SDSN NETWORKS IN ACTION 2021
Introduction to SDSN’s Networks Program

In 2015, 193 countries adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity, for people and the planet. The transformation that is needed to make this vision a reality is enormous in scale and complex. Universities are well-positioned to support this transition. They develop new technologies, business models, and governance frameworks; train future leaders to be globally-conscious and innovative; and have a proven track record working with diverse stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes the world's academic and research institutes and leverages their strengths to help realize the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. It has operated under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General since 2012. The SDSN pursues its mission by working with over 1,500 member institutions in 134 countries, organized into over 43 networks at the national and regional level. This expertise is channeled into multi-stakeholder events, pilot projects and SDG implementation in the field, and reports, including the Sustainable Development Report and the World Happiness Report, which have been downloaded millions of times.

In their respective countries and regions, SDSN supports our networks of universities, research centers, and other knowledge institutions in:

- Localizing and mobilizing support for the SDGs, including supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Vetting and launching solution initiatives, including supporting the preparation of long-term pathways

Networks in Action report presents our unique global network of problem solvers and their contributions to addressing the world’s most pressing problems.

This year’s edition features a specific focus on the impact our networks have had in the world – from their efforts to localize the SDGs in their countries, engage with knowledge institutions and youth, improve education for the SDGs, fight the Covid-19 pandemic, advocate for a sustainable recovery, promote viable solutions initiatives, and develop their publications, events and actions.

Despite the setbacks due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of the SDSN networks have seen their membership and impact grow significantly over the past 12 months. While the overall global membership of SDSN has grown by 17% compared to 2020, the number of knowledge institutions joining SDSN networks has almost doubled in certain regions. Moreover, the report shows how SDSN’s networks successfully executed their digital transformation, organizing dozens of online events and reaching wider audiences than ever before. Their improved online presence on social media was also accompanied by thousands of downloads of publications as well as the establishment of new partnerships relating to the Voluntary National Reviews, National SDG planning, and youth initiatives.

“The 2021 Networks in Action Report is an inspiring record of leadership by universities around the world to collaborate and promote urgently-needed solutions for the SDGs. In the face of a complex global crisis, SDSN’s Networks have demonstrated their commitment, ingenuity, resilience and flexibility. The worldwide growth of SDSN membership and the five new SDSN networks are testimony to the vital importance and relevance of the university networks.”

Jeffrey Sachs, President, SDSN
Rethinking Multilateralism

BALANCE OF UNDERSTANDING, NOT A BALANCE OF POWERS

Nation States and the world as a whole cannot be understood without multilateralism. Multilateralism is the breeding ground for nations to develop and progress in the benefit of all of humanity. The 2030 Agenda, adopted unanimously by all 193 UN Member States in 2015, embodies the positive potential of multilateralism, and SDSN, with over 40 networks and 1500 member institutions throughout the world, evidences the impact that multilateralism can have.

Today, our multilateral system faces unprecedented global challenges and must adapt to the current reality. The world urgently needs an effective, sustainable and inclusive multilateral system.

HUMANITY AT A NEW CROSSROADS

The Covid-19 pandemic has further damaged our social fabrics and widened existing gaps. The deep health, political economic, and social crises that have flared during the epidemic have worsened due to failed international cooperation, inconsistent guidelines, limited access to public health, and vaccine nationalism. Among other consequences, this has resulted in widening social ruptures that have deepened the gap and distanced already marginalized populations on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity or religion. From global warming destabilized nations, deepening inequalities to the so-called “totalitarianism of surveillance” of private data corporations, the world is faced with immense challenges that can only be dealt with effectively with knowledge and in a cooperative manner. Tackling global challenges unilaterally is simply not an option.

There are undeniably virtuous initiatives already in place that seek to provide solutions to our current problems. The 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals mark a clear path as to how the global community can respond to these threats, and build better and enduring societies. The United Nations’ Secretary General also recently announced a Common Agenda designed to accelerate the implementation of these goals and other shared sustainability agreements. The roadmap does so through twelve commitments which include the protection of the planet and the promotion of peace and prevention of conflicts, as well as the ensuring of sustainable financing, the improvement of digital cooperation and the participation of women and youth in political decisions. Furthermore, initiatives such as the SDSN and its Leadership Council mobilize global scientific and technological expertise and promote integrated approaches for co-creating pathways towards a better future through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation. SDSN’s Leadership Council is a body which brings together approximately one hundred leading figures from very diverse professional backgrounds. Within it, eminent experts on sustainable development from academia, civil society, business and public policy brainstorm collectively and offer guidance to their peers in national and regional networks that deliver practical solutions to these and other challenges by gathering universities, research institutes, think tanks and NGOs. Together, as a network, these knowledge institutions are able to translate the latest expertise in sustainable development into action, quickly and across borders, at all scales from local to global. Examples of SDSN networks’ actions range from formulating recommendations for research and innovation agenda for Thailand’s regions to discussing public policies and corporate initiatives for solid waste reduction in the Amazon. These are just a few of the many efforts that are underway in order to address today and tomorrow’s puzzling future.

UNILATERALISM AND MULTILATERALISM À LA CARTE

Global issues require global, integrated answers, supported by the international community and its citizens. On the one hand, multilateralism à la carte is neither an option nor a solution for any Member State. It is not sufficient for a nation to adopt a multilateralist approach towards preventing future pandemics and fighting against climate change while maintaining a unilateral and nationalist stance regarding, for instance, peace and conflict resolution. On the other hand, the main objective of multilateralism is in no way to homogenize the political reason and action of the world’s nations and key players. Differences in culture, religion, ethnicity or political ideology offer rich windows of opportunity for critical reasoning and development. Drawing upon the knowledge and educational capacity of SDSN members, national and regional networks of SDSN have been countering unilateralist approaches to development with cross-disciplinary systems thinking and the rapid diffusion of sustainable development knowledge.

Current political shifts between the world’s powers seem to be leaning towards a divide that separates West from East, splitting the world into a binary order that is far from representative of our complex and interconnected reality. Political and military alliances reminiscent of the Cold War are fostering a lack of trust between traditional partners and hampering the only chance we, as an international community, have to save humanity.

THE PATH TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE MULTILATERALISM

Multilateralism and its platforms, from the United Nations to the European Union, must prevail as the main mechanisms for seeking sustainable solutions to the many problems that lie ahead. These systems of dialogue and understanding, however, are far from adjusted to the current realities of our societies. The world has seen massive changes which have brought to the forefront a set of legitimate and critical players that cannot be ignored.

The leaders of the international community have to understand the vital role played by youth, women, migrants and other marginalized populations in their societies and capitalize on their knowledge; by the private sector, the media, influencers, artists and athletes and their capacity to sway public opinion. Cities and regional governments must also be empowered as they are the prime responders in national emergencies.

Moreover, deep economic, social and technological transformations that are needed to achieve the Agenda 2030 and keep global warming to “well below 2°C” simply cannot happen without academic expertise that helps diagnose complex and multi-dimensional challenges of sustainable development and define long-term sustainable pathways. Experts from the academic community must be connected to decision makers to share their knowledge and expertise based on the latest research.

