

ESDN Newsletter

July 2025

ESDN News

Past ESDN Events in 2025

10th ESDN Peer Learning Platform on “The Integrative and Framing Power of the SDGs – Keeping Sustainable Development Relevant in Europe”

The 10th Peer Learning Platform took place on April 23rd, 2025, in Brussels, Belgium!

The title of this year’s Peer Learning Platform was “The Integrative and Framing Power of the SDGs – Keeping Sustainable Development Relevant in Europe”. The Platform was organized by the ESDN in cooperation with the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management.

With only 5 years remaining to reach the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, we want to continue to keep the SDGs high on the agenda and continue to push for sustainable development in Europe. Some of the questions we addressed in this Peer Learning Platform were: How can Europe continue to keep up momentum for sustainable development and keep the SDGs relevant in the context of the geopolitical challenges we find ourselves dealing with? How do we re-engage our stakeholders for the SDGs? How will the new Commission address the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? These are some of the broader themes we discussed and learned about at the Platform. The format of the Platform was a mixture of keynotes presentations and ESDN Exchange Spaces, which featured good practice cases and offered a chance for in-depth discussions on some of these challenges.



2030 Agenda Stakeholder Forum on “How to make Regulation, Competitiveness and Sustainability Work Together?”

The Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the ESDN organized the 2030 Agenda Stakeholder Forum in Warsaw on May 27th, 2025!

The Forum was an international gathering of public administration and business, aimed at building synergies for sustainable development through experience sharing and dialogue on the challenges and needs of both parties.



3rd ESDN Topic Exchange

The 3rd Topic Exchange is a continuation of a new and exclusive ESDN event initiative that began in 2024 that is reserved for the ESDN Advisory Board countries (those supporting the work of the ESDN).

The 3rd Topic Exchange was held as a virtual, 2-hour long webinar that took place on 16 June. The topic that was addressed was "Sustainability policymaking and capacity-building: Experiences of public administrations in their policy management efforts".

In part one, we heard from Wales, sharing with us their experiences with sustainability policymaking.

In part two, we heard several short presentations on the current situation and activities/practices in ESDN Regular Member countries, especially on how to best embed sustainable development into the government ministries and how to guarantee a continuation of SD/SDG implementation in times of disruption, recent changes in governments, etc.

ESDN Youth Network Member Participation in the EESC Youth Test

In the first months of 2025, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) reached out to the ESDN Youth Network three times to invite youth input on upcoming opinions.

As a result, ESDN Youth was invited to nominate youth representatives for eight different opinions. For six of these, our members submitted applications. We are happy to share that in four cases, ESDN Youth members were elected by other youth organizations to represent young people in the EESC Youth Test.

Below is a table of the Youth Members who were selected and the EESC Opinions on which they were nominated to give feedback.

EESC section	Opinion	Name of the YD	Country
ECO	ECO/670 'Communication on a Savings and Investments Union'	Marvin Huber	Austria
NAT	NAT/952 "European Climate Law amendment."	Axel Eriksson	Sweden
SOC	SOC/833 "Green skills and green vocational institutions"	Cara Borg Aquilina	Malta
CCMI	CCMI/249 - Industrial Action Plan for the European automotive sector	Axel Eriksson	Sweden

ESDN Publications in 2025

4 Youth Network Policy Notes from the Youth Workshop 2024

In April, the ESDN published 4 ESDN Policy Notes from our ESDN Youth Network Members who participated in the Youth Workshop 2024, which took place in September 2024 in Berlin. The title of the Workshop was "Europe's Sustainability and Climate Neutrality in 2050", where Youth Network Members learned about strategic foresight and where they worked on scenario building. The Workshop had 33 Youth Network Members from 19 European countries who attended.

The discussions between the Youth Network Members gave rise to four distinct topics that became Policy Notes, and which are linked below:

1. [Aligning Goals with Core Values to Foster a Sustainable Future](#)
2. [Building Trust and Strengthening Institutions through Youth Engagement](#)
3. [Empowering Local Communities and Youth in Decision-Making Processes](#)
4. [Reforming Global Financial Architecture for a Sustainable Future](#)



Policy Note on the 10th ESDN Peer Learning Platform

This ESDN Policy Note was formulated based on the keynote speeches, expert presentations, and interactive group work from the 10th ESDN Peer Learning Platform, which took place on 27 April in Brussels, Belgium.

