



International Scientific Conference “Environmental and Climate Technologies”, CONECT 2017,  
10–12 May 2017, Riga, Latvia

## Prioritization methodology for the determination of national targets

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### Abstract

National level planning documents have different goals, targets and indicators. Introduction of EU level policies require mandatory targets for climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy and others. Sometimes the goals may be contradictive and decision makers may need to prioritize them. Prioritization methodology based on multi-criteria analysis TOPSIS method is presented in this article with the analysis example on conflicting agricultural and climate goals. This methodology may be combined with other approaches including modeling.

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Peer review statement - Peer-review under responsibility of the scientific committee of the International Scientific Conference “Environmental and Climate Technologies”.

*Keywords:* policy planning; climate goals; non-ETS; energy efficiency goals; multi-criteria analysis; TOPSIS

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### 1. Introduction

National development has different goals and indicators. There are global level goals; the most strategic goals are sustainable development goals [1], but there are other goals and targets set by different international agreements. There are goals and targets set at a regional level – for Latvia it is mainly at the European Union (EU) level [2] and there are goals, targets and indicators set at national level, where the main policy planning document for medium term is the National development plan [3]. The goals may be qualitative or quantitative. Quantitative goals may be binding and nonbinding. Environment and climate change sectors have a lot of global and especially EU level binding goals and targets, while there are quite few binding targets regarding economic development and social issues. Theoretically

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national level planning should integrate regional and global level goals, setting appropriate indicators and policy actions. The goals should be practically achievable with the available resources and non-contradictive. In this article, we will analyse if this is the case for Latvia, focusing on EU level climate, energy efficiency and renewable energy binding goals. These goals have been selected because they are binding and implementation of these goals will require significant resources.

The main goals and targets of Latvian National development plan and interlinkage between them is presented in Fig. 1.

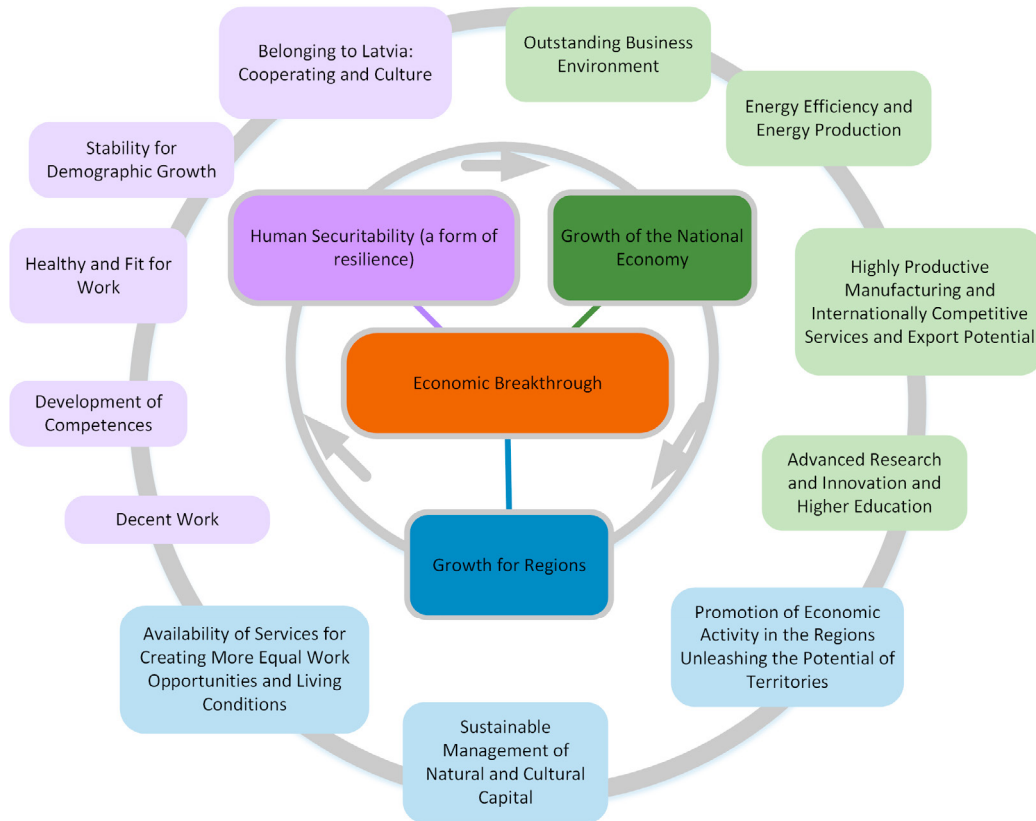


Fig. 1. Interlinkage of the targets and goals of the Latvian National development plan [3].

The main goal of the National development plan (NDP) –according to the plan, economic breakthrough (faster economic development than other EU countries reaching convergence) should be achieved through measures monitored by the set of indicators in 3 main directions – 1) growth of national economy, 2) human securability with the emphasis of reducing inequity and natural population growth 3) growth of regions. Some of NDP targets and indicators are influenced by international treaties and EU obligations, most are not. There is no separate environmental pillar in NDP, however, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets are included as sub targets for economic growth. We should also take into account that at the time the NDP was developed there were no currently developed EU 2030 targets that significantly change the situation – it may be much more difficult to implement these targets, if implementation started after 2020 when current NDP ends. Report [2] analysis the state of implementation of EU binding targets and country specific recommendations. The general conclusion is that Latvia well implements fiscal targets (one of few areas outside environmental and climate sector where are binding EU targets) but the implementation of recommendations in social, health and other sectors is poor or limited.

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