



STAKEHOLDERS ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SD AND THE SDGS IMPLEMENTATION

A view on current activities to support
implementation

Umberto Pisano and Gerald Berger

**Quarterly
Report**

41

July 2016

This report is published as a work of the ESDN Office. The opinions expressed do not reflect the official views of ESDN Steering Group countries.

Please cite this publication as:

Pisano, U. and G. Berger (2016) Stakeholders activities in support of the 2030 Agenda for SD and the SDGs implementation. A view on current activities towards implementation. ESDN Quarterly Report 41, July 2016, ESDN Office: Vienna.

AUTHORS: **UMBERTO PISANO** and **GERALD BERGER, ESDN OFFICE**

CONTACT: **ESDN OFFICE**

Institute for Managing Sustainability
Vienna University of Economics and Business
Welthandelsplatz 1, A-1020 Vienna, Austria
esdn-office@sd-network.eu
+43-1-31336-4807

© 2016 EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (ESDN)

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Chapter 1: The new UN framework.....	5
1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE UN FRAMEWORK	5
1.2 THE SDGs INDICATORS: A GLOBAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2030 AGENDA	6
1.3 MAJOR INITIATIVES LINKED TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SD	7
Chapter 2: Overview of stakeholder activities and initiatives	11
2.1 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)	11
2.2 BUSINESS	17
2.3 RESEARCH.....	22
Chapter 3: The ESDW 2016 and activities related to the SDGs.....	26
Chapter 4: Conclusions and reflections	30

Introduction

In the context of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this ESDN Quarterly Report tries to provide a picture of the extremely variegated, wide and multi-faceted world of stakeholders, other organisations and local initiatives that are relating to the 2030 Agenda.

With the intention to understand how different actors are contributing to and supporting the 2030 Agenda implementation, the report looks into a selected number of examples from civil society organisations, business, research, and local initiatives to present what these different experiences and initiatives are bringing into the debate, especially in connection to the implementation aspects of this crucial new sustainable development agenda.

We explore these issues throughout this quarterly report, which has the following structure: Chapter one provides an overview of the UN framework for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation and looks at crucial links to other major initiatives at UN level that are connected to this framework. Chapter two provides an overview on how selected stakeholders are contributing to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD and SDGs. Although the chapter does not aim to provide a comprehensive overview on stakeholder efforts, we offer a glimpse on selected stakeholder activities in the context of the 2030 Agenda from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the business world, and research. Chapter three reports about the experiences of the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) that is a European-wide initiative that aims to stimulate and make visible activities, projects and events that promote sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Chapter four concludes and provides several reflections on the topic.

Chapter 1: The new UN framework

Chapter one provides an overview of the UN framework for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation and looks at crucial links to other major initiatives at UN level that are linked to this framework.

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE UN FRAMEWORK

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, which took place from 25-27 September 2015, formally adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. This Summit was convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the 70th UN General Assembly (UNGA). Previous to this event, the Outcome Document, “**Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”, was agreed upon by



consensus on 2 August 2015 after months of intergovernmental negotiations. The adopted 2030 Agenda contains **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** (see following Fig.1.1), accompanied by **169 targets**.

Fig.1.1 List of adopted SDGs¹

- Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

¹ Adopted from the [Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform](#)

The **architecture of the 2030 Agenda** is defined in the Outcome Document that is presented in the form of a 'Declaration', preceded by a 'Preamble', in which five fundamental principles are intended to lead the way of the implementation:

- **People:** We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment;
- **Planet:** We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations;
- **Prosperity:** We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature;
- **Peace:** We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development;
- **Partnership:** We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focussed in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The Declaration contains **91 paragraphs**, divided into **14 sections**, and includes the actual **17 SDGs** and **169 targets**. Paragraph **§55** defines several key characteristics of SDGs and targets that are seen as: (a) **integrated and indivisible**; (b) **global in nature and universally** applicable; (c) **taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development**; and, (d) **respecting national policies and priorities**. Targets are then defined as "*aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances*". The SDGs and the targets were then translated in a framework of indicators that we present in the next section.

Under 'Means of Implementation', paragraph 39 is particularly important in relation to **stakeholder involvement and engagement** (our focus in chapter 2 of this QR) as it states not only that the **new Agenda requires a revitalized Global Partnership to ensure its implementation** – in a spirit of **global solidarity** – but also that it "*will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources*" (§39).

1.2 THE SDGs INDICATORS: A GLOBAL INDICATOR FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

On 6 March 2015, at its forty-sixth session, the United Nations Statistical Commission created an Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) with the main aim to provide a proposal of a global indicator framework (and associated global and universal indicators). The IAEG-SDGs was tasked not only to develop an indicator framework for the goals and targets of 2030 Agenda at the global level, but also to support its implementation. This group produced a proposal to be taken into consideration by the Statistical Commission. The final proposal on the SDGs indicators was agreed in February 2016 with the publishing of

the '[Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#)'. The final list of **more than 200 indicators** can be found in Annex IV of the above mentioned report, which among others, invites the Statistical Commission to comment on progress made by the Expert Group and directions of future work.

Paragraph §30 of this report is particularly interesting as it explains how such a global indicator framework should look like and its linkages with national statistical systems:

- **Global monitoring** should be based on **comparable** and **standardized national data**, obtained through well-established reporting mechanisms from countries to the international statistical system.
- Where needed, such mechanisms should be improved, in particular by **strengthening the coordination function** of national statistical offices and/or other national institutions.
- Efforts should be made to **fill data gaps and improve international comparability** by increased adoption of internationally agreed standards at the national level, strengthening national statistical capacity and improving reporting mechanisms.
- **International organizations** must **support these efforts to standardize indicators** in accordance with international guidelines and assure compliance.
- Every effort should be made to **reconcile data provided at the global level with the data published by the national statistical authorities**, and any discrepancies should be resolved, when possible, or carefully explained.
- **Regional mechanisms**, with the support of the regional commissions and other regional organizations and offices, will also play a **significant role** in facilitating this process, taking into account regional priorities and strengthening the link between the national and the global level.

1.3 MAJOR INITIATIVES LINKED TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SD

The 2030 Agenda is not only articulated by the above mentioned Declaration, but it also is inter-linked with several UN major initiatives. This QR will only focus on one of such major initiatives to show how important these links are, with no intention of being either comprehensive or exhaustive.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Under SDG 13, "*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*", the Declaration clearly refers to the Climate Change agenda and literally acknowledges that "*the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change*". Such a reference can also be found under i.e. paragraphs §31 and §32. In particular, paragraph 32 mentions the COP21 conference in Paris (held in December 2015), reaffirms that "*the protocol, another legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties shall address in a balanced manner, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, and transparency of action and support*", and therefore links the two agendas.

This is to show that in order to understand and efficiently implement the 2030 Agenda, there is a clear necessity for a systemic and integrated view in the way countries set-up policies to address the SDGs² and related targets. In fact, in the 2030 Agenda, not only SDG13 and all its targets, refer to climate change but also do for instance target 2.4 in the context of ensuring sustainable food production systems, or target 11.b in the context of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

On 12 December 2015, at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the parties adopted the **Paris Climate Change Agreement** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³. The Agreement, adopted through Decision [1/CP.21](#), was opened for signature on 22 April 2016 at a high-level signature ceremony convened by the Secretary General in New York. At that ceremony, 174 States and the European Union signed the agreement and 15 States also deposited their instruments of ratification. As of 24 June 2016, there are **178 signatories to the Paris Agreement**⁴. Of these, **18 States have also deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval** accounting in total for 0.18 % of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. The Agreement will enter into force on the 30th day after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55 % of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depositary.

The [Paris Agreement](#) (Article 2) aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- a) Holding the increase in the **global average temperature** to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- b) Increasing the **ability to adapt** to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- c) Making **finance flows** consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

Other major UN initiatives that relate to 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda also recognizes that several other major UN initiatives need to be taken into consideration as a whole. For instance, it is said that “*the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda [AAAA] is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets*” (§40). Without going into details, the AAAA represents the new [global framework for financing development post-2015](#).

Among others, the 2030 Agenda also relates to the ‘**COP13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity**’ (§33), the ‘**United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development**’ (§34) (also known as HABITAT III).

² See also, for instance, the work by Le Blanc, D. (2015) Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets. UN DESA Working Paper No. 141 ST/ESA/2015/DWP/141 available at http://www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2015/wp141_2015.pdf

³ This information is retrieved from the UNFCCC website available at <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/> and at <http://bigpicture.unfccc.int/#content-the-paris-agreement>

⁴ http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php

Paragraph §42 also argues that a number of other initiatives are an integral part of the Agenda, and supports the implementation of relevant strategies and programmes of action, including: the **Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action**, the **SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway**, the **Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024**, and reaffirms the importance of supporting the **African Union's Agenda 2063** and the programme of the **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**.

UN Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS)

Since the Earth Summit in 1992 – and reaffirmed by the Rio+20 Conference - nine sectors of society, officially called "Major Groups", were recognised as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development:

1. [Women](#);
2. [Children and Youth](#);
3. [Indigenous Peoples](#);
4. [Non-Governmental Organizations](#);
5. [Local Authorities](#);
6. [Workers and Trade Unions](#);
7. [Business and Industry](#);
8. [Scientific and Technological Community](#); and,
9. [Farmers](#).