Choosing not to incorporate these actors when devising a new social contract and attempting to return to the early 20th century’s “business as usual” would inevitably set humanity on a dark path of no return. Instead, like Nero, we are ready to play the fiddle while watching Rome burn. A democratic, inclusive, sustainable and green multilateralism is the only answer.

The question therefore is not if we should maintain multilateralism but rather how to rethink and refound it. The established systems also proved that we could work together towards constructing a better future for all, one free of wars, hate and discrimination, based on the fundamental principles of human rights and dignity. These systems of international cooperation are the only way to respond to the many threats humanity is currently facing. We find ourselves at a critical crossroads where only mutual collaboration and respect can provide sustainable and effective answers. Unilateralism and binary approaches to the complex, multicultural and interconnected reality of the 21st century will only accelerate the planet in an irreversibly detrimental direction. However, for multilateralism to be able to face these challenges and provide sustainable solutions, it must integrate a whole new range of key actors that along with Nation States, will be able to provide effective and global answers to unquestionably global problems. It is time to ideologize the term ‘multilateralism’ and to understand that only by working together will we save ourselves. Instead of returning to outdated strategies that seek a ‘balance of power’, let us search for a ‘balance of understanding’.
The global challenges of the 21st century require global partnerships in the development of sustainable solutions. For this purpose, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has partnered with SDSN since 2013 to support the identification of scalable solutions within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GIZ project advises the SDSN Secretariat and Networks in order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs within countries and regions worldwide.

The project currently focuses on four fields of activity:

1. Support in the development of metrics and data visualisation tools that track the global effects of national actions, so called spillovers.
2. Promotion of research on data-based policy design, in particular with regard to questions of gender equality and the ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle.
3. Support to the Networks in the Global South through capacity development efforts, and advice to the SDSN team on questions related to network development and management.
4. Enabling knowledge exchange on pressing topics, such as COVID-19 recovery, in order to formulate concrete guidance on how the 2030 Agenda can be taken into consideration in overcoming socio-economic crises.

Over the last 8 years of collaboration, SDSN and GIZ have realised a number of successful projects in promoting sustainable development worldwide. Mentionable highlights include:

- Annual Workshops for Network Managers have been providing an open space for knowledge exchange, strategic planning, and team building across national and regional Networks. Past editions have been facilitated in New York and Stockholm, before switching to a virtual format in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Previous workshops have incorporated innovative methods, for example Lego Play Serious Play to facilitate creative thinking and processes.
- An Initiatives Lab process, initiated by a design-oriented virtual Barcamp, will lead to the implementation of SDSN members’ most innovative solutions for reducing inequalities and for making COVID-19 recovery strategies more inclusive.
- An upcoming policy brief on sustainability in supply chains, which will be funded by GIZ, will further advance the knowledge on the impacts of international production and consumption patterns on global public goods.

Looking ahead, the SDSN and GIZ collaboration promises to be exciting in the upcoming months:

- Three research grants will be awarded to selected SDSN Networks for them to provide evidence-based policy recommendations for aligning the COVID-19 recovery with the 2030 Agenda.
- An Initiatives Lab contest, initiated by a design-oriented virtual Barcamp, will lead to the implementation of SDSN members’ most innovative solutions for reducing inequalities and for making COVID-19 recovery strategies more inclusive.
- An upcoming policy brief on sustainability in supply chains, which will be funded by GIZ, will further advance the knowledge on the impacts of international production and consumption patterns on global public goods.

The GIZ team thanks all SDSN colleagues for another year of successful collaboration.
Networks & SDSN Flagship Initiatives

FOOD, AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY, LAND USE AND ENERGY

A collaborative initiative, operating as part of the Food and Land-Use Coalition (FOLU), to understand how countries can transition towards sustainable land-use and food systems. To design and implement the sustainable transformation of these systems, FABLE Consortium mobilizes top knowledge institutions from more than 20 countries to support the development of decision-support tools and long-term pathways. Many SDSN national networks contribute their technical expertise to this initiative and are part of the FABLE Country Teams.

THE FOOD, ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION TRACKER

Strategic initiative under the Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition to track action and support countries on the transformation of food and land use systems. Its objective is to systematically analyse national policies related to food and land use, assessing country level action against national and global targets under the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs.

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FORUM

The Global Solutions Forum brings together the people who are implementing local initiatives designed to help achieve the SDGs. They meet an inclusive space to share progress, to highlight important takeaways, and to inspire one another to keep moving forward. As the leading global network of knowledge-creating institutions in support of the Agenda 2030, the SDSN has unique expertise and avant-garde solutions for sustainable development. Through the Global Solutions Forum, we are committed to showcase and highlight our members’ most impactful solutions. This global event intends for them to gain global visibility and recognition, but also serve as an important virtual gathering of experts to learn from one another and make a difference.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Hosted jointly every September alongside the UN General Assembly by SDSN and the Global Association of Masters in Development Practice (MDP) Programs, ICSD is a global event that provides a forum for academia, government, civil society, UN agencies, and the private sector to come together to share practical solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This high-level event brings together more than 1900 participants to hear the latest research on the SDGs and keynote addresses from heads of state, senior UN officials, CEOs, and global thought leaders. A number of SDSN networks and members intervene each year to present the most recent advanced knowledge and findings on sustainable development.

PATHFINDER INITIATIVE

In response to the need for urgent and decisive action to keep within the 1.5 - 2°C target of the Paris Agreement, the Pathfinder Initiative aims to increase motivation and capacity by showing how the implementation of well-designed policies and technologies can yield multiple benefits for people and the planet. The Pathfinder Initiative is led by researchers at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). SDSN is acting as a partner organization, together with the OECD, C40 Cities, CDP, and Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, hosted by the WHO.

SCIENCE PANEL FOR THE AMAZON (SPA)

An initiative convened under the auspices of SDSN, the SPA brings together over 200 scientists - two thirds from Amazonian countries to undertake an unprecedented assessment of the state of the Amazon ecosystems, trends and implications for the long-term well-being of the region while also exploring opportunities and policy relevant options for conservation and the sustainable development of the basin. The report will call upon governments, the private sector, financial institutions, the global community and civil society at large to act together for the conservation and development of a sustainable Amazon. SDSN Amazonia will provide strategic inputs, support the review process and assist with disseminating the final report to local partners. More at theamazonwewant.org and @theamazonwewant.
**SDG ACADEMY**

A leading creator and curator of free online educational resources on sustainable development. This offering includes more than 30 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the SDGs and related interdisciplinary topics taught by world-leading experts from across the SDSN community and beyond; a searchable library of educational video content; themed webinars; and a Community of Practice that brings together educators from across SDSN member institutions and social enterprises to advance education for sustainable development through peer exchange and learning. The SDG Academy collaborates with SDSN members through this Community, as well as through the creation and integration of SDG Academy educational content, such as the Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective MOOC created with SDSN Mediterranean.