More than 50 participants from 18 European countries as well as European and international institutions discussed and elaborated on the topic of the event, “Integrative and Framing Power of the SDGs – Keeping Sustainable Development Relevant in Europe”.

With only 5 years remaining to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the ESDN aims to support keeping the SDGs high on the policy agenda and to continue pushing for sustainable development in Europe.

To achieve this, the following recommendations were made by the Peer Learning Platform participants, based on keynote presentations, interactive exchange formats, and discussions:

1. Develop integrated governance and policy approaches for SDG implementation
2. Establish an active role of the sub-national level
3. Increase stakeholder engagement and communication
4. Engage in post-2030 Agenda framing early and proactively

You can read more about recommendations, including good practice examples, [here](#).

Newsflash: Belgium’s SDG Forum 2024

The SDG Forum brings together various sectors: policymakers, businesses, NGOs, academics, students and many other stakeholders. The event, organized by the FSD (Federal Institute for Sustainable Development) and supported by around twenty partner organizations, emphasizes connecting “unusual suspects” — people and organizations that do not typically interact—to spark new ideas and innovative solutions.

You can read the full Newsflash [here](#), as well as find it on [LinkedIn](#)!



Newsflash: Luxembourg’s National Report on Sustainable Development

Prepared by the Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development (CIDD), the national report, which was presented at the beginning of 2025, is based on the priorities defined in the 3rd National Plan for Sustainable Development and provides an exhaustive overview of the multitude of actions undertaken at government level to achieve the objectives set by the 2030 Agenda.

The initiatives are completed by detailed explanations of trends in the indicators monitored by STATEC (the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg), as well as more specific recommendations for making progress on sustainability between now and 2030.

You can read the full Newsflash [here](#), as well as find it on [LinkedIn](#)!

Newsflash: Switzerland's Agenda 2030 Toolbox for Businesses Available in English

Businesses can and must make a significant contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda because of their significant economic, environmental and social impact. That is why the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) has created a Toolbox Agenda 2030 for Businesses. This is now also available in English and is intended to motivate and inspire companies in Switzerland but also across borders to embed sustainability in their business practices.

You can read the full Newsflash [here](#), as well as find it on [LinkedIn](#)!



Upcoming ESDN Events in 2025

European Sustainable Development Week 2025

This year's edition of the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) will take place from 18 September - 08 October 2025!

As always, the ESDW is open to anyone and everyone who wants to take concrete action to support the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Initiatives, foundations, schools, kindergartens, universities, churches, companies, social institutions, environmental and development associations, municipalities, public utilities, authorities, offices and ministries, but also private persons who would like to act in their personal environment, are encouraged to organize and register events through the ESDW.

You can find the event registration page [here](#)! This year's edition is already open for event registrations. So far, there are 31 events taking place in 5 countries. Events can be registered up until, and including, 08 October.



Youth Workshop 2025

This year's ESDN Youth Workshop is planned to be held in October or November in Berlin!

The theme of this year's Workshop will be decided soon! More information will be made available on the ESDN website, [here](#).

ESDN Conference 2025

The ESDN Conference 2025 will take place on 25-26 November in Copenhagen!

The title of this year's conference is "Post-2030 Agenda: 10 Years of SDG Implementation and Ideas for a Future Agenda" and will be organized together with Nordregio and the Nordic Council of Ministers at the Nordic Council of Ministers' headquarters in Copenhagen.

With 10 years of SDG implementation behind us, it is a good point in time to reflect on what has gone well with implementing the 2030 Agenda, what has not gone so well, and what will come next. We have 5 years remaining for implementation, and those years should be used to accelerate actions that are geared towards reaching the SDGs. At the same time, we should all be asking ourselves: What comes after the 2030 Agenda? Which processes and mechanisms have we developed over the last 10 years that we know work and that we know should be a part of any new sustainable development agenda? We hope to be able to provide answers to this overarching question through a mixture of keynote presentations, discussions, and the ESDN Exchange Spaces with examples of good practices.

