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Guide to Considering Sustainable Development in Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

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Introduction to the English version

This guide builds on findings from the 2020 analysis of options for integrating sustainable development into impact assessment in Czechia and a questionnaire survey conducted by the RIA department of the Office of the Government.

Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is a mandatory part of the legislative process in Czechia, standing at its beginning. RIA should recommend an appropriate way to resolve a problem based on expert assessment of impacts on defined areas. In Czechia, RIAs must be prepared by ministries but not the Parliament, which also possesses the legislative initiative.

The analysis indicates that RIA is a suitable tool for implementing the sustainable development perspective into everyday policy-making in Czechia, and that it is not necessary to create a new separate impact assessment framework for this purpose. Moreover, RIA promotes policy coherence for sustainable development. However, RIA must be carried out properly to fulfil this purpose. The General Principles of RIA, the main mandatory methodology for RIA preparation, require that the most appropriate solution be designed in accordance with sustainable development principles. However, a concrete idea for meeting this requirement has been lacking so far. This guide therefore aims to answer some of the identified problems and weaknesses of impact assessment, to contribute to improving the quality of the RIA process in Czech state administration, and to ensure the inclusion of a sustainable development perspective in the impact assessment process and thus also in regulatory activities.

One long-standing problem in the practice of impact assessment is a lack of personnel capacities for quality RIA preparation, meaning that, among other things, RIAs are often produced under time pressure and without space to carry out the individual steps properly. The impact assessment process itself is highly formalised, and this can lead to a failure to appreciate context. Procedures not formally prescribed are practically not carried out (e.g. transboundary impact assessment, experiments and pilots).

This guide is intended to be a useful tool to facilitate the work of state servants who want to produce good quality impact assessments. It provides specific examples, sources of information and tips. It introduces sustainable development in terms of content, principles and tools, and links the existing mandatory areas of impact assessment with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national sustainable development goals defined in the [Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030](#).

How to work with this guide

The purpose of this guide is to assist state servants preparing RIAs in **fully incorporating a sustainable development perspective into existing design and impact assessment practices**. The main motive is the need to consider the cross-cutting aspect of sustainable development and to address it in a relevant way in all policies. RIA in Czechia can play a crucial role in this respect. Although RIA is an established process, the increasing complexity and dynamism of development call for innovation in the consideration of impacts. The existing General Principles of RIA already call for a sustainable development perspective. It is not about doing more, but about achieving the desired effect by doing some things better or differently than some state servants preparing RIA are used to.

The guide is divided into two parts. **The first part (the chapter *How to understand sustainable development*)** introduces, in general terms, the principles and appropriate tools for considering sustainable development in the design and evaluation of regulation. It focuses on three key aspects:

- 1) **Substantive content**, i.e. how to specifically consider Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 as an overarching document for sustainable development in Czechia.
- 2) **The sustainable development principles** on which the impact assessment process itself should be based, starting with its preparation.
- 3) **An overview of the main tools** that can assist with the implementation of sustainable development principles in evaluation design practice.

The second part (the chapter *Considering sustainable development in existing RIA*) links the individual aspects of RIA evaluation with the specific principles and tools that can be used in the relevant step.

For all the substantive areas of impact in the existing RIA structure, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Czechia's 2030 national goals relevant to the area are also listed. In addition, this part is accompanied by guiding control questions to determine whether the regulatory proposal is inconsistent with these goals. This part presents the substantive interconnection of RIA by impact area with the general (SDGs) and specific (CR 2030) levels of sustainable development.

The guide can be used throughout the RIA preparation and evaluation process (ex-ante and ex-post), or for only a single part, depending on need. **The individual chapters can therefore be read separately.** For each of the tools, the guide **links** the reader **to existing tutorials, methodologies and examples** that provide an in-depth introduction to the tool and its use.

In the practice of each individual assessment, the state servant should do the following with the help of this guide:

- 1) They should **consider what the principles and tools mean for the specific assessment process** and act accordingly.
- 2) They should **assess whether the solution under consideration conflicts substantively with the SDGs** and, if so, seek to bring the solution into line.
- 3) If negative impacts on SDGs persist, the **RIA Final Report and the Submission Report should explicitly state** which SDGs will be negatively impacted by the solution and leave the matter to a political decision.

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Introduction

RIA and sustainable development are closely linked, and **RIA is a suitable tool for considering sustainable development**. Extending the scope of RIA beyond economic impact analysis and considering social and environmental aspects **allows policy coherence** to be improved while **integrating the sustainable development perspective** into policy areas such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure and transport.

The **OECD** has long advocated implementing sustainability into policies. Back in 2010, it issued a methodology for conducting Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIAs) to **strengthen the multidimensional approach in policy making** so that all three sustainable development pillars (social, economic and environmental) are appropriately integrated. It has developed a **tool to support integrating the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development** across all levels of the policy process, the [Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development \(PCSD\)](#), from which this guide draws.

Efforts to mainstream sustainable development (in its broader sense) into policies and legislation have been a long-term **trend at European Union (EU) level**, see Chapter 2.1.2 European Initiative: [Better Regulation Toolbox](#) and [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The importance the EU attaches to promoting sustainable development is now reflected in the European Green Deal and the related "Do no significant harm" ([DNSH](#)) principle. A classification system (taxonomy) has been established to facilitate environmentally sustainable investments.

How to understand sustainable development

Sustainable development **is not just a "green" issue**. It seeks a **balanced approach to growth, ensuring social inclusion, environmental sustainability and development within the limits of nature, together with economic prosperity**. The benefits of sustainable development can therefore be seen in a broad cross-section of activities. Nor is it **only a "substantive" topic**. Sustainable development also includes cross-cutting **principles and tools** that help capture the long-term horizon of impacts and ensure an inclusive approach to policy definition and implementation.¹

It is thus good to think about sustainable development **on three levels**:

1. **Substantive content**
2. **Principles**
3. **Tools**

Substantive content

Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030

The content of sustainable development is globally embodied in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its **17** interlinked **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 to achieve a better and more sustainable world for everyone. These goals, signed up to by **all Member States, including Czechia**, are a call to tackle a range of global problems such as poverty, inequality, climate change and environmental degradation.

¹ Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals - A comprehensive approach, SWD (2020) 400 final

In the Czech environment, SDGs are mainly embodied in the [Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030](#), which defines the strategic direction of Czechia through six basic areas of sustainability (People and Society; Economic Model; Resilient Ecosystems; Municipalities and Regions; Global Development; Good Governance). Therefore, when we ask "Is it sustainable?", we actual mean whether it is in line with the SDGs or the CR 2030 goals. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals themselves are quite broad, as they are the result of a global consensus that takes into account the preferences of both the rich North and the G77. Therefore, when operationalising the SDGs in impact assessments, we should bear in mind that the SDGs do not cover all the topics perceived as important. For example, the human rights agenda does not include the rights of LBGTQ+ people. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda does not explicitly include topics that have become more important in the past seven years (e.g. digitalisation, artificial intelligence, sustainable finances, geoengineering). This does not mean, however, that it does not provide basic guidelines for grasping them.

The individual Sustainable Development Goals are specified in more detail through 169 targets. Progress towards them is then tracked using [232 unique indicators](#). It is a global "benchmark", based on the principles of "leave no one behind" and "common but differentiated responsibilities", and therefore always needs adapting to the circumstances of the individual states.

Global SDGs cannot, by their very nature, provide sufficient answers to problems at national level. To this end, the government approved the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030, a set of specific national goals and sub-goals complemented by statistical [indicators](#). The linking of both levels, i.e. general, given by the SDGs, and specific for Czechia, given by the Strategic Framework, and their connection to RIA is presented in the chapter [Substantive RIA impact areas](#), which includes goals and a set of guiding questions for assessing specific sustainable development perspective examples.



