



UN SDGs and implications at EU and international level

NETGREEN Final Conference: Accelerating the transition to a green economy in Europe

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Overview of the presentation

1. Green economy in EU international cooperation and development policy: current status
2. EU contribution to the 2030 Agenda
3. Green economy in the SDGs: prospects for international cooperation

1. Green economy in EU international cooperation and development policy: current status

Policy level:

- Green economy consistently promoted in EU international cooperation and development policy (Agenda for Change, Rio+20 Conclusions, Private Sector communication...)
- Agenda for Change: “EU development policy should promote a ‘green economy’ that can generate growth, create jobs and help reduce poverty...”
- Lots of linkages with EU domestic policies - efforts to ensure policy coherence

1. Green economy in EU international cooperation and development policy: current status

Program level:

<p>Dedicated "green economy" initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWITCH programs (SCP, eco-entrepreneurship) • Support to policy development (e.g. PAGE, GEC); • Strategic cooperation with UNEP (10 YFP, eco-innovation, resource efficiency, eco-labelling...)
<p>Actions in "environment sectors"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLEGT Action Plan • B4Life flagship program on biodiversity • Global Climate Change Alliance • Support for the implementation of the Chemical & Waste conventions
<p>Mainstreaming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In key sectors of EU cooperation (energy, agriculture, private sector development...)

2. EU contribution to the 2030 Agenda

- **"Decent life for All" Communication (2013):** "Progress towards an inclusive green economy through sustainable consumption and production patterns and resource efficiency... ..is therefore essential"
- **Council conclusions (2014):** "The agenda must recognise that environmental sustainability is fundamental to ensuring the sustainable prosperity and wellbeing of all people within planetary boundaries. It must unlock the drivers of the green economy"
- **"A Global Partnership" Communication:** "The green economy transformation offers major new opportunities as a driver of sustainable economic growth. The EU is committed to strengthening its efforts in this area..."

3. Green economy in the SDGs: prospects for EU international cooperation

Overall EU intentions to move forward

- Remain a central player, including by showing leadership through EU's own internal actions;
- Consultations with Parliament and Member States to decide how best to take the new Agenda forward;
- EU's response will build on the review of Europe 2020 Strategy.
- Ongoing mapping of where current EU commitments and policies stand compared to the SDGs; The aim is to identify areas where there are gaps (environment sustainability? Inclusiveness?). In some areas enhanced implementation is needed, while in others new initiatives may need to be developed.

3. Green economy in the SDGs: prospects for international cooperation

Opportunities	Challenges
More consistent integration of environment across international cooperation, beyond environment and climate change programs, building on indicators that better take into account environmental externalities	Perception that environmental sustainability necessarily entails high costs that many countries cannot afford
Growing support for cooperation areas that deserve increased attention such as SCP	Horizontal policy coherence and coordination
Improved engagement with development partners on environment sustainability on the basis of an universal framework;	Access to finance