[Major Groups and other Stakeholders \(MGoS\)](#) have a high level of engagement with intergovernmental processes at the UN level. The coordination of their input to intergovernmental processes on sustainable development has been led by UNDESA/Division for Sustainable Development (DSD). Member States ultimately decide upon the modalities of participation of MGoS. Thus, the engagement and participation of MGoS in intergovernmental processes related to sustainable development varies, depending on the particular sustainable development topic under discussion.

In the 2030 Agenda, MGoS are mentioned in §84 and §89. In particular, paragraph §84, in the context of the High Level Political Forum reviews clearly mentions that such reviews “shall **provide a platform for partnerships**, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders”. In paragraph §89, in the effort to **empower** them even more, the declaration then calls on Major Groups and other Stakeholders “*to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda*”.

Each Major Group organizes autonomously according to its membership profile and areas of focus. To facilitate communication and streamline its outreach, the UN Division for Sustainable Development consults with key actors from MGoS as well as relevant UN system entities to solicit recommendations of **Organizing Partners**⁵, or focal points who volunteer the time and resources of their organizations to collaborate with the intergovernmental process on behalf of their constituencies. Organizing Partners typically

1. **represent long-standing and credible networks from each sector**,
2. **are committed to maintaining transparent and inclusive working methods**,

⁵ Information is attained from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/about>

3. **possess the requisite institutional and legal personality to engage with the UN at a high level,**
4. **facilitate outreach,** and
5. **assist the Secretariat in generating and guiding the engagement of MGoS with specific political processes** (often done in close collaboration with other entities of the UN development system).

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

In the context of the High-level Political Forum, Voluntary National Reviews and Thematic Reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be conducted with inputs from other intergovernmental bodies and forums, relevant UN entities, regional processes, major groups and other stakeholders.

Without going too much into details, we want to mention that the national reviews will also provide a **platform for partnerships** that represents another way for the UN system to provide space for engagement of stakeholders and for showcasing multi-stakeholder partnerships that conduct activities in those countries that take part in the national reviews. Such an online platform⁶ was formed with two main intentions:

- to function as a tool to inform all stakeholders on initiatives carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and
- to link progress of those initiatives to various follow-up mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda (in particular to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)).

⁶ The online platform is managed by the Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSD/DESA). Such a tool was initially developed in response to a mandate set out by the Rio+20 Conference (paragraph 283, Future We Want) related to the creation of a so-called 'registry of commitments' with the intention to "*make information about the commitments fully transparent and accessible to the public, and it should be periodically updated*".

Chapter 2: Overview of stakeholder activities and initiatives

Chapter two provides an overview on how selected stakeholders are contributing to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD and SDGs.

The world of stakeholders taking part in realizing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs is extremely wide and multi-faceted. This chapter does not aim to offer a comprehensive overview on stakeholder efforts. What this chapter offers is a glimpse on selected stakeholder activities in the context of the 2030 Agenda that have already started from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the business world, and research.

2.1 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

Civil society has indeed many voices, and it is, therefore, extremely complex to portray them all. We have selected two CSOs that have already started important activities and taken initiatives in the context of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs: the **WWF** and its position paper for a *EU overarching and high profile strategy for implementation of the 2030 Agenda*, and the **Stakeholder Forum's** studies, activities and programmes dealing with the agenda.

The WWF

For more than 50 years, the [WWF](#) is one of the world's largest conservation organizations, pushing for a more sustainable world. WWF is now present in over 100 countries across the world, and its efforts evolved from localized efforts in favour of a single species and individual habitats to an ambitious strategy to preserve biodiversity and achieve sustainable development across the planet. The central secretariat for the network - called WWF International - is now located in Gland, Switzerland.



WWF's mission is to **stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature**, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

Since its founding in 1961, WWF invested nearly US\$10 billion in more than 13,000 conservation projects in over 150 countries, and cooperated with many partners, including UN organizations, development agencies, but also with business and industry partners.

Recently, the WWF European Policy Office published a [position paper](#) to engage with the 2030 Agenda for SD at the European level. In particular, WWF **calls for an EU overarching and high profile strategy for implementation of the 2030 Agenda**. WWF proposes that such a strategy should **complement the efforts of Member States and demonstrate the added value of joint action at the EU level**.

WWF's general recommendations to the European Union can be divided in five main strands:

- **Overarching Strategy:** the EU should adopt an overarching and high-profile strategy with a 2030 timeline for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This strategy should set a roadmap for implementation, monitoring, and reporting in the EU;
- **Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development:** to ensure that no EU policies undermine the delivery of sustainable development and that all forthcoming EU policies and revisions of existing policies are aligned with the 2030 Agenda;
- **Financing:** National and EU budgets must be organised to support the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and to implement forthcoming national and EU sustainable development strategies;
- **Participation & Citizens Engagement:** Stakeholders' input must be included through consultations at all stages, from policy preparation to monitoring. Communication strategies at the local, national and EU levels are essential to encourage citizens to get involved and play their part in both achieving and monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- **Monitoring, Accountability & Review:** the EU and its Member States should monitor progress and put in place participatory and transparent monitoring and review mechanisms to guide implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The legislative, budgetary control and scrutiny roles of national Parliaments and the European Parliament will be important for the preparation and development of sustainable development strategies and for monitoring progress.

The paper also argues that the 2030 Agenda provides a **unique opportunity to reinvigorate Europe's commitment to sustainable development**. Therefore, it says, the "implementation cannot be reduced to a 'ticking boxes' exercise of goals and targets, [and countries] must embrace the whole of the 2030 Agenda". Furthermore, WWF's position paper highlights the 2030 Agenda's ability to propose sustainable development as an approach for more coherence and more effectiveness, rather than "a whole new suite of policies and legislation": sustainable development policymaking should therefore bring together "long-term human development without degrading the planet on which that development depends" (WWF 2016, p.2)⁷.

In addition, the paper provides an **overview how various EU policies and strategies are linked to individual SDGs**. WWF's paper suggests the EU should ensure that all policies are aligned with the SDGs and that they deliver on the three dimensions of sustainable development. Based on WWF's paper, the following Fig.2.1 summarises examples of EU policies and strategies that present opportunities to implement the SDGs in EU policy-making. The WWF also argues that more work will be required for them to be fit to deliver on the SDGs. Therefore, recommendations are provided on how to better integrate the sustainability and environmental aspects of the 2030 Agenda into these EU policies. The recommendations are based on WWF expertise.

⁷ WWF (2016) Towards a sustainable European future. WWF Position Paper February 2016

