ESDN Newsletter

December 2025

ESDN News

ESDN Elections

New ESDN Executive Committee Elected

During the 2025 ESDN General Assembly, which was held on 16 December, the ESDN Regular Members voted on the new Executive Committee for 2026. Current President, László Borbély will be stepping down as President after leading the ESDN for the past two years. The newly elected Executive Committee is made up of:

- **Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler** (Austria) who will be ESDN President in 2026;
- **Taru Savolainen** (Finland) who will continue to serve as ESDN Vice President in 2026;
- **Jeannette Muller** (Luxembourg) who will also continue to serve as ESDN Vice President in 2026;
- and newly elected to the Executive Committee is **Anna Pot** (Netherlands) who will join as a Vice President.

Youth Network Elects 4 new Youth Representatives

The ESDN Youth Network also had elections that took place in December to be the ESDN Youth Representatives in the ESDN Advisory Board. Many thanks to our 2025 Representatives for all of your hard work throughout the year. Next year's Representatives are:

- **Cara Borg Aquilina** (Malta)
- **Theresa Öllinger** (Austria)
- **Pedro Sereno** (Portugal)
- **Daniel Wood** (Wales)

ESDN Events since July 2025

European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)

The ESDW 2025 took place this year from 18 September – 08 October. 3.863 events took place in 24 European countries! We thank all event organizers for registering their SDG-related events through the ESDW or through their national websites! Many thanks also go out to all of our ESDW National Focal Points for evaluating and approving events!

Youth Workshop 2025 - “Our Future Beyond 2030: Youth Visions for Sustainability & Security”

The ESDN Youth Workshop 2025, took place on 12–14 October 2025 in Berlin. It brought together around 30 UN Youth Delegates and National Representatives on Sustainable Development (SD) from across 20 European countries to discuss issues most relevant to them on the topic of “Our Future Beyond 2030: Youth Visions for Sustainability & Security.”

This workshop invited youth to reflect on what sustainability and security mean for their future — and to transform personal insights into collective contributions for the post-2030 discussion. Closely linked to SDGs 13, 15, and 16, the program combined inner reflection, the Inner Sustainability Game, dialogue circles, “How Might We” questions, and structured policy labs with policymakers. Step by step, participants moved from personal awareness to a shared vision and concrete action, resulting in both a stronger sense of agency and a youth-led policy product.

Several ESDN members joined the workshop to engage the youth participants. As an outcome, the young participants will collaboratively draft a Youth Policy Note, summarizing their perspectives on the Future Beyond 2030. The Policy Note will be published in early 2026.

Conference 2025 – “Post-2030 Agenda: 10 Years of SDG Implementation and Ideas for a Future Agenda”

The ESDN Conference 2025 took place on 25-26 November in Copenhagen! The title of this year’s conference was “Post-2030 Agenda: 10 Years of SDG Implementation and Ideas for a Future Agenda” and will be organized together with Nordregio and the Nordic Council of Ministers. We had 90 participants from all over Europe in attendance.

Together, we had a very intense 1.5 days of keynote presentations, panel discussions, and peer exchanges on good practice cases on SDG implementation over the past 10 years, as well as how we continue to engage and ramp up support for the 2030 Agenda over the next 5 years and what we need to take with us beyond 2030.

Many thanks to all participants, speakers, and presenters!

The conference agenda, discussion paper, and presentations can be found on the ESDN website here. The conference Policy Note will be published in January 2026 and can be found here.

4th ESDN Topic Exchange – "Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability"

The 4th ESDN Topic Exchange on "Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability" took place on 02 December among the ESDN Regular Member countries. We heard presentations of how AI is being used and thought about in Switzerland and France. Members were able to ask in-depth questions on AI and how it impacts sustainability.

ESDN Topic Exchanges are a new ESDN exchange format that was begun in 2024. Each year, the ESDN organizes two of these Topic Exchanges for its Regular Members (those countries paying an annual membership fee).

