



# POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

A farmer from the COAGRICAL Cooperative (Fairtrade Certificate) in Nicaragua looks after the cocoa seedlings. Pic. Sean Hawkey

## WHAT IS POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT?

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is an approach promoted since the 90s of the 20th century by OECD, also undertaken by the European Union and enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. The PCD consists in taking into account the objectives of development cooperation in the implementation of all the policies of the European Union countries, especially those that may affect developing countries (countries of the Global South). In practice, this means counteracting the negative effects of European policies (such as trade, tax and energy policies) in the countries of the Global South and building positive synergies between these policies and development cooperation.

One of the examples of a lack of cohesion is the European Common Agricultural Policy, which, by offering an extensive system of support for European farmers, makes it difficult for producers in developing countries to compete on the market for agricultural products, where agriculture often forms the backbone of the economy and livelihood of the vast majority of the population. The recent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, despite minimal progress on reducing export subsidies, has maintained some mechanisms that are harmful to developing countries.

## POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN POLAND

In turn, the availability of Fairtrade certified coffee in the cafés of a network of state-owned service stations and choosing Fairtrade certified products in public procurement by various public institutions is a practical manifestation of support for policy coherence.

Polish Policy Coherence for Development is an obligation under the above-mentioned Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. *The Polish Development Cooperation Act*<sup>1</sup> of 2011 also refers in Article 13 to Policy Coherence for Development, obliging the Minister of Foreign Affairs to coordinate Polish development cooperation, which includes, among other things, "providing opinions on government programmes and strategies in terms of their coherence with the objectives and priorities of development cooperation set out in the Programme".

The principle of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), the commitment of the various ministries to coordinate their activities with each other and to ensure that their sectoral policies are consistent with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals were included in the *Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme 2016-2020*<sup>2</sup> (Chapter XIII *Principles of development cooperation, para. 2 Policy Coherence for Development*). The document defines the priority area for policy coherence for development in Poland.

<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.pl/web/polskapomoc/wspolpraca-rozwojowa2](http://www.gov.pl/web/polskapomoc/wspolpraca-rozwojowa2)

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.pl/web/polskapomoc/programowanie](http://www.gov.pl/web/polskapomoc/programowanie)

This is the fight against illegal financial flows and in particular the fight against tax avoidance and money laundering (a priority implemented by the Ministry of Finance).

In addition, the Ministry of Development (now the Ministry of Investment and Development) has been implementing *The Ministry of Development's 2018 action plan for the promotion and implementation of corporate social responsibility standards (CSR/RBC) in the context of Policy Coherence for Development*.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken the first steps in building mechanisms to ensure greater coherence for development. The MFA invited representatives of key ministries, institutions and parliamentary clubs to the Development Cooperation Programme Council. There is also a representation of NGOs in the Council. A milestone in the "consistency" of Polish policy has been the inclusion of a question on the potential impact of the regulation on developing countries (specifically on the priority countries of Polish development cooperation) in the amendment of *the Guidelines for conducting impact assessments and public consultations within the government legislative process in 2015*<sup>3</sup>.

## THE NEED FOR GREATER COMMITMENT

For the time being, the subject of global development has been outside other ministries' and parliament's focus, while the involvement of the entire government and legislature is needed to implement the PCD. Such a need is seen both by NGOs in Poland and in other EU Member States, where there is also a lack of effective coordination mechanisms to ensure that individual laws and state programmes are analysed in terms of their impact on developing countries.

A certain hope is given by the Polish *Report on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Poland*<sup>4</sup>, which states that policy coherence for development is crucial for increasing the effectiveness of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in subsequent years: "The international nature of the Agenda and the interpenetration of the Sustainable Development Goals indicate the need to review all future development strategies in terms of the coherence of policies for sustainable development, their impact on the implementation of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. There is also a need for joint programming of multiannual development cooperation policies and national development strategies beyond 2020". (Chapter *Key findings and future plans*, p. 85).

Magdalena Rybi-Trojanek  
Grupa Zagranica

<sup>3</sup> [www.rcl.gov.pl/sites/images/WytyczneOW.pdf](http://www.rcl.gov.pl/sites/images/WytyczneOW.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.pl/attachment/f2537513-e14c-42ed-bd9c-fbaa44773ea6](http://www.gov.pl/attachment/f2537513-e14c-42ed-bd9c-fbaa44773ea6)

Foundation of the "Fair Trade Coalition" – Fairtrade Polska  
Sławkowska 12, 31-014 Kraków  
fairtrade@fairtrade.org.pl  
+48 603 363 721  
www.fairtrade.org.pl  
Kraków 2020



Fairtrade Poland in social media:



The publication was created as part of the international projects "Trade Fair, Live Fair: Raising Awareness and Mobilizing the European Public to Advance Consumption patterns that Nurture the Sustainable Development Goals" (financed by the European Union) and "V4 Cooperation for moving forward fair trade as socially innovative economic model" (financed by the Visegrad Fund). Foundation of the "Fair Trade Coalition" is responsible for the content.

