

The European Union´s implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: an overall overview

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

-From the **Millenium Declaration (MD)** and the **MGDs** (2000) to the **Agenda 2030** and the **SDGs** (2015): a changing approach to *global development*

-The Agenda 2030 as the *new global sustainable development framework* (*Paris Climate Agreement (COP21)* and the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015) are an integral part of the Agenda)

-Its commitment is to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 worldwide, ensuring that no one is left behind.

-The core of the Agenda are the 17 SDGs and their 169 associated targets, which run to 2030. These SDGs are **global in nature**, **universally applicable** and **interlinked**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

The SDGs balance the **three dimensions of sustainable development**: the economic, social and environmental.

They include objectives focussed *inter alia* on:

- human dignity
- regional and global stability
- a healthy planet,
- fair and resilient societies
- prosperous economies

The Agenda also includes important elements on the **Means of its Implementation** (*Global Partnership*) and a **Follow up** and **Review** framework.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The EU's implementation of the the SGD's

-The EU , alongside with its Member States, has played an **active role** in shaping the 2030 Agenda, through public consultations, dialogue with its partners and in-depth-research.

-This is because the EU has a strong starting position and track record when it comes to the issue of **sustainable development**.

-In fact, SD has long since been at the heart of the European project. The EU Treaties give recognition to his concept, in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and places it amongst the most prominent **aims** of the organization: art. 3 (TEU)/ art. 21.2 (d) (TFEU)

-Taking into account that the 2030 Agenda reflects many of the EU's priorities for SD, the EU is fully committed to being a **frontrunner** in implementing the Agenda and the SDGs, together with its Member States, in line with the **principle of subsidiarity** (art. 5.3 TEU)

-The implementation of the SGDs will be done at two levels:

a) **internally**

b) **globally**

The EU's implementation of the the SGD's: the strategic approach

On November 2016, the European Commission outlined its **strategic approach** towards the implementation of the Agenda, including the SDGs (*sustainable development package*), which includes - among others- some key actions:

- 1.- including the SDGs into EU policies and initiatives in all areas;
- 2.- providing regular reporting of the EU's progress;
- 3.- implementation will be taken forward with EU governments, the European Parliament, other European institutions (Council), civil society organizations, citizens and other stakeholders;
- 4.- launching a *multi-stakeholder Platform* with a role in the follow-up and exchange of best practices on SDG implementation;
- 5.- launching a *reflection work* with a post-2020 perspective.

The EU's implementation of the the SGD's: strategic approach

Through this *comprehensive approach*, the EU seeks to mainstream the SDGs into its policies and actions and engage all stakeholders in its **implementation** to work towards full implementation of the Agenda in a **balanced and integrated manner**.

The EU's implementation of the the SGD's: what is being done

The SDGs are actually being pursued through *many of the EU's policies* and integrated into all the *Commission's ten priorities*.

An analysis of the practice shows that the current EU policies addresses all 17 goals.

To illustrate this, we offer a brief overview of the most relevant EU policies and actions that are contributing to the achievement of the goals.

Not only **internally** but also **externally** (through the *EU's external action*).

Main actions contributing to the SDGs within the EU

1.- The contribution of the EU with its Member States

In the European context, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs *corresponds to the Union and its Member States (is a shared competence)*, in line with the *principle of subsidiarity* (art. 5.3 TEU):

“According to which the EU will only act in areas outside its exclusive competences when the objectives can be better achieved at Union level than by action of Member States. “

Therefore, **close cooperation** with Member States is necessary. In fact many issues affecting SD are being directly addressed by Member States.

These States have already established their own national frameworks for the achievement of the SDGs (**SPAIN**).

Main actions contributing to the SDGs within the EU

-On ***SDG 1 "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"***, the role of the EU internally, in line with the subsidiarity principle, is mainly to support Member States in the fight against poverty to help them reach the headline target on poverty set by the European strategy in a context where the crisis has affected progress towards the target.

-On ***SDG 3 "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"*** the EU complements Member States' action through

Main actions contributing to the SDGs within the EU

2.- The contribution of the “Commission's 10 priorities”

The *political agenda* of the current European Commission (JUNCKER Commission) is focused on jobs, growth, fairness and democratic change... (*Ten Priorities*). These priorities touch upon the key challenges for Europe at this moment on those issues.

Many of the SDGs are closely related with these challenges and the Commission's objectives under the ten priorities.