ESDN Publications

ESDN Policy Note: "Requirements to Make Regulation, Competitiveness and Sustainability Work Together"

The ESDN Policy Note "Requirements to Make Regulation, Competitiveness and Sustainability Work Together" was published in August this year. It is the result of the 2030 Agenda Stakeholder Forum, which took place in Warsaw in May, and was an international conference that brought together representatives of public administrations and businesses to raise awareness of the needs and challenges of doing sustainable business. More than 90 participants from 24 European countries as well as European institutions discussed and elaborated on the topic of the event.

The Policy Note highlights the following recommendations, which were made by the participants, and based on presentations, a panel discussion, and interactive exchange formats:

1. Design clear policies and legislation to enable long-term planning, predictability, and achieving key sustainability and climate goals;
2. Make decarbonization an important driver for European economies;
3. Offer support tools, knowledge exchange and good practice examples to companies; and
4. Develop training and capacity-building for public administration for sustainability transitions.

You can read the full Policy Note here.

ESDN Events planned in 2026

2nd ESDN Young Civil Servants Workshop

The ESDN will organize the second Young Civil Servants Workshop in Luxembourg this year and it will take place in mid-March. The exact dates still need to be fixed, and the topic chosen. The ESDN is looking forward to organizing this workshop after the first one took place in Vienna in 2024.

The ESDN Young Civil Servant Workshops are for younger civil servants (35 years or younger or if older than 35, then no more than 3 years of experience).

11th Peer Learning Platform and Visit

The 11th ESDN Peer Learning Platform and Visit is planned to take place in Brussels on 22-23 April. The focus of the Peer Learning Platform will continue with the Post-2030 Agenda discussion. As always, the Peer Learning Platform is open to European civil servants to have exchanges with their peers from other countries.

5th ESDN Topic Exchange

The 5th ESDN Topic Exchange is an exclusive event only open to ESDN Regular Members (those countries which support the ESDN). This Topic Exchange will most likely take place in May. The topic has yet to be decided.

ESDN Workshop

The ESDN Workshop will take place on 08-09 June in Vienna. The topic is not yet decided.

European Sustainable Development Week 2026

The 2026 edition of the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) will take place from 18 September - 08 October 2026!

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

Youth Workshop 2026

The ESDN hopes to organize another Youth Workshop in Berlin in 2026 in the second half of the year. The topic will very much depend on the topic of the ESDN conference, as well as the topics put forward by the ESDN Youth Network.

6th ESDN Topic Exchange

The second Topic Exchange of 2026 is set to take place in the second half of the year and before the conference takes place. The goal is to generate impulses in the Topic Exchange between the ESDN Regular Members and present heightened results at the ESDN conference and gain more feedback and experiences from other countries.

ESDN Conference 2026

The ESDN Conference 2026 is scheduled to take place in the second half of the year (most likely October). We will have more information on when and where in January 2026.

News From European Countries

Austria

SDG Dialogue Forum: "2030 in Sight – Perspectives for the Implementation of the SDGs in the Next Five Years and Beyond"

On 23 October 2025, the Austrian Federal Administration, together with civil society (SDG Watch Austria) and the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, held the SDG Dialogue Forum in Vienna under the title "2030 in Sight – Perspectives for the Implementation of the SDGs in the Next Five Years and Beyond."

Around 120 participants to discuss the final stretch toward 2030 and the shaping of a Post-2030 Agenda. The aim of the yearly held Forum is to discuss challenges on SDG implementation in Austria while considering recent developments from the "outside" (UN and EU level).

Andrew Sherriff, from the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) presented three possible scenarios for the future of the 2030 Agenda:

1. Extension of the 2030 Agenda to 2040 or 2050 with minimal adjustments;
2. No new global agreement, leading to a fragmented patchwork of regional and thematic initiatives;
3. A new, ambitious global accord addressing thematic, financial, and implementation gaps.

