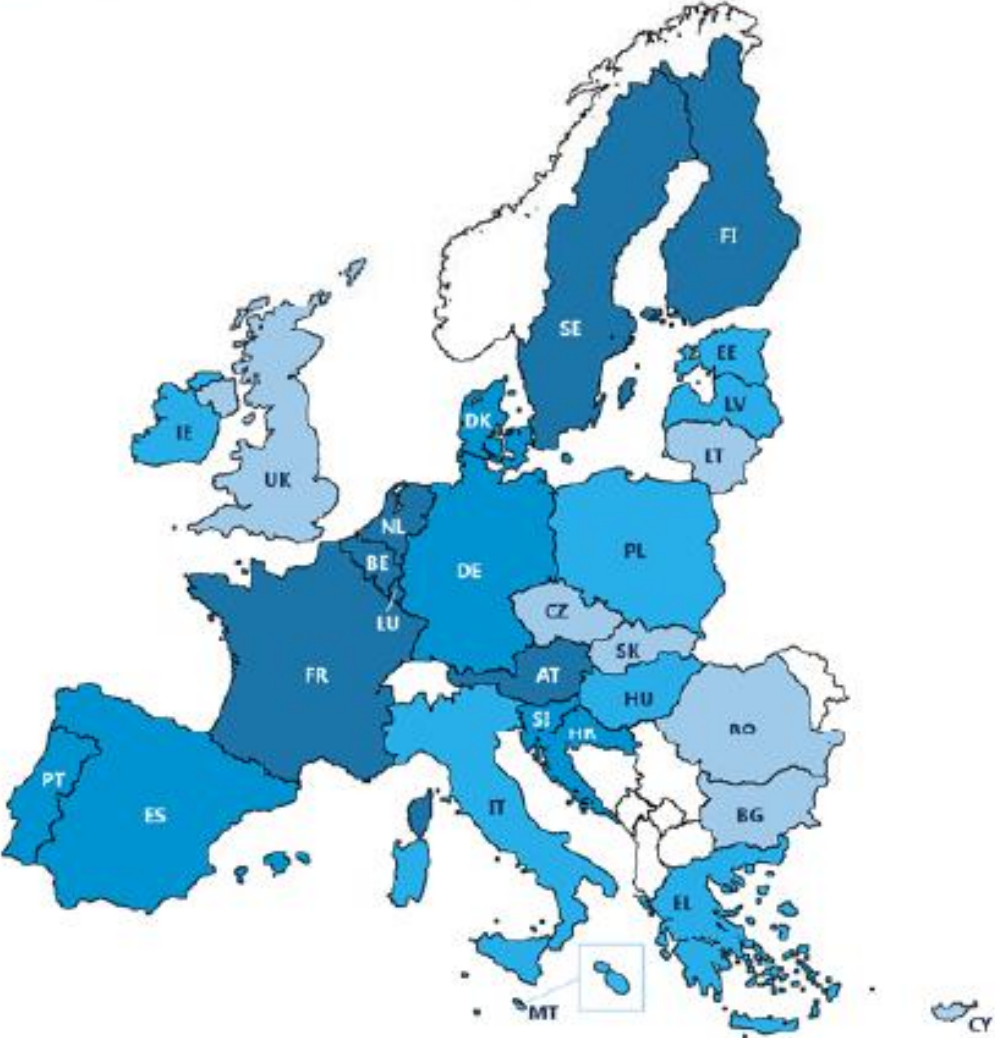
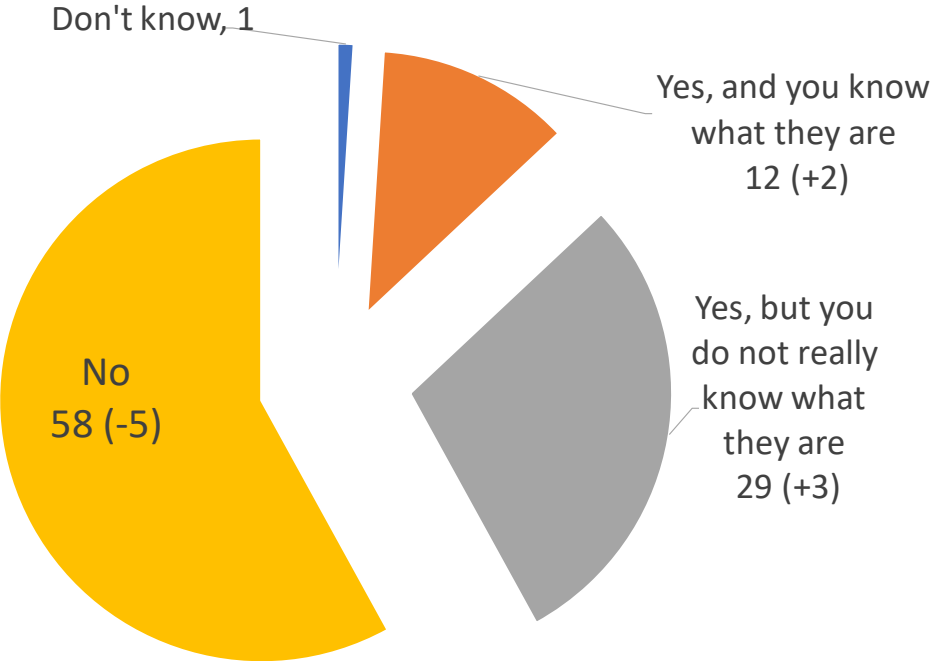


**LOCALIZING THE SDGs**



# How ready are Governments? Awareness of SDGs in Europe at the end of 2016

QC7 Have you ever heard or read about the Sustainable Development Goals agreed by the international community?  
(% - TOTAL 'YES')



Map Legend  
48 - 100  
40 - 47  
32 - 39  
0 - 31

Source: Special Eurobarometer 455, 2017, data collected in Nov-December 2016

# How ready are Governments? Sample of emerging findings from SDG preparedness audits done by supreme audit institutions

<b>Long-term planning</b>	Canada: lack of national implementation plan Costa Rica: limitations in strategic planning process
<b>Responsibilities</b>	Canada: lack of clear institutional structure articulating roles and responsibilities Georgia: roles and responsibilities of public entities for implementation not clearly defined Jamaica: unclear definition of roles and responsibilities
<b>Coordination, integration And coherence</b>	Brazil: opportunities for adopting a more coordinated approach Indonesia: policy coherence and integration lacking an accountability framework Netherlands: attention needed to safeguard policy coherence
<b>Vertical integration</b>	Netherlands: coordination between various administrative levels requires attention Georgia: SDG not integrated at local level PASAI:* linkages with sub-national development plans are unclear
<b>Stakeholder engagement</b>	Canada: unclear engagement strategies Costa Rica: limited awareness raising efforts
<b>Budget</b>	Indonesia: budget spending is still done in silos PASAI: only a few member countries have aligned budgets to the SDGs
<b>Monitoring &amp; evaluation</b>	Canada: need for a monitoring and reporting system Indonesia: need for an adequate M&E system Sudan: Central Bureau of Statistics' data needs improvement

# Thank you!

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