**SDGs TODAY**

Initiative advancing the production and use of real-time and geo-referenced data for the SDGs with a one-of-a-kind data platform, and education and training resources. Product of SDSN’s collaboration with ESRI and National Geographic Society, this global hub for real-time SDG data encourages countries, institutions, and civil society members to produce, share and engage with the data to help ensure that we meet the Global Goals by 2030. SDGs Today and ESRI organized a workshop for SDSN networks in 2020 and are supporting SDSN Andes and the Jeffrey Sachs Center at Sunway University with their geospatial projects.

**SDG INDEX**

The first worldwide study to assess where each country stands with regard to achieving the SDGs, using most up-to-date data to track and rank the performance of all UN member states on the SDGs. Sustainable Development Report benefits from extensive contributions from the SDSN networks, involved in the collection and validation of data that informs the section on government efforts for the SDGs, as well as in the dissemination of the report’s findings. SDSN networks also lead and contribute to the production of regional editions (Africa, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean) and subnational editions (Bolivia, Brazil, Italy, Malaysia, Spain, United States) of the SDG Index and Dashboards.

**SDSN YOUTH**

Global youth program empowering young people to create sustainable development solutions. SDSN Youth has 140 team members working in more than 36 different countries across 20 established Regional and National Networks. The programme has built a global movement of over 4000 program members. Each Regional/National Youth Network is embedded into its corresponding SDSN Network, focusing on mobilizing young people towards achieving the SDGs. The activities in the national and regional networks are coordinated by 17 active network coordinators.

**THE LANCET COVID-19 COMMISSION**

The Lancet COVID-19 Commission is an interdisciplinary initiative that cuts across the health sciences, business, finance, and public policy. The Commission will develop recommendations on suppressing the epidemic, addressing the resulting humanitarian and economic crises, and rebuilding an inclusive, fair, and sustainable world. It will also promote solutions to improve global public health and support an equitable, transformative, green, and digital recovery. More at covid19commission.org and @Commissioncovid.

**ZERO EMISSIONS SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE**

Formally known as the Low-Emissions Solutions Conference, ZESC is an annual SDSN conference held alongside the UNFCCC Conference of Parties. This forum serves as an opportunity for SDSN members to influence critical national discussions on decarbonization and the future pathway to a net zero world. ZESC provides a platform of dialogue and a match-making function between countries, cities, companies, and sector experts on innovative technology and policy solutions to implement the Paris Agreement.
Our global network of problem solvers is always expanding. Join us and enhance national and regional capacity to address sustainable development challenges.

As a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, your institution will be part of a unique network of problem solvers and contribute to practical solutions for sustainable development. Together, we work towards supporting sustainable development in three main areas:

1. Localizing and mobilizing support for the SDGs, including supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development;
2. Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
3. Vetting and launching solution initiatives, including supporting the preparation of long-term pathways.

SDSN Membership is FREE and open to any university, research institute, research- and science-oriented civil society organizations and foundations, and other institutions that have deep expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development.

Government entities and private sector institutions/for-profit businesses are not eligible for membership but are welcome to join as partners. Universities can join at the level of the university or an individual department/institute.

Applying for SDSN membership is simple – the online membership application form is on our website and is available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish:

www.unsdsn.org/join-the-sdsn

SDSN MOBILIZE

SDSN Mobilize is our exclusive internal communications platform for all 1500+ SDSN member organizations around the world. Our aim is to help turn thoughts into action, provide inspiration, and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise within our global network of problem solvers. The platform facilitates a direct line of communication between members, geographic and thematic networks, and the SDSN Secretariat. Mobilize is our members’ one stop shop for networking and connecting.

As part of the SDSN online community, representatives from SDSN member institutions can identify and connect with peers, increase the outreach of their projects and activities, position their organization as leaders in their field, find new prospects for collaboration, ask questions, identify funding opportunities, and draw upon the community’s ever-growing expertise. To date, SDSN Mobilize boasts around 4,000 individuals in this one-of-a-kind pool of sustainable development experts. Once a week, we shine a light on one of our incredibly diverse members, highlighting their work in our “SDSN Mobilize Member Mondays”. Additionally, the platform features exclusive content like a comprehensive weekly compilation of funding opportunities in sustainable development. We also help our members apply for grants, participate in conferences, identify fellowships, publish research, and much more.

SDSN Mobilize invites all faculty and researchers at SDSN member institutions to join and actively participate.

Join the SDSN!
SDSN’s National and Regional Networks promote the localization and implementation of the SDGs, develop long-term transformation pathways, provide education for sustainable development, and launch Solutions Initiatives to address challenges. Each network focuses on distinct projects and priorities in line with their local contexts and challenges.
Africa
The College of Business and Economics (CBE) is one of the six colleges composing the University of Rwanda (UR), the largest public university in the country. The UR’s vision is to be a leading university that develops highly enterprising graduates prepared and dedicated to building a more just and sustainable society locally, nationally, and globally, with appropriate innovations that advance the quality of life. The UR’s mission is to support the development of Rwanda by discovering and advancing knowledge, and being committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, where students are prepared for lives of service, and leadership, transforming communities through finding solutions.

**FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE**

First prize of the Network's Home-Grown Solutions Award 2020 was awarded to Josee Uwamariya and her project – Innovation in Pottery. Her concept aims to halt the disappearance of traditional woman-led pottery-making by teaching female potters to use crushed glass and plastic waste as materials for creating new, unique, environmentally-friendly pots based on traditional designs and methods.

**SDSN Great Lakes hosted**

**3 WEBINARS** including a public lecture in January 2020 on promoting the engagement of academic community in supporting the implementation of the SDGs which attracted close to **200 PARTICIPANTS**

**COVID-19 & RECOVERY**

Staff in several member universities are participating in COVID-19 Task Forces. Universities have also been allocating space to quarantine and treatment centers. Meanwhile, students have been volunteering in many cities and towns to help enforce existing health measures.

**SDSN Great Lakes and SDSN Belgium will join forces to organize an INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on SDG 4 in December 2021**

**YOUTH**

During a virtual 10-week educational program, 14 Rwandan students from different higher education institutions learned to build innovative and sustainable digital solutions, for some of the most pressing challenges in their communities. The programme was hosted by Home Association, in partnership with the University of Rwanda and SDSN Great Lakes Youth.

**SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES**

Dr. Francois Xavier Ndungutse and his team from the UHTGL Goma joined the 2020 Global Solutions Forum and presented an innovative approach to professionalizing the pig value chain in DR Congo. This solution can ensure that the production of livestock meets the growing demand.

**University of Rwanda, College of Business and Economics**

The College of Business and Economics (CBE) is one of the six colleges composing the University of Rwanda (UR), the largest public university in the country. The UR’s vision is to be a leading university that develops highly enterprising graduates prepared and dedicated to building a more just and sustainable society locally, nationally, and globally, with appropriate innovations that advance the quality of life. The UR’s mission is to support the development of Rwanda by discovering and advancing knowledge, and being committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, where students are prepared for lives of service, and leadership, transforming communities through finding solutions.

The region scores high on the Spillovers index, with all countries’ INDEX ABOVE 97

**AFRICA**

Nyarugru Park, Rwanda / @FaustinTuyambaze
The Network has grown to **16 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS** since its inception.