Following this, discussions at World Café tables focused on concrete actions and partnerships.
The main messages included:

- Financing for Development: Sustainable financing requires not only funds but effective frameworks and stronger engagement of both the private sector and official development cooperation.
- Youth Participation: Youth involvement must be supported by legal structures, sufficient resources, transparency, and early inclusion in decision-making.
- SDG Localisation: Local and regional SDG actions need greater visibility and improved cooperation across all levels of government, esp. Provinces and Cities.
- OECD Guidelines for responsible business practices: Highlighting best practices can strengthen economic sustainability, calling for qualitative progress in using the OECD Guidelines.
- AT tool for a Climate Check: The Climate Check should serve as a key mechanism for policy coherence through systematic assessment of climate impacts.
- Leaving No One Behind: Social cohesion, solidarity, and health equity must remain central, nationally and globally.

- Culture & SDGs: Culture contributes to all SDGs and should be recognized as a stand-alone goal in the Post-2030 Agenda.

The Forum concluded with a call to intensify efforts toward 2030 while collectively shaping the sustainable agenda beyond it.

More information can be found here: SDG Dialogforum 2025 - Bundeskanzleramt Österreich

Copyright: BKMC/ Martin Krachler

Styria: "Youth Participation in the Post-2030-Agenda-Process"

On 17 October 2025, the event "Youth Participation in the Post-2030-Agenda-Process" took place in Graz, organized at the invitation of the Sustainability Coordination of the Office of the Regional Government of Styria in Austria. The event involved the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, Welthaus Graz, Naturfreunde International, the Afro-Asian Institute Graz, beteiligung.st, and SDG-Ambassadors. The main focus was on how young people can actively shape the period beyond 2030. Following a video message from former President of Austria Heinz Fischer, ESDN Youth Representative Marvin Huber opened the event with a keynote on youth participation and sustainable development.

In the subsequent interactive panel, moderated by ESDN External Senior Advisor Gerald Berger, former ESDN Advisory Board Member Sabine Schneeberger (Sustainability Coordinator, Region of Styria), Daniela Köck (beteiligung.st), Kornelia Vogl (SDG Ambassador), Bernhard Zlanabitnig (SDG Watch Austria/EEB) and Marvin Huber discussed youth engagement in sustainability processes at local, national and international levels. The keynote, panel, and interactive formats provided space for exchange on key topics such as climate change, social justice and mental health. The event was conducted according to the Green Events Styria criteria for sustainable event management and clearly demonstrated that young voices are central to shaping a sustainable future.

As a follow-up to the event, Sabine and Marvin hosted an exchange table at the ESDN Conference 2025 on 25-26 November in Copenhagen, further discussing the importance of stronger youth participation at the regional level. The idea is to illustrate the importance of localized action for SDG implementation, and the transformative impact young people can have in these spaces. A Styrian Youth Engagement Framework for SDG implementation is currently unfolding and ideas formulated in this context could possibly feed into the Austrian position in the beyond-2030-process.

Belgium

SDG-Forum 2025: A successful anniversary event looking to the future

On 14 November, Square Brussels hosted a special edition of the SDG-Forum. This year, alongside the annual gathering centered on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the forum also marked the tenth anniversary of the SDGs: an important milestone encouraging both reflection and renewal, with only five crucial years remaining to achieve them.

With around 500 participants from politics, business, NGOs, academic institutions and many other sectors, the SDG-Forum once again demonstrated that the ambition to advance towards a more sustainable world is shared across many fields and at every level of society.
Workshops for dialogue and inspiration

Throughout the day, participants could choose from 20 workshops covering a wide range of SDG-related themes, including education, finance, local government, business strategies and public policy. Each workshop provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, discover new perspectives and identify tangible solutions: a genuine platform for meeting others, sharing expertise and discussing different viewpoints, which resulted in new collaborations.

The anniversary edition of the SDG-Forum was, without doubt, a resounding success. High-quality speakers, a diverse audience and engaging workshops covering a wide range of themes set the tone for the five years of SDG action to come. The event also served as a reminder that sustainable development is a shared responsibility, and that cooperation remains essential if we are to achieve the goals by 2030.