Fig.2.1 WWF Recommendations

<p>EU Renewable Energy Directive</p> <p>EU Energy Efficiency Directive</p> <p>Post-2020 Renewable Energy Directive</p>	<p>The EU must show leadership on the SDGs related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable transport, housing, production and waste management by ensuring that they are fully reflected in the 2030 EU climate and energy framework. The EU must not hinder the development or implementation of policies and measures at Member State level which go beyond those put in place at EU level. President Juncker included the goal of making the EU the world number one in renewable energy in his successful election bid, winning the praise of many. The EU took a leading role in securing the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change. To embed this leadership into the EU climate and energy acquis, the EU must secure the energy markets and infrastructure needed to meet and exceed the 2030 targets currently agreed by EU Member States on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and greenhouse gas reductions (through the Emissions Trading System and the Effort Sharing Directive). As a whole, the EU's 2030 climate and energy framework must be underpinned by a transparent, robust, biodiversity proofed, coherent and enforceable governance structure.</p>	<p>Goal 7</p> <p>Goal 11</p> <p>Target 12.c</p>
<p>Common Fisheries Policy and its External Dimension</p> <p>Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing regulation</p>	<p>Marine biological resources must be exploited sustainably, above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield including allowing for the regeneration of populations of harvested stocks and ensuring the protection of the marine environment. As the largest market for seafood products in the world, the EU has a pivotal role to play in ensuring that SDG 14 and related targets in other SDGs such as food, water, sustainable consumption and production and jobs are achieved. Consequently, the EU should ensure demands for legality, traceability and sustainability in the sourcing of seafood all along the value chain at national and EU levels. The effective implementation of key EU fisheries regulations – including the Common Fisheries Policy and its External Dimension, as well the Regulation addressing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, will contribute to improving global ocean health and the social and economic situation of coastal and island people. The Commission must guide Member States to guarantee that these regulations are fully implemented and respected, establish and nurture a political dialogue with partners in developing countries and harmonise the approaches of DG Mare, DG Home and DG Devco.</p>	<p>Goal 14</p> <p>Targets 2.3, 12.2, 12.7, 12.a</p>
<p>EU Water Framework Directive</p>	<p>The adoption of the Water Framework Directive in 2000, which provided the EU Member States with a framework for integrated water resources management, has led to improvement in management and protection of European water ecosystems. However, the Water Framework Directive objective of achieving Good Status of waters by 2015 is still far from being achieved. The second cycle of the River Basin Management Plans covering the 2016-2021 period represents a great opportunity to increase the ambition of the EU in water management. Member States must assume their responsibility for preventing further deterioration of water ecosystems and achieving Good Status of EU waters by 2021 through the adoption of stringent, statutory measures to deal with pressures, effective policy integration and public participation. In particular, diffuse pollution, over-abstraction, changes to flow and the physical shape of water bodies caused by hydropower, flood control or navigation, need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Better use of Water Framework Directive economic instruments, ensuring full recovery of costs, and promotion of nature based solutions will also improve implementation and enforcement of the EU water law.</p>	<p>Goal 6</p> <p>Targets 3.9, 12.4, 15.1</p>
<p>Fitness check of the Birds & Habitats Directives</p> <p>Mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020</p>	<p>At both EU and Member State level more effort is needed to effectively conserve biodiversity and meet SDG 15 and other targets. The political commitments made by the EU and its Member States with the adoption of the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 will need to be fully fulfilled if EU is to halt biodiversity loss and to achieve recovery of species, habitats and ecosystems by 2020. The Birds and Habitats Directives, the backbone of EU nature conservation, which until now have led to a creation of a network of protected areas covering 18% of Europe's land and 6% of its seas, will need to be fully and effectively implemented and enforced across all EU Member States. For preventing further deterioration of nature and ensuring that degraded ecosystems are restored, the Commission and Member States will also need to improve significantly the coherence between biodiversity and relevant sectoral policies (most notably agriculture, energy and transport) and put in place more biodiversity friendly financial and fiscal policies. Lastly, effective transparency and public participation to allow people and nature to work together will also need to be ensured.</p>	<p>Goal 14</p> <p>Goal 15</p> <p>Target 6.6</p>
<p>EU Timber Regulation</p> <p>Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)</p>	<p>Illegal logging poses a significant threat to global forest resources and meeting SDG 15. It contributes to deforestation, causes loss of biodiversity and erodes the rule of law. The FLEGT Action Plan and the EU Timber Regulation play an important role in fighting illegal logging and preventing the unsustainable exploitation of timber species. Yet their implementation should be strengthened. EU member States need to enforce policies and laws consistently and apply sanctions against companies that break them. Producer countries need financial and technical assistance to improve governance and protect and sustainably manage their forest ecosystems. The ongoing review of the EU Timber Regulation should ensure the regulation applies to all wood products that could contain illegally-sourced timber.</p>	<p>Goal 15</p> <p>Target 6.6</p>

EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy	The new Global Strategy is the opportunity to embrace the 2030 Agenda and its ambitions for people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership. It should avoid a short term view and consider the long term global challenges that are at the root of some of the problems we face in an interdependent world such as climate change, environmental degradation, competition and conflict over scarce resources, poverty and inequality.	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17
Europe 2020 Strategy	EU long term's growth strategy – that is, the Europe 2020 strategy or the strategy that will replace it – should be aligned with the SDGs. Country-specific recommendations should contain analysis of Member States' progress towards the SDGs and individual tailor-made recommendations. Measurement and delivery should be improved.	Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 17
Circular Economy	The EU has committed to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation in the 2030 Agenda. The Circular Economy package is an important avenue for the implementation of this commitment and to address Europe's footprint on the rest of the world. Some SDG targets are incorporated in the revised Circular Economy package draft (such as target 12.3 on food waste, target 12.4 on chemicals and waste and target 12.7 on public procurement). But relevant targets are missing, such as target 6.3 on untreated wastewater or target 2.4 on agricultural practices. The revised Circular Economy package draft needs to be strengthened with regards to sustainable sourcing, production and consumption.	Goal 12 Targets 8.4, 3.9, 4.7, 6.4, 9.4, 11.b
EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking	Law enforcement against wildlife trafficking needs to be strengthened by EU Member States with appropriate financial and human resources dedicated to enforcement including appropriate sanctions for the trafficking of wildlife products in all member states. The upcoming EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking provides an opportunity to do this. It should also encourage more cooperation between Member States and the European Commission as well as a strong international response to wildlife crime.	Target 15.7
Sustainable Food & Agriculture	The EU needs a more coherent approach towards our food system's sustainability. It should address challenges in production, consumption and waste if it is to meet the SDGs. The EU's 2015 State of the Environment Report shows that European agriculture is still a key driver for the loss of biodiversity and continues to cause soil degradation, water contamination as well as declines in pollinators. Our consumption patterns are incentivising the depletion of natural resources outside of Europe, often contributing to environmental damage and loss of local livelihoods. Harmful agricultural subsidies (notably through the Common Agricultural Policy) contributing to unsustainable agricultural practices must be phased out, and policy makers must ensure sustainable food consumption forms part of a future European policy agenda. An all-encompassing vision is needed at the EU level if the EU is to meet target 2.4 on sustainable food systems.	Goal 2 Goal 12 Goal 14 Target 3.4
Capital Markets Union	The SDGs are mentioned only briefly in the Action Plan on building a Capital Markets Union (CMU). Sustainable Development should feature prominently in the CMU so that private capital markets will adequately embrace this agenda. Disclosure of Environment, Social and Governance investment and engagement policies by investors should be required in EU private finance regulations, and fiduciary duty should explicitly include ESG issues. Furthermore, EU regulations should mandate climate stress tests for investors and review capital requirements for low carbon projects that reduce climate risks and the related financial value at risk.	Target 7.a
EU Trade strategy	Sustainable development considerations – such as the rights of local communities and conservation of the natural environment – should be taken into account in all relevant areas of Free Trade Agreements and investment agreements. This is in line with the commitments made in the Trade Strategy adopted by the European Commission in October 2015, <i>Trade for all – towards a more sustainable trade strategy</i> . The EU Timber Regulation and the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing regulation could form the basis of a new approach towards commodities to ensure that those imported in to the EU market are produced or extracted in a sustainable manner and are complying with legality and traceability criteria all along the value chain.	Goal 8 Targets 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 17.10, 17.11, 17.12
European Structural and Investment Funds	European Structural and Investment Funds should focus far more on low-carbon, energy- and resource-efficient projects. The transport sector should be refocused on low carbon solutions. EU cities need to shift from high-carbon infrastructure to infrastructure that improves citizens' quality of life if the EU is to meet SDG 11. Nature-based projects like green infrastructure, restoration of degraded ecosystems like floodplains or peatlands should be fostered and scaled up as innovative ways to increase resilience and cut costs. Finally, the partnership principle should be better implemented to ensure that the recommendations and expertise of civil society organisations are better integrated in processes, leading to maximised benefits and less controversy about the Funds.	Goals 3, 9, 11 and 13

Juncker Investment Plan	A central part of the Juncker Investment Plan is the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), aiming to leverage 315 bn€ by the end of 2017 through the European Investment Bank. This guarantee fund is supposed to target projects with a higher risk profile and so-called "European added-value" projects which will significantly contribute to achieving European common policy objectives. The European Commission has three seats out of four in the Steering Board governing the EFSI. Far more emphasis should be given to energy and resource efficiency projects, as too few have been supported so far. It is also quite worrying that the EFSI is supporting several business-as-usual motorways instead of focusing on low carbon transport. Finally, a higher level of transparency and accountability must be achieved to demonstrate how the EFSI-supported projects contribute to the achievement of EU long-term objectives.	Goals 3, 6, 9, 11 and 13
European Consensus for Development	EU development policy should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development and the principles of the 2030 Agenda, such as respect for planetary boundaries and leaving no-one behind. It should respond to the SDG plans and needs of developing countries. Strict social and environmental criteria should be in place in all development cooperation projects, not least when relying on partnerships for delivery with the private sector and other actors.	Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17

Source: WWF

The Stakeholder Forum

The [Stakeholder Forum](#) is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global



Stakeholder Forum
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

level. Its aim is to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. The Stakeholder Forum seeks to provide a bridge between those who have a stake in sustainable development, and the international forums where decisions are made in their name. Founded in 1987 as United Nations Environment and Development UK (UNED UK), and operating as the National Committee for UNEP in the UK, it was renamed 'Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future' in 2000 to reflect the broad range of activities that the organization undertakes. The Stakeholder Forum played a key role in the preparations for and follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and the 2012 Earth Summit (www.earthsummit2012.org). It is also the leading organisation in developing and facilitating global multi-stakeholder processes on sustainable development. The Stakeholder Forum's work⁸ can be divided into the following core categories:

- **Global Policy and Advocacy:** SF conducts national, regional and international stakeholder consultations to provide policy recommendations for UN processes and builds multi-stakeholder coalitions to advocate on particular policy areas, providing background information, policy briefings and interventions where relevant;
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** SF has developed expertise across a range of engagement tools and practices including stakeholder consultations, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and process design and evaluation;
- **Capacity Development:** SF co-ordinates a number of activities that seek to build the capacity for global stakeholders to get the most out of intergovernmental meetings, and influence policy outcomes to reflect their agenda
- **Media and Communications:** SF's media portfolio has focused on developing new strategies for working with journalists, generating innovative outreach strategies and producing new media content for campaigns and emerging issues.