**14 PARTNERS TOOK PART**
in the public consultation on the new 2030 agenda following the Network’s workshop.

**ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS**
SDSN Kenya facilitated the exchange of ideas on the 17 SDGs in Kenya by forming an academic forum with representation from 6 public and 1 private university.

The Network coordinated with the members of academic staff from those universities to author 8 articles that were then published by Africa Habitat Journal.

**SDGs IN FOCUS**
SDSN Kenya has earmarked 10 Kenyan universities to host and spearhead the promotion of specific SDGs in the country. On SDG 4, each university is now involved in ensuring equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including universities.

**4 Webinars on different sustainability topics with a total of 130 ATTENDEES**

**FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE**
The Network intends to promote awareness and academic research on the SDGs by developing the following:

1. An open source - online journal for publishing research work relating to the SDGs
2. Spotlight Initiative Platform for sharing research findings, networking with fellow researchers, showcasing good practices in innovations and reporting on the implementation of the 17 SDGs.
3. Localized awareness-raising and training manual

**Moi University**
Moi University is a public university located in the town of Eldoret in western Kenya. It was established as the second university in Kenya by an Act of Parliament, the Moi University Act of 1984. The University is working through the Center for Public Sector Reforms (CPSR), a think tank hosted by the Department of Political Science, to offer first hand theoretical research; advocacy and capacity building, all geared to contribute towards boosting oversight and good governance of the public sector.

**Nairobi University**
The University of Nairobi, a body corporate established by Act of Parliament Cap 210 of the Laws of Kenya is the pioneer institution of University education in Kenya and the region. The only institution of higher learning in Kenya for a long time, the University of Nairobi responded to the national regional and Africa's high level manpower training needs by developing and evolving strong diversified academic programmes and specializations in sciences, applied sciences, technology, humanities, social sciences and the arts.

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Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Ibadan

The University of Ibadan’s Centre for Sustainable Development (CESEDEV) was established in 2010 as a demonstration of the University’s commitment to sustainable development. It was based on the need to provide an intellectual platform for the identification of issues germane to sustainable development, to critically analyse them, and provide leadership in finding enduring solutions that will enhance sustainable development. The University of Ibadan is a public research university in Ibadan, Nigeria. The University was founded in 1948 as University College Ibadan, and it became an independent university in 1963. It is the oldest degree-awarding institution in Nigeria.

SDG LOCALIZATION

Leveraging on virtual platforms, SDSN Nigeria addressed themes that touched on local issues. One of these was a webinar on the extractive sector in the age of sustainable development, which helped to proffer practical solutions to the ecological and security challenges caused by mining in Nigeria.

In early 2021, the Tearfund Nigeria asked the Nigerian Network to embark on a consultancy for the development of a framework for “Transitioning to a Green Economy” in Plateau State.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGs

The Network’s thematic Group on Education developed a curriculum for teaching the SDGs in tertiary institutions. The curriculum was presented to the National Universities Commission and further efforts are ongoing to replicate these in the primary and secondary schools.

23% MEMBERSHIP GROWTH in 2020/2021

The Nigerian Network has actively supported the ongoing youth-led movement against brutality and excessive violence by the forces of order. The Network published a press release condemning the violence and has since developed a 2-year peacebuilding program for major youth influencers in Nigeria together with SDSN Youth Nigeria.

YOUTH

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ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS

The Nigerian Network actively promoted membership and gained four new university members in early 2021. The network also deepened engagement with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs. In particular, the network’s experts were invited to a stakeholders workshop in February 2021 to help validate survey findings on national SDG implementation.

4 PUBLICATIONS released

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Université Cheikh Anta Diop

Université Cheikh Anta Diop is the oldest and largest Francophone university in Africa. It was founded in 1957 as the University of Dakar. The name was changed to Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar in 1987 in honor of the leading Senegalese scholar, politician, and proponent of African unity who died the previous year. Today, the university is one of the leading educational institutions on the continent and includes six colleges and numerous institutes and specialized programs, with over 60,000 students from around the world.

As part of the implementation of the “take action” phase, SDSN Youth Sahel organized a trip for youth leaders to the Saloum Islands in order to improve their knowledge about development challenges at the community level and to inform the activities of the student hub.

As part of the “Data For Now” initiative supported by GIZ & TReNDS, a series of multi-stakeholder conferences was organized in Senegal to highlight the relevance of the use of urban data, but also to engage all stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. It was an opportunity to discuss data gaps in Senegal and to strengthen the data ecosystem on cadastral data and information. A report on an inventory of data and tools was produced.

As part of a pan-African partnership strategy, SDSN’s African networks and the SDG Centre for Africa held a virtual informational meeting in April 2021. This collaboration aims to enable a pan-African perspective on good practices and their scaling up to the continental level.

As part of SDSN Sahel’s “VirtuForum” on the SDGs, with the objective to create a framework for exchange, dialogue, and collaboration amongst the actors and decision makers in the sustainable development sector in the Sahel.

90 PARTICIPANTS attended SDSN Sahel’s VirtuForum 2020
Makerere University is the leading public university in Uganda, and one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Africa. The University is made up of 10 Constituent Colleges and offers a wide range of disciplines including agriculture, business, economics, education, engineering, medicine, law, and more. Within Makerere University, SDSN Uganda is hosted by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences which is a leading training and research institution in agriculture, environment, and natural resource management. The network's Secretariat is in the Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovations (MUCCRI).

SDSN Uganda was launched on 21st April, 2021 under the theme “Unlocking the potential of Universities and other non-state actors to foster achievement of SDGs” was attended by academia, government officials, civil society and private sector. The event was an important milestone in creating awareness of the SDGs and the role that academic institutions can play.

SDSN Uganda is working closely with Uganda’s SDGs Secretariat in the office of the Prime Minister. The Network also participates in the Government SDG Coordination meetings, which support the Voluntary National Review (VNR) stakeholder engagement processes and provide advice on implementation of the SDGs across sectors.

SDSN Uganda is working in partnership with the Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovations (MUCCRI), the Cities Alliance, Jinja City, and ACTogether to implement a project on urban migration management that will produce technical reports and 2 publications by the end of 2021.

SDSN Uganda participates in the Makerere University’s public awareness campaigns which assist in public understanding of the vulnerabilities of poor urban communities in Kampala and Jinja cities on COVID-19 related shocks and stresses.

SDSN Uganda has embarked on the process of establishing an SDSN Youth national network. A series of webinars are planned for the youth in the second half of 2021 focusing on the role of youth in advancing the SDGs.

Uganda ranks 140 OUT OF 165 in the 2021 Sustainable Development Report.

60 PARTICIPANTS attended SDSN Uganda’s launch event and the recording has since been viewed over 100 times.
Foundation for Amazon Sustainability (FAS)

FAS, founded in 2007, promotes sustainable development of the Amazon Basin, including environmental conservation, improvements to the quality of life.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY

SDSN Amazonia launched the third edition of the SDSN Amazonia Award to be awarded for sustainable solutions for confronting COVID-19 in the Amazon, in partnership with the GIZ and the Friends of the Amazon Institute (iAMA).

In partnership with the iAMA, the network funded two projects aimed at improving the communication in the Amazon by San Francisco de Quito University as well as the Achuar indigenous food security, in the context of the pandemic by Pachamama Foundation.