Quality RIA implementation itself can be considered the achievement of SDG 16 and Good Governance, creating preconditions for the achievement of the other goals. SDGs address all major societal challenges and therefore require effective state administration for their implementation. This involves informed (political) decision-making, a multidisciplinary approach, as well as promoting active participation in decision-making, planning and the implementation of sustainable development policies and programmes at all levels. RIA and ex-post RIA can also significantly help in future decisions on new public policies or on adjustments to existing ones.

In the **Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030**, a quality impact assessment of proposed regulation (RIA) in the area of **Good Governance** is part of the goal 24.3 *Public policies will be based on available knowledge and systematically assessed in advance with regard to **possible impact on recipients and on areas other than primary interest**.*

European Initiative: Better Regulation Toolbox (BRT)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been fully integrated into EC practice through the [EC Communication Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws](#)² (2021) with **SDGs being directly included in impact assessment and evaluation**. The Guidelines and the [Better regulation toolbox](#)³ were subsequently revised in this spirit to assist in incorporating SDGs into impact assessments. The revised toolbox is quite extensive and contains practical tools, procedures and tips that Commission officials in particular can use when drafting and proposing legislation. It can be worked with selectively, i.e. as needed. The updated version has only been used since 2023 and no lessons have therefore yet been learned from its setup and use.

The approach to evaluation on SDGs is based on an assessment of whether and how the initiative supports the achievement of the relevant SDGs. It includes **specific tools** (in particular tools 18 and 19, see below) for implementing SDGs in impact assessments. For individual impacts, there are the more detailed tools 21-37 that further specify individual steps, including data sources and indicators. The EC has also proposed ex-ante regulatory impact assessment not only in relation to solution appropriateness at EU level, but also **assessment of potential economic, social and environmental impacts**, i.e. SIA.

BRT TOOL 18: IDENTIFICATION OF IMPACTS

Tool 18 focuses on identifying potential impacts. It **links the different impact areas and SDGs** through clear tables (pp. 140-149). For basic impact structuring, it applies a division into **economic, social and environmental pillars**, which is directly related to the conceptualisation of sustainable development (pp. 137-138). The BRT table lists the **key impacts** that should be assessed to identify all potentially relevant impacts. The tool also looks at a **shortlist of key impacts**. It is not necessary to analyse all impacts, but rather to select the really relevant ones.

BRT TOOL 19: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Tool 19 is more of a general chapter on how each legislative proposal should contribute to SDGs. To this end, the European Commission has created the [KnowSDGs platform](#) providing a full description of all 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, including a list of sustainable development indicators. **Online tools** are available for **"mapping" or "tagging" SDGs** based on text analysis. For example, **SDG Mapper** analyses keyword frequency in a text document uploaded to the programme. The output is clear graphs indicating the extent to which the individual SDGs are reflected in the text.

² Communication of 29 April 2021 on "Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws" (COM (2021) 219)

³ [Better regulation: guidelines and toolbox](#)

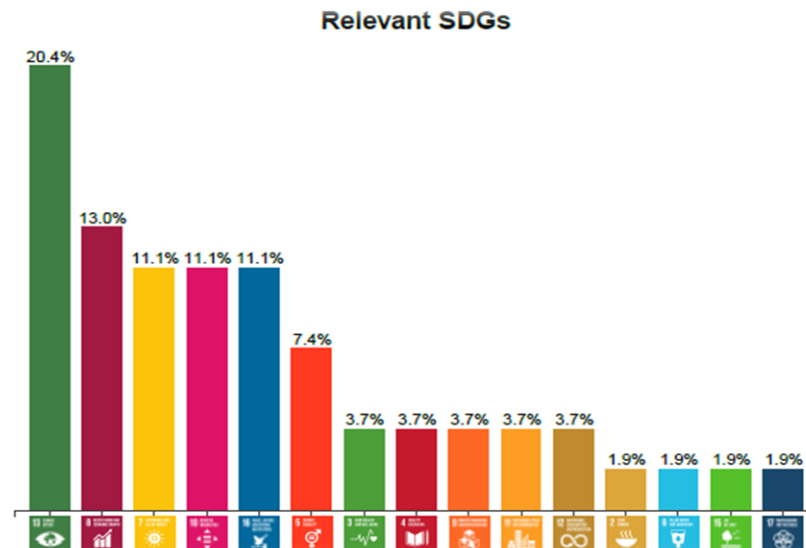


Figure 1 Sample SDG Mapper output

The tool also presents [a set of EU sustainable development indicators](#) for each SDG with 100 indicators (complementary to the set of UN indicators) to monitor the EU's progress towards achieving them. You can also view relevant data for **individual EU Member States**. **Comparable data relevant to SDGs from all EU states** (and Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) can therefore be used here, **e.g. as a benchmark for problem definition**. Where appropriate as a complement to the Czech Republic 2030 indicators, the set of EU indicators can also be used to describe the current state (zero option), targets and impacts of individual options for addressing the problem.

Principles

The sustainable development principles are **aspects** that should be considered **in the impact assessment process itself**. This means it is not a case of individual items where we merely assess whether the proposal is suitable or not – rather, we already have them in mind **when preparing and processing** the assessment.

Long-term perspective

A long-term perspective means looking at the current problem and its solutions with a view to the **impact on future generations**, over a time horizon **that goes beyond election periods**. It's not merely about meeting a short-term need or solving an immediate problem, as this may lead to other problems arising in connection with the proposal, or the problem reappearing after some time, resulting in the need for a new solution with associated additional costs. There is also sometimes a need to **weigh short-term negative impacts against long-term positive ones**.

The **purpose** is to **consider both the long-term effects** of the proposed regulation and to include consideration of the **evolution of the problem and the impacts of the regulation in a changing environment and under future conditions**. Working with megatrends or foresight (see the section Tools) can serve this purpose well.

Multidimensional approach

A multidimensional approach involves a holistic **integration of the economic, environmental and social pillars** of sustainable development, while seeking to maximise synergies and minimise trade-

offs between different goals. All **three components should be given equal weight** and none should be suppressed or promoted. The relationship between the different pillars and goals can be positive, negative or mixed, even on different geographical and time scales. We want to keep this principle increasingly in mind the more impact area items we process (specific items on e.g. corruption or gender are useful, but are not all-inclusive – we still want to **see the whole picture of a given issue and not assess individual details in isolation**).

Negative side effects

The consideration of negative spillovers is **related to the multidimensional approach** above and to **policy coherence**. It seems clear that impact assessment will mainly focus on negative impacts. However, once we look out of the "tunnel" of the primary design area, many other negative side effects may emerge that would not have occurred to us at first glance (e.g. the energy intensity of the environmental measures being introduced). Proposed (not only) environmental legislation can have both positive and negative social impacts.

Without proper analysis and planning, policies in one, e.g. the environmental, sustainable development pillar (e.g. environmental regulation to introduce liquid biofuels for motor vehicles) can lead to unintended and harmful side effects in another, e.g. the social or economic pillar (e.g. an increase in the price of basic foodstuffs and an exacerbation of poverty in third-world states).

It is also necessary to consider whether **negative impacts occur far from the place where political decisions are taken**, i.e. outside Czechia. The General Principles of RIA do not require a determination of cross-border impacts, but it is still a good idea to consider whether proposed legislation could negatively affect other states - **not only neighbouring ones but also developing states and the planet as a whole** (e.g. there has traditionally been a great deal of discussion about cross-border impacts in relation to proposals for emissions regulation or the conclusion of free trade agreements, e.g. with Mercosur).

Beneficiaries' perspective

Policies do not affect abstract entities, but real people - citizens. Their needs and experiences with current policy settings are most commonly identified through consultation. We emphasise **consultation throughout the impact assessment process**, beyond the "traditional" working groups and long-term stakeholders. According to the BRT, the **collection of feedback and the collection of inputs in consultation need to be distinguished from each other**. Gathering feedback offers stakeholders the opportunity to express their views on a specific document that has already been produced, while consultation is the process of gathering stakeholder inputs and views on new initiatives, where both the form of the solution and its purpose are open.

