

ESDNewsletter April 2022

This ESDNewsletter informs about the following topics and activities on sustainable development in Europe.

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 - **3rd ESDN Youth Workshop** on 2-3 September 2022 in Berlin
 - **European Sustainable Development Week** – Event registration open in early May
 - **ESDN Conference 2022** on 4-5 October in Bucharest
 - **20th ESDN Workshop** on SDGs and Human Rights in late November
 - **ESDN Blog** on “Alliance of public buyers to promote sustainable ICT”
 - **ESDN Spotlight Video** on “Exchange, learning and networking for sustainable development”
 - **ESDN Policy Brief** – “Recommendations for a More Resilient and Sustainable Europe”

- **News on Sustainable Development Governance from European Countries:**
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 - **Finland** – Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development adopts the 2030 Agenda Roadmap and new strategy
 - **France** – Report on the SDGs member of French Parliament, trans-partisan Meetings for Sustainable Development, and transforming society through the SDGs
 - **Netherlands** – Preparing a second Voluntary National Review for the High Level Political Forum
 - **Romania** – Action Plan for the Implementation of Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 approved and National Sustainable Development Indicators validated
 - **Slovakia** – Updates on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
 - **Switzerland** – Founding the New Parliamentary Group on the Sustainable Development Goals

- **News on European Governance for Sustainable Development:**
 - **European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network (EEAC Network) Annual Conference** on 14-15 September 2022 in Helsinki

Announcements from the ESDN

7th Peer Learning Platform

“Voluntary National Reviews: Challenges, Successes and Lessons Learned” – 14 June 2022 in Brussels

The 7th Peer Learning Platform will be held on 14 June 2022 in Brussels, Belgium on **“Voluntary National Reviews: Challenges, Successes and Lessons Learned”**.

The goal is to offer national level policymakers in Europe the chance to exchange and learn from countries that have already done their second VNR and it will also focus on the European Union’s VNR for 2023, as this is the first such report the EU will be conducting.

Invitations to national level ministries for this event will be sent out soon!

ESDN Youth Workshop 2022

3rd ESDN Youth Workshop on 2-3 September 2022 in Berlin

Following up on the successful Youth Workshops in 2020 and 2021, the ESDN is preparing the **ESDN Youth Workshop 2022** as a hybrid meeting on **2-3 September** in Berlin. Youth delegates from all over Europe will be invited to be part of the informal **mutual learning** platform of the ESDN to discuss their views on sustainable development and to learn about **policy processes**.

We will keep you informed via email and the [ESDN Website](#).

European Sustainable Development Week 2022

Event Registration opens in early May

The European Sustainable Development Week will take place this year from **18 September – 08 October**, with the core of the Week taking place 20 September – 26 September! 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). The ESDW 2022 hopes to build on last year’s success of 5,440 events in 28 European countries with over 10 million participants.

Event registration on the [ESDW website](#) will open in early May 2022! Check back then to register your events and show Europe and the world what you are doing to help achieve the SDGs. We are looking forward to your engagement and interesting events this year!

ESDN Conference 2022

Save-the-Date: 4-5 October 2022 in Bucharest

We will be organizing our Conference 2022 in cooperation with the Romanian Government Office's Department for Sustainable Development. The topic and the draft agenda will be provided in the coming weeks.

We will keep you informed via email and the [ESDN website](#).

20th ESDN Workshop:

SDGs and Human Rights – Late November 2022

We will organize our 20th Workshop in cooperation with the Luxembourgish Ministries of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development and for Foreign and European Affairs in **late November 2022** on **SDGs and Human Rights**.

We will keep you informed via email and the [ESDN website](#).

ESDN Blog Published

“Alliance of public buyers to promote sustainable ICT”

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector is not only a source of carbon emissions, but also connected to human rights abuses and environmental pollution. While sustainable products do exist, they have not become a game changer in the sector.

This blogpost focuses on the **Belgian initiative to increase the market share for sustainable ICT products** through public procurement. Human rights, labor rights and ethics in the production of ICT products are a particular focus of the initiative.

You can read the full Blog [here](#).

ESDN *Spotlight* Video Published

“Exchange, learning and networking for sustainable development”

New ESDN President, Daniel Dubas, explains more about the ESDN and how it supports the work of national policymakers in the field of Sustainable Development.

In particular he explains:

- How the ESDN acts as a knowledge hub;
- How peer-learning and informal exchange happens in the ESDN;
- What is in store for the ESDN in the coming years; and
- What makes the ESDN so special.

Click here to [watch the full interview](#).

ESDN Policy Brief Published

“Policy Recommendations for a More Resilient and Sustainable Europe”

The following “Policy Recommendations for a more Resilient and Sustainable Europe” are based on the results of the ESDN Conference 2021 and recommend policymakers to:

- Take policy coherence for sustainable development more seriously;
- Foster governance processes for sustainable development transitions;
- Incorporate the social dimension into sustainable development; and
- Educate and communicate positive best practices of sustainable transformational change.