A draft agenda of the conference can be found [here](#)!

4th ESDN Topic Exchange

The 4th ESDN Topic Exchange will be held later this year on the topic of AI and Sustainability! We look forward to continuing to offer ESDN Regular Members this format of intensive exchange on a specific topic.

News From European Countries





Belgium

More coherent policies for sustainable development

On 18 March 2025, the Belgian Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FISD) organized a workshop in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and with the support of the European Commission, with the aim of defining ways of strengthening the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) at the Belgian federal level.

The purpose of the workshop was to help the federal authority, in particular the FISD, to identify the main mechanisms and tools that could be adopted and/or strengthened to improve coordination between federal policy domains.

Various proposals for action were discussed and will be the subject of a report to be sent to participants and will be included in the final version of the Institutional Scan performed to assess PCSD at the Belgian federal level and to formulate policy recommendations. The debates focused in particular on:

-  strong commitment from management ;
-  the link between policy coherence and effectiveness;
-  the proliferation of sectoral plans;
-  stakeholders input;

- access to data and science-based public policies;
- policy impact assessment;
- monitoring and reporting processes.

Read more [here](#)!



A quarter of the Belgian Federal Sustainable Development Plan awaits implementation

Almost three and a half years after the previous Federal Government approved the Federal Plan for Sustainable Development (FPSD), implementation of 75% of the planned measures has begun. This is the [conclusion of the Belgian Federal Planning Bureau's \(FPB\) third assessment of the FPSD](#).

According to the FPB's assessment, based on reports up to January 2025, 75% of the 239 measures have begun to be implemented. This includes 11% under preparation, 59% under implementation and 5% under monitoring. On the other hand, for 23% of measures the implementation has not been initiated. No information is available for 1% of measures.

The current plan will remain in force until the next will be adopted, beginning of 2026 at the earliest, when a new plan is expected under the legal obligation following the formation of a new federal government.

The cycle for drawing up the new plan has started and should be completed in the first half of 2026. This cycle comprises six stages:

- [Report by members of the Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development](#) (ICSD - 18 months before the start of the cycle);
- [Federal sustainable development report by federal Planning Bureau](#) (15 months before the start of the cycle);
- Preliminary draft plan prepared by the ICSD;
- Public consultation (60 days);
- Draft plan prepared by ICSD (60 days); and
- PFDD adopted by the government for a period of 5 years.

Read more [here](#)!






Flanders – Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG)

To support Flemish local governments in using the SDGs as a framework for their local policy plans (being developed in 2025 for the period 2026-2031), VVSG published an [inspiration guide on making local policy plans more sustainable through SDGs](#).

Based on the many years of experience of the VVSG and Flemish local governments, it has become a very concrete guide enveloping all possible steps in developing and implementing local policy. It contains concrete suggestions and practical examples on how to use Agenda 2030 as a starting point or check for own policy priorities, goals, actions, monitoring and reporting.

Three example trajectories are described. From here, you can click through to the various sections of the inspiration guide:

-  The explorer: The SDGs are still little known and not used or used only to a limited extent. There is, however, ambition among at least several people in the organization to introduce the SDGs in an accessible way when drawing up the local policy plan.
-  The builder: Several initiatives have already been taken in the context of the SDGs. However, the SDGs have not yet been adopted throughout the organization, and thus far they have tended to be used on an ad hoc basis. There is a need for a structured approach.
-  The pioneer: The SDGs are a recognized framework. There is political and administrative support, with sustainability embedded in multiple policy areas. The new policy period is being seen as offering momentum to further embed the 2030 Agenda and to take the next steps, for example for SDG monitoring and the participation of external stakeholders.

Moreover, the guide contains a variety of concrete exercises, including description, formats and indication for which step(s) each exercise might be useful. The guide may serve as an inspiration to many local governments and local government associations worldwide.

Flanders – Flemish municipalities involve twinning partners in SDG campaign week

Every year in September, the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) organizes the 'Sustainable Municipality Week'. More than 100 local authorities take part each year. They raise the SDG flag at their town hall and put local sustainable heroes in the spotlight.