Flanders – Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities publish Magazine: “Global Goals Local Action”

To mark the 10th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda, Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) published the magazine ‘Global Goals Local Action’ in September 2025. In 12 articles and in-depth interviews, we talk to local authorities and experts about the importance and the future of local global policy and the SDGs.

You can download the magazine in Dutch and English.

Germany

German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) - Review of the 24th Annual RNE Conference: Rethinking Sustainability

This year's RNE-conference (Nov. 10th, in Berlin) focused on how to rethink sustainability amid accelerating climate impacts and rising geopolitical tensions. Discussions explored international partnerships in a tense global context, pathways toward a sustainable and competitive Europe, and key levers such as protecting natural capital, advancing circular economy solutions, and enabling climate-neutral living. The conference underscored that cooperation remains essential to achieving real progress on the SDGs.

Photos and video recordings are available on the RNE website: 24. Jahreskonferenz des RNE - Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung.

RNE also presented its new policy statement, highlighting why economic success depends on resilient ecosystems and why biodiversity protection is a core driver of future competitiveness: RNE-Stellungnahme_Erfolgreiche_Wirtschaft_braucht_resiliente_Natur.pdf.

Copyright RNE: Bernhard Ludewig/Oliver Ziebe

Ireland

SDGs National Stakeholder Forum and the Development of the new National Implementation Plan

On 2 December, Ireland launched a public consultation on the development of its third National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the SDGs, which sets out the overarching national governance, coordination and monitoring for the SDGs. This will be Ireland's third SDGs National Implementation Plan and will build on the progress made in the previous plans. This open public consultation process is one of several different strands of consultation, both online and in-person, taking place to assist in developing the new NIP and ensure that the widest range of stakeholders are reached. Ireland is currently implementing the second National Implementation Plan (see National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024).

Ireland also hosted two National Stakeholder Fora on the SDGs this year. The first Forum, which took place in September in Dublin, focused on the development of the next National Implementation Plan and formed part of the consultation process, giving the opportunity for participants to share their views on what the new Plan should look like. The day consisted of contributions and presentations by representatives from Government, NGOs, public participation networks (PPN), and youth. There were also two breakout sessions and a panel discussion where participants could discuss the current progress of SDG implementation in Ireland and offer views, ideas and priorities for the next Plan.

The second Forum, held in University College Cork, was on the theme of SDG Localisation — SDGs Working Locally. The event was also part of the consultation process, focusing on local and community action, for the development of Ireland's Third SDGs National Implementation Plan. The day consisted of presentations, speeches, panel discussions and workshops, with speakers from Government, academia, and science.

Outputs from both fora will feed into the new National Implementation Plan in development. Read more at: Sustainable Development Goals.

Image: Panel discussion with Niamh Cartwright, host; along with Assistant Secretary Philip Nugent (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment), Charles Stanley-Smith (Tipperary Public Participation Network), Mary Smyth (Central Statistics Office) and Aisling Maloney (UN Youth Delegate).

OECD Multi-country Project on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

A Multi-Country OECD project with Ireland, Portugal and Belgium, *Building Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)* which commenced in December 2023, was completed in September 2025.

The OECD Project Team visited Ireland in 2024 and 2025 and held meetings and workshops on PCSD with participants from across Government Departments and Civil Society, Academia, Local Authorities (Local Government), and other sectors, also carrying out Local Authority and Civil Service Capacity Surveys.

The project rounded off with 'Living Labs', on 15th and 16th September in Paris, where partner countries were joined by peers from Austria, Italy, the Slovak Republic, Malta, Poland and Romania, for an opportunity to exchange experiences on ways to align strategies, financing and data systems with the

2030 Agenda. This was followed by a Closing Conference at the OECD, to mark the end of the project, reflecting on common and country specific challenges, lessons learned and ways forward.

