

ESDNewsletter October 2022

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Announcements from the ESDN

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 Office developed a Concept for a more permanent youth involvement in the ESDN, based on desk research, interviews with youth delegates and observations at the workshops. The Concept for an ESDN Youth Network can be downloaded below.

In 2022, the ESDN held a physical Youth Workshop in Berlin on 2-3 September with a virtual getting-to-know meeting in June. 21 Youth Delegates from 13 countries met the German State Secretary for Consumer Protection, Dr. Christiane Rohleder, received several short expert inputs and then discussed the three main topics:

- Climate Justice, biodiversity, energy transition, and ecological economics
- Youth involvement, digitalization and education; and
- Human rights and forced migration.

For more information, please visit [ESDN Website](#).

ESDN Conference 2022

“Europe’s Position as Leading Change Agent against the Triple Planetary Crisis – Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution” on 4-5 October 2022 in Bucharest

The ESDN Conference 2022 took place on 4-5 October in Bucharest, Romania! The title of this year’s Conference was “Europe’s Position as Leading Change Agent against the Triple Planetary Crisis – Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution” and was organized by the ESDN in cooperation with the Romanian Prime Minister's Office - Department of Sustainable Development.

The two-day Conference not only featured keynote speakers and presentations, but also interactive group work and spaces for exchange. The Conference was broken up into 4 sessions that dealt with different topics with respect to the triple planetary crisis.

- Session 1: Europe’s Position in the Triple Planetary Crisis – Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution
- Session 2: ‘Europa Cafés’ on National Level Good Practice Cases in Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis
- Session 3: Effects of the Triple Planetary Crisis on a Just and Fair Transition
- Session 4: ‘Europa Cafés’ on Europe’s Position as Leading Change Agent – How does Europe move forward in tackling the triple planetary crisis and a just transition

To view the Conference agenda and read the Discussion Paper, please visit the [Conference Page](#) of the website.

European Sustainable Development Week 2022

A Record Breaking Year!

The European Sustainable Development Week 2022 ended on 08 October. This edition of the ESDW shattered the 2019 for the amount of events registered. This year the ESDW had a grand total of 7,047 events that took place in 24 European countries! This is the first time in ESDW history that there have been more than 7,000 events registered during the Week.

To find out more about next year’s ESDW, please check the [ESDW website](#) at the beginning of 2023.

20th ESDN Workshop:

SDGs and Human Rights – 23 November 2022 (virtual)

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 **on 23 November 2022** on “SDGs and Human Rights”.

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

News on Sustainable Development Governance from European Countries

Czech Republic:

The Second Implementation Plan of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 was approved

The second Implementation Plan of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 was approved by government on September 14th 2022. The implementation plan serves to cover policy gaps in achieving the objectives of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 (hereinafter Czech Republic 2030), i.e. problems and objectives that are not at all or well covered by existing public administration strategies. It has replaced the first implementation plan which was approved in 2018. The second implementation plan consists of the overview of existing key strategies to achieving relevant specific objectives of the Czech Republic 2030, through them are national sustainable development goals and targets mainstreamed. The main part of the implementation plan consists of 59 measures to cover "policy gaps" and 67 recommendations set for years 2022 – 2025.

The implementation plan represents the tangible measures for the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030. Nowadays, the first update of the Czech Republic 2030 is prepared. Various forms of participation methods are used for the update. Activities like questionnaires and workshops based on the outcomes of foresight studies took place among public this autumn and the Government Council for Sustainable Development addresses the discussion on the update continuously. The new version of the Czech Republic 2030 is planned for 2023.

The Strategic Framework the Czech Republic 2030 translates the SDGs into the particular national conditions and it provides a long-term vision of sustainable future and goals and targets for the whole society. Czech Republic 2030 also serves as a guide for public administration – it forms a basis for a number of other sectoral strategies (e.g. education, health, regional development or social) that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 had been prepared since 2015 and it was approved by government in 2017.

Estonia:

Estonian Governance for Sustainable Development

In June 2022, the Estonian Government changed the members and the management of the National Sustainable Development Commission. The Sustainable Development Commission was established already in 1996. So far, sustainable development issues have been coordinated in Estonia on two levels: in the Sustainable Development Commission, consisting of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and in the Sustainable Development Working Group, consisting of representatives of ministries and Statistics Estonia. Now, the Government decided to combine both levels and work together in the Commission. The tasks of the Commission are to monitor sustainable development goals in the national development strategy "Estonia 2035" action plan, to approve Estonia's sustainable development indicators for monitoring the achievement of the sustainable development goals, approve Estonian VNR of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and implement the goals of sustainable development.