In a brand-new video, several municipalities and their twinning partners from Senegal, Bolivia, Cameroon, and elsewhere talk about how they are participating in Sustainable Municipality Week and the impact this is having on local policies and the local community in both countries. Watch the video with subtitles in [Dutch](#), [English](#), [French](#) or [Spanish](#).

Flanders – International SDG Conference “Global Goals, Local Action”

The Agenda 2030 deadline is approaching. The challenges are great, but the decisiveness of local governments is even greater.

On Tuesday 30 September 2025, VVSG invites you to the Lamot Convention Centre in Mechelen for an international conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). You will discover how cities and municipalities worldwide are working on sustainable solutions and international solidarity. You will meet colleagues, share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that make a real difference.

More information can be found [here](#).

Finland











3rd Voluntary National Review

This year, Finland is preparing its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) for the UN and is presenting it in July this year during the yearly United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The VNR focuses on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The review is coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office in close collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Statistics Finland. The coordination team has been working actively with the parliamentary Committee for the Future and the Finnish Agenda 2030 Youth Group. The VNR is also part of Finland's four-year policy cycle for sustainable development.

Action plan

The Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development has prepared an [action plan](#) for the national strategy for sustainable development for 2025-2027, adopted in 2022. The purpose of the action plan is to concretize and accelerate the work on sustainable development and to inspire more and more people to participate. The plan consists of ten measures. The implementation of the measures relies heavily on the expertise and activity of the committee members and their networks. The Secretariat supports the work with a varying approach and monitors the implementation of the plan.

-  Measure 1: Promoting the implementation of indicators of sustainable development and developing their use
-  Measure 2: Strengthening the knowledge base on the negative externalities of Finland's work for sustainable development
-  Measure 3: Legislation and other guidance and direction methods strengthening the sustainability transformation at different levels and in different sectors will be mapped and possible conflicts in guidance and direction will be identified
-  Measure 4: Corporate social responsibility /sustainability reporting and its potential in supporting sustainability work and budgeting in organizations
-  Measure 5: Events and dialogues related to sustainable development will be organized to strengthen social inclusion
-  Measure 6: Initiating discussion on inclusion, values and inclusive practices in the work of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development
-  Measure 7: Promoting the sustainability transformation in morning coffee events organized on different themes
-  Measure 8: Competence in the cultural sector to support sustainable development
-  Measure 9: Libraries' art challenge to strengthen empathy
-  Measure 10: Sustainability education challenge

The Room of Future

The Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development organized the Room of Future in May, where it was possible to experience and imagine what a post-sustainability transformation future looks and feels like. *Room 2050* was an invitation for citizens to seek and create new ideas for building a positive and sustainable future.

The Room of Future is based on three positive images of futures. In *True-cost Economy*, ecological and social harms and benefits are included in the prices of products and services. In *Planetary Rules*, an international, science- and norm-based system regulates overconsumption, restores nature and is responsible for the principles of fair use of natural resources, artificial intelligence and weapon systems. In *Sustainability Awareness Revolution*, education and learning strengthen the change in values, which

leads people to direct their interests, skills and resources in ways that support the sustainability transformation.

Germany

Germany's 2025 Sustainability Strategy: A Renewed Commitment to the 2030 Agenda

In early 2025 the German Federal Cabinet adopted an update of the German Sustainability Strategy (GSDS) "[Shaping transformation fairly together](#)". At national level, the GSDS provides the political framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The 2025 update was shaped through an extensive multi-stakeholder participation process involving citizens, civil society, academia, businesses, and local authorities. A series of national dialogue forums and online consultations in 2023 and 2024 enabled a great number of actors to provide input, ensuring that the strategy reflects a broad societal consensus. This participatory approach aimed to increase transparency, legitimacy, and ownership of the sustainability agenda across all sectors.

Clear Goals and Focus Areas

The updated strategy describes the path towards a sustainable, economically strong, socially equitable and environmentally sound development in Germany. The Federal Statistical Office of Germany tracks and evaluates the respective degree of achievement using 82 key indicators. These can be viewed [here](#) (only in German). General monitoring of the SDGs can be found [here](#) (in English).

Six Transformation Areas and Strategic Levers

To achieve sustainable development by 2030, the international community needs to step up and speed up their efforts. With this aim in mind, the further development of the GSDS looks at **six central areas of transformation** areas and so-called levers.