The OECD Policy Coherence Scan, published in July 2025, was prepared by the OECD, based on research, and the interviews and workshops conducted during the project. It examines Ireland's efforts to achieve the SDGs through enhanced PCSD and provides an overview of Ireland's legislation, institutional mechanisms, policy tools and processes aimed at promoting PCSD, identifying strengths, weaknesses and possible ways forward, to enhance PCSD across local and national government. The report will also help to inform the Third National Implementation Plan for the SDGs, which is being developed this year. The report can be viewed at: OECD Policy Coherence Scan of Ireland: Introducing Ireland's institutional mechanisms for policy coherence for sustainable development | OECD

Participants at the Closing Conference at the OECD in Paris.

Ireland appoints 20 new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champions for 2025-2027

This week, 20 organizations from across Irish society were appointed by Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Darragh O'Brien, to become Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champions for the next 18 months. This brings to 74 the number of organizations that have been appointed as SDG Champions in Ireland across the Programme. The organizations have been selected from across the public, private, community, voluntary, youth and NGO sectors and are represented by larger, national organizations and smaller community groups.

The chosen organizations will help raise awareness of the SDGs, showing through their own actions that everyone in society can make a contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, former SDG champions have chosen to take up the role of SDG Ambassadors and are continuing to raise awareness and promote the SDGs.

You can read the Press release on gov.ie: Minister O'Brien announces 20 new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champions for 2025-2027.

Find out more about the SDG Champions at: SDG Champions 2025-2027

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Darragh O'Brien, with members of the SDGs Team and representatives from the 20 Champion organizations at the launch of this year's Programme.

Slovakia

Workshop on Sustainable Well-being in the Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic held a workshop in November 2025 on Conceptualizing and Assessing Sustainable Well-being as part of the European Commission–funded TSI project "Building Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)" in Austria, Italy, and Slovakia, facilitated by the OECD. The event highlighted the increasing importance of measuring sustainable well-being alongside traditional economic indicators and examined how such evidence can inform policymaking and SDG implementation.

The workshop brought together key national stakeholders and OECD experts to discuss approaches to well-being measurement, monitoring, and practical policy use. Its outcomes will support Slovakia's ongoing efforts to strengthen Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, integrate sustainable well-being indicators into SDG monitoring, and contribute to the development of the national Well-being Index.

Spain

Alliances and actions in the face of genocide in Palestine

On 23 July, the event 'Alliances and actions in the face of genocide in Palestine' was held at Casa Árabe in Madrid, attended by the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Economy, Yolanda Díaz, the Minister of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and Agenda 2030, Pablo Bustinduy, as well as national and international experts.
The event addressed the political, social and economic implications of Israel's attacks on the Palestinian population and highlighted the latest report by Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian territories.

Further information:
La Moncloa. 23/07/2025. Bustinduy señala a las empresas que aparecen en el informe Albanese: "Basta de impunidad para quienes se lucran con la ocupación de Palestina" [Prensa/Actualidad/Derechos Sociales, Consumo y Agenda 2030]

10th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda

On 30 September, the event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda was held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and the 2030 Agenda. The event was opened by Minister Bustinduy and closed by Sara Aegesen, Third Vice-President of the Government and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, and featured speeches by Nada Al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights; Estíbaliz Sáez, President of REDS-SDSN; Rosa Martínez, Secretary of State for Social Rights; and David Perejil, Director General of Agenda 2030.

In his speech, Pablo Bustinduy reiterated his defense of the 2030 Agenda against those who 'try to make it a scapegoat for all the ills of the times'. In this regard, the minister stressed that his ministry's commitment to the 2030 Agenda is stronger than ever. 'We cannot let it fail. We must not allow it to become the first domino to fall in democracy,' he said, sounding the alarm about the 'powerful interests that seek to dismantle any attempt at global coordination in pursuit of well-being for all.'
https://www.dsca.gob.es/es/comunicacion/notas-prensa/bustinduy-defiende-agenda-2030-su-10o-aniversario-es-hoy-mas-importante

A Horizon of Protection: Policies with Human Rights'

On 10 December, the event 'A Horizon of Protection: Policies with Human Rights' was held to mark International Human Rights Day. It consisted of two national and international round tables on the link between sustainable development and human rights in a horizon of inclusive growth measured beyond GDP. The event was attended by the Minister of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030, as well as national and international experts, within the framework of the approval by the Council of Ministers of the three international contributions to UN Women, the World Food Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Switzerland

2030 Dialogue for Sustainable Development – Final Report

The 2030 Dialogue for Sustainable Development, hosted by the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) in Bern on 4 November, explored the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in advancing sustainable

development and implementing the 2030 Agenda. Around 300 representatives from science, politics, business, civil society, government agencies and international organizations discussed the opportunities, risks and general framework for a sustainable AI transformation. This report summarizes the key insights from each program segment.