Study of a Green Transition at Local Level

The National Sustainable Commission ordered a study, whose main aim was to determine the appropriate role of local governments in achieving the green transition in Estonia. Based on the results of the research recommendations for local governments for fulfilling this role effectively were established. Another important outcome of the work was the development of tools to support local governments in shaping, implementing and monitoring green policies. There were prepared specific guidelines and a list of suggested indicators. There were developed recommendations for shaping the knowledge network of the local government towards green transition. The main responsibility to share these outcomes to local level go to the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities.

Romania:

Government has adopted the Circular Economy Strategy

The Circular Economy Strategy for Romania was elaborated under the coordination of Romanian Department of Sustainable Development. The document provides an overview of 14 economic sectors in Romania in terms of their circularity potential, setting a clear general direction to accelerate the transition from a linear to a circular economic model. The indicator of this transition's success is the decoupling of economic development from the use of natural resources and environmental degradation.

The development of the strategy was supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) via the EU Technical Support Instrument (TSI). DG REFORM provided technical support to Romania throughout all the stages of the elaboration of the document. The adoption of the strategy by the Romanian Government represents a milestone in Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The overarching objective of this strategy is closely tied to the global SDGs and climate targets as well as new EU CEAP targets, in line with the principles and actions promoted within the EU Green Deal. At the national level, elements of the transition to the circular economy in Romania are also foreseen by Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 and Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

According to the statistics issued by the Circular Economy Monitoring Framework, Romania is among the European Union (EU) countries with low performance in terms of resource productivity, waste generation as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), waste treatment, and the use of recycled materials in economics. On the other hand, Romania has one of the lowest waste generations per domestic consumption of materials among EU countries, which offers favorable prospects for improving performance in for adopting circular economy practices. The document states that Romania has a significant potential for improvement in all stages assumed by the circular economy, from greater resource efficiency and the use of secondary materials in production, to waste prevention and better management.

The next step is the development of the Action Plan which will contain concrete measures to maximize the circularity potential in seven economic sectors: agriculture and forestry, the automotive industry, construction, consumer goods such as food and beverages, packaging, textiles, and electrical equipment and electronics, as well as in two horizontal sectors water and waste.

Switzerland:

Switzerland has made progress since the last VNR in 2018

Switzerland presented its Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2022. Switzerland has made progress since the last report in 2018, but it will have to pick up the pace in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The new online tool www.sdigital2030.ch was developed and has been successfully used for the participatory stocktaking exercise and the writing of the report. For more information, consult the following links:

- [Voluntary National Review of Switzerland 2022](#)
- [Statistical Annex](#)
- Press Release Presentation of Switzerland: 2030 Agenda: [President Cassis calls for innovation, diversity and determination to implement the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- Press Release Adoption of the VNR by the Federal Council: [Federal Council adopts second country report on implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- Online Tool [SDGital2030](#)

News on European Governance for Sustainable Development

Project 'Mainstreaming Sustainability in Regulatory Impact Assessment' Continues

Many EU Member States, as well as the European Commission, have begun to mainstream the SDGs in their regulatory impact assessment (RIA) procedures. Having an SDG lens in an early stage of the preparation of laws and strategic policies should result in better long-term sustainability and can prevent unsustainable legislation and policies. National experts on SDGs and on RIA gathered this year in three peer learning

workshops, conducted by Public Strategy for Sustainable Development in Brussels and financed by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection. The report of this first phase is available online. Almost 20 countries participated so far, and two more online workshops are now foreseen on 8 November and early December 2022. An in-person closing event will take place in February 2023.

The project is an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and learn from each other and from experts from, among others, OECD and European Commission. The workshops simulate working together across the ministerial 'silos' in which SDG experts and RIA experts normally work. Topics include methodologies, improving cooperation and communication, and how this contributes to policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD). National experts who are interested to join are welcome to find more information on the ps4sd website, and by sending an email to the project team (Louis Meuleman, Andreas Versmann, Ingeborg Niestroy and Francesca Valentini) at info@ps4sd.eu.

Virtual Closing Event - Towards Sustainable Public Administrations in Europe on 25 October

Final Event of the Project 4Regions4Future - Exploring of Future Cooperation Opportunities

The Regierungspräsidium Karlsruhe is lead partner of a two year European project on the topic of sustainability in public administrations. The virtual closing event will take place on 25 October 2022. Those interested are encouraged to register by 20 October using the following link: europa@rpk.bwl.de