Stakeholder **consultation** is an important **tool for gathering information for data-driven or evidence-informed** policy-making. The aim is to attract more participants and quality contributions to the proposed regulation. This in itself is **part of achieving SDG 16.6: Build effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels**. Whether and to what extent the **consultation will be beneficial to the design** is then also determined by its appropriate **organisation** (see the section Public involvement).

Tools

With regard to all four sustainable development principles mentioned above, we must also mention the tools that assist in their implementation in regulatory practice. The need for **forecasts accompanied by an analysis of the sensitivity of the results to changes** in the main internal and external **variables** affecting impacts is mentioned in the [EC Communication on impact assessment](#).⁴

A common problem in impact assessment is a lack of data. Statistical data are the most commonly used open source, but indicator subsets can also be used. There is also the option to collect your own data, especially if there is uncertainty around the proposals, e.g. how people will react to them or what behaviour they will encourage. It should also be borne in mind with statistical data that a mere extrapolation of current trends in indicators does not necessarily give a good indication of the dynamics of impacts.

Working with a long-term perspective - foresight and megatrends

The need to consider long-term impacts is also part of [BRT Tool 20](#). Various methods can be used to **assess long-term impacts**, including **scenarios** and **foresight**. The use of strategic and science-based foresight ensures that **decisions** taken are based on a **longer-term perspective, including that of the contribution to long-term commitments such as SDGs**. BRT Tool 20 focuses on strategic foresight methods, particularly in relation to problem-solving options.

To consider the **evolution of a problem and the impact of regulation in a changing environment and under future conditions**, it may be useful to **work with megatrends** and their possible impact on the given problem. Understanding the impact of megatrends **will assist in better setting the target and better choosing the appropriate regulation method**. For example, one might ask: *What aspects of the problem or its proposed solutions would relevant megatrends influence or change? On the other hand, does the solution under consideration have an impact on any megatrends?*

Specific **tips and examples of how to work with foresight and megatrends** have been published by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra on its [website dedicated to work with megatrends](#), including links to foresight tools. Inspiration for the Czech environment can be found in outputs of the project [Megatrends and great societal challenges](#) by the Czech Priorities think tank.

Experimentation and pilot testing of the regulation

The effectiveness of new regulation can be verified by experimentation or pilot testing at the design stage, i.e. before the final RIA report is prepared. While pilot projects can be costly in terms of time and resources and may also carry political risks, these **costs** should be **outweighed by the significantly lower risk of shortcomings in the new regulation**. A number of experimental methods are available, some of which may be more challenging to implement and others easier. **It is not always necessary to pilot the whole design, often only part of it is enough** – here it is up to the developer what data it wants to obtain from the experiment and how beneficial implementation of the experiment will be – it does not necessarily have to be anything complicated.

In the area of RIA, **experimentation prior to legislation** is particularly useful. Experimentation represents a **different approach from the conventional model**, which argues that policy analysis,

⁴ Communication on impact assessment (COM (2002) 276)

solution formulation and incorporation into legislation precede implementation. Here, however, **experimentation means first innovating through (scope-limited) implementation and only later proposing universal laws and regulation.**

Pilot projects should vary in **nature and scope depending on a number of factors**, such as a tight timetable or low budget. Therefore, the **extent of knowledge already accumulated on the given policy area is important** in the preparation of an experiment/pilot project. The scale and complexity of the experiment should then be **adequate to its utility**. There is no single best method to pilot test regulation, and so a mix of methods can be used to obtain a fuller picture.

The Report of a Review of Government Pilots in the UK "[Trying It Out: The Role of 'Pilots' in Policy-Making](#)" (2003) is **very informative in this regard**. It includes a **number of practical examples** relating to challenging, multi-year projects or relatively quick and small-scale experiments (e.g. a pilot project to assess the practicality of an information package in the process of buying and selling houses and flats and its subsequent use for housing policy-making at national level, tested on 189 properties for sale and based on surveys and in-depth interviews with sellers and buyers).

In conclusion, it should be stressed that a pilot project that **reveals that regulation is problematic or ineffective** should certainly not be considered a "waste" of money. On the contrary, it **is a consistently cost-effective approach**. If the political representation accepts its results, such a project can help prevent a solution that would not serve its purpose and that would pose both a financial and political problem.

Public involvement

Consultation management methodologies are among those recommended in RIA, but there are other extension materials. Consultations in regulatory impact assessment are addressed in the [RIA Training Manual](#) of the Office of the Government of Czechia, as well as in the entire [BRT Chapter 7](#) and [BRT Tool 10](#), which focuses on social partner consultation. In English, Participedia and **People Powered**, for example, provide good overviews of different participation methods. One useful English-language tool for digital participation is [Decidim](#).

It is appropriate to take a broader view of participation if it is to have the best effect. We can draw on the [Methodology of participation of non-governmental non-profit organisations in advisory and working bodies and in the drafting of state administration documents](#) (OG, 2022) and, as an English-language source, the OECD [Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes](#) (2022). We can also use older materials, such as the [Methodology for public involvement in the preparation of government documents](#) (Mol, 2009), which also addresses public involvement in various RIA process stages, including an overview of basic techniques and an evaluation template, and the follow-up [Manual for public involvement in the preparation of government documents](#) (Mol, 2010), with a list and description of methods and techniques for public involvement.

New tools - regulatory sandbox and behavioural insights

There are a number of approaches that have been slow to penetrate the Czech environment, although in the EU environment they are already becoming an integral part of policy making and impact assessment. From the role of emotions or values, through issues of framing and the meaning of metaphors, to behavioural approaches. A summary is offered by the EC's [Understanding our political nature](#) (2019).

Some of these tools are also addressed by the BRT. Specifically, [BRT Tool 6g](#) discusses **regulatory sandboxes** and **behavioural insights**. **Sandboxes** are part of efforts by regulators around the world to address challenges posed by technological transformation and the emergence of new products, services and business models. They allow **innovations to be tested in a controlled real-world environment** according to a specific plan developed and monitored by the competent authority. In addition to **examples of sandbox use in the EU**, [BRT Tool 6g](#) contains a **set of questions to consider before deciding to set up a regulatory sandbox**. There are theoretically two possible approaches to the creation of a sandbox: one, where innovators initiate the sandbox based on an identified regulatory barrier; and the other, where the legislative provision for testing is identified by the regulator itself and interested organisations are invited to cooperate.

Despite its growing popularity, the **sandbox use is not always appropriate** (e.g. if the goal is to learn more about new innovations in the market or learning in general, it is better to use other, less formal tools) and is sometimes not implemented correctly. This is why [CGAP⁵](#), in partnership with the World Bank, created the [How to Build a Regulatory Sandbox. A Practical Guide for Policy Makers](#) (2020) technical guide, which provides **detailed guidance, including examples, on how to successfully design and implement sandbox testing**, including possible suitable alternatives (e.g. an innovation hub).

The [Making space for innovation](#) (2019) handbook published by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy is also informative, providing, in addition to general information and procedures, examples of **sandboxes implemented in Germany** (e.g. the [testbed for autonomous driving in Baden-Württemberg](#), which is a regulatory sandbox for mobility concepts, allowing companies and research institutions to test technologies and services in connected and automated driving, and is thus **designed as a testbed for broad participation**, etc.).

More detailed information, the procedure and examples can be found in the [OECD handbook Tools and Ethics for Applied Behavioural Insights: The BASIC Toolkit](#) (2019). A total of **100 practical examples** are included in the [OECD publication Behavioural Insights and Public Policy: Lessons from Around the World](#) (2016), where a number of important and **relevant topics from a sustainable development perspective** can also be found, such as consumer protection, education, energy, environment, labour market, health and even financial products.