In alignment with the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) of the United Nations the following areas, in which there is a great need for action, were defined:

Human well-being and capabilities, social justice; Energy transition and climate protection; Circular economy; Sustainable construction and transport transition; Sustainable agricultural and food systems; and Pollution-free environment.

To drive progress across these sectors, the strategy outlines **five key "levers"** for transformation: Governance; Social mobilisation and participation; Finance; Research, innovation and digitalisation; and International responsibility and cooperation.

In all its actions, the GSDS also considers the cross-border effects (**spillovers**) of national action. The measures must be designed in such a way that they do not hinder the implementation of the sustainability goals in other countries.

New Coalition, Continued Commitment

Following the federal elections in spring 2025, the newly formed coalition between the CDU and SPD included a joint statement in their coalition agreement that reaffirms Germany's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and announces the further update of the GSDS. The government will continue to work to combat poverty, hunger, and inequality worldwide and to achieve the international Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. In addition, the new coalition is striving for an ambitious post-Agenda 2030 framework for the future.

VNR – Participation works

As part of its international commitment to the 2030 Agenda, Germany is presenting its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July 2025. The VNR

provides a comprehensive overview of Germany's progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and highlights both successes and challenges. Germany's VNR was developed through a collaborative process, incorporating input from a wide range of stakeholders, and aims to serve as a transparent account of national efforts as well as an inspiration for international cooperation and shared learning.

German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

The fourth International Conference on Financing for Development FfD4 in Seville (30.6.-3.7.2025) is regarded as a key event for international sustainability policy in 2025, which is why the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) has drawn up recommendations for the Federal Government in a statement.

The UN conference is not just about technocratic adjustments, but about political decisions with global implications. 20 years after the groundbreaking Monterrey Consensus, the international community is once again facing key decisions: The global financial architecture must be made fairer, more crisis-proof and more sustainable in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Paris climate goals.

The RNE therefore has published a report with specific recommendations: [dfad](#) (English), and [dfad](#) (German).

Netherlands

9th Edition of the National SDG Progress Report

On the 21st of May, the Netherlands published its 9th edition of the [National SDG Progress Report](#) (in Dutch). The report, sent to parliament on behalf of the government, reflects on the progress, best practices, and barriers for SDG implementation. It does so in close collaboration with different sector representatives, who each write their own chapter in the report. These chapters do not only include a reflection on the SDGs, but also provide concrete recommendations to the government and other sectors for further implementation. The represented sectors include decentralized governments, the private sector, civil society, knowledge institutes and the Dutch youth. In addition to the report, the Dutch statistical office published new data on SDG progress in their [well-being monitor](#).

While the past year saw progress on some of the SDGs, including SDG 1, 8 and 9, several challenges to effective SDG implementation remain. These include the realization of climate ambitions and bringing down the Dutch footprint or *spillover*. Encouraging is the ambition of many stakeholders to contribute to SDG realization, as once again underlined in the report. We look forward to progress on *our common agenda* over the next five years, and beyond.



Negende Nationale SDG Rapportage Nederland op weg naar brede welvaart

21 mei 2025



Romania

2023-2025 Large Scale Project: 2.000 Sustainable Development Experts

The Department of Sustainable Development is responsible for reaching the Target 415: the program for developing a career for the occupation “expert of sustainable development” – Professionals for sustainable development, for 2.000 public servants from local and central public administration, Reform 2 / Component 14 “Good Governance” of the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience.

The Target supports the implementation of Romania’s Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 through the upskilling of public administration personnel, with the scope of locally extending the Hubs Network for Sustainable Development.

The EXTENDED Programme 2023-2025 for professional training is a continuation of the support for the expansion of institutional competences within public administration in sustainable development. It started with the PILOT 2020 – 2022 by training 150 experts of sustainable development at central level and it goes on to contribute to reaching the target of improving the quality and efficacy of public administration.

The EXTENDED Programme, which at national level trains 2.000 people from central and local public administration, ensures the acquiring of institutional skills related to sustainable development, including ecological and digital, to support the implementation of the Romania’s Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, and the digital and ecological transition.