⁸ <http://www.stakeholderforum.org/index.php/our-work-sp-1377263401>

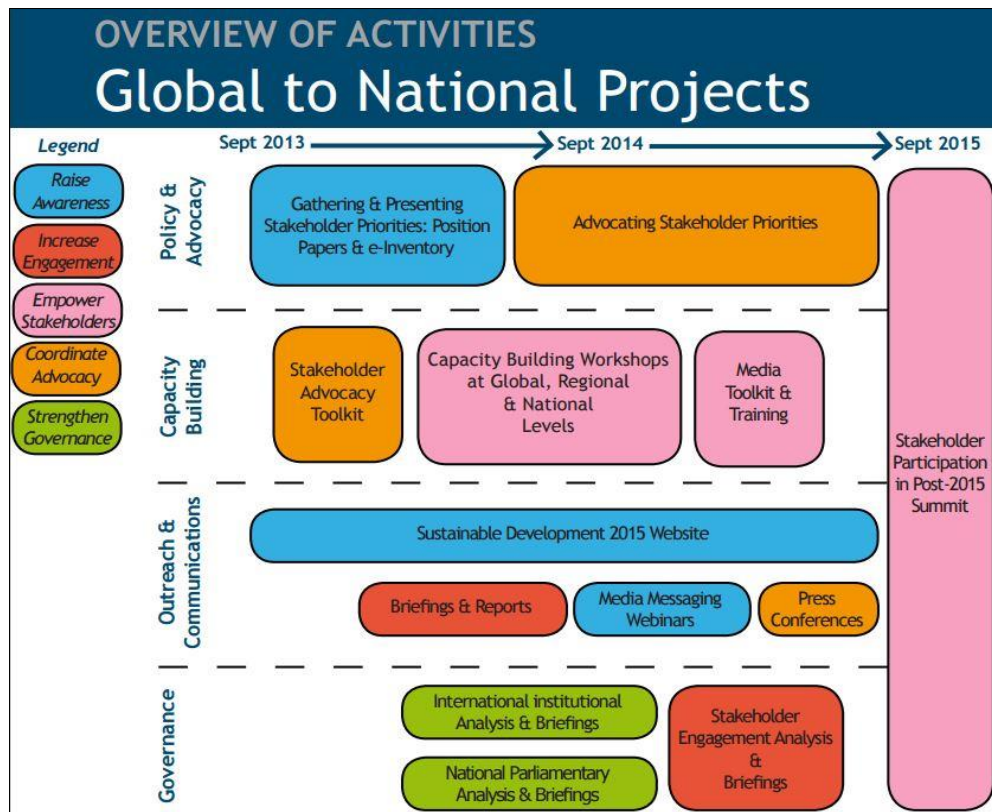
Recently, the Stakeholder Forum has been particularly active in preparing of studies that are related to the 2030 Agenda for SD and the SDGs. Among the various studies they have been producing [lately](#), one very interesting study is entitled “[Seeing the Whole: Implementing the SDGs in an Integrated and Coherent Way](#)” that, with support from the Government of Finland, was written in a collaborative effort by the Stakeholder Forum, Bioregional and Newcastle University. The study looks mainly at how the SDGs should be implemented in an integrated way. The authors argue that at least two features of the SDGs are fundamental to their implementation: Firstly, the fact that they have been created as **universal objectives**, applying to **all countries**; and, secondly, that they have been created as an **indivisible package** of goals and objectives all of which need **to be pursued in an integrated way** (p.3). The main aim of the report is to “ensure the universality and indivisibility of SDGs is better understood and upheld in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to provide some guidance and approaches for the application of the SDGs in all countries, particularly developed countries, and particularly in relation to sustainable consumption and production” (p.5). The report created a **methodology** to analyse the implications of the indivisibility of the SDGs and how countries can ensure that the packages of policy measures they develop are well shaped to implement the SDGs in an integrated way. Such an analysis deals with three main tasks (p.5):

1. to develop a taxonomy and system of classification for understanding the types and strengths of interlinkages between SDG targets;
2. to apply this methodology/tool to an identification and assessment of the interlinkages between SDG 12 on SCP and other targets within the SDGs; and,
3. to identify EU law and policy relevant to the targets of SDG 12, and offers an assessment of the alignment of such policy with SDG 12, engaging in detail with the wording of the SCP goal and present and future EU policy to assess coverage and ambition.

Among others, another important initiative by SF in connection to the 2030 Agenda is for instance the programme “[Sustainable Development 2015: Enhanced Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in the Post-Rio+20 and Post-2015 Processes](#)”, in partnership with CIVICUS, and in collaboration with UN DESA, undertaken with the financial assistance of the European Union. This initiative was a two-year SD2015 programme that provided tools and opportunities for all stakeholders to participate in the global deliberations on and around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the wider post-2015 development agenda. The website [Sustainable Development 2015](#) supported the programme

The following Fig.2.2 shows all the activities undertaken under the mentioned the programme.

Fig.2.2 Overview of activities



Source: Sustainable Development 2015

As one can see from the previous figure, the programme was carried out following five focus areas:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Improving stakeholders' understanding and recognition of the value of global goals for sustainable development;
2. **Increase Engagement:** Facilitating direct and constructive dialogue with governments and the UN;
3. **Empower Stakeholders:** Improving stakeholders' ability to participate and influence the setting of the global goals;
4. **Coordinate Advocacy:** Increasing the visibility, inclusivity and impact of advocacy activities and policy responses; and,
5. **Strengthen Governance:** Supporting the governance systems and institutions to effectively deliver ambitious and inclusive global goals.

2.2 BUSINESS

Business represents an important stakeholder group, especially because of its ability to generate investments and direct financial resources, for its environmental impacts, its capacity to innovate and also, among others, to create employment. It is largely recognised that since the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, many businesses are taking a stronger position in the context of sustainability, and especially with regards to climate change.

Again, as in the case of CSOs, it is extremely difficult to portray a comprehensive picture of the business world. Our selection tries to provide a first look at how international initiatives or networks of businesses are acting in the context of 2030 Agenda implementation and towards the SDGs. We, therefore, selected the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the United Nations Global Compact as examples. Whereas the WBCSD is an organisation that is led by their participating companies' CEOs, the GRI and the UN Global Compact are two initiatives in support of businesses.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

The [WBCSD](#) is a CEO-led organization of companies that, since 1992, provides a forum for



wbcd

business solutions for a sustainable world

its 200 member companies - who represent all business sectors, all continents and combined revenue of over \$US 7 trillion - to **share best practices on sustainable development issues** and to **develop innovative tools that change the status quo**. The Council also benefits from a network of 60 national and regional business councils and partner organizations, a majority of which are based in developing countries. Through its advocacy role for business, the WBCSD has the mission to stimulate the global business community to *create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment*.

The WBCSD is engaging with the 2030 Agenda implementation and especially with the SDGs. It has created a webpage '[SDG Business Hub](#)' with the intention to connect and support companies to relate to the SDGs. The WBCSD recognises that the SDGs present a historic opportunity for companies to deepen their engagement as a strong and positive influence on society, by better connecting business strategy with global priorities. By embracing the SDGs, the WBCSD sees a growth opportunity that would open new markets, drive innovation, and contribute to the global effort to build resilient, inclusive economies and societies. But also, it says, companies can use the SDGs as an overarching framework to shape, steer, communicate and report on their strategies, goals and activities.