Some examples of the close link between the SDGs and the ten priorities are given below :

**Main actions contributing to the SDGs within
the EU**

***-"Priority 1. A new
boost for jobs,
growth and
investment" is
directly linked to***

Overview of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context (2018)

According to a Report published recently by EUROSTAT, in the last five years **progress appears to have been strongest** towards SDG 3 ‘good health and well-being’, followed by SDG 4 ‘quality education’ and SDG 7 ‘affordable and clean energy’. The **EU also made progress** towards SDG 11 ‘sustainable cities and communities’, SDG 12 ‘responsible consumption and production’, SDG 5 ‘gender equality’, SDG 8 ‘decent work and economic growth’, SDG 17 ‘partnership for the goals’, and SDG 1 ‘no poverty’, and, to a minor extent, SDG 15 ‘life on land’ and SDG 2 ‘zero hunger’. SDG 9 ‘industry, innovation and infrastructure’ is characterised by an **equal number of positive and negative developments** of the indicators

Based on the selected indicators, the EU appears **to have moved away** from the sustainable development objectives for **SDG 10** ‘reduced inequalities’ over the past five years. This is due to the continued rise of income inequalities within EU Member States...

The **four remaining goals** – SDG 6 ‘clean water and sanitation’, SDG 13 ‘climate action’, SDG 14 ‘life below water’ and SDG 16 ‘peace, justice and strong institutions’ – trends cannot be calculated due to insufficient data over the past five years”.

The commitments under the EU's external action to promote the 2030 Agenda

The vision of the 2030 Agenda and its SGDs is fully consistent with the **objectives of EU's external action**, including the pursuit of sustainable development (Article 21.2 d) TEU)

The EU's “**development cooperation policy**” (DCP), as an integral part of the EU external's action, plays a **central role** in the implementation of the Agenda and the SGDs (art. 208TFUE)

The DCP and that of the Member States complement and reinforce each other (art. 4.4 TFFU)

The new European Consensus on Development (ECD) (2017)

Europe is a **global leader** in development, being the world's biggest provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA)-(82,000 billion euros (2014-2010))

This new ECD **was agreed to jointly** by all European Institutions and all EU Member States.

It is the EU's response to today's global trends and challenges, **aligning EU external action, and particularly the Union's DCP action, with the 2030 Agenda and the SGDs**: it reflects a paradigm-shift in the development cooperation of the EU and its Member States.

The ECD constitutes a shared vision and a common



What has changed since 2005

and why do we need a new European development policy?

Global Challenges

- Poverty and inequalities
- More diversified developing countries



- Increasing instability & crises
- Global public goods under stress



A new EU and international framework



Lisbon Treaty
2009



Addis Ababa
Action Agenda
Jul 2015



2030 Agenda
for Sustainable
Development
Sept 2015



Paris Climate
Agreement
Dec 2015



Global
Strategy
June 2016

*THIS IS WHY WE NEED
A NEW VISION SHARED AMONG
EU INSTITUTIONS AND MEMBER STATES*



#EUDevConsensus



The new European Consensus on Development (ECD) (2017)

Main features:

- Its objectives are the eradication of poverty (primary objective) and achieve sustainable development (integrating fully its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental).
- It will also contribute to achieve the objectives and principles of EU external action as laid down in the Lisbon Treaty.
- It will support the [Global Strategy on the EU's](#)

The new European Consensus on Development (ECD) (2017)

-It also represents a **paradigm shift** in terms of **means of implementation** of the cooperation:

a.-It moves beyond a traditional focus on international development assistance to mobilise the much larger funds required to finance the SDGs, combining aid with domestic resources and taking advantage of private investments.

b.-establishes new way of working with partner countries and together with Member

Spain and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda has generated an unprecedented mobilization of all stakeholders.

The new government has placed the SDGs and sustainable development at the center of its action.

At a governmental level, a *High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda* and a *High Commissioner for Child Poverty* have been created. Likewise, a *Ministry of Ecological Transition* has been created and the *Ministry of Equality* has been

Spain and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

On the other hand, it should be mentioned the fact that Spain has recently presented before the UN's "High-level Political Forum" its *Report for Voluntary National Review (2018)*, which incorporates the "*Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Towards a Spanish Strategy for Sustainable Development*".

This Plan has an enormous relevance. Not only because it promotes policies, measures and governance that need to be taken urgently, but also because it would lead to the adoption of a "Sustainable Development Strategy 2020-2030".

The Plan incorporates the actions being carried out by all the actors, a governance structure at the highest level of government, and a system of accountability with a central role of the Parliament. It also identifies priority areas of action in order to develop the so-called "lever" policies and horizontal transformative measures with concrete and measurable commitments.

Final Comments

The EU and its Member States are fully committed to the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the SGDs.

There is currently a clear strategy and a comprehensive framework of action for carrying out this task. Much of its success will depend, as we have seen, on the close coordination and complementarity between the EU and its Member States.

Although Europe can point at this moment to good achievements and progress under all goals, it appears that it has regressed in some of the SGDs.

Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the implementation of all the SGDs if