



EU DELIVERING ON THE UN 2030 AGENDA

Sustainable development in Europe and the World
 #SustainableEurope #EU4SDGs #2030isNow

[High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)

Sustainable development is at the very heart of the European Union (EU). Every EU initiative is aimed at improving citizens' lives, on a healthier planet, for a sustainable future. The world faces many increasingly pressing challenges. The EU's main sustainability challenge for the coming decade is to decouple its economic development from environmental degradation and overcome the remaining social inequalities. The EU is committed to striving for a green and inclusive economy, setting the bar high for the sustainability transition and blazing the trail globally. This is why the EU and its Member States are determined to deliver on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in Europe and across the world, having placed the SDGs at the core of EU international cooperation. Putting our societies on to a sustainable path is a shared responsibility and action is needed from all actors, including public authorities, civil society, the private sector, academia and each and every citizen.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Overview of EU-28 progress towards the SDGs over the past 5 years.

The SDGs are our global roadmap to a better world, giving us direction, offering us long-term perspective and helping us to reach a sustainable world, with human well-being and a healthy planet at its core. As outlined in the reflection paper [‘Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030’](#), the EU is monitoring progress towards the SDGs. Over the last five-year period, the EU has made evident progress towards almost all goals, but will need to further increase its efforts to be able to fully deliver, especially on environmental sustainability goals.

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(*) Due to lack of time series for more than 25 % of the indicators

SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Many sustainability challenges have become increasingly pressing and new ones have emerged, which put human well-being, economic prosperity, our society and our environment at risk. In order to face these challenges and advance towards a sustainable Europe by 2030, the EU has identified a set of key policy foundations, which need to be further strengthened, and enablers, which need to be geared towards the sustainability transition.

Necessary policy focus when moving forward

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|  FROM LINEAR TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY |  SUSTAINABILITY FROM FARM TO FORK |
| <p>We would need 1.7 Earths to make our consumption sustainable. The Commission has steered the EU economy in the direction of a more circular path, through its Circular Economy Action Plan and Bioeconomy Strategy.</p> <p>A circular economy has the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generate a net economic benefit of EUR 1.8 trillion in Europe by 2030 • result in over 1 million new jobs across the EU by 2030 • be central to cutting greenhouse gas emissions | <p>Food production is straining our environment, while 20% of our food goes to waste. EU agriculture has made real progress on the climate and environment front, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and nitrates levels in rivers by 17.7% since 1990. But more remains to be done throughout the entire food chain.</p> <p>A global food and agriculture system could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create new economic value of over EUR 1.8 trillion by 2030 • create 200 million jobs by 2050 • deliver nutritious food for a growing world population • generate higher incomes, help restore natural resources • reduce greenhouse gas emissions and be more resilient to climate risks |
|  FUTURE-PROOF ENERGY, BUILDINGS AND MOBILITY |  ENSURING A SOCIALLY FAIR TRANSITION |
| <p>The EU is among world leaders, but more should be done to promote renewable energy, energy efficient buildings and climate neutral transport. Buildings, for example, are responsible for around 40% of energy consumption and transport represents 27% of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Clean energy is an opportunity for jobs and growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 900,000 jobs in the field of renewable energy technologies can be created by 2030 by mobilising public and private investment the EU can save EUR 300 billion annually by decreasing its dependency on fossil fuels | <p>Technological, structural and demographic changes in a more interconnected world are transforming the nature of work. In keeping with the EU's social welfare model, the transition to a sustainable economy should leave no-one and no place behind.</p> <p>Social investment has to remain a top priority including in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education, training and life-long learning • working conditions • healthcare and long-term care • social inclusion and minority rights • gender equality • rural development |

Key enablers for sustainability transition

Education, science, technology, research and innovation are prerequisites for achieving the SDGs and a sustainable economy, creating a sustainability culture and mindset, and ensuring that the transition will lead to an increase in our wellbeing.

Finance and taxation: A significant amount of private capital is still needed to deliver on the SDGs. To be successful we need the private sector to be fully committed to the sustainability shift. Tax systems and pricing will need to change to reflect the true environmental and social costs of production and to ensure that sustainable products and services become the most widespread and affordable ones.

Responsible business conduct: Businesses have a key role to play in the sustainability transition and they increasingly see the SDGs as an intricate part of their strategies. Responsible business can lead to more sustainable profits and growth, new market opportunities, and long-term value for shareholders.

Rules-based trade: Open and rules-based trade is one of the best tools to increase our prosperity, our standards of living and the sustainability of our planet and democracies. By promoting international rules and global standards in line with the SDGs and making sure that trade benefits all, we can help achieve a sustainable Europe in a sustainable world.

Governance and policy coherence at all levels: Rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights; peace, justice and strong institutions; good governance and inclusive and evidence-based decision-making are the foundations upon which we build. Policy coherence is to be ensured both in our internal and external actions. The sustainability transition will only be successful if everyone is on board – individuals, businesses, civil society and the public sector.

The EU as a global trailblazer in the sustainability transition: It is in EU's best interest to continue building sustainable policies that further peace and prosperity and sharing sustainable solutions to global problems. The EU as the most successful peace project in the world, and at the origin of many of the most comprehensive sustainability solutions, has the necessary credibility as well as the practical answers needed for putting our societies on to a sustainable path.



EU ENGAGEMENT IN THE WORLD

The SDGs are by definition global goals for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The EU is working with this international perspective in mind, leading by example and engaging with a broad range of partners – countries at different stages of development, international organisations, civil society and the private sector – to promote sustainable development worldwide. Since 2017, the new [European Consensus on Development](#) has aligned all development activities of the EU institutions and of the EU Member States with the 2030 Agenda. The EU champions [policy coherence for development](#), systematically taking into account the potential impact on developing countries when designing its policies.

EUR 75.7 billion

The EU and its Member States are the world's **largest provider of Official Development Assistance** (ODA), providing EUR 75.7 billion in 2017, and progressing towards the collective commitment to increase their ODA to at least 0.7% of the EU's gross national income.

EUR 44 billion

The **European External Investment Plan**, through an initial investment of EUR 4.5 billion, is expected to generate 10 times that amount in sustainable investments, focusing on Africa and the EU Neighbourhood countries.

EUR 20.4 billion

The EU and its Member States are the world's **biggest providers of climate finance**. In 2017 the EU, European Investment Bank and Member States provided EUR 20.4 billion to help developing countries tackle and adapt to climate change. This figure represents more than double the amount of 2013 approximately half of the world's total.

25% of LDC exports

Over the past few years the EU strengthened its role as the **main export market for least developed countries**: its share of global least developed countries' exports of goods increased from 20.5% in 2012 to nearly 25% in 2016, followed by China (21%) and the United States (8.2%).

EU ENGAGEMENT ON THE GROUND

People



In 2017, the EU and its Member States committed EUR 4 billion to food and nutrition security. While EU programmes supported the enrolment of more than 12 million children in primary education.

Planet



In 2017, the EU and its Member States contributed over EUR 23 billion to support developing countries in their efforts to tackle and adapt to climate change.

Prosperity



The Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs was launched in 2018. By boosting investment and trade, supporting education and skills development for employability, and improving the business climate, it has the perspective of creating up to 10 million jobs in Africa in the next five years.

Peace



In 2017, EU programmes of peace building and conflict prevention assisted almost 1.5 million people.

Partnership



In 2017, the EU and the UN jointly launched the EUR 500 million Spotlight initiative to end violence against women and girls worldwide.

Source: [Joint Synthesis Report](#)