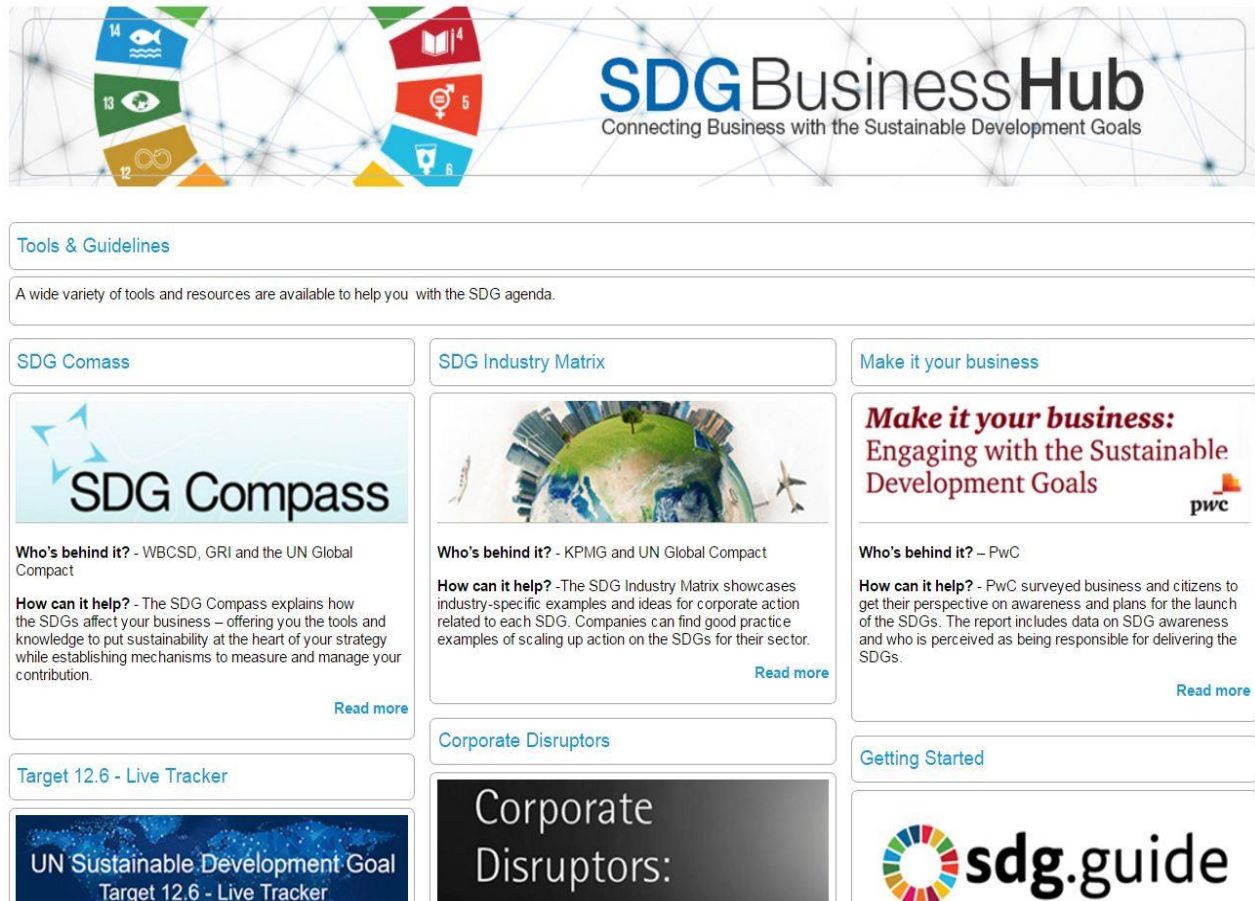
The **SDG Hub** was created as a one-stop-shop where companies can:

- (1) Learn about the programs and tools which are available to assist them in connecting with the SDGs;
- (2) Keep up to date on the latest developments and what they mean for business;
- (3) Access case studies from companies that are establishing themselves as leaders in this field and submit their own activities as examples of best practice;
- (4) Benefit from a directory of the latest advocacy messages and leading insight into the opportunities and responsibilities for business in this field.

In the following Fig.2.3, we present examples of the various resources the 'hub' share for companies. As an example of these resources and tools, the **SDG Compass**, developed in collaboration with GRI and the UN Global Compact, is particularly interesting as it is not only a publication, but it is also accompanied by a [website](#) that represents an additional tool and support for companies that want to engage their business with the SDGs. The objective of the SDG Compass is to guide companies on how they can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to the SDGs. The guide presents five steps that assist companies in maximizing their contribution to the SDGs: (1) Understanding the SDGs; (2) defining priorities; (3) setting goals; (4) integrating; and, (5) reporting and communicating. The SDG Compass was developed

with a focus on large multinational enterprises, although small and medium enterprises and other organizations were also encouraged to use it as a source of inspiration and adapt it.

Fig.2.3 The SDG Business Hub



Source: WBCSD

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

GRI is an international independent organization that helps businesses, governments and other organizations understand and communicate the impact of business on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, corruption and many others. Since the late 1990s, GRI provides the world's most widely used **standards on sustainability reporting and disclosure**. The GRI argues that 92% of the world's largest 250 corporations report on their sustainability performance. With respect to GRI's engagement and work with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the GRI is trying to enable business contribution to the SDGs through a number of tools and activities.

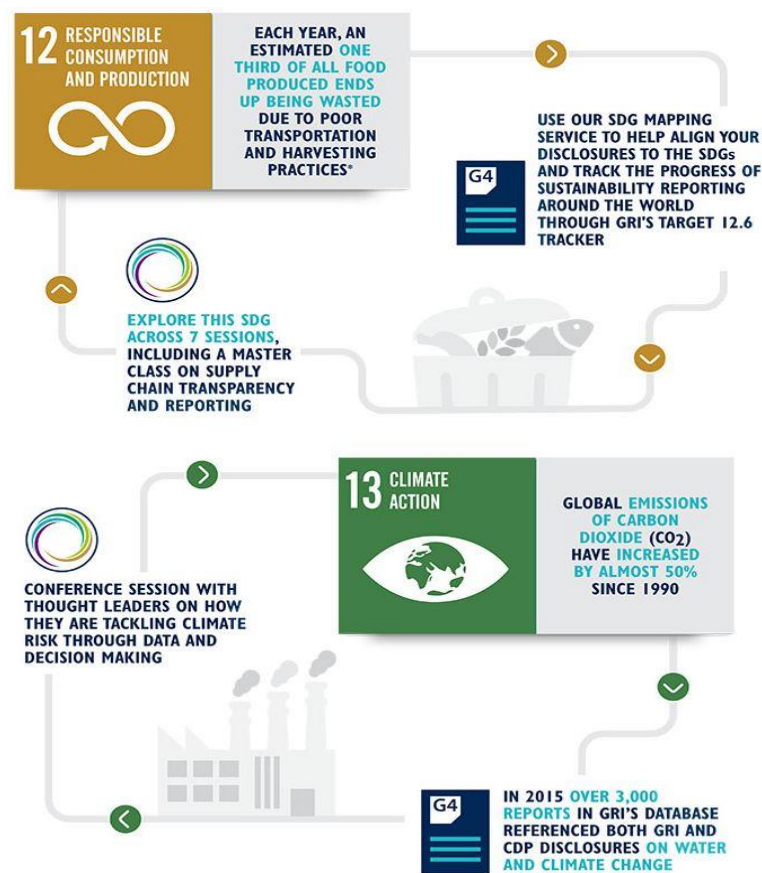


One of these activities was for instance the organisation 5th **GRI Global Conference 2016**⁹ for which GRI developed a so-called '**SDG Infographic**', a tool to allow participants to understand the proximity of the SDGs to their work and, therefore, to help develop the companies' reporting practice and sustainability strategies in support of the SDGs.



Very interesting is also the idea by GRI to **link individual sessions of the conference to specific SDGs** (see for instance the following **Fig.2.4**).

Fig.2.4 Linking SDGs with specific sessions of the 5th GRI Global Conference




Source: GRI

By aligning the content on the GRI Conference program to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, GRI also suggested participants to follow sessions and plan their conference itinerary based on how to meet such goals. One could for instance, click on one of the SDGs and find out which sessions were more connected to

⁹ <https://www.globalreporting.org/5th-gri-global-conference/newsandmedia/Pages/SDG-Infographic.aspx>

that specific SDG. To make an example: one could click on SDG 12 'Responsible consumption and production' and find out that several sessions were particularly interesting in that direction (please see **Fig.2.5**)

Fig.2.5 Linking SDGs with specific sessions of the 5th GRI Global Conference

	18 May 13:00-14:00	Launch 'Carrots & Sticks' 2016 edition - sustainability reporting policies worldwide
	18 May 14:30-16:00	Opening Plenary - 20 years on Are we making a Difference
	18 May 16:30-18:00	Reporting trends of the future
	19 May 11:00-12:30	The role of sustainability information for integrated thinking and reporting
	19 May 11:00-12:30	Aligning corporate sustainability reporting and official statistics
	19 May 13:00-14:00	Reporting through corporate expansion lenses: Hispanic America
	19 May 13:00-14:00	The Group of Friends of Paragraph 47 - Governments taking the lead to enable corporate reporting
	19 May 14:30-16:00	The power of sustainability data for decision making
	20 May 13:00-14:00	Supply chain traceability and sustainability reporting: The example of Turkey

Source: GRI

The United Nations Global Compact

The [UN Global Compact](#) is an international voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments to implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support UN goals. Its vision is to create a sustainable and inclusive global economy that delivers lasting benefits to people, communities and markets. The UN Global Compact tries, therefore, to support companies (1) to do business responsibly by aligning their strategies and operations with Ten Principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption; and, (2) to take strategic actions to advance broader societal goals, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis on collaboration and innovation. With over 8,000 companies and 4,000 non-business participants based in over 160 countries, the UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative.



With regards to the 2030 Agenda for SD, the UN Global Compact tries to support companies to “meet their commitments to operate responsibly and support the SDGs” through a range of activities at the international and local levels:

- raising awareness;
- helping companies change how they operate;
- developing resources;
- facilitating partnerships; and,
- developing action initiatives on key issues

The UN Global Compact and partners have developed over 200 resources – ranging from guidance to best practices – that cover a large range of sustainability topics. All guidance is searchable by SDG. Recent work on SDG-related topics include for instance: (1) The [SDG Compass \(GRI/UNGC/WBCSD\)](#); (2) The [SDG Matrix \(KPMG/UNGC\)](#), and (3) [Advancing the SDGs by Supporting Peace](#) (UNGC).

2.3 RESEARCH

An increasing number of universities, research institutes, think tanks and research programmes are taking part in the SDGs discourse. We selected the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) as a representative example as it tries, since 2012, to link a large number of international research institutes as a very active network in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The second of our examples is the International Institute for Sustainable Development that since many years follows sustainable development issues with great attention and can be recognised as one of the main players in this field.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

The [SDSN](#) is an initiative launched in 2012 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the intention to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise that would **promote practical problem solving for sustainable development**, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following their adoption, the SDSN is very active and committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global scales working closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society.