The organization Hivos, WINNER OF THE SDSN AMAZONIA AWARD for the initiative “Amazon Indigenous Health Route”, was ABLE TO SCALE THE PROJECT to other regions in the Amazon thanks to the recognition.

SDGs IN FOCUS

“Clean Rivers, Clean Oceans” project created video tutorials (in Portuguese and Spanish) for people to adopt new sustainable actions and avoid waste pollution.

Also, the network organized a high level forum to discuss public policies, as well as corporate and social initiatives to reduce solid waste in the Amazon.

225 SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES featured in the Amazon Sustainable Development Solutions Platform, available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

On the occasion of the Amazon Day, Green Economy Coalition (GEC) and FAS, launched the Amazon Green Economy Hub, aimed at developing a network of practitioners, investors, policy makers, and small enterprises.
Beyond One Foundation

SDSN Andes and SDSN Amazonia have partnered with ESRI and the IDB to build an SDGS-FOCUSED DATA PLATFORM FOR SOUTH AMERICA.

REGIONAL AVERAGE SDG SCORE REMAINS 71/100 (as in 2020) per the 2021 SDSN Sustainable Development Report.

SDG LOCALIZATION

SDSN Andes launched an online data platform that compiles relevant existing information to facilitate better decision-making. The platform also allows for contributions from the community-at-large, thus crowdsourcing knowledge while promoting a unified vision of an important ecological region divided by political borders. The platform is part of a project focused on greater conservation of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15) in the binational Mira Mataje river basin (an area of enormous biodiversity shared by Colombia and Ecuador).

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

SDSN Andes has launched a collection of "reflections," which feature the perspectives of influential opinion leaders from the world on how to build a sustainable future. The first two issues feature Adolfo María Pérez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, and Estela Cammarota, founder and president of Engineering Without Borders - Argentina, both of whom also participated in SDSN’s 24-hour “Happiness and Sustainability” webinar. These series are available on the network’s website.

Beyond One Foundation

Beyond One Foundation is a global not-for-profit organization which aims to promote and support socio-environmental sustainability to enable a new human renaissance. It envisions a global revitalization driven by science, ethics, global partnerships, and sustainability. Its mission is to empower all stakeholders wanting to be drivers of change towards a new and prosperous human era.

Beyond One Foundation

Plate-billed mountain toucan (Andigena laminirostris), near-threatened species © Cristian Flores Paiz/FELCA

La Planada, Colombia (part of the binational Mira-Mataje watershed) © Cristian Flores Paiz/FELCA

Cover of "Reflexiones" © Scarlett Medranda

"Cuicocha" Lagoon, Ecuador (part of the binational Mira-Mataje watershed) © Robinson Recalde

AMERICAS
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) is a non-profit philanthropic university based on Christian humanistic principles. It is an academic center of excellence in Brazil, welcoming around 16,000 students each year. PUC-Rio values excellence, being well-ranked nationally as well as internationally, and offering scholarships and exchange programs through its numerous partnerships around the world.

The Interdisciplinary Center of Environment (NIMA) supports cooperation to face interdisciplinary socio-environmental questions and hosts the executive secretariat of SDSN Brazil.

**Flagship Initiative**

The network’s awareness-raising campaign conducted throughout 2020 across university campuses engaged about 20,000 of its staffers and students.

On World Environment Day (June 5), the Chair of SDSN Brazil, a UNEP representative, participated in a special television program: E agora? Which discussed PUC-Rio’s engagement with the SDGs.

SDSN Brazil’s 2020 Annual Conference focused on the topic of ‘Cooperation for an Equitable future’. Together with the representatives of the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development and UN-HABITAT Brazil, the conference discussed the SDG performance in the country, the network’s and the members ongoing initiatives and partnership opportunities.

PUC-Rio brought representatives of the eight departments to present some of the initiatives in the area of teaching and research that involve efforts aligned with the achievement of the SDGs.

**Engagement with Knowledge Institutions**

SDSN Brazil’s member mapping exercise in 2020 brought ten new higher education institutions to the network, located in eight different states of Brazil.

**11 New Members in 2020,**

an increase of 16.42%}

Out of 78 SDSN Members in Brazil, 26 are Teaching and Research Institutions committed to the SDGs, constituting an important pool of expertise new members can draw from.

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Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB)

SDSN Bolivia (SDSN) is one of the top universities in Bolivia and Latin America. According to América Economía, UPB is among the 23 best business schools in Latin America and is the only Bolivian university to be included in this prestigious ranking. Headquartered in Cochabamba, UPB also has a campus and postgraduate center in La Paz, and a new campus has just been inaugurated in Santa Cruz.

Fundación Solidaridad y Desarrollo Productivo Sostenible (SOLYDES)

Fundación SOLYDES is a foundation based in La Paz which was established in 1987 with the sole purpose of fighting poverty in Bolivia by supporting innovative initiatives. Since then, Fundación SOLYDES has been a central actor in the development and consolidation of the microfinance sector in Bolivia and has strengthened productive entrepreneurship with positive social impacts.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY

SDSN Bolivia’s six blog entries addressed the challenges of the pandemic at different stages of its evolution and its Municipal COVID-19 Vulnerability Index was used by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to devise and implement safety plans for the 2020 presidential elections. SDSN Bolivia’s cross-country analysis of changes in quantity and quality of life in 124 countries during the first year of the pandemic was published in the Latin American Journal of Economic Development.

ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS

SDSN Bolivia, together with the University of Trento in Italy, the ifo Institute in Germany, and the Institute for Human Development in India, won a 4-year, 1.5 million Euro grant from the Fondazione ComPagenia di San Paolo to research the levels, drivers and spatial distribution of unfair socio-economic inequalities within and between countries, focusing on Bolivia, Germany, India, and Italy. Partnering with the Global Living Wage Coalition, SDSN Bolivia will help calculate, publish and update living wage benchmark estimates for different locations around the world, using the Anker Living Wage Methodology.

SDG LOCALIZATION

The Municipal Atlas of the SDGs launched by SDSN Bolivia in July 2020 is the most detailed SDG Index in the world covering all of Bolivia’s 339 municipalities. Via the Municipal Atlas of the SDGs, SDSN Bolivia supports i) research on sustainable development, ii) evidence-based policy-making at all levels, and iii) sustainability roadmaps for local communities.

18,500 VISITORS
to the Municipal Atlas of the SDGs website (as of 20 September 2021)

1,500 PEOPLE
ATTENDED
and watched the Launch of the SDG Atlas during the virtual Bolivian Conference on Development Economics

18,500 VISITORS
and 2,500 ATTENDEES

1,500 VISITORS
and 1,000 ATTENDEES
Co-hosted four virtual events in 2020, engaging
1,600 ATTENDEES
on themes related to SDG localization and cross-sector partnership development

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE
SDSN Canada co-hosted the Together/Ensemble conference in 2020, Canada’s all-of-society conference devoted to tracking progress for the SDGs. The conference was an important milestone in Canada to deepen commitments and create new collaborations for the SDGs. Over 100 speakers and an audience of 1,600 attendees participated in more than two dozen sessions.

