“The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in the European Union Policies”

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STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

A. EU Approach and Strategies in implementing SDGs

B. SDG 16

C. SDG 4
A. The 17 SDGs and the European Union

Following the UN Millenium Goals (2000), the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

It defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associate targets.

Their aim is to establish a universal, integrated and transformative framework for a better world, without poverty, with sustainable and inclusive development, human rights protection and social inclusion by 2030.

The EU made a positive and constructive contribution to the development of the 2030 Agenda.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CORE OF EU

THE CHALLENGES

- Climate Change
- Pollution
- Migration
- Sustainable Energy
- Population Ageing
- Unemployment

THE 5 «P»

People
Planet
Peace
Prosperity
Partnership
The EU is committed to implement the SDGs in all its internal and external policies through a **horizontal approach**.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are **mainstreamed in all EU sectoral policies and initiatives as an essential guiding principle**.

The European Commission’s proposals should be sustainability-assured through its better regulation tools.

Existing and new EU policies should take into account the **three pillars** of sustainable development:
- social
- environmental and
- economic
EU policies for Sustainable development

- Sustainable development constitutes an objective of the European Union (From 1997 - Treaty of Amsterdam to 2009 in the Treaty of Lisbon)
- The “European Sustainable Development Strategy” (2001)
- The **Europe 2020 Strategy aimed at** a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe.
- **The revised EU Strategy for Sustainable Development (EU SDS) and** its 7 key priorities (June 15, 2016).
- The need for EU to lead the way for the recovery of the middle countreis EU, after the halt caused by the pandemic measures on the progress towards the SDGs.

Source: https://eu-dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/executive-summary
Source: European Sustainable Development Strategy (bmkgv.at)
Monitoring and Implementation of the SDGs in the EU

Since 2007, the EU carefully monitors the progress towards achieving the SDGs with the following tools:

A. Registration of National sustainable development strategies and activities in the EU Member States at the portal of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN).

B. Publication of Progress Reports on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy

C. Publication of Eurostat Annual Progress reports, based on 100 indicators in line with the Global Indicator Framework of the "2030 Agenda" adapted to EU needs.

D. Funding: All European Funds should take into account the 17 SDGs (Horizon Europe, European Social Fund etc.)

E. Coordination of national economic policies towards the SDGs through the “European Semester”.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-books/-/ks-04-17-780
Welcome to the KnowSDGs Platform

KnowSDGs (Knowledge base for the Sustainable Development Goals) is a web platform that provides tools and organises knowledge on policies, indicators, methods and data to support the evidence-based implementation of the SDGs.

Learn more on specific SDGs, targets and indicators by clicking on each Goal on the left bar.

Browse through the different sections below to explore the interactive tools.

Source: https://knowsdgs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/
The 16th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG16) aims to build strong and just institutions in support of peaceful and inclusive societies around the world by 2030. The EU aims at strengthening societal and state resilience by promoting the rule of law, justice, democracy and equality in order to create “an area of justice and fundamental rights, based on mutual trust”. It takes the following actions:

- reinforcing legal systems and rules, safeguarding free and fair elections, transparency, accountability and good governance;
- ensuring equal access to justice for all and protecting everyone’s fundamental freedoms by an independent and efficient judicial system;
- significantly reducing violent deaths, torture, exploitation, corruption, terrorism, cyber threats and all forms of organised crime and violence; and
- contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in partner countries.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/sdg/peace-justice-and-strong-institutions_en
In 2020, the European Commission adopted the European Democracy Action Plan to empower citizens and build more resilient democracies across the EU, against rising extremism and populism. Citizens should be able to participate in the democratic system through informed decision-making, free from unlawful interference and manipulation. The action aims to:

- To safeguard electoral integrity, e.g. by regulating transparency of sponsored political content ("political advertising") and by imposing platform liability for any false content.
- To enhance media freedom, through establishment by members states of easily accessible points of support providing free counselling, legal advice and psychological support, or digital security as well as appropriate accommodation for journalists who have become victims of crimes.
- To increase media pluralism, e.g. transparency of media ownership and state advertising. In addition, the Media and Audiovisual Action Plan aims to help the sector recover and profit of the digital transformation.
- To counter Disinformation, e.g. by strengthening the obligations and accountability of online platforms in the framework of the “Code of Practice on Disinformation” (2018), and by introducing vigorous monitoring and oversight and countering foreign interference, including imposing costs on perpetrators.