The full version can be downloaded [here](#).

News on Sustainable Development Governance from European Countries

Belgium:

Federal Plan for Sustainable Development adopted on 01 October 2021

The Plan comprises guidelines and interdepartmental actions covering a wide range of topics involving all federal competencies and seeks to:

- Accelerate the implementation of the SDGs;
- Ensure policy coherence;
- Show the exemplary role of the state;
- Leave No One Behind;
- Reinforce resilience;
- Transform the economy;
- Change the mobility model;
- Finance; and
- Take into account the international dimension.

To start the implementation, each member of the government mentioned in 2021 how they would contribute to the SDGs in its yearly policy note to the Parliament. The implementation will be monitored yearly by a report to the Government, the Parliament and the Federal Council for Sustainable Development.

More information on the Federal Plan for Sustainable Development can be found here [in French, Dutch, and German](#) and an executive summary will be published in April (this will be available in English).

2022 Sustainable Development Indicators Report published

The Federal Planning Bureau and the National Accounts Institute published the 2022 Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI) Report. This report is the continuation of the report on complementary indicators to the gross domestic product, which was released annually from 2016 until 2021. That report was renewed and renamed. The new report merges two different, but closely related and largely overlapping indicator sets. It now covers all of the 86 indicators of the [indicators.be website](#), focusing on long-term trends and assessment of these trends towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the report presents five composite indicators, summarizing the main determinants of the well-being here and now of the Belgians and the possibility to sustain that well-being in the future.

More information can be found below:

- 2022 SDI Report in French: https://www.plan.be/publications/publication-2193-fr-indicateurs_de_developpement_durable_2022
- 2022 SDI Report in Dutch: https://www.plan.be/publications/publication-2193-nl-indicatoren_van_duurzame_ontwikkeling_2022
- SDI Website in French, Dutch and English: <https://www.indicators.be/>

Finland:

Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development adopts the 2030 Agenda Roadmap

In 2021, the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development drew up a national 2030 Agenda roadmap, which is a medium-term plan detailing the actions Finland needs to take to achieve the goals of the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) adopted by the UN in 2015.

Drawing up the roadmap was one of the objectives set in the Programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government, and the task was assigned to the Commission in December 2020. The Commission adopted the 2030 Agenda roadmap in a meeting in February 2022 and submitted it to the Government for use in its work.

Commission adopts New Strategy - *A prosperous and globally responsible Finland that protects the carrying capacity of nature*

At the same time, the Commission decided to reform its strategy, so that the main content of the roadmap would form the core of the new strategy. The new strategy, 'A prosperous and globally responsible Finland that protects the carrying capacity of nature', was adopted at the Commission's meeting on 10 March 2022.

The new strategy is guided by the six areas of change defined in the work to draw up the 2030 Agenda roadmap. For each area of change, the strategy includes a vision extending to 2030, a set of objectives that translate the visions into concrete terms, and a description of the key measures that will affect different sectors of society and play a key role in bringing about change. In addition to the six areas of change, the strategy discusses how Finland is supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda globally.

The strategy includes five cross-cutting principles, which the members of the Commission have committed to comply with in its implementation and serves as a long-term target framework and tool for policy coherence in the strategic and programme work of different administrative branches and stakeholders in society. The principles are the following:

- ensuring fairness, equity and gender equality;
- facilitating the inclusion and participation of society at large;
- paying special attention to the most vulnerable (leaving no one behind);
- ensuring long-term commitment and policy coherence; and
- taking global responsibility.

The Strategy can be downloaded [here](#) in Finnish. The Swedish and English versions will be available soon.

France:

Report on the SDGs by Florence Provendier, member of French Parliament

The Report, called [Mobilizing and structuring the multi-stakeholder movement around the Sustainable Development Goals](#), is the culmination of the temporary mission on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) entrusted in September 2021 by the Prime Minister to Florence Provendier. The Report works towards the achievement of the SDGs and serves as a basis for reflection on ways to strengthen the implementation of [France's roadmap for the 2030 Agenda](#). It makes a useful contribution to different issues, such as proposing to use the SDGs as a compass to guide initial and continuing training, to evaluate the state budget or the extra-financial performance of companies through the lens of the SDGs.

Trans-partisan Meetings for Sustainable Development

Created by the Open Diplomacy Institute, a trans-partisan, independent and multidisciplinary think tank, the Meetings for Sustainable Development (i.e. *Rencontres du développement durable*) aim to enable all citizens to seize the challenges of the ecological and solidarity transition by creating an annual and democratic meeting with decision-makers and sustainable development thinkers. Launched in 2020, under the high patronage of the President of French Republic Emmanuel Macron, they aim to achieve the progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

State of play in France - Transforming society through the SDGs

Released in November 2021, this [working document](#) is the result of actions taken by the *Commissariat général au développement durable*, in the Ministry of Ecological Transition, with the aim of providing a diagnosis of the situation in France through the lens of the 2030 Agenda. This document is structured around the challenges raised by France's Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda and the targets of the 17 SDGs. It is based on numerous statistical indicators, mobilizes various studies, as well as ministerial and civil society contributions.