SDG LOCALIZATION
SDSN Canada is working on an SDG Cities Index for Canadian municipalities to measure progress on SDG 11 targets. The research team consulted with municipalities throughout the country on the design of an interactive dashboard that will allow users to view progress among select cities.

YOUTH
SDSN Canada has supported the establishment of 13 SDG Student Hubs across the network. The hubs organized more than 50 events from Jan.-Apr. 2021 ranging from on-campus SDG activities, networking opportunities, and initiatives with campus administration. The hubs are also working together nationally on an action campaign to have provincial governments declare a climate emergency.

14,000 AVERAGE MONTHLY IMPRESSIONS across all social media platforms.

13 SDG hubs established with 400+ students, engaged as members with a total social media following of over 3,600 STUDENTS.

University of Waterloo
The University of Waterloo is home to Canada’s largest Faculty of Environment and has researchers and institutes across campus working on every facet of sustainability and social justice. Consistently ranked Canada’s most innovative university, the University of Waterloo is home to advanced research and teaching in science and engineering, mathematics and computer science, health, environment, arts and social sciences.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGs
SDSN Canada piloted the SDG educational simulation game, ‘The World’s Future’ across the network. Fifteen moderators were trained to host the simulation game, which is scheduled to run across the SDSN Canada membership throughout 2021 and early 2022. The pilot aims to engage more than 1,000 people in this innovative and experiential way to learn about the SDGs.
Volunteers with Food for the Poor packing supplies for St. Vincent and the Grenadines from Jamaica / Food for the Poor

The University of the West Indies (UWI) has prepared leaders from the Caribbean region and the world for over 70 years. Respected worldwide, it comprises five campuses: Mona in Jamaica, St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago, Cave Hill in Barbados, Five Islands in Antigua and Barbuda, and an Open Campus. UWI partners with universities across the globe as part of its robust sustainable development agenda.

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The network led a number of response activities to support those affected by the volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, through a partnership with Food for the Poor, a Jamaican humanitarian agency.

The University of the West Indies (UWI)’s Seismic Research Centre has been providing robust, science-based support and is still on the ground monitoring the situation. The team’s incisive advice resulted in evacuations hours before the first eruption, saving many lives, and daily briefings have been essential in disseminating information.

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SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES

SDSN Mexico launched the Project Bank (Banco de Proyectos), a platform that provides assessment to 66 selected projects that seek to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs nationwide. Through an online platform, anyone can offer technical or financial support and capacity building for the projects.

The Network recruited, by open call, more than 300 specialists (ExpertODS) from all sectors to exchange knowledge and articulate capacities in favor of sustainable development in Mexico. This community will form working groups for the development of projects and routes to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in Mexico.

2 PARTNERSHIPS
in 2020-2021
ON 2021 MEXICO’S NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REVIEW, through a multisectorial Working Group, and FOPREL’s Strategy, in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders and the participation of a group of ExpertODS.

From January 2020 to May 2021, the network DOUBLED ITS MEMBERSHIP, going from 31 to 73 member institutions.

Tecnológico de Monterrey

Tecnológico de Monterrey is a private university system founded in 1943 in Monterrey, Mexico. It holds 26 campuses located across 25 cities in the country, and 18 liaison offices in 15 countries. Its academic programs are recognized by international accreditation agencies, and its research approaches are pursued with open international collaboration: “knowledge-driven creation” and “society-driven innovation”.

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

UNAM was founded in 1551 and is the biggest and most important public university in Mexico and Ibero-America. The fundamental aim of the UNAM is to serve both the country and humanity, to train professionals, to organize and carry out research, mainly on national problems and conditions, and to offer cultural benefits in the broadest sense possible.

SDG LOCALIZATION

SDSN Mexico was part of the Intersectorial Working Group established by the Federal Government to elaborate the country’s 2021 Voluntary National Review with information on how universities, research centers and social innovation entities contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the sector and their communities.

SDSN Mexico is building a Necessities Platform (Plataforma de Necesidades), which has the purpose to map specific requests from strategic groups and link them with projects and activities which can yield effective solutions for sustainable development.
SDSN USA held 30+ ONLINE EVENTS, webinars, and dialogues, with a total of over 840 unique attendees.

SDSG IN FOCUS

The Zero Hunger Pathways Project Working Group launched a 2021 dialogue series focusing on barriers and opportunities to achieving Zero Hunger in the United States. The group is working to identify social policy and technical recommendations to reach Zero Hunger as well as opportunities for further education, engagement, and research.

America’s Zero Carbon Action Plan (ZCAP), released in October 2020, is a road map for the U.S. based on the latest modeling, research and understanding of decarbonizing six key sectors (power, transport, industry, buildings, food and land use, and materials). The Zero Carbon Consortium hosted a series of webinars in 2020 focused on key chapters and strategic recommendations from the report.

The report “In the Red: the US failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality” was released in 2021, along with an interactive data index. SDSN, Stislow The “Never More Urgent” report examines how well the United States serves communities of color by using the SDGs as a tool for evaluating performance. / Stislow

SDG LOCALIZATION

SDSN USA released “In the Red: the US failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality”. This index is one of the first known attempts to use the SDGs to assess unequal racial delivery of sustainability in the US.

SDSN USA spans nearly 2.5 MILLION STUDENTS across 153 universities, colleges, and non profit organizations.

The ZCAP project engaged 19 EXPERT CHAIRS AND ALMOST 100 CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS across 6 key climate change policy sectors. The project resulted in 5 PUBLISHED PIECES and received multiple requests for speaking appearances.

Hosted by Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Columbia University, Yale University, and the University of California and Howard University

In February 2021, the second annual SDSN USA Network Meeting took place online with over 250 participants and seven keynote speakers. Throughout the two-day event, network members and partners convened virtually to receive updates on SDSN and SDSN USA initiatives. Dynamic discussions were facilitated on a number of issues including education, food security, the role of universities, cities, and communities in sustainable development.
Kateb University, a pioneer private university, is currently the top ranked university as per the Afghanistan National Accreditation indexes. It has over 5,000 students currently studying in ten academic disciplines at Bachelor and Master’s level. Kateb has an applied research institute and five research centers in areas of management science, economics, social science, and engineering and computer science. Kateb also has over 150 local partners from the private sector, government, and civil society organizations and research and educational linkages with universities and organizations in Canada, Indonesia, Turkey, India, Iran, England, and the United States.

**EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS**

Organizing the “Roles of Universities in implementing the SDGs in Afghanistan” conference in September 2019 enabled Kateb University to start the dialogue around the involvement and engagement of academia in helping the government of Afghanistan to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Following the conference, SDSN Afghanistan was set up to gather academia and knowledge-generating institutions to help advance this agenda. In this context, Kateb University, as the host institution of SDSN Afghanistan, provided initial funding for the design of “University SDG Capacity Building program” to assess and expand the capacity of universities regarding the SDGs.

SDSN Afghanistan organized a two-day orientation workshop on the SDGs and the existing monitoring frameworks for the senior leadership and faculty members of Kateb University. The outcomes of the workshop were used to develop the capacity building plan for Kateb University.