One of SDSN's main aims is to accelerate **joint learning** and help to **overcome the compartmentalization** of technical and policy work by promoting integrated approaches to the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world.

With respect to the SDGs, the SDSN contributed to the intergovernmental negotiation leading to the SDGs through flagship reports (The Action Agenda and Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the SDGs), briefs and evidence papers, and expert sessions and side events.

Recently, SDSN's work has been focusing, in particular, on defining the indicators and monitoring framework, as well as the political processes of follow-up and review. In many ways, the SDSN is also actively supporting the implementation process at many levels. Of particular importance is the SDSN's publication and online knowledge platform "[Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Stakeholders](#)"¹⁰. Drawing upon lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this publication is written as a guide for **stakeholders** (i.e. SDSN Member Institutions such as universities; businesses trying to get oriented around the SDGs; national, regional and local policymakers; citizens and civic groups) with the intent to provide support on how to *get started* with implementing the SDGs:

- to understand the SDG Agenda,
- to start an inclusive dialogue on SDG implementation, and
- to prepare SDG-based national development strategies (or align existing plans and strategies with the goals).

¹⁰ Sustainable Development Solutions Network. (2015). *Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Stakeholders*. Paris, France and New York, USA: SDSN. Available at: <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/151211-getting-started-guide-FINAL-PDF-.pdf>

The guide is divided in 3 main chapters:

- **Chapter 1** introduces the concept of sustainable development, explains the evolution from MDGs to SDGs, and discusses the importance of goal-based planning;
- **Chapter 2** offers practical guidance on how to get started with implementing the 2030 Agenda, including how to measure current performance, convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and prepare a roadmap for the design of SDG strategies;
- **Chapter 3** provides a set of tools to support the design of sector- and goal-based strategies to achieve the SDGs.

The report concludes that **creative problem solving** and **intensive discussions among key stakeholders** are required at local, national, regional, and global levels to make the SDGs a reality by 2030. Although such a guide focuses on early steps of implementation, it provides ideas that could help support multi-stakeholder discussions on achieving the SDGs in every country, every region, and every city. It finally suggests that the National and Regional SDSNs will help initiate such important discussions and mobilize knowledge institutions to support them in as many countries as possible.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

The [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) aims to promote human development and environmental sustainability through innovative research, communication and partnerships.



The IISD has been following and contributing to the SDGs, from the coverage of their negotiation in the [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#), to the development of frameworks for reporting and accountability. In particular, the Earth Negotiations Bulletin is an extremely valuable initiative that performs provides daily coverage at selected UN environment and development negotiations as an independent reporting service by the International Institute for Sustainable Development – Reporting Services Division (IISD-RS).

With regards to the discussions over the 2030 Agenda, the IISD shares a number of different resources, especially through its website: commentaries, blog pages, research projects, etc.

The IISD is now focusing on the architecture of SDG implementation across **four key areas**:

- **Costing**: Understanding the investment needed to achieve the SDGs;
- **Mapping**: Linking the SDGs to the real economy;
- **Financing**: Setting the conditions for private sector investment in the SDGs;
- **Mobilizing knowledge**: Managing information and data for better decision making.

With respect to the first focus area '**Costing**', the IISD argues that it is important to **break down the costs from a bottom-up perspective**, and makes the example of costing SDG 2 on ending world hunger by mentioning its work on seven-country analysis of Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. In such a project, together with the [International Food Policy Research Institute](#), the IISD has worked to assess the cost of SDG 2 by 2030, and developed a model that calculates a subset of 3 main interventions to would tackle hunger: social safety nets, support to farmers and investment in rural development. Such a

model is now being expanded to provide a global estimate of the cost of ending hunger through a combination of public and private financing.

In terms of **Mapping** (second focus area), the IISD is also working to **understand the relationship between the SDGs and different areas and economic sectors**. One example is the extractive sector as, in fact, the IISD became the Secretariat of the [Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development \(IGF\)](#) in late 2015. With a number of partners, including UNCTAD, the World Economic Forum and the United Nations Development Programme, the IGF is mapping and weighing how the SDGs affect the mining sector. From there, country-specific assessments are expected to help prepare domestic ministries to support SDG implementation.

Concerning their third focus area, **'Financing the SDGs'**, IISD argues that work is underway both to change financial structures from the top and pull together bottom-up innovative practices like social impact spending. To this end, IISD is working at different levels of innovative finance (i.e. to scale up sustainable public procurement; work in Uganda on agricultural finance).

The fourth IISD's focus area, **'Mobilizing knowledge'**, IISD is, for instance, in the process of launching (summer of 2016) a new online platform that draws on IISD's experience (i.e. [Sustainable Development Knowledge Management hubs](#); [work on indicators](#)) to help provide insight and analysis around the SDGs.

The Global Value project

The European Union in its Framework Programme for research and Innovation – Horizon 2020 – is also funding research in the context of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. One example is the GLOBAL VALUE project that also practically assesses the impacts of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) on issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including cross-cutting issues like human rights, transparency, and anti-corruption.

[GLOBAL VALUE](#) is one of the largest EU-funded research projects to date with a special focus on global sustainable development. Launched in January, 2014 and running for a period of three years, the project addresses the measurement and management of business impacts on global sustainable development. It develops an innovative framework and a modular, user-friendly and customizable toolkit for assessing impacts of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) on issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including cross-cutting issues like human rights, transparency, and anti-corruption. The project takes into account the most relevant pathways of impact through business operations, community investments, as well as regional, supply chain and product related impacts. It links up with powerful management approaches such as responsible supply chain management, life cycle assessment and base of the pyramid innovation. The framework and online toolkit will help MNCs to understand their impacts on sustainable development and improve their management. It will also support the policy community and future business leaders in refining the ways the private sector is engaged in global development efforts.



The project consortium comprises research organizations, civil society organisations, and sector experts. In order to ensure the involvement of stakeholders and local actors GLOBAL VALUE has established an expert crowd of more than 200 experts from business, civil society, and policy making.

The final framework and toolkit to be published in 2017 includes:

1. A **tool navigator** intended to help managers and stakeholders evaluate the capabilities, features, soundness and coverage of SDG issues of the plethora of currently existing impact measurement and management tools.
2. **Sector profiles and thematic reviews** synthesizing already available background knowledge on existing frameworks and corporate impact assessment tools and management methods covering the issues addressed in the SDGs in one place.
3. A **comparative review and showcasing of a dozen tools** that were went through an in-depth testing cycle with three MNCs, notably BATA (garment, Bangladesh), OLAM (food, Tanzania) and MONDI (paper & packaging, Russia a.o.). The showcases include practical feedback from managers and information on usability, data requirements, methodologies and fitness for purpose.
4. **Training materials** intended for use by educators at business schools and in consultancies.

By compiling and presenting the project's results in the form of an online toolkit, GLOBAL VALUE helps companies to identify their needs and the critical issues to address when engaging in corporate impact measurement and management in the context of the SDGs.

Chapter 3: The ESDW 2016 and activities related to the SDGs

In this chapter, we report¹¹ about the experiences of the [European Sustainable Development Week \(ESDW\)](#) that is a European-wide initiative to **stimulate and make visible activities, projects and events that promote sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The ESDW since 2016, its second year, contributes to the ambitious, universal and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting the organization of bottom-up activities that have a thematic link to and support the SDGs. As such, the ESDW aims to raise awareness for the 2030 Agenda in Europe and calls upon various stakeholders to actively engage with sustainable development, in general, and the SDGs, in particular.



The **ESDW website** works as a the main tool for organizers to promote their projects, attract higher participation, and gain access to promotion material (logos, posters, banners etc.) on the site, highlighting their participation in a concerted European effort for sustainable development. The ESDW, therefore, acts as an **umbrella for existing national sustainable development weeks** in France, Germany, Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic and tries to **trigger new initiatives, activities and events in EU Member States and other European countries**.



To encourage inclusiveness and diversity, the registration is open to all forms of government agencies, research centres, educational institutions, museums, foundations, community organizations, associations, businesses and NGOs, as well as individual citizens, etc. To be eligible to take part in the ESDW, the proposed project/initiative needs to address one or more dimensions of sustainable development and should not be exclusively profit-oriented. The ESDW was jointly initiated in 2015 by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management; the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy; the German Federal Chancellery; and the German Council for Sustainable Development. The ESDW was also debated in the Environmental Council Meeting on 28 October 2014. In addition, **the ESDW was endorsed by the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans**. Moreover, the ESDW partnered up with various European-wide and trans-national institutions, e.g. EESC, EEAC, EEB, WBCSD, ICLEI, Covenant of Mayors, etc. After the success of the first European

¹¹ This chapter is based on the work by Lange, L.K. and G. Berger (2016) ESDW 2016 Organisation of the 2nd European Sustainable Development Week (30 May – 5 June 2016). ESDW Final Project Report

Sustainable Development Week in 2015¹², the second ESDW took place from **30 May-5 June 2016**. The ESDW 2016 achieved **4,212 activities in 38 countries**.