France is also engaged in a work of evaluation and sharing of its actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the frameworks of the European Semester and the Voluntary National Review. France currently coordinates the work of the Working Party for Agenda 2030 within the framework of the French Presidency of the EU.

Netherlands:

Preparing a second Voluntary National Review for the High Level Political Forum

The Kingdom of the Netherlands will present its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) in July this year during the yearly United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) about the SDGs. The VNR has been produced through close cooperation of the four countries belonging to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The report will have a joint introduction followed by four separate chapters of each country illustrating the progress and ambitions of the Kingdom of the Netherlands regarding the SDGs since the presentation of the first VNR in 2017. For the data of the Netherlands, six dialogues with stakeholders were held, in which different SDGs were discussed. These dialogues were based on the six transitions as formulated by the UN Global Sustainable Development Report from 2019.

Romania:

Action Plan for the Implementation of Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 approved

The Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy was finalized in 2021 and approved in 2022 following a consultation process that consisted of eight rounds of workshops with stakeholders from all social segments. Its approach is adapted to the institutional context and to the Department of Sustainable Development's ability to act as an institutional catalyst, as it sits within the Government Office of Romania. The actions are mainly aimed at inter-institutional coordination, so that line ministries and all institutions are actively involved in the implementation of the 2030 National Sustainable Development Strategy.

The main objective of the National Action Plan is to create an effective, efficient, and transparent governance structure for sustainable development by 2030. The main challenges the Action Plan identifies are:

- **Elaborating the national SDG budget reporting framework** at the level of public administration, in order to make the allocations and efficiency of the budgetary efforts for sustainable development transparent, which will contribute to the incorporation of the concepts of sustainable development at the level of productive processes in the economy;
- **Building a cohesive society based on the principle of "leaving no one behind"** through sustainable education, public health, and social protection systems; and
- **Consolidating the critical mass that will adopt the principles of sustainable development** by involving all stakeholders from the political environment, public administration, economic and business environment, from the social environment, and from every citizen, which is an essential condition in achieving the 2030 Strategy's Targets.

National Sustainable Development Indicators validated

The **Advisory Council for Sustainable Development** validated a new set of national sustainable development indicators, comprising 243 unique indicators, of which 99 are primary and 192 are additional. To ensure the appropriate framework for monitoring the progress in achieving the 2030 targets, a formal document of collaboration between the Department for Sustainable Development with the National Institute of Statistics and the ministries (through the nuclei for Sustainable Development), is in preparation.

Romania has also built and implemented an [open access online database](#) that integrates statistics specific to sustainable development, both objective and subjective, in order to effectively understand and track the progress of the implementation for the 17 SDGs on Romania's way to a sustainable future. For now, the website is in Romanian, but it is intuitive and can be browsed to visualize how data are represented.

Slovakia:

Updates on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

Slovakia is preparing the second report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

In addition, Slovakia is finalizing a procurement of the new participatory process to define national priorities of sustainable development 2050. This activity will be based on the update of the national 2030 Agenda priorities, taking into account the latest developments, like the outputs of the Glasgow Climate Conference, impacts of Coronavirus, and Strategic Foresight 2050 of the European Commission.

Switzerland:

Founding the New Parliamentary Group on the Sustainable Development Goals

The new Parliamentary Group on the Sustainable Development Goals had their founding event on 30 November 2021. Around 40 members from the Swiss Council of States and National Council took part in this first meeting.

The Group will be focusing on three main tasks in the future:

1. Economy, finance and trade systems;
2. Sustainable food systems; and
3. Governance for sustainable development.

More information about this event can be found here in [German](#) and [French](#).

News on European Governance for Sustainable Development

EEAC Annual Conference

Save-the-date: 14-15 September 2022 in Helsinki

This year, the Annual Conference of the [EEAC Network](#) – entitled: “*The Critical Decade of Action: Mobilising Sustainability Transformation in Europe*” will take place in Helsinki on September 14th and 15th 2022 and will be hosted by Finland’s three independent science panels, the Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development, the Finnish Climate Change Panel and the Finnish Nature Panel.

The two-day conference brings together experts, particularly from academia and government, to discuss the next steps for facilitating the much-needed transformation in the critical decade of action. The conference will hear interesting keynote speeches and engage in sessions, including on the following themes:

- Medium-term actions needed against the biodiversity crisis;
- Joining forces for sustainability transformation; and
- Europe’s global responsibility in climate change.

Find our more [here](#).