On December 1, 2020, the network organized an orientation workshop to inform scholars, university students, NGO staff, and the public about the SDGs and the work of SDSN Afghanistan. It raised awareness about the network, enhanced membership drive and engagement in its projects.

**ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS**

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**SDG LOCALIZATION**

SDSN Afghanistan piloted the “University SDG Capacity Building Program” at its host institution, Kateb University. The program assesses capacities in universities for the achievement of the SDGs and intends to close existing gaps. The pilot project concluded the elaboration of a three-year capacity building plan at Kateb University in the domains of Teaching and Learning, Governance, Advocacy and Leadership, Public Policy and Program Support, and Research. Moving forward, the network plans to implement the program at the national level and has already received expressions of interest from several public and private universities in the country.

SDSN Afghanistan’s Facebook account currently reaches nearly 2,227 PEOPLE with posts in English and Dari.

More than 1,000 PEOPLE have participated in the virtual and in person events of SDSN Afghanistan so far.

The network has reached **18 MEMBER** institutions in 2021.

Kateb University

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With over 1,000 VIEWS, SDSN AUSNZPAC’S SESSION WAS THE MOST-VIEWED AT THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ICSD).

HOSTED BY:
Monash Sustainable Development Institute at Monash University
Melbourne, Australia
www.ap-unsdsn.org
@SDSNAusNZPac
SDSN Australia, New Zealand & Pacific

ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS
As part of its ongoing aim to inspire and empower universities to engage with the SDGs, SDSN AUSNZPAC led the preparation of the new SDSN guide Accelerating Education for the SDGs in Universities and helped organize the second global call for case studies to support it. Regionally, the network continued the SDGs forum series with Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), including a workshop with PRME on how to accelerate university action on education for the SDGs in the region. The network also hosted a panel session with global university leaders at the 2020 International Conference on Sustainable Development on how universities can amplify their SDG impact.

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES
SDSN member ClimateWorks Australia is a key partner in SDSN’s new ASEAN 2050 Roadmap project, which aims to put forward a coordinated regional decarbonization strategy and support the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in raising ambition ahead of COP26.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY
In 2020, the network hosted Professor Jeffrey Sachs in a series of virtual forums on COVID-19 and sustainable development aimed at different audiences, including the general public, business leaders, the overseas development community, public health leaders, and SDSN members.

Together with Fairtrade Australia New Zealand and the Global Compact Network Australia, the network released a plan for regional and global recovery.

The Accelerating Education for the SDGs in Universities guide has already reached over 50,000 UNIQUE PAGE VISITORS.

Getting Started with the SDGs in Universities was TRANSLATED INTO A SEVENTH LANGUAGE, Korean.

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One of the world’s preeminent interdisciplinary research and education institutes for sustainable development, the Monash Sustainable Development Institute finds real solutions to the most significant challenges facing our world today. The institute sits within Monash University, a leading Australian university ranked in the top 100 globally.

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The University of Dhaka is the premier educational institute of the country which boasts a prolific research portfolio that includes the best of faculties of the country in Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences, Law, Business, Pharmacy, Engineering, and many other areas. Altogether, Dhaka University currently has 83 Departments and 12 Institutes with 37,000 students and 1,992 teachers. The university coordinates its research activities through its 60 research centers. In terms of research collaboration, the University of Dhaka has consistently held the top position among all Bangladeshi universities.

The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG) is an independent, international think tank with focus on economic development & trade, international relations & strategic affairs, regional cooperation & integration, migration & resettlement, power & energy, sustainable development & green growth, and governance & leadership. As a pro-active Do & Think Tank, IPag emphasizes evidence-based policy research with a focus on providing solutions that effectively respond to real-life problems and challenges.

150 educational audio-visual contents were created on Covid-19 in 15 of the most commonly spoken languages in South Asia, reaching 23 million people.

There are over 60,000 students across SDSN member institutions in Bangladesh.

For the 2020 G20 Summit, IPag published three Policy Briefs on the following topics:
1. Incentivizing the Private Sector to Support UN’s SDGs
2. The Challenge of Climate Migrants for the G20 Community
3. Multilateralism in Times of Global Pandemic: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

6 VICE-CHANCELLORS from leading universities in Bangladesh joined the pre-launch event of SDSN Bangladesh.
Institute for Sustainable Development Goals of Tsinghua University (TUSDG)

Founded in April 2017, the Institute for Sustainable Development Goals of Tsinghua University (known as TUSDG) is housed in Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. It aims to establish a leading platform to conduct interdisciplinary research and collaborate with global partners to boost the implementation of the SDGs.

SDG LOCALIZATION

Since its establishment, TUSDG works closely with the central and local government of the P.R.C. on SDG localization. This year, SDSN China Hub collaborated with the Development and Reform Bureau of the Deqing County, Hunan University of Science and Technology on the Implementation Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Deqing County (2021-2025), the first SDG implementation plan for a local county in China, covering all 17 SDGs.

By integrating the cutting-edge geographical information technology in Deqing, this report is an essential reference for local governments on 1) an explicit SDGs action plan, 2) evidence-based policy making towards SDGs, and 3) practical roadmaps for SDG localization.

ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS

For its 110th anniversary, Tsinghua University launched the University Report on the SDGs, the first university SDGs report in China that combines qualitative and quantitative methods. It is a testimony to Tsinghua University’s global vision and its determined efforts on SDGs implementation.

Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in China, and Prof. Jeffrey Sachs both delivered congratulatory speeches for Tsinghua’s outstanding contributions for achieving the SDGs.

5,262 WECHAT FOLLOWERS

reached within four years, 25% annual growth

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Spanning six continents and 27 countries, over 99 students have been enrolled in the MPP-SDGs programme since 2017.

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In March 2021, the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change (MoCC) at The Chinese University of Hong Kong welcomed their 1 MILLIONTH VISITOR.

In 2020/21,
SEVEN NEW MEMBERS
joined SDSN Hong Kong.
The membership covers most of the Government-funded universities in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT) supported 120 schools to upgrade campus facilities and enhance environmental performance to achieve BEAM Plus accreditation. It also supported 35 NGOs’ premises to install solar power systems and educate students on sustainable energy.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT), SDSN Hong Kong co-host, donated US$192 million for COVID-19 relief initiatives, including:

- Improving pandemic preparedness and facilities at about 1,030 (or 95% in Hong Kong) residential care homes for the elderly and disabled.
- Food assistance to those in hardship amid the pandemic, introducing automated food dispensers and online food delivery platforms.
- Jockey Club Interactive Wonder Box, a learning kit delivered to 130,000 kindergarten children, provides quality sensory stimulation at home during their crucial development period.

SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE
SDSN Hong Kong presented at the Global Solutions Forum its solution to extend the active and healthy lives of the city’s ageing community, through ‘The Jockey Club Age-Friendly City Project’ as a unique bottom up approach that enabled Hong Kong to be certified under WHO’s AFC framework.

FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SDG
SDG 13 is one of SDSN Hong Kong’s priorities. In May 2021, the Network, MoCC and the Hong Kong Green Building Council hosted the ‘SDG Forum Series: Green Museums and the Paris Agreement’ online forum.