The report can be read here. The results of the 2030 Dialogue for Sustainable Development were also presented at the ESDN Conference 2025 in Copenhagen on 25-26 November.

News from European Sustainable Development Organizations

European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) Network

Europe's new competitiveness focus: a sustainable path for the future?

On September 15th, the EEAC hosted an insightful webinar on the EU's new competitiveness agenda, co-organized by the Sustainable Development and Climate and Energy working groups.

Over 60 attendees tuned in for presentations from Maurits Pino, Senior Expert, DG Grow, European Commission; Sander de Bruyn, Programme Leader on Beyond GDP and Wellbeing at the Netherlands Environmental Agency; and Gábor Bartus, Secretary-General of the Hungarian Council for Sustainable Development and co-chair of the Sustainable Development working group. Folmer de Haan, co-chair of the Climate and Energy working group, moderated the session.

The new competitiveness focus of the EU was introduced to prevent the EU from falling behind other global economic powers, notably the United States and China. It is intended to drive innovation and increase the attractiveness of the EU market by simplifying existing and future policies and ensuring policy coherence. To do so, the EU has announced a number of initiatives and plans, such as the Clean Industrial Deal and the Competitiveness Compass. While the EU has repeatedly promised not to change its course towards rapid decarbonization, the policy implications are unclear. Moreover, the competitiveness concept itself lacks a clear definition at the macro-economic scale. There are thus concerns that focusing on indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will lead to unintended negative consequences.

This webinar explored if and how the concept of broad welfare/prosperity can be integrated within the new policy focus, with engaging presentations from the speakers followed by a lively discussion.

Annual Assembly Brussels, 29th September - 1st October 2025

The EEAC Network's Annual Strategic Assembly took place in Brussels, bringing together 36 participants from 15 member councils and two external councils for three days of discussion from the 29th of September to the 1st of October, hosted by the Delegation of Catalonia to the European Union. This year's agenda was rich and diverse, ranging from panel discussions and presentations to working group exchanges. Over the three days, the sessions focused on pressing topics, such as: simplification, competitiveness, financing energy transition, polarization, circular economy, security, nature restoration, climate and health, and adaptation.

The title of the Assembly, 'From Green to Clean', was chosen to invite reflection about the transition on the EU Commission level from the 2019-2024 mandate, focused on the European Green Deal, to the 2024-2029 mandate, centered on the Clean Industrial Deal. The intention was to discuss how these changes will impact the work of advisory councils and the consequences for the environment and for sustainable development in Europe. We were honored to welcome three representatives from the European Commission: Pau Ruiz Guix (DG for International Partnerships), Ewa Malz (DG for Environment) and Alex Mulet (DG for Research & Innovation), as well as Josep M. Antó, co-chair of the Lancet Countdown Europe. They provided insights about recent and upcoming directives and initiatives, accompanied by contributions from EEAC members sharing how their councils are working with these developments.

The Strategic Assembly is an important platform for structured discussions about the issues that matter most to councils' work, and an opportunity to exchange experiences, best practices, and common projects. Bringing its members together is an essential task of the Network, to maintain its function as a catalyst for dialogue and collaboration. Participants mentioned leaving with lots of ideas to take back to their councils, and that they felt encouraged to hear that other councils are facing similar challenges.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has been actively working in areas of climate and sustainability, and business and human rights. Earlier in 2025, FRA has published its report Towards a fundamental rights-compliant European Green Deal. Last October, FRA issued a paper A Human Rights Approach to Due Diligence. It highlighted key elements of mandatory human rights due diligence (HRDD), including a risk-based approach, meaningful stakeholder engagement and access to effective remedies, concluding that robust HRDD legislation is vital for safeguarding fundamental rights and supporting sustainable development.