Fig. 3.1 below shows the number of activities linked to the individual SDGs: activities were linked most frequently to **SDG 12 ‘responsible consumption and production’** (1,468 activities); **SDG 2 ‘zero hunger’** (866); **SDG 15 ‘life on land’** (745); **SDG 13 ‘climate action’** (661); **SDG 7 ‘affordable and clean energy’** (614); and **SDG 11 ‘sustainable cities and communities’** (557). By comparison, the most popular theme categories in 2015, which were not linked to SDGs, were sustainable consumption (1,100), biodiversity (972), energy (719), and buildings / housing (646). There is thus **a clear trend towards focussing on the areas of sustainable consumption, biodiversity, energy and cities**. It is important to note that activities organised during the ESDW 2016 can be related to all 17 SDGs.

Fig.3.1: Number of activities linked to SDGs (2016)

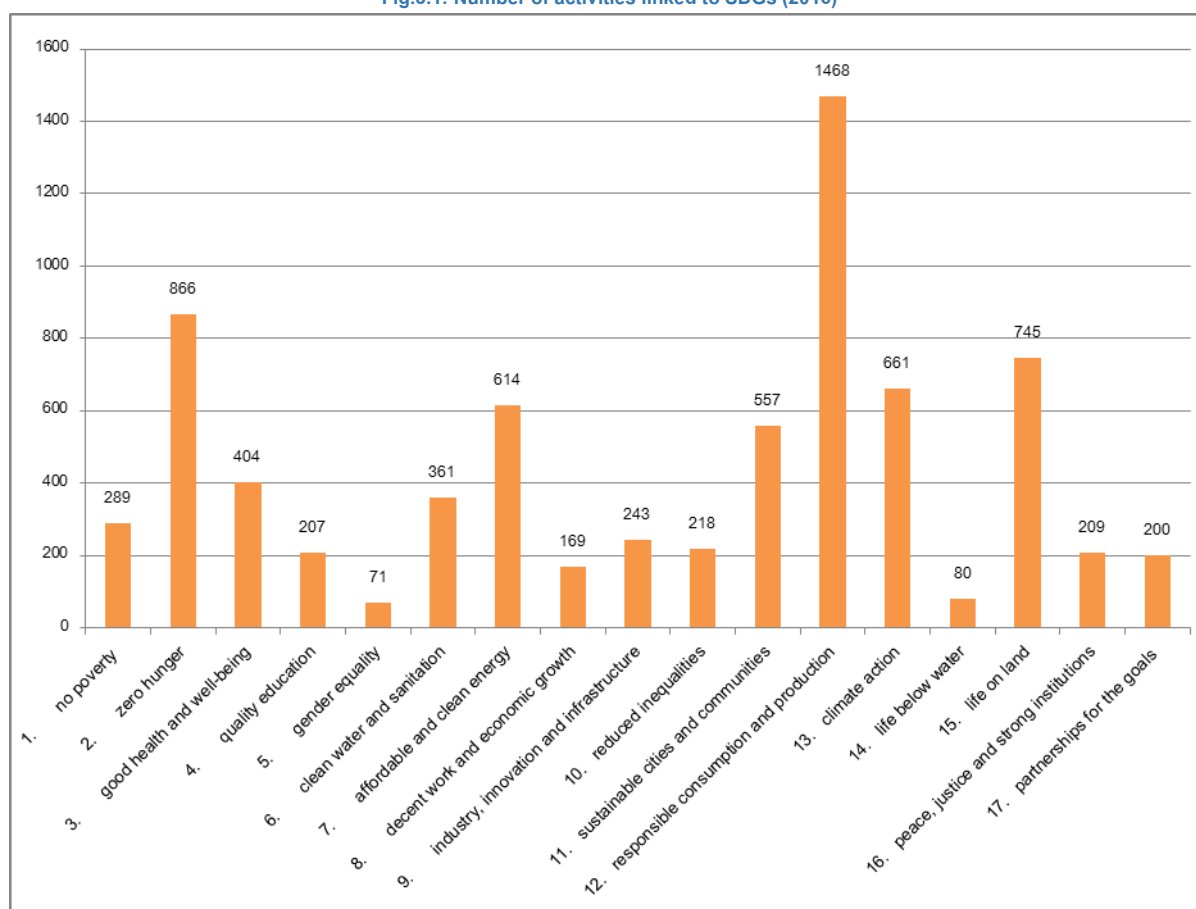


Fig. 3.2 below shows the distribution of these event categories. The **most common types of activities** registered were primarily **education events** (830 activities), followed by **excursions/trips** (765) and **conferences/workshops** (586), exhibitions/open house events (417) and festivals/markets (348). A large number of activities are listed as ‘other’ (39.1%) – this is due to the differences in categories on external websites. On the ESDW website itself, only 8.6% of registered activities were listed as ‘other’, while this was the case for 50% of the activities on external websites.

¹² As was the case in the previous year, the ESDW 2016 was organised and coordinated by the Institute for Managing Sustainability at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, which also runs the ESDN Office

Fig.3.2: Event category (2016)

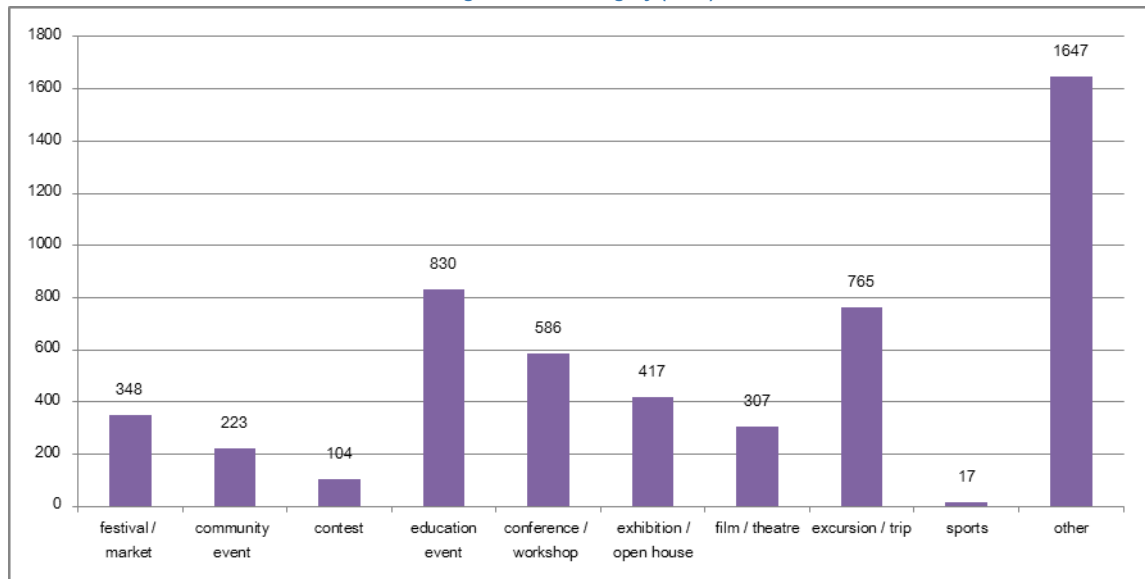
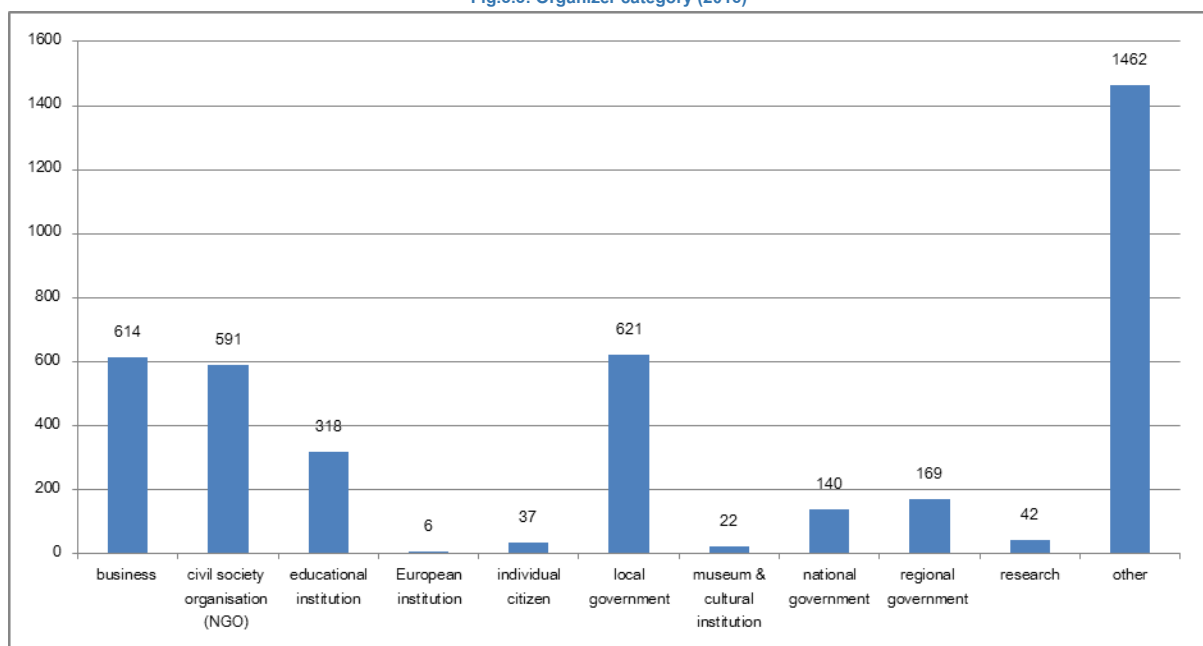