To help reach the target of the project, the Department benefited from technical assistance from the World Bank in the form of the Institutional Capacity Needs Assessment in the Field of Sustainable Development.

NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TARGET GROUP OF 2000 EXPERTS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.



Spain

Annual Activists for the Future Awards

The purpose of these awards is to stimulate and recognize the trajectory, dedication and contribution of initiatives and practices of social, academic and social economy entities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda in Spain and the world. Any public or private entity that are legally based in Spain and that are related to the object of the Awards can submit a nomination, in one of the four categories, these are (1) Poverty and inequalities; (2) Just ecological transition; (3) Gender gap and zero discrimination; (4) Sustainable territories.

2nd Activists for the Future 2024 Awards Ceremony

The presentation ceremony of the Activists for the Future Awards for the year 2024 took place on 6 March 2025 at the headquarters of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030. The awards were presented by the former director of the Directorate General of Agenda 2030, Ms. Paula Fernández-Wulff Barreiro and the president of the jury, Ms. Isabel Iparraguirre.

You can watch the award ceremony [here](#)!



Conference: Keys to ending child poverty and inequality

The General Directorate of Agenda 2030 of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Consumption and 2030 Agenda hosted the Conference: Keys to ending child poverty and inequality, under the Voices of Sustainable Development program: the Agenda 2030 in the territories.

The meeting took place on Thursday 12 June 2025. Pablo Bustinduy, Minister of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030; Sira Rego, Minister of Youth and Children; and Nerea Melgosa, Minister of Welfare, Youth and Demographic Challenge of the Basque Government participated in the event.

The aim of the conference was to provide a space for dialogue and non-institutionalized discussion to identify the keys and tools to end poverty and inequality. To this end, it was structured into a space for interventions by experts and the presentation of two international cases of good practice.

Conference 2: Social protection and adaptation to climate change

The second session of the 'Voices of Sustainable Development' program, which took place on 25 June in Barcelona, discussed in depth how the growing climate challenges - from increasingly intense and frequent heat waves to more severe flooding - directly impact on territories and, in a particularly worrying way, on the Mediterranean region and the most vulnerable groups. It also addressed in detail the socio-economic vulnerability that exacerbates the effects of climate change, leaving certain regions and communities in a more precarious situation.

Through an open and dynamic dialogue format, facilitated by guiding questions, an enriching conversation to identify the intrinsic connections between a welfare-oriented economic system and the urgent need to address the climate crisis, and to analyze how actions aimed at ecological transition can strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups to the negative impacts of climate change unfolded.

Pablo Bustinduy, Minister of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030, and Rosa Martínez, Secretary of State for Social Rights, among with Sílvia Paneque i Sureda, Minister of Territory, Housing and Ecological Transition under Generalitat Catalunya participated.



Catalonia - The Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia hosts Prof Jim Skea, chair of IPCC

The [Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia \(CADS\)](#), in collaboration with the [Cercle d'Economia](#), hosted a meeting with Prof Jim Skea and a representation of the extensive scientific community that conducts research on climate change in Catalonia. The council convened more than 30 leading scientists –some of them contributing to IPCC and IPBES reports-, but also some Catalan government representatives, for an exchange with the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)), the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

Following the meeting with the scientific community, Prof Jim Skea was received by the President of the Parliament of Catalonia, and had a stimulating conversation with students from the [Network of Schools for Sustainability in Catalonia \(XESC\)](#) on their perception about climate change and the IPCC. Finally, the chair of IPCC accompanied by the president of CADS, was received by the President of the Government of Catalonia and the Minister for Territory, Housing and Ecological Transition. With these meetings, CADS promoted once again the transfer of knowledge between the scientific community and decision makers.



Catalonia - Intergenerational Dialogue on the Climate Emergency and Its Impacts on Catalonia's Most Vulnerable Populations

In October 2023, the [Catalonia 2030 Alliance](#) —coordinated by the [Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia, CADS](#)— and [Catesco](#) launched the “[Dialogues for Education 2030](#)”, a forum designed to explore how education can help society address its principal challenges.