Behavioural Insights are evidence-based conclusions about human behaviour. They provide a **better understanding of how people think, act and feel**. For impact assessment, this tool is

⁵ Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, a global partnership of development organisations that seeks to improve the lives of poor people, especially women, through financial inclusion, note

relevant if the **effectiveness of regulation always depends on human behaviour**. It can be used **especially in problem definition and the formulation of alternative options**, yet is a relatively time-consuming method. **BRT Tool 6g** provides **practical steps for implementing this tool**.

Other tools

In addition to the above, there are a number of other tools that support some sustainable development principles. The following can serve as examples:

- **Critical technologies method.** This is a normative method used to **find appropriate measures, technologies, etc. for predefined future needs** and goals. It is a **participatory** method based on the participation of a large number of experts. The output is a recommendation for the developmental direction of the addressed area (most often related to science and research) and for the implementation of specific measures. It also includes emerging technologies with potential to significantly support e.g. economic growth or social cohesion, but that at the same time may pose a significant risk to these socio-economic areas (e.g. in the event of misuse or accident). Klusáček describes the method, including an **example of its use in the TA CR for the design of the National Research Programme**, in his text [The Critical Technologies Method](#) (undated).
- **Cross-impact analysis.** This method is **related to foresight and thinking about possible futures**. Specifically, it addresses possible future **combinations of factors**, interactions between them, and the assessment of conditional probabilities, including estimates of expected societal impacts. The main goal is always to reduce future uncertainty when working with a combination of events. The method is described by Gordon in [Cross-Impact Method](#) (1994), **including the procedure and examples of use**.
- **Morphological analysis.** A normative method suitable for problems that are difficult to quantify. It is particularly useful for **structuring the problem during its definition** and for exploring **relationships in multidimensional, non-quantifiable problem complexes**. This method is often combined with relevance trees and is described by Ritchey in [General Morphological Analysis as a Basic Scientific Modelling Method](#) (2018).
- **Relevance trees.** An analytical method suitable for defining and structuring a problem, where an initially broad topic is broken down into increasingly narrower subtopics, recorded in the form of a tree diagram. This is a relatively quick method. The result is a pictorial presentation with a hierarchical structure, with each level highlighting different aspects of the problem or solutions already offered. The method is described e.g. by Kamiński et al. in [A framework for sensitivity analysis of decision trees](#) (2017).

Considering sustainable development in the existing RIA structure

If properly conceived, the existing RIA structure already allows for sustainable development to be properly considered. The aim of Section 3.1 is to show what to look for in an RIA to ensure that sustainable development reflects both the principles described above and the use of tools that support these principles. The section [Chyba! Nenalezen zdroj odkazů.](#) is used to project the content side.

Structure of RIA evaluation

The following sections follow the structure of RIA evaluation and expand and complement the procedure given for each item in the General Principles of RIA (2016) or the RIA Training Manual (2017). The aim is to help them to be well understood by highlighting aspects of sustainable development, examples of processing and appropriate tools.

Problem identification

There are two main reasons why problem definition is important. The first is cognitive (**solving an inappropriately formulated problem does not lead to good results**), while the second is the need for communication. It is important that **everyone understands the problem in the same way, and at the same time that the definition itself not have a demotivating effect on the actors**. It is for the latter reason that it is also **useful to work with behavioural insights** (see the chapter

New tools - regulatory sandbox and behavioural insights). From the sustainable development perspective, it is desirable to consider the **intergenerational dimension and transboundary/global impacts**, including the future outlook, when defining a problem.

A proper definition of the problem helps in determining the need for legislative (or other) intervention and is the first step of proposal preparation. It is often a **complex issue** that can be **divided into sub-issues**. Since the problem definition sets the starting point for the whole legislative drafting process, one cannot be satisfied with a general statement (even in the case of transposition of European law). It is always **desirable to look for the root causes of the primary problem**, to go into sufficient depth in analysing it and to back up your claims with adequate evidence that the problem is indeed serious and needs addressing through legislation. Although the problem to be addressed logically follows from the unsatisfactory status quo, **a description of the status quo cannot serve as a definition of the problem**.

The problem definition should be supported by relevant evidence, in particular empirical data and expert reports. **When defining a problem, the main questions to ask are:** *Why is this a problem? How big/serious is the problem? Who is affected by the problem? Where does the problem occur? What is its scope? What are its causes? What are the consequences? How is the problem evolving over time?* A popular heuristic tool in public policy is the **problem tree**, which helps in visualising the consequences (crown) and causes (roots) of the problem in question (trunk). Other **tools that can be used are morphological analysis and a relevance tree** (see the chapter [Other tools](#)).

Example:

Bill amending Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and Act No. 99/1963 Coll., the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended.

What is the problem?

*"The amount of plastic litter in the oceans and seas is increasing to the detriment of ecosystems, biodiversity and potentially human health, and is causing widespread concern. At the same time, valuable materials that could be reused in the economy end up in the waste stream. ... In Czechia, plastic packaging has **long** represented **one fifth of all waste** generated from packaging materials. In 2018, plastic packaging waste accounted for 20.6% of the total packaging waste generated from glass, paper, metal, wood and non-classified materials (Statistical Yearbook on the Environment, 2019). **The volume of plastic packaging (in tonnes) has been on an upward trend since 2014**, increasing by 22% between 2014 and 2018...*

*... the table shows the percentages of the 20 most common types of waste in rivers. It clearly shows that **plastic packaging has the largest share**. ... **The findings of the Centre for Public Opinion Research show** that Czechs have long considered waste accumulation to be a very serious global problem... In addition to the fact that a large majority of the public considers waste a serious problem at both global and national levels, **83% of Czechs also support the state actively addressing this situation**. ...*

What are the causes?

*The problem of littering, whether in urban or rural environments, is to some extent **due to the lack of alternatives, i.e. responsible management, but also to the lack of economic or other incentives**.*

Example:

Bill amending Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and Act No. 99/1963 Coll., the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended.

What is the problem?

*"The issue of "child debtors", i.e. children who are the subject of distraint proceedings, has recently become the subject of intense social debate. The draft responds to this phenomenon, but its scope is broader. It aims to address the more general **problem of "child debts", i.e. monetary debts incurred before the debtor reaches the age of majority, which has several levels and different causes**, of which the issue of "child debtors" is **merely a subset**. It should be noted that enforcement proceedings are currently being pursued against tens of thousands of adult citizens who acquired debts as minors, and that the recovery of debts incurred in childhood after reaching the age of majority is relatively typical. According to the available data, **as of 1 May 2019, there were enforcement proceedings against 3,476 minors**, approximately two thirds of whom were children under the age of 15. Thus, approximately 0.18% of all minors are currently dealing with distraint.*

Why is this a problem?

*Minors who incur unmanageable debts are often, but not exclusively, from **socially disadvantaged backgrounds**. Their already difficult living and social situation, typically associated with poverty and an unstable family environment, is **exacerbated by the existence of monetary debts**. These debts often arise for reasons that cannot be fairly attributed to the children. Situations in which children incur obligations and debts as a result of the improper performance of parental duties should be considered immoral and should be minimised.*

What are the causes?

*The existence of child debt is due to several factors. From a factual point of view, the **originators of child debtors are their legal representatives**, who either neglect their duty of care or are themselves in a difficult living or social situation. Ontologically, this is a social problem, a societal issue connected primarily with the problems of the lower social classes. On the other hand, it should be added that the **creation of child debts is possible within the legal system**. It may even be asserted that Czech legislation in certain respects indirectly contributes to the relatively easy creation of undesirable child debts, or **does not contain mechanisms that would minimise or prevent the creation of such debts**."*

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Who is affected by the issue of plastic waste?

Actors involved in the production and distribution chain, local authorities, citizens (quality of life, health impacts, consumers), state authorities

Identification of the actors concerned

Identifying the actors concerned is the first step towards their possible involvement in the solution, see also the **principle of the beneficiary perspective** (the chapter Beneficiaries' perspective). Tools from the chapter Public involvement can also be used here.