**SDG 4**: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**SDG 4,1**: all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

**SDG 4,2**: all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

**SDG 4,3**: equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

**SDG 4,4**: substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

**SDG 4,5**: equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

**SDG 4,6**: all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

**SDG 4,7**: 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

Source: [https://unric.org/en/sdg-4](https://unric.org/en/sdg-4)
EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA

Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030) of 26 February 2021 (2021/C 66/01)

1st Priority
- Improving **quality**, equity, inclusion and success for all in education and training

2nd Priority
- Making **lifelong learning and mobility** a reality for all

3rd Priority
- Enhancing **competences and motivation** in the education profession

4th Priority
- Reinforcing **European higher education**

5th Priority
- Supporting the **green and digital transitions** in and through education and training

EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR ADULT LEARNING
Council Resolution on a new European Agenda for Adult Learning 2021-2030
of 14 December 2021
(2021/C 504/02)

5 PILLARS

Governance

Supply and take-up of lifelong learning opportunities

Accessibility and flexibility

Quality, equity, inclusion and success in adult learning

Green and digital transition

Source: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011G1220(01)
EU POLICIES FOR SDG 4
AIMS AND METHODS

1. Personal, social and professional development of all Citizens:
   - in all forms of education (formal, in-formal, non-formal) through the promotion of:
     - Democratic values
     - Equity
     - Social cohesion
     - Active participation
     - Intercultural Dialogue

2. Sustainable economic prosperity
   - Green & Digital transition
   - Employment

Knowledge square:
   - Education, Research, Innovation, Service to society

Policy dialogue with International Organizations (CoE, UNESCO, OECD)

Funding Synergies

Effective coordination at European, national, regional, local level

Digital Transition

Need for Sustainability Values

Flexibility, Resilience, Creativity, Adaptability

Lessons from COVID 19 crisis

Challenge

Digital learning, Distance learning, Blended learning

Need for
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 29 November 2021
on blended learning approaches for high-quality and inclusive primary and secondary education (2021/C 504/03)

It aims at the digital transition and digital transformation of education and training systems.

It will promote digital literacy and tackles disinformation through education and training by developing common guidelines for teachers and educators, who will be trained to be digitally competent and confident.

It also will finance infrastructure, connectivity and digital equipment and high quality user friendly content in secure platforms.

The Digital Education Action Plan is a key initiative under the European Education Area, which outlines its vision for the future of education and training in the EU until 2025 and beyond.

Since 2016 the EU Council has recommended the increase of digital competence levels among learners of all ages, as an important precondition for strengthening their ability to participate actively in the democratic life as well as for enhancing their employability.

It will update the European Digital Competence Framework to include Artificial Intelligence skills and establish a European Digital Skills Certificate (EDSC).

The EU has planned all necessary measures and provided for their financement in order to confront the infodemic and promote MIL.

Digital Competence Framework for Educators (DigCompEdu)

WHAT ELSE IS NEEDED?

- Erasmus +
- Digital Europe Programme
- Horizon Europe
- Technical Support Instrument

EU Funds

Interaction and Connectivity with SDG’s 11: Sustainable Cities
- Urban Agenda for EU (https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda)
- Protection and promotion of Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Empowerment & participation of all citizens
- Active participation of Youth
- Strong Civil society

Interaction and Connectivity with SDG’s 17: Partnerships
- Strong cooperation between public and private sector
- Corporative relationships
- Use of science, technology, creativity, innovation, trade
- Coherence of policies

TARGET 4•7

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
Lifelong learning opportunities for all & Integrated Knowledge for Social Change

Connection

EU Initiative “FUTURES OF CITIES”

CoE & EC Initiative “INTERCULTURAL CITIES”

1. Media & Information Literacy
2. Sustainable & Inclusive Europe

Resilience

Engagement

Media and Information Literacy (MIL)

‘Media and information literacy’ (MIL) refers to skills, knowledge and understanding that allow citizens to use media and information critically, effectively and safely in order to take well-informed decisions in a democratic system, participate in the civil society and maximize the advantages from their use.

Media literacy is the ability to access the media, maintain a critical approach towards media content, taking into account media functions and create communication in a variety of contexts (Samy Tayie, p. 351 - MIL 2014).

The EU has taken steps to promote MIL.

The importance of MIL is demonstrated by the UNESCO since 2014 and the programme of MIL CITIES, designated so by UNESCO.

In this framework, cities are called to promote partnerships to stimulate MIL through libraries (local and regional libraries, school libraries and informal community libraries). For example:

- a series of workshops offered by a library on MIL-related topics,
- a section of the library devoted to books or films on MIL-related topics,
- a library day in schools where librarians or writers explain how information is produced, the functions of media, online privacy, and/or intercultural dialogue.

«Education is the best investment for a Sustainable Future, as it can really transform lives»