An upcoming publication will address fundamental rights in the context of climate and energy transition in housing, highlighting fundamental rights aspects and challenges in energy renovations. The report launch with an accompanying webinar is planned for January 2026 – please look out for more information on FRA dedicated webpage: Environmental and social sustainability | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS)

New Report: "Peace, Justice and Rights: Pillars of Sustainability. Italy and the Sustainable Development Goals

The **new Report** of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), ***"Peace, Justice and Rights: Pillars of Sustainability. Italy and the Sustainable Development Goals"***, presented on 22 October at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome, provides an up-to-date analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda globally, in Europe and in Italy. Developed with the contributions of hundreds of experts from the more than 330 organizations that are part of ASviS, the document describes an international context marked by multiple crises and a worrying backslide in peace, justice and human rights. This is further exacerbated by the crisis affecting the United Nations, whose funding has fallen by 30% over the past two years, impacting the lives of more than 30 million people, while debt-servicing costs for developing countries have reached an all-time high. Despite this critical scenario, positive signals of multilateral cooperation have emerged, such as the 2024 **"Pact for the Future"** and the 2025 **"Seville Commitment on Development Finance"**, endorsed by over 150 countries.

With regard to Italy, the indicators show a **deterioration over the past year for six of the 17 Goals** — food, health, water, inequalities, terrestrial ecosystems and partnerships — while improvements are recorded only for education, gender equality and climate. The Report outlines numerous **actions to accelerate progress** towards the SDGs, including **measures to strengthen democratic participation and counter the erosion of citizens' trust in institutions and representative democracy**. To reverse negative trends and build a sustainable long-term pathway, ASviS stresses the need for structured, integrated and future-oriented public policies.

ASviS at COP30

At **COP30 in Belém**, this message became part of a broader global conversation, **for the first time, ASviS took part in a UN Climate Conference, Cop 30** in Brazil, bringing to the Italian Pavilion the results of its work and the key findings of its latest Report. Through its dedicated event, **ASviS highlighted how food systems, rights, and climate resilience must be addressed together if we want real progress**. And in a moment when global governance is under strain and inequalities are widening, centering the debate on justice and the rule of law is more than a technical choice, it's a commitment to a transition that protects people, strengthens institutions, and keeps human rights at the core of climate action.

Nordregio

Webinar recording available: "What's next for the global development agenda? – The Nordic local view"

What are the key priorities for the remaining years of the 2030 Agenda and the future perspectives on the global development agenda beyond 2030? Our webinar brought together sustainability experts to share views and introduced preliminary findings from a study that has explored these issues by gathering insights and experiences from Nordic municipalities, regions and youth representatives.

Working towards sustainability is becoming more urgent as the world faces growing environmental, social, and economic challenges. The United Nations' global framework, known as Agenda 2030, sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by the year 2030. With only a few years left, it is more important than ever to make the best use of the time remaining. Coordinated action is needed to protect natural resources, promote fairness and justice, and build long-term resilience for both current and future generations. At the same time, the years ahead will be crucial for defining new sustainability priorities and preparing the global development agenda that will guide us beyond 2030.

The webinar recording can be found here, as well as on YouTube.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Request to fill out Survey – "SDG Challenges and Means for Implementation"

The SDSN just launched a major global data collection on **"SDG Challenges and Means for Implementation"**. The survey aims to gauge respondents' perception on progress made and persisting barriers to implementing the SDGs. This survey can be answered by anyone involved in research and practical implementation of the SDGs. It includes **3 questions** and should take no longer than **5 minutes** to respond. The results will be presented in the 2026 Sustainable Development Report (global edition) to be released next June (*11th edition*). The deadline to respond to this survey is **30 January 2026.**

The survey can be accessed here: 2025 SDSN Global Survey on SDG Challenges and Means for Implementation

Sustainable Development Report 2025: Media Roundup

Ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Ff4D) in Seville, Spain (30 June – 3 July, 2025), the report outlined urgent reforms to the Global Financial Architecture (GFA) that should be adopted during the conference to unlock the financing needed to achieve the SDGs. On the heels of the 80th anniversary of the creation of the UN System, the report also provides improved measures and a new web platform to track countries' support for and engagement with the UN system via its Index of countries' support for UN-based multilateralism (UN-Mi).