The actors concerned should **be involved in continuous consultation in the development of the RIA** as they can provide the necessary data and **bring their perspective to the problem, something important for its effective resolution**. Involvement is useful **not only in identifying impacts, but also in defining the problem** and discussing options, including assessing the need for new legislation. In addition to interest groups and permanent economic or other consultative partners, the **perspective of the final beneficiaries of the policies**, who are not gathered under any official organisation, should **be considered**.

Example:

Bill amending Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and Act No. 99/1963 Coll., the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended.

Who is affected by the problem of child debt?

Children, their legal representatives and persons in shared households, creditors, adults who acquired debts in childhood, their descendants, potentially other persons who may face restrictions due to high household debt, lawyers already involved in property dispute resolution and enforcement proceedings, ...

But also: **What tools are available?** *Social support and facilities, financial literacy, legal protection, ...*

Description of the target state

The target state is the ideal situation after the problem has been solved. It is therefore a long-term vision and the goal of the proposed legislation (see also the chapter Long-term perspective). Therefore, working with megatrends is also suitable here (see the chapter Working with a long-term perspective - foresight and megatrends).

A target state has substantive content related to the purpose for which we do things, usually related to a certain value (e.g. health, state of the environment, social situation, etc.), to a real change in someone's behaviour or their status. The goals of the bill (but also the related SDGs) thus acquire a certain hierarchy derived from the problems to be addressed, but they should always be interlinked and **coherent**. The description of the target state should not only reflect the required legislative regulation but should be a **comprehensive social state** (see also the chapter Multidimensional approach). In general, the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-based) or SMARTER (ditto + Evaluated, Revised) rule is often used to define goals.

However, let us bear in mind that the SMART(ER) rule may have undesirable side effects in policy-making. Specificity in practice slides towards a narrow vision of the problem and a sectoral approach. Measurability can tempt us to set a target based on what we can easily measure, and

usually also to become "fixated" on the value of the indicator rather than the purpose of the measure itself. Attainability and realism can result in goals that are not ambitious enough. Time constraints can lead to a focus on short-term results. Let us not forget that **regulation pursues a well-described purpose, not a SMART goal, and much less an indicator.**

The ideal target state also **includes the perspective of the stakeholders involved, including the outlook for future generations** who will potentially have to address new, emerging issues. It is appropriate to use consultation processes to determine the target state (see the chapter Public involvement) and cross-referencing with long-term goals at the strategic level. To support sustainable development, here it is **possible to use not only a comparison with [SDGs](#) but also with the [goals of Czech Republic 2030](#)**, and possibly with the goals of other ministerial strategies, which can be found in the [Strategy Database](#).

Example:

Bill amending Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and Act No. 99/1963 Coll., the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended.

Perspective of stakeholders:

"In correlation with the identified problems, the objectives of the proposed law are primarily to increase the protection of children in legal relations and to strengthen the role of legal guardians in the legal conduct of minors. Furthermore, it is intended to emphasise the educational function of the regulation and to ensure greater legal certainty. The overall aim is to prevent child debt. In relation to the issue of partial performances being set off against an internally structured monetary debt, the aim is to enable debtors, particularly low-income debtors, to repay their debt within a reasonable time and without the amount being potentially multiplied."

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Comprehensive link to other areas and to the objectives of the Czech Republic 2030:

***"The general objectives* are to prevent and **reduce the negative** environmental, economic and human health **impacts of single-use plastic products**, oxo-degradable plastic products and fishing gear containing plastics, and to **promote the transition to a circular economy**, including the promotion of innovative and sustainable business models, products and materials, thereby **contributing to the effective functioning of the internal market**."**

SDG 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

SDG 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

SDG 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Option proposals

There is a well-described process for developing options in the [RIA Training Manual](#) (2017). The options should present specific ways (possibilities) to achieve the target state. The critical technologies method can be used here (see the chapter [Other tools](#)).

By default, the zero option, i.e. "do nothing", is considered. The identification of options for decision-making is the most important part of RIA, so a **wider range of options** for addressing the problem **should be considered, either legislative or non-legislative**, independent of any political order (ideally). Setting "tailor-made" options according to a pre-selected legislative solution denies the very essence of impact assessment.

This opens up **space for lessons** learned from practice and the **evaluation of options from the perspective of the beneficiaries** (see also the principle of the beneficiary perspective in the chapter Beneficiaries' perspective). Alternatively, it is possible to involve partners directly in the design of options through consultations (see the chapter Public involvement). The use of behavioural insights is also appropriate (see the chapter

New tools - regulatory sandbox and behavioural insights).

The options should include a description of the specific steps to reach the target state (different paths may lead to the same target). Since these steps will be different, their long-term and short-term impacts will also vary. When determining **options for addressing a problem regarding the long-term perspective of the impacts**, it is advisable to use foresight (see the chapter Working with a long-term perspective - foresight and megatrends).

Example of using multiple options:

Bill amending Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and Act No. 99/1963 Coll., the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended.

Perspective of stakeholders:

*"At the basic level, **three options can be defined**. Consideration will necessarily be given to the zero option, which assumes the status quo without the use of legislative or non-legislative tools....*

*The other three options consist of a proactive approach. One way (**Option I**) to address some of the problems identified is through **non-legislative measures**, the other way (**Options II and III**) is to **intervene through changes to legislation**. Options I and II only address child debt."*

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This example works with changing consumer behaviour.

*"There are several possible measures that are more or less appropriate for addressing the problem. **The set of options considered by the submitter** is described below, **following a sequence of measures from "soft" tools to "harder" regulatory tools**. However, the options are not in principle exclusive with respect to each other, i.e. different combinations of them can be chosen, including the sub-options mentioned...*

***Option 0** (discarded): Maintain the status quo - i.e. do not introduce special measures to reduce consumption.*

***Option 1:** Make it mandatory for marketers to **conduct consumer awareness campaigns** as a tool to reduce plastic waste.*

***Option 2:** Measures with a **direct impact on prices for consumers**: Excise duty, Regulated price, VAT, Establishment of an obligation for sellers to charge, on selected products, at least the amount corresponding to the cost of their acquisition.*

***Option 3:** Measures **directed at retailers, without necessarily affecting prices for consumers**: A fee for sellers or persons placing selected products on the market; The obligation to ensure the eco-modulation of selected products by collective schemes (APC - authorised packaging companies)."*

Determination of impacts

The RIA structure requires the identification of the impacts of the proposal on a list of specific areas. Even in this area, it is advisable to include the principle of evidence-based or evidence-informed decision-making, i.e. the supporting of claims with data. To include relevant impacts, it is again possible to apply the perspective of beneficiaries (see the chapter Beneficiaries' perspective) and consultations with other stakeholders (see the chapter Public involvement). Long-term impacts, including those on future generations, should of course be considered (see the chapter Long-term perspective). In addition to the impacts on specific areas, it is then appropriate to consider the possible interdependence of impacts across areas and their possible synergistic or negative interactions (see the chapter Multidimensional approach).

Although RIA uses the **principle of proportionality** in determining impacts, some areas cannot be completely left out of the analysis. The **economic, social and environmental impacts** should always be examined, and the [European Commission also recommends identifying in BRT](#) the **impacts on economic and social cohesion, impacts in developing states, impacts on sustainable development and impacts on human rights** (see BRT Tool 18). The use of cross-impact analysis is possible here (see the chapter [Other tools](#)).

From the point of view of sustainable development, it is **essential not to neglect secondary impacts**, especially **negative** ones (see the chapter Negative side effects). Czech **RIA does not yet mandatorily require impact assessments on sustainable development, developing states or human rights**, although parts of these items may be included in mandatory impact areas (see the section

Example:

Bill amending Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and Act No. 99/1963 Coll., the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended.

What could the consequences be of limiting the legal capacity of minors to protect them from incurring debts?