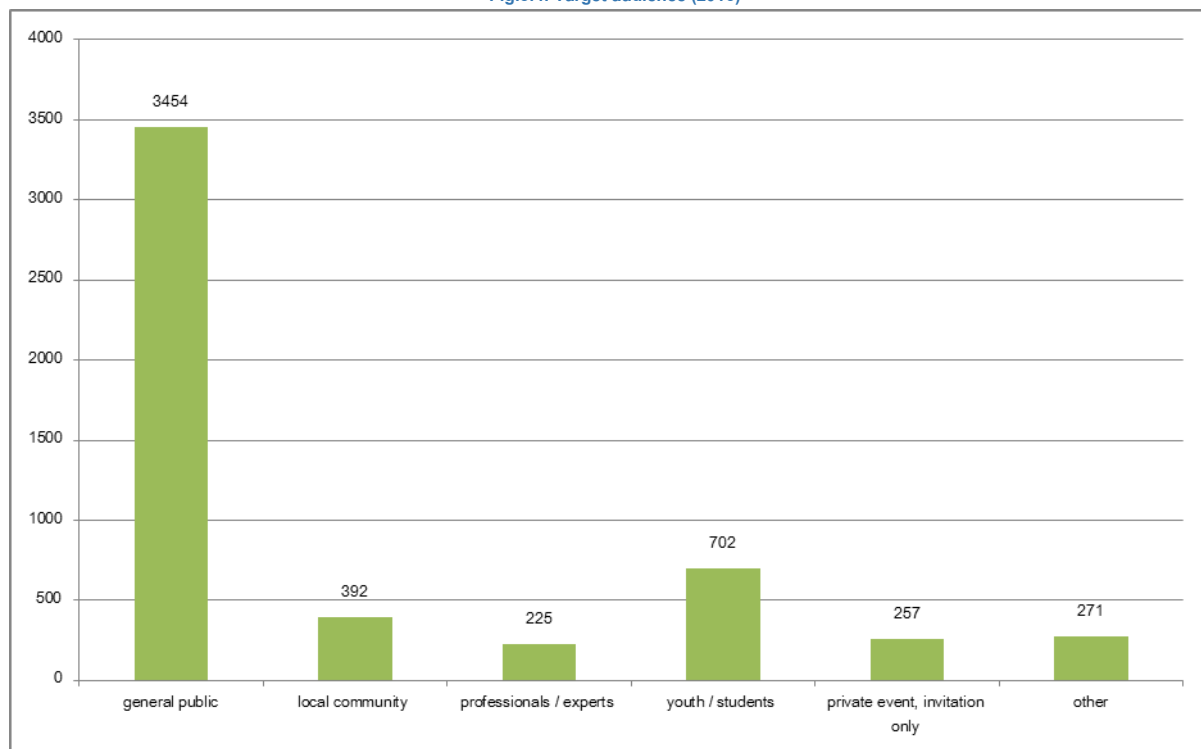
Fig.3.3 below shows the distribution of different organizers of the ESDW activities. The **most common types of organizers** participating in the ESDW with their activities were **local governments** (621 activities), **businesses** (614), **civil society organisations/NGOs** (591), educational institutions (318), and regional governments (169). In 2015, the most common organizers were local governments (1,029), civil society organizations (989), businesses (608), education institutions (268), and national government (161). This shows that **local governments, civil society organisations/NGOs and business continued to be the main organisers of events of the ESDW**. There is a high number of events listed as 'other', 35%, which all originate from the data of activities registered on external websites as there was no 'other' option on the ESDW website. This suggests that many activities did not fit the categories, or that external websites had other categories for organizers.

Fig.3.3: Organizer category (2016)



In terms of the target audience, main target groups were: **general public** (3,454 activities), **youth/students** (702), **local communities** (392), private events (257), and professionals/experts (225).

Fig.3.4: Target audience (2016)



Chapter 4: Conclusions and reflections

In this ESDN Quarterly Report we provided a glimpse of the **extremely variegated, wide and multi-faceted world of stakeholders, other organisations and local initiatives** that are relating to the 2030 Agenda. With the intention to understand how different actors are contributing to and supporting the 2030 Agenda implementation, the report looked into a selected number of examples from civil society organisations, business, research, and local initiatives to present what these different experiences and initiatives are bringing into the debate, especially in connection to the implementation aspects of this crucial new sustainable development agenda.

We explored these issues by firstly providing an overview of the UN framework for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation. We briefly presented the main aspects of the declaration and of the architecture of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, we showed how paragraph 39 (under ‘Means of Implementation’) is extremely important in relation to stakeholder involvement and engagement as it states not only that the new Agenda requires a **revitalized Global Partnership** to ensure its implementation but also that it will **facilitate global engagement bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors**.

We also highlighted how important is to **look at the Agenda in conjunction with several other interlinked major initiatives**, especially originated by the UN that appears to be very active in this respect. The work towards the SDGs and the global indicator framework is an example of this far-reaching activity. Also relevant is the global engagement of stakeholders with the so-called **UN ‘Major Groups and other Stakeholders’ (MGoS)**, as main channels for the facilitation of participation in UN activities related to sustainable development, and the **Multi-stakeholder partnerships** in the context of the High-level Political Forum Voluntary National Reviews and Thematic Reviews.

We also showed that in order to understand – and efficiently implement the 2030 Agenda – there is a **clear necessity for a systemic and integrated view** in the way countries set-up policies to address the SDGs and related targets. The efforts on climate change at the UNFCCC level that reached the crucial Paris Agreement are a good example of such a need for a systemic and integrated understanding of the 2030 Agenda. We showed in fact that not only SDG13 and all its targets refer to climate change, but that also target 2.4 – in the context of ensuring sustainable food production systems – or target 11.b – in the context of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable – undoubtedly refer to climate change. Such an example helps us (1) showing the **necessity to consider the 2030 Agenda – and its SDGs and targets – as a whole, as an overarching agenda**, and, therefore, (2) suggesting the **key potential to link policies, increase coherence and avoid ‘silo-thinking’** as much as possible.

In chapter two, we provided an overview on how selected stakeholders are contributing to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD and SDGs. We focused on selected stakeholder activities from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the business world, and research in the context of the 2030 Agenda that already started contributing. What was interesting to realise is firstly that **a very large number of stakeholders are already extremely active**. Secondly, such a vibrant activity is also expressed by a **large number of initiatives, actions and activities**. It is of course difficult to provide a comprehensive picture of

this world, but we can say that stakeholders are very active although in several different ways, **ranging from online outreach and face-to-face events to the creation of online tools, from position papers to advocacy activities, from production of studies and reports to the creation of multiannual research projects.**

From civil society we showed two CSOs that have already started important activities and taken initiatives in the context of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs: the WWF and its position paper for a EU overarching and high profile strategy for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the Stakeholder Forum's studies, activities and programmes dealing with the agenda through global advocacy, stakeholder engagement, capacity development, media and communications.

From the Business world, we selected the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) as example of an organisation led by their participating companies' CEOs, and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the United Nations Global Compact as examples of two international initiatives in support of businesses. All three entities started different initiatives but also seem collaborating in numerous activities especially with the intention to help companies with tools and support to better engage their businesses with the SDGs, to raise awareness, to facilitate changes in their operations, developing resources, and facilitating partnerships.

Also an increasing number of universities, research institutes, think tanks and research programmes are taking part in the SDGs discourse. We selected the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) as an example of an initiative that links a large number of international research institutes as a network in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We then presented the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) that since many years follows sustainable development issues with great attention, and the EU-funded research project Global Value as an example of how research is relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Chapter three reported about the experiences of the [European Sustainable Development Week \(ESDW\)](#) as an example of what is happening on the ground at the local level. The ESDW is a European-wide initiative to stimulate and make visible activities, projects and events that promote sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). What we presented is again a **broad variety of engaged stakeholders that have started an extensive range of activities at the local level on SD and linked to SDGs.** The most common types of activities registered were primarily education events (830 activities), followed by excursions/trips (765) and conferences/workshops (586). The most common types of organizers participating in the ESDW with their activities were local governments (621 activities), businesses (614), civil society organisations/NGOs (591). Such activities targeted most frequently the general public (3,454 activities), youth/students (702), and local communities (392). In relation to the SDGs, the reported activities linked most frequently to SDG 12 'responsible consumption and production' (1,468 activities), SDG 2 'zero hunger' (866), SDG 15 'life on land' (745), and SDG 13 'climate action' (661).

