



SDG implementation in G20 countries Status Spring 2017

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**European
Union**

European Union

- European Commission Priorities:

- Stimulating investment for growth & jobs including incentivizing the transition to a circular economy
- Removing regulatory barriers to unlock online opportunities for a digital single market
- More secure, affordable and sustainable energy
- A deeper & fairer internal market
- Stability for the single currency, solidity of public finances & social fairness in implementing structural reforms
- A balanced EU-US free trade agreement
- Rule of law & linking up Europe's justice systems
- A common European response to migration
- A strong common foreign policy to respond to global challenges, project European values & contribute to peace
- A more democratic EU

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- The world's biggest donor of development & humanitarian aid (56% in 2015)
- Committed to implement the SDGs in both internal & external policies.
- In November 2016, the EU set out a strategic framework for achieving the SDGs:
 - **next steps for a sustainable European future:**
 - mainstreaming SDGs in the European policy framework & current Commission priorities
 - reflecting on a longer-term vision & the focus of sectoral policies after 2020
 - launch of a multi-stakeholder platform for follow-up & exchange of best-practice in SDG implementation across sectors
 - regular reporting on EU implementation of the SDGs as of 2017

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➤ a new European Consensus on development

- shared vision & framework for action for all EU Institutions & Member States with a particular emphasis on gender equality, youth, sustainable energy & climate action, investment, migration & mobility
- increased effectiveness of European development policy based on shared analysis, common strategies, joint programming, joint action & improved reporting
- shared framework for all development policy activities of the EU & its Member States

➤ a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean & Pacific countries after 2020

- aims at reaching an umbrella agreement with ACP countries to facilitate regional tailored partnerships addressing specific regional challenges & opportunities

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- EU implements the SDGs in its development policy by:
 - Fighting poverty in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) & Lower Income Countries (LICs) through EU funding instruments such as the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) & the European Development Fund.
 - Supporting agricultural growth in developing countries (focus on small-scale farmers), promoting sustainable agricultural practices, fighting undernutrition, & strengthening resilience to climatic, economic & political crisis.
 - Broad sector support to address maternal & child mortality, infectious diseases, access to reproductive healthcare services, management of outbreak risks and more broadly health systems & universal health coverage.
 - Strengthening education provision at all levels by focusing on inclusion & equity, improved quality as well as strengthening young peoples' skills & employability.
 - Championing gender equality

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- EU implements the SDGs in its development policy by (cont'd):
 - bilateral assistance programmes or regional initiatives that support access to safe drinking water & sanitation, wastewater & pollution, transboundary water management & cross-sectoral coordination, within an integrated water resources management framework.
 - helping developing countries provide access to sustainable energy services.
 - promoting high standards for working conditions internationally & the formalisation of the informal economy.
 - Blending EU grants with loans or other public/private funding to support sustainable infrastructure.
 - pro-poor fiscal policies, strengthened governance, fair & transparent tax systems, public sector management & domestic resource mobilisation to tackle inequalities.
 - promoting sustainable urbanisation with a focus on access to water & sanitation, urban mobility, energy, affordable housing, energy efficiency & disaster prevention & preparedness.

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- EU implements the SDGs in its development policy by (cont'd):
 - promoting responsible supply chains & responsible business practices of European companies & supporting the transition to an inclusive green economy through the Switch to Green initiative.
 - stepping up international climate diplomacy to maintain the political momentum in support of Paris and mobilising international climate finance.
 - joining the relevant international conventions to prevent marine pollution & manage marine resources sustainably.
 - promoting sustainable forest management, fighting deforestation through the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan (FLEGT), and supporting REDD+.
 - fighting organised crime & terrorism, promoting & protecting human rights through political dialogues, mainstreaming of human rights values & principles, and dedicated financial and technical assistance programmes.
 - Promoting aid transparency & innovative financing for development.

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- Published by the European Commission in March 2017, The White Paper on the Future of Europe, outlines current challenges & presents five scenarios that offer a glimpse into the potential state of the EU in 2025 to provoke debate.
- According to the paper, main drivers of change & challenges in Europe include:
 - Europe represents a falling share of the world population
 - Europe's share of global GDP is shrinking
 - Euro is a global currency but other players are gaining weight
 - Defence expenditure is expected to double for most major defence spenders by 2045
 - Unemployment levels falling but still high in EU28
 - Ageing population (expected to be the oldest in the world in 2030)
 - Heightened threats & security concerns
 - A questioning of trust & legitimacy of the EU

European Union – Business Implications

- Companies based in Europe have access to the latest technologies, tools & skills to lead on the SDG agenda.
- Europe has a long experience of multi-stakeholder collaboration to support the SDGs, also in terms of collaborative project financing.
- Engaging the SMEs in the SDG agenda will be key to success as according to the European Commission, SMEs account for 99% of all businesses in the EU representing more than 70% of total employment.
- Positive European attitude towards innovation, corporate venturing & support for start-ups, many of whom support collaboration, co-creation, sustainability & equality. Entrepreneurship is accelerating across Europe with emerging hubs for innovation in cities like Berlin, Amsterdam and Barcelona.

European Union – Business Implications

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The Value for Europe”, a whitepaper launched by Frost & Sullivan and GlobeScan on behalf of CSR Europe identifies four SDGs as being particularly relevant for business impact in Europe:
 - **SDG 4 - Quality education:** through the rise of e-learning, mobile technology, Virtual Reality & educational big data
 - **SDG 5 - Gender equality:** reaping the benefits of women’s empowerment in terms of talent attraction & retention, motivation levels, diversity & new customers. Women make up 45% of Europe’s total workforce*
 - **SDG 7 - Affordable & clean energy:** addressing the challenges & capitalizing on the opportunities associated with decarbonisation, decentralisation & digitalisation. EU has pioneered ambitious targets for renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, smart technology roll out & reductions in energy consumption representing massive opportunities for European businesses.
 - **SDG 11 - Sustainable cities & communities:** investing in smart solutions & infrastructure for more sustainable, more efficient & more inclusive cities. Utility & transportation will constitute a major part of European infrastructure spending up to 2030.

European Union– Examples of what business can do

- The European Commission has adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package to help European businesses & consumers to make the transition to a circular economy. This transition will be supported financially through the European Structural & Investment Funds (€5.5 billion for waste mgmt.) & Horizon 2020 (€650 million). Select solutions from a **full life-cycle perspective & help close the loop of product lifecycles through greater recycling & re-use**. Join materials recycling marketplaces.
- **Work with & incentivize your suppliers to improve sustainability** through defined measures related to energy, waste, water use & beyond.
- As automation & robotics disrupt labour markets, **new solutions for mass retraining** will receive public & private funding. **Invest in & develop digital-learning solutions** to help build the skills for the future.



- The Energy Union, one of the ten European priorities, aims to accelerate the modernisation of Europe's entire economy, by making it low carbon & efficient in energy/resources, in a socially equitable manner. Invest in the **development & deployment of low carbon/energy efficient technologies & work with peers to bring about sector transformation. Work with governments & other stakeholders to identify & remove policy barriers to scale up.**
- Equal male & female employment rates would boost the economy of European nations by 5% to 9%.* **Set company goals to increase the percentage of women in leadership & look beyond traditional channels for recruitment & networks to draw from a more diverse pool of talent.**

*Frost & Sullivan - GlobeScan 2017 Whitepaper for CSR Europe
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The Value for Europe.