Social, including social cohesion, economic, future generations, ...

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What impact can restrictions on plastic products have?

Environmental, economic, future generations, ...

Substantive RIA impact areas). However, this requires a deeper analysis of these specific impact areas, expansion of their significance, and sometimes a greater use of qualitative data. The impacts on sustainable development can also be considered through a series of questions listed under **Substantive RIA impact areas**.

Evaluation of options

Two methods are most commonly used to select the most suitable option for implementation: **multi-criteria analysis** and **cost-benefit analysis (CBA)**. In principle, **multi-criteria analysis is more appropriate for qualitative assessment** and **CBA for quantitative assessment**. A more detailed description of these two analyses is included in the General Principles of RIA and the Training Manual. From the point of view of sustainable development principles, it is appropriate to use a multidisciplinary approach in the framework of a multi-criteria analysis (see the chapter Multidimensional approach) and to consider the perspective of the beneficiaries (see the chapter Beneficiaries' perspective).

Although these are the most commonly used methods, cost-benefit analysis (**CBA**) **may not always provide the most relevant information**. However, CBA's preference for monetising costs and benefits as a common unit may lead to some limitations and the neglect of indirect costs or spillovers. For example, according to the [EC Communication on impact assessment](#), the **degree of irreversibility** of the proposed changes should also be considered.

Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) can also be used, which can be a suitable alternative to CBA if the valuation of benefits in monetary units using CBA is complicated. See, for example, the [Tutorial for CEA in Public Health](#) (2016). **Cost-utility analysis (CUA)** is also relevant to sustainable development, measuring outputs in terms of **utility** when they cannot or should not be valued in monetary terms. Here, options with dissimilar, subjectively comparable results are evaluated according to **how well they meet the expected satisfaction of needs and goals**, given the costs involved. CUA is useful, e.g. for considering the **impact on quality of life**. [Guidance and examples of use can be found, for example, on the website of the UK government](#) in the public health section.

Example:

Bill amending Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, as amended, and Act No. 99/1963 Coll., the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended.

Example of criteria including qualitative assessment considering the perspective of the beneficiaries:

Criteria for evaluating options for addressing child debt: *Some of the criteria are based on the fulfilment of the main principles of the proposed regulation, which are in some respects naturally contradictory. With a higher degree of autonomy of the minor, the degree of protection of that minor naturally decreases; with a higher degree of involvement of legal guardians, the degree of autonomy of the minor decreases, etc.*

- **Conceptuality of the solution ("conceptuality" in the tables)**
This criterion expresses the extent to which the solution is consistent in the context of the systematics and principles of applicable civil law and the Czech legal order in general. A value of five points represents the highest level of conceptuality.
- **Protection of a minor ("child protection" in the tables)**
This criterion expresses the extent to which the minor is protected in legal relations from the negative consequences of their independent actions or from the negative consequences of actions by their legal guardians when representing them. A value of five points represents the highest level of protection.
- **Autonomy of the minor ("autonomy" in the tables)**
This criterion expresses the extent to which the changes in the options limit the autonomy of minors, i.e. the extent to which the option limits their freedom to take legal acts. A value of five points represents the highest level of autonomy of the minor.
- **Involvement of legal representatives ("parental involvement" in the tables)**
This criterion is an assessment of the application of the principle of the participation of the child's legal guardians in the child's (il)legal acts. A value of five points represents the highest level of participation by the legal guardians.
- **Protection of creditors and injured parties ("3rd party protection" in the tables)**
This criterion is an assessment of the degree of protection of the creditors of the minor and the injured parties who have been harmed by the minor. A value of five points represents the highest level of protection for creditors and injured parties.
- **Legal certainty ("legal certainty" in the tables)**
This criterion expresses the clarity and practical applicability of the legislative solution. A value of five points represents the highest level of legal certainty.
- **Compatibility with practice ("practicality" in the tables)**
This criterion expresses the consistency of the solution with established practices and ideas about the behaviour of minors. A value of five points represents the highest level of compatibility with practice.
- **Comparative aspect ("comparison" in the tables)**
Comparative considerations also play a role in deciding on the most appropriate option. This criterion expresses how the different options would fare from a comparative perspective. A value of five points represents the most appropriate option in terms of its comparison with other states in Europe.

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Support for a new nuclear power source: The impact assessment does not look at or quantify the absolute current and future costs and benefits, but quantifies their change (i.e. increase or decrease) after the implementation of the selected options.

An example of criteria, including qualitative assessment, considering different dimensions of the issue: *The basic criteria are the **impact on public budgets**, the **impact on consumers**, the **impact on the investor**, the **criterion of ensuring energy security** (i.e. in particular stability of supply), the **criterion of implementing a zero-emission energy source** and also **compliance with EU rules**.*

Review of the effectiveness of regulation

It is important to get the **feedback system** right by using metrics to check whether the design has been successful and is fit for purpose. The scope can range from a **full ex-post RIA** to **simpler techniques**, in the most minimalist sense of comparing the expected and actually achieved relationship. However, the review **cannot be completely disregarded** (see the [Methodology for reviewing the effectiveness of legislation](#)).

The review follows the **intervention logic** of the regulation: evaluation criteria and indicators for retrospective assessment of its effectiveness are logically derived from the defined goals of the regulation. Any review must be supported by and build smoothly on the regulatory impact assessment from the design phase - a logical **follow-up to the ex-ante RIA**. Therefore, it is important to determine in advance the **timing** (after what time the effectiveness of the proposed regulation will be reviewed), **indicators** and **data sources** (what data will be used and how they will be collected). The indicators can be set in advance to enable monitoring of the achievement of relevant SDGs, i.e. the goals of the Czech Republic 2030.

From a sustainable development perspective, the review should also **address the possible unintended consequences of the regulation** (see the chapter Negative side effects) and be structured **around the needs of stakeholders** (see the chapter Beneficiaries' perspective). It is thus also important to (repeatedly) **cooperate** with stakeholders (see the chapter Public involvement).

However, it is **advisable to test** the effectiveness of the regulation and its settings **before its full-scale adoption**. The current trend in administratively developed states is therefore to **use experimentation or piloting** on a limited scale and only then to introduce regulation (see the chapter Experimentation and pilot testing of the regulation). Behavioural insights are useful for testing the effectiveness of the regulation, and legislative provisions can also be tested in a sandbox in some cases (see the chapter

Example of setting indicators:

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*"A comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the regulation will be carried out **no later than 2027**... Within the framework of this review, Czechia will focus in particular on:*

- **meeting mandatory targets** (quantitative reduction in consumption, compliance with the marketing ban, mandatory recycling rates, mandatory sorting of selected products) and the associated environmental impacts;*
- assessing the need to modify the list of single-use plastic products;*
- **progress in reducing consumption** (however this will be done on an ongoing basis regarding reporting to EU institutions), associated costs and benefits;*
- assessing changes in the materials used in single-use plastic products, **new consumption patterns and business models** based on reusable alternatives;*
- the costs and benefits of the chosen arrangements for extended producer responsibility (collective schemes), and deposits;*
- the quality and frequency of inspections."*

New tools - regulatory sandbox and behavioural insights).

Consultation

Methods leading to the **consideration of the perspective of beneficiaries** (see the chapter Beneficiaries' perspective) are the cornerstone of democratic governance. It is therefore important to bear in mind that policymakers are not making policies for themselves, but for society or a segment of society, the members of which may often face barriers to expressing their needs or their understanding of needs. To put it another way, it is preferable to make policies "with" rather than "for" someone.