HKJCCT supported 120 schools to upgrade campus facilities and enhance environmental performance to achieve BEAM Plus accreditation. It also supported 35 NGOs’ premises to install solar power systems and educate students on sustainable energy.

In 2020/21, SEVEN NEW MEMBERS joined SDSN Hong Kong.
The membership covers most of the Government-funded universities in Hong Kong.

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SDG LOCALIZATION
SDSN Hong Kong together with The Chinese University of Hong Kong’s Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change (MoCC), launched the SDG Ambassadorship in 2021. Designed to improve students’ understanding of the SDGs, the programme trained more than 40 secondary school students in Hong Kong and challenged them to create an SDG action plan for their campuses.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HKJCCT)
Founded in 1884, The Hong Kong Jockey Club is a world-class racing club that acts continuously for the betterment of our society. The Club has a unique integrated business model, comprising racing and racecourse entertainment, a membership club, responsible sports wagering and lottery, and charity and community contribution. The Club is Hong Kong’s largest single taxpayer and one of the city’s major employers. Its Charities Trust is also one of the world’s top ten charity donors and its supported projects covered all 17 SDGs.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
Founded in 1963, CUHK is a forward-looking comprehensive research university with a global vision and a mission to combine tradition with modernity and to bring together China and the West. Dedicated to research and education excellence as well as the advancement of sustainable development, the University houses the world’s first climate change museum, the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change, and several vibrant interdisciplinary research centres, including the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability and the Institute of Health Equity.
Universitas Indonesia (UI) is known as a modern and green campus consisting of 320 hectares with 6 natural lakes. UI was initially established in 1849 as the Indonesian School of Medicine. Currently UI has 14 faculties that cover wide arrays of scientific disciplines with 291 degree and non-degree programs of study. Ranked 47th in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2020, UI aims to become an independent university that can resolve national and global challenges, particularly those that impact the Southeast Asia region.

The United in Diversity (UID)

The United in Diversity (UID) forum is a non-profit organization established with Indonesian leaders from business, government, and civil society. Founded in 2003, UID has invited leaders from all sectors to come together, start a new dialogue of responsibility, and agree on concrete actions that address root-causes of Indonesia's problems as well as regional and world challenges.

SDSN Indonesia’s Instagram post of the year was for the World Water Day and it reached 6,671 USERS

YOUTH

In August 2020, SDSN Youth Indonesia launched a series of live Q&A sessions to promote the work of SDSN and SDSN Indonesia including the Sustainable Development Report, to the general public. Several youth member institutions were also invited to promote their work on SDGs attainment.

SDSN Youth Indonesia gave a presentation to SDSN Indonesia member institutions on opportunities for youth involvement in planning and development of future projects and programs.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS

SDSN Indonesia’s host institution, SDGs Hub Universitas Indonesia, successfully developed 21 modules for SDG Academy Indonesia by UNDP Indonesia. SDG Academy Indonesia also consulted the SDG Academy in New York for pedagogical review.

SDSN Indonesia provides a toolbox accessible to its members on SDG-related resources including national and international updates on the SDGs.

The network had a 25% INCREASE in membership since 2019 welcoming six new members in 2020

The dissemination event of Indonesia’s Rank in the Sustainable Development Report 2020 / SDG Academy Indonesia - UNDP Indonesia

The dissemination event of Indonesia’s Rank in the Sustainable Development Report 2020 / SDG Academy Indonesia - UNDP Indonesia

Speakers invited from communities, development agency, business representation, and research center to discuss challenges in water issues / Atamerica

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PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

Four SDSN Indonesia member institutions are directly involved as a country team in the FABLE initiative.

SDSN Indonesia’s host institution Universitas Indonesia and United in Diversity are involved in the development of the ASEAN Green Future Project, which has mobilized 7 out of 10 of the ASEAN country teams. This initiative aims to accelerate action for decarbonisation to achieve net zero by 2050 for the ASEAN region and ASEAN member states.

5 webinars co-organized in 2020 brought together a total of 500+ PARTICIPANTS

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SDG LOCALIZATION

Prof. Kanie, Programme Director of the SDSN Japan, was fully committed to organizing and hosting “Japan SDGs Action Festival” on 26 and 27 March 2021 as the Chairperson of the Japan SDGs Action Promotion Council, a nation-wide network of stakeholders. Under the “UN SDG Action Campaign” led by the UNDP, “SDGs Global Festival of Action from Japan” was also organized back-to-back with the above Action Festival.

SDSN Japan was deeply involved in writing and editing “Japan’s SDGs Whitepaper 2020-2021” which was published last May and summarized the latest efforts by various stakeholders in Japan to achieve the SDGs. “Japan’s SDG Whitepaper 2019” (English version) was shared at a side event during the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY

SDSN-Japan contributed to the symposium “Developing Research Towards Achieving the SDGs in the Post COVID-19 Era” in November 2020. The online symposium was held to discuss future directions for the research project “Inclusive Research on Integrated Implementation Methodology towards Achieving SDGs” by sharing interim outcomes with a wide range of stakeholders.
PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

Malaysia has formulated a state-by-state SDG Dashboard utilising ArcGIS to enable localised tracking of SDG indicators. The Dashboard is fuelled by statistics from the Malaysian Department of Statistics and enables effective progress communication by emulating the SDSN SDG Index methodology.

Currently, SDSN members, Sunway University, and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) are involved in the ASEAN Green Future Project, which has mobilised 7 out of 10 of the ASEAN country teams.

This initiative aims to accelerate action for decarbonisation to achieve net zero by 2050 for the ASEAN region and ASEAN member states. It involves technical simulation and modelling of net zero carbon outcomes along with associated economic and social consequences of such an undertaking.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS

In an effort to advance Mission 4.7, SDSN Malaysia has begun research into potential approaches for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) implementation and execution.

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

Participants attended the webinar on the 2020 Sustainable Development Report held in August 2020.

IN INVITED TO PARTNER

with the Malaysian Economic Planning Unit to utilize SDG Dashboard data FOR NATIONAL SDG PLANNING

SDG LOCALIZATION

SDSN Malaysia was invited on a three-day trip to Simpang Renggam, Johor to experience firsthand the SDG localization process by the All Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM). Ongoing collaboration between the SDSN Malaysia and the SDG-APPGM has resulted in bringing SDG awareness to a wider audience in Malaysia.

66% GROWTH IN FOLLOWERS and 60% growth in LIKES on Facebook between May 2020 and May 2021

The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC) at Sunway University

The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development is a regional center of excellence that advances the achievement of the 17 SDGs in Malaysia and Southeast Asia through education, research, and policy advice. Launched in December 2016, the Center operates out of Sunway University, a leading not-for-profit private university committed to the pursuit of education through scholarship, research, and enterprise. The University is committed to multi-disciplinary research in sustainable development within an urban environment, and promoting health, well-being, and the development of new technologies in addressing some of the world’s most pressing problems. To date, the University has drawn more than 26,000 students from over 90 countries to its vibrant, 880,000-square-feet campus.
SDSN Philippines organized an independent dialogue ahead of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, which focused on the livelihood of Filipinos amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. A major highlight was the