The link to the media roundup can be accessed here.

SDSN at COP30: Science Panels for the Amazon, Congo Basin, and Borneo Urge Action in World's Largest Tropical Forests

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), convener of the Science Panels for the Amazon (SPA), Congo Basin (SPCB), and Borneo (SPB), launched the 2025 Amazon Assessment Report and previewed the forthcoming Congo Basin and Borneo assessments. The reports warn that the world's three largest tropical forest biomes face escalating and unprecedented pressures. Announced at COP30 in Belém, Brazil — the first UN Climate Conference ever held in the Amazon — the 2025 assessments underscore the urgent need for coordinated local, regional, and global action.

For the Congo Basin and Borneo, these are the first-ever comprehensive scientific assessments, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines and regions. For Amazon, this is the second assessment report, with the first released at COP26. Across all three biomes, scientists warn that without immediate science-based action by governments, private sectors, and civil society, the planet risks losing irreplaceable ecosystems central to climate stability and human well-being. In total, hundreds of scientists contributed to the three assessments, identifying priority areas for locally led research and new opportunities to build sustainable, inclusive pathways for development.

Transformative Approaches to Climate Adaptation in Europe: Enroll in the New MOOC by IMPETUS in collaboration with the SDGAcademy

A newly republished MOOC from the IMPETUS project and the SDG Academy – *From Commitments to Action: Transformative Approaches to Climate Adaptation in Europe* – is live and free to all learners. The course offers a timely introduction to the policies, science, and real-world solutions driving Europe's efforts to become climate-resilient by 2050.

Participants explore cutting-edge adaptation practices, digital tools, and nature-based solutions, as well as the financial and socio-economic shifts shaping Europe's green and digital transitions. Designed for students, practitioners, and policymakers, it helps bridge the gap between high-level climate commitments and on-the-ground action.

Enroll for free and join the transformation!

Publications by ESDN Members

Tibor Faragó – Recently published books

2025: Imperiling and Saving Our Planetary Home (Abstract)

Our common planetary home is affected by hazardous environmental processes stemming from human activities. These have gradually reached a global scale during the past century, especially concerning the environmental releases of toxic heavy metals, hazardous chemicals, and waste, the emissions of ozone-depleting substances, and greenhouse gases. All these are directly or indirectly related to the accelerated utilization of a multitude of natural resources and in the broadest sense, to unsustainable production and consumption patterns. These significantly influence the living conditions of present and future generations. The chapters of this book present the emergence, globalization, and escalation of the above-mentioned environmental processes, the history of the recognition of their unintended harmful impacts, the development of the associated international scientific and political cooperation.

Author's final version in the e-Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (open access)
https://real.mtak.hu/230594/1/OurPlanetaryHome_TiborFarago-2025.pdf

Publisher's website:
https://akademiai.hu/ptudx00593-imperiling-and-saving-our-planetary-home.html

2024: Our Common Environment and Globalization – Shadows and Hopes (Abstract)

Globalization has had significant and severe impacts on the Earth's environment, which is the common home of all human societies, and on which state and resources the life and the well-being of present and future generations depend. This book is devoted to the analysis of the evolution of this globalization process, its drivers and dangerous consequences, and the development of international environmental scientific and policy cooperation.

Author's final version in the e-Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (open access)
https://real.mtak.hu/210524/7/EnvironmentGlobalization_TiborFarago-2024.pdf

Publisher's website:
https://akademiai.hu/ptudx00537-our-common-environment-and-globalization.html