The consultation process aims to involve the public and stakeholders in the decision-making and problem-solving process, and this continuously **from the beginning of problem identification** through the entire **impact assessment process** to **subsequent evaluation**. The [RIA Training Manual](#) (2017) summarises the benefits of consultation at each RIA stage:

Benefits of consultation when preparing regulation

REGULATORY PREPARATION PHASE		BENEFITS OF CONSULTATION
Problem identification and description	>	correct problem description identifying the intensity and extent of the problem
Identification of solution options	>	a greater number of alternative solutions revealing the pitfalls of possible options information on the impacts of proposed options
Evaluating the impacts of proposed solutions	>	realistic estimate of costs and benefits
Proposals for solutions	>	greater acceptability of the proposal
Final general consultation	>	submission to the government (dedicated internet portals including contact addresses or public hearings)

Source: RIA Training Manual (2018), p.31

The choice of the specific form of stakeholder and public involvement depends on the topic and purpose of the consultation. There are many methods (see the chapter Public involvement), but in general the **benefits of consultation increase along with their sophistication and the time allocated to them**.

Consultation should not be limited to reaching out to the "usual suspects" or to working groups that include the strongest stakeholders. There is always a need - often precisely to understand the perspective of the beneficiaries - to find a way to reach the general public. The **bare minimum is public online consultation**, of which the EC's [Have your say](#) portal is an example. Although targeting the final beneficiaries is the essence of public consultation, a problem often arises in the immediate conveyance of the possibility of consultation to the ordinary citizen/target group. **The lack of public awareness of the possibility of getting involved** or even that a legislative process on a given topic is underway is a frequent **barrier**.

Consultation should provide a space for the expression of new perspectives, ideas and a possible exchange of views - not only on options for solving the problem, but also on its definition. It can also help with behavioural insights (see the chapter

New tools - regulatory sandbox and behavioural insights). It is therefore important **to cover as wide a range of stakeholders as possible**. The [DataKo database of consulting entities](#) can also help. However, it should be borne in mind that a public consultation is not a research survey, i.e. the representation of different views should be treated with caution and their proportion should not be generalised to the population.

Consultation needs to be carefully planned. [BRT Tool 52](#) (Consultation strategy) addresses the preparation of a consultation strategy, considering the scope and goals of the consultation, etc. The methodological tools in the chapter Public involvement above can also be used. The importance of consultation processes is also highlighted in the [Concept of Client-Oriented State Administration 2030 \(2021\)](#), in the [Review of the State of State Administration in Czechia prepared by the OECD](#) in 2023, as well as in the BRT, [Chapter 7 \(Stakeholder Consultation\)](#).

Example:

Bill amending Act No. 256/2001 Coll., on funerals and on amendments to certain other laws, as amended, and other related laws

Example of consultation involving stakeholders from the beginning (from problem definition):

*"Consultation relevant to the drafting of the report took place **prior to the preparation of the draft wording** of the amendment to the Funeral Act. ... At the beginning of the work, the Ministry of Regional Development approached a number of institutions and organisations working in funeral services with an **invitation to submit any suggestions for amending the Act** that they considered necessary in terms of their professional focus and current application practice. ... **Several meetings of the advisory body** established by the Minister for Regional Development on the preparation of a draft amendment to the Funeral Act were held for consultation, discussion and proposals for potential solutions to the identified problems. ... **A section was set up** on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development **to publish information on the amendment to the Funeral Act**. It was **possible to send suggestions** and proposals to **a central email address** pohrebnictvi@mmr.cz. ... In addition to the meetings of the large inter-ministerial working group, five working **meetings (...)** were held **with representatives of the following NGOs**: Funeral Services Association (29 April 2015), **Association of Regions** (20 May 2015), **Union of Towns and Municipalities** (27 May 2015), Association of the Funeral Industry, Funeral Services Association and Funeral Directors Union (5 August 2015 and 26 November 2015). Based on these negotiations and additional ongoing email correspondence, a compromise full wording of the draft amendment to the Funeral Act was created."*

Substantive RIA impact areas

The impact areas covered by the existing evaluation principles (RIA) can be viewed through the lens of SDGs. Here is an **overview of the relevant SDGs for each impact area**. Finally, we also add topics that are not exhausted by being included under a particular existing impact and should be seen as cross-cutting. **In the practice of evaluation processing, it is easiest to use the guiding questions contained in the chapter Substantive RIA impact areas.** These issues reflect the SDGs adapted to the conditions and needs of Czechia through the overarching Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030.

Working with the SDG targets is also useful when **thinking about the mutual effects of individual impacts**. The [EC's tool showing synergies and trade-offs of SDGs or their targets](#) can be used here (in English). This is an additional guide to the interrelationships of the individual goals, allowing for a more comprehensive assessment of potential impacts. The primary concern should be to avoid or minimise all negative impacts on sustainable development. If a measure or regulatory proposal will have a positive impact in some aspects and a negative impact in others, this needs to be clearly stated and a decision made as to whether the benefit of one SDG outweighs the detriment of another.

Impact on the state budget and other public budgets

Relevant SDG 17 and SDG 16

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Target 17.3: Mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources. For example, it is possible to consider whether the budgetary impact will directly or indirectly reduce (or increase) resources for development aid and cooperation.



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 11: Financial system stability is a prerequisite for a successful sustainable economy.

Question regarding regulatory impact assessment:

Will the solution reduce the efficiency of government spending (firstly, in relation to the effectiveness/fulfilment of the purpose of the policy/measure, and secondly, whether value for money will deteriorate)?

Impact on the international competitiveness of Czechia

Relevant SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12 and SDG 17

Target 8.1: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances

Target 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services



Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances

Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Target 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Target 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Target 17.5: Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Target 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 2: Technological and social development is expanding access to decent work.

Strategic Objective 7: The economy is following global trends in sustainable development and the domestic sector is strong.

Strategic Objective 9: Economic development is decoupled from increasing consumption of natural resources and pollution.

Strategic Objective 22: By strengthening the coherence of internal policies with external impacts, Czechia supports global sustainable development.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will the solution worsen access for qualified foreign nationals to the Czech labour market?
- 2) Could the solution have a negative impact on the export of high-tech products (e.g. computers, scientific instruments, aeronautics, etc.)?
- 3) Will the conditions for start-ups and/or enterprises transferring new scientific knowledge into everyday life, created for commercial products by public universities (university spin off, university spin out, see e.g. Charles University Innovations Prague a.s., a company owned by Charles University), become more difficult?
- 4) Could the proposal have a negative impact on the circular economy (e.g. by increasing material consumption, increasing waste, reducing repairability of items, marketing products with a short lifetime that are difficult to repair)?
- 5) Will domestic solutions to the problem have a negative impact abroad, especially in developing countries (e.g. by polluting the local environment or increasing social inequalities there)?

Impact on the business environment

Relevant SDG 8, also SDG 4, SDG 9, SDG 12, SDG 17

Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

Target 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment



Target 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Target 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Target 12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 6: Increased public investment supports key cultural functions and equal access to culture and creativity.

Strategic Objective 7: The economy is following global trends in sustainable development and the domestic sector is strong.

Strategic Objective 8: Czechia has well-functioning and stable institutions to support applied research and development and to identify opportunities in this area.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will the solution make the situation of small and medium-sized enterprises in Czechia more difficult (e.g. more difficult access to financing, to information on new technologies, more difficult integration into value chains or access to international markets)?
- 2) Will the solution reduce the incentive for companies to invest in R&D?
- 3) Will conditions for cultural and creative industries (film, music, architecture, publishing/book publishing, theatre) deteriorate? For example, will it be harder to establish new organisations or develop them further, or will access to funding for such institutions deteriorate?

Impact on local self-government units (regions, municipalities)

Relevant SDG 11, SDG 3, SDG 8, SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 16

Target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Target 11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Target 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 16: Local public services are more accessible to all residents.

Strategic Objective 17: Quality of life improvements in municipalities are reducing regional inequalities.

Strategic Objective 18: Quality urban development of settlement units is assured.

Strategic Objective 19: Cities and municipalities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to the negative impacts of climate change.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will the proposal reduce the availability of essential public services (health, post office and/or the Czech Point network, public transport, urban green space)?
- 2) Will the quality of spatial planning deteriorate?
- 3) Will the solution limit the use of local and regional potential by SMEs (e.g. by focusing only on low-skilled jobs)?
- 4) Will there be a reduction in the involvement of residents in discussions about planning and improving the environment of the towns/cities in which they live?
- 5) Will the use of agricultural land in towns/cities increase and/or will the solution be at the expense of access to urban green spaces?
- 6) Will the number and intensity of urban heat islands increase (e.g. through loss of green space, inappropriate development, etc.)?
- 7) Will the volume of landfilled municipal waste increase?
- 8) Will conditions for cycling worsen?

Social impacts

Relevant SDG 1 and SDG 10, as well as SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5 and SDG 8

Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Target 3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Target 3.5: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

Target 3.7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Target 5.4: Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Target 10.1: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 2: Technological and social development is expanding access to decent work.

Strategic Objective 3: Structural inequalities in society are low.

Strategic Objective 4: Education is improving individuals' potential and their ability to cope with and influence change, and is promoting a cohesive society oriented towards sustainable development.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will the chosen solution force people to rely more on lower-paid work, temporary work that they may lose from one day to the next, or work that does not provide them with any employment rights (precarious work)?
- 2) Could the solution result in increased numbers of poor people/people below the poverty line and socially excluded people (in either absolute or relative terms, or in both)?
- 3) Will income inequality increase?
- 4) Will the solution complicate the role we expect teachers to play (i.e. teachers as guides to the world of knowledge and thinking about the world, rather than authoritative "pourers" of facts)?
- 5) Will people start having serious health problems at an earlier age as a result of/in connection with the solution, and will healthy life expectancy be reduced?
- 6) Could the solution result in population health being more determined by whether people are rich or poor?
- 7) Will the accessibility of public health care deteriorate, especially in terms of physical accessibility and the cost of using its services?
- 8) Might the solution lead to increased smoking, higher alcohol consumption, or more dangerous drug/other substance use?

Impacts on families

Relevant SDG 4, SDG 5 and SDG 11, as well as SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 10

Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Target 5.4: Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Target 4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations



Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 1: The social climate is universally favourable to families and children, and barriers and social pressures are minimised. The family, parenthood, marriage and partnership enjoy special protection and social value, also with regard to the best interests of children.

Strategic Objective 4: Education is improving individuals' potential and their ability to cope with and influence change, and is promoting a cohesive society oriented towards sustainable development.

Strategic Objective 17: Quality of life improvements in municipalities are reducing regional inequalities.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will the solution make it more difficult to reconcile work and family life, especially for those who have a greater share of responsibilities within the family (today usually women)?
- 2) Could the proposal make housing less affordable for young families/families with young children?
- 3) Will the availability of rental housing (especially for socially vulnerable families and individuals) decrease?
- 4) Will children from disadvantaged backgrounds (e.g. children of poorer parents) find education more difficult than it is? Will their environment be an even bigger obstacle for them?

Impacts on consumers

Relevant SDG 6 and SDG 7, SDG 2, SDG 12

Target 2.b: Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

Target 12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability

Target 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

Target 12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 10: Economic activity is supported by a stable and functional infrastructure.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will it be more difficult to use heat and energy from renewable and secondary sources (more expensive/less available)?
- 2) Will the standard or availability of water services decrease? Will the solution limit the availability of drinking water or access to sanitation facilities?

Environmental impacts

Relevant SDG 6, SDG 13 and SDG 15, as well as SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 14

Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Target 7.a: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

Target 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Target 12.c: Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Target 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

Target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

Target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local

Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 5: The health of all population groups is improving.

Strategic Objective 9: Economic development is decoupled from increasing consumption of natural resources and pollution.

Strategic Objective 12: The landscape of Czechia is conceived as a complex ecosystem and ecosystem services provide a suitable framework for the development of human society.

Strategic Objective 13: The Czech landscape is diverse and biodiversity is being restored.

Strategic Objective 14: The landscape is adapted to climate change and its structure helps to retain water.

Strategic Objective 15: Soils are protected from degradation and the potential of the landscape is exploited as much as possible for carbon capture and storage.

Strategic Objective 19: Cities and municipalities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to the negative impacts of climate change.

Strategic Objective 22: By strengthening the coherence of internal policies with external impact, Czechia supports global sustainable development.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will people be exposed to worse air quality or harmful noise levels (e.g. traffic-related) as a result of the solution?
- 2) Will greenhouse gas emissions and product emissions intensity increase?
- 3) Will the biodiversity of plants and animals decrease?
- 4) Will nature-based restoration be abandoned in reclamation?
- 5) Will water runoff from the landscape increase?
- 6) Will the quality of surface water or groundwater decline?
- 7) Can the solution increase the threat of soil erosion by water and wind?
- 8) Will there be a reduction in nature-friendly forest management practices (e.g. harvesting of individual trees vs. clear-cutting; treating forest ecosystems in their entirety)?
- 9) Will the proposal increase the number of non-compliant petrol and diesel vehicles?
- 10) Will the proportion of arable land managed under organic farming decrease?
- 11) Will the share of forest land in Czechia decrease?
- 12) Will the proposal increase Czechia's share of the global pollution of oceans, seas and marine resources (e.g. due to overseas transport of goods and raw materials that are consumed in Czechia or the pollution of domestic rivers that flow into the sea)?

Impacts in relation to non-discrimination and gender equality

Relevant SDG 5 and SDG 10, as well as SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 9

Target 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Target 4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Target 5.4: Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibilities within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Target 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 3: Structural inequalities in society are low.

Strategic Objective 8: Czechia has well-functioning and stable institutions to support applied research and development and to identify opportunities in this area.

Questions regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Are women at greater risk of being rewarded less than men for their work than they are now as a result of/in connection with the solution?
- 2) Will women's representation in decision-making positions decrease as a result of/in connection with the solution?
- 3) Will the solution worsen the position of women in science, either financially or in terms of the conditions for pursuing the profession?
- 4) Will the solution adversely affect those at risk of discrimination (e.g. by cancelling programmes or services without adequate alternatives)?

Impacts on the performance of the State Statistical Service

Relevant SDG 17

Target 17.19: By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop means of measuring progress on sustainable development to complement gross domestic product and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 25: Data and information for policy-making is of high quality, easily accessible and enables informed decision-making.

Question regarding regulatory impact assessment:

Could the proposal result in a reduction of long-term data and information collection for state administration?

Corruption risks

Relevant SDG 16

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 25: Data and information for policy-making is of high quality, easily accessible and enables informed decision-making.

Strategic Objective 26: Innovation in public policy-making is a permanent feature of state administration at all levels.

Strategic Objective 27: Public policies increase inclusiveness and the long-term effectiveness of governance.

Question regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Will the availability of state administration information and data to the public be limited?
- 2) Will the solution limit the ability of the public (either individuals or NGOs) to participate in the design and evaluation of public policies?

Impacts on national security or defence

Relevant SDG 16, SDG 9 and SDG 17

Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and cross-border infrastructure, to support economic development and enhanced quality of life, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime

Target 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, particularly in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection



Relevant objectives of Czech Republic 2030

Strategic Objective 10: Economic activity is supported by a stable and functional infrastructure.

Strategic Objective 21: Czechia actively, and with emphasis on national priorities, co-creates an environment supporting sustainable development at global and European Union level.

Question regarding regulatory impact assessment:

- 1) Could the proposal put critical infrastructure systems (e.g. electricity distribution networks, financial market infrastructure, digital infrastructure, drinking water and wastewater networks) at risk?
- 2) Will the proposal make it easier to "launder money" and/or escape to "tax havens"?

Cross-cutting topics

Cross-cutting themes are not currently covered by individual impact areas. They reflect sustainable development principles (see the chapter Principles) and are largely linked to a responsible approach to RIA evaluation.

Relevant SDG 17 and SDG 16

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