Building on that initiative, the Catalonia 2030 Alliance now prepares its first intergenerational dialogue on the climate emergency and its effects on Catalonia's most vulnerable populations. The dialogue is scheduled on the 29th of November 2025 in Barcelona, and will be followed by other events across Catalonia, organized in partnership with the existing 12 territorial education councils, from January to June 2026. Insights gathered from these dialogues will be collated into a policy brief containing recommendations for adapting the education system to meet the climate challenge; the report will be submitted to the Government of Catalonia.

The Catalonia 2030 Alliance, born in February 2020, gathers almost 90 organizations working for the SDGs in Catalonia. The team behind the organization of this intergenerational dialogue includes the councils for Childhood and Adolescence, Youth and Elders, the Catalonia Education Council, Catesco, the Sustainable Schools Network, the Catalan Institute for Peace, CADS, and the Catalan Government Ministry for Education, among others.



News from European Sustainable Development Organizations

European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) Network

On the 29th of April 2025, the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) Network hosted a fruitful “Beyond the 2030 Agenda” webinar to discuss what comes after 2030 and the future of SDGs. Before a discussion was held, members from the EEAC, ESDN, and the EESC had the opportunity to listen to three expert speakers: Csaba Kőrösi, former co-chair of the UN Open Working Group on SDGs and former President of the UN General Assembly, Marianne Beisheim, Senior Associate at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik/ German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and Miriam Rosa Gonzalez, coordinator for International Affairs at the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE).

The core takeaways from the exchange session included that the framework following the 2030 agenda should be grounded in science, rights, and systems thinking. Emphasis was also placed on updating existing goals and targets rather than creating new targets from scratch. Another topic that arose was highlighting the contradictions that exist between laws and sustainability goals, and that while we aim to change the world through SDGs, our legal systems have largely remained unchanged. It was also noted that data collection and processing methods need to be improved without overburdening administrators and that geopolitical tensions are slowing SGD implementation progress. However, when talking about implementation, it was highlighted that local governments play a key role in the success of SDGs.

Nordregio - Forum 2025: Navigating crises

Welcome to Nordregio Forum 2025 – the annual research conference for regional development in the Nordics! Bringing together regional and local policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, the conference will turn to one of the most urgent issues of our time: crisis resilience.

This is your platform for dialogue, collaboration, and research-based solutions. Through inspiring keynotes, interactive workshops, and peer-to-peer exchange, we'll explore how Nordic regions can tackle today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow's uncertainties.

Join us in Lahti, Finland, on 3–4 December as we dive deeper into the regional issues shaping our future.

More information and registration can be found [here](#)!

Sustainable Development Solutions Network – 10th Edition of the Sustainable Development Report

Ten years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), progress remains alarmingly off-track, with less than 20% of targets projected to be achieved by 2030. Yet, global averages mask stark disparities across regions and countries in SDG progress. Despite these challenges, commitment remains high among the majority of UN Member States, reveals the [10th edition of the Sustainable Development Report \(SDR\)](#), released on 24 June by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

The SDR includes the SDG Index and Dashboards, which rank all UN Member States on their performance across the 17 Goals, and this year's report features a new Index (SDGi), which focuses on 17 headline indicators to track overall SDG progress over time. Ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Ff4D) in Seville, Spain (30 June – 3 July 2025), the report outlines urgent reforms to the Global Financial Architecture (GFA) that should be adopted during the conference to unlock the financing needed to achieve the SDGs. On the heels of the 80th anniversary of the creation of the UN System, the report also provides improved measures and a new web platform to track countries' support for and engagement with the UN system via its Index of countries' support for UN-based multilateralism (UN-Mi).

UN Global Compact Network Switzerland & Liechtenstein – SDG Flag Day

UN Global Compact Network Switzerland & Liechtenstein is excited to invite you to participate in this year's [SDG Flag Day](#). At the end of September, all around the world the SDG Flag will be raised to show our support to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the flag campaign, organizations, businesses, municipalities, schools and governments worldwide show that they are part of this global movement for a better world. Be part of this international campaign and join us this year on 25 September 2025.

The SDG Flag Day campaign was launched in 2020, and it has been growing in popularity every year. Since 2023, over 300 flags have been raised in Switzerland & Liechtenstein.