



NETGREEN Final Conference

Accelerating the transition to a green economy in Europe: National/regional strategies and the new Sustainable Development Goals

Brussels, 15 October 2015, 10.00 - 16.00
Venue: CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels

In recent years, and in the face of numerous and interconnected global economic, climate, and food crises, the concept of a green economy has been at the center of policy and academic debates. At the EU level, a number of policy initiatives, including the EU 2020 strategy, the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe and the 7th Environment Action Programme, propose measures to put the EU economy on a sustainable trajectory. In response to international and EU commitments, EU member states have also adopted strategies and programmes aimed at contributing to a greener development pathway.

The concepts of green economy and sustainable development received significant attention in the context of the discussions about the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015. Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that expire in 2015, the SDGs will have a universal scope and will address all three dimensions of sustainability: social, economic and environmental.

Drawing on the results of the NETGREEN project that aims to advance progress towards a green economy, this Conference will include two sessions with expert panels. The first session will deal with national and regional green economy strategies and will highlight best practices. It will also address challenges faced by policy makers as well as suitable indicators to measure progress. The second session will deal with the post-2015 UN development agenda, focusing on the new and universal SDGs. Challenges and opportunities arising from implementing the SDGs will be discussed, as well as the crucial question of how the progress will be measured and monitored.

The Conference will include a presentation of the "measuring-progress.eu" web tool which aims to improve the way policy-makers and other stakeholders involved in the policy process can access, understand and use green economy indicators.



AGENDA¹

10:00 - 10:30 Arrival & registration of participants

10:30 - 11:30 The EU green economy transition and presentation of “www.measuring-progress.eu”

This session will feature key presentations on the EU green economy transition by the Finnish MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen and by DG Research & Innovation Policy Officer Christian Ballaro. In addition, the “www.measuring-progress.eu” web tool of green economy indicators will be presented.

10:30 - 10:35 Welcome by **Arno Behrens**, Head of Energy and Research Fellow, CEPS

10:35 - 10:50 **Sirpa Pietikäinen**, MEP, Rapporteur of the European Parliament report on resource efficiency: moving towards a circular economy

10:50 - 11:05 **Christian Ballaro**, Policy Officer, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

11:05 - 11:20 “**measuring-progress.eu**” - A new web tool to support stakeholders in measuring progress towards the green economy, **Lucas Porsch**, NETGREEN Project Coordinator, Senior Fellow, Ecologic Institute

11:20 - 11:40 Q & A

11:40 - 13:00 Moving towards a green economy- lessons learnt from national and regional strategies

This session will feature national and regional examples of green economy strategies, demonstrating the key challenges and opportunities faced by policy makers. The discussion will highlight best practices and lessons learned and will focus on how successful green economy experiences can be replicated in other countries and regions. The session will also offer an opportunity to discuss the use of indicators in developing and tracking national and regional green economy policies.

11:40 - 11:45 Introduction by the chair **Vasileios Rizos**, Researcher, CEPS

11:45 - 11:55 **Mark Overman**, Senior Policy Officer for Green Economy, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, The Netherlands

11:55 - 12:05 **Janos Zlinszky**, Director of the Sustainable Development Academy, Regional Environmental Center, Hungary

12:05 - 12:15 **Valentin Alfaya**, Health & Safety, Quality and Environment Director, Ferrovial, Spain

12:15 - 12:25 **Nina Weitz**, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden

12:25 - 12:55 Discussion

12:55 - 13:00 Concluding remarks by the chair

13:00 - 14:00 Networking lunch

¹ All speakers confirmed

14:00 – 16:00 UN Sustainable Development Goals and implications at EU and international levels

This session will focus on the post-2015 United Nation's sustainable development agenda, providing an overview of what to expect from the new universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A discussion will be held on the major challenges and opportunities arising from implementing these goals. The session will also discuss the challenges associated with using the full range of indicators and associated monitoring systems to monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs at local, national, regional, and global levels.

- 14:00 - 14:05 Introduction by the chair **Oliver Greenfield**, Convenor, Green Economy Coalition (GEC)
- 14:05 - 14:15 **Cristiana Pasca-Palmer**, Head of Unit, DG International Cooperation & Development, European Commission
- 14:15 - 14:25 **Gisele Mueller**, Research Analyst, Green Economy Initiative, UNEP
- 14:25 - 14:35 **Anna Kárníková**, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
- 14:35 - 14:45 **Angel Hsu**, Director of the Environmental Performance Measurement program, Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy (via video conference)
- 14:45 - 14:55 **Luc Bas**, Director, European Regional Office, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 14:55 - 15:55 Discussion
- 15:55 - 16:00 Concluding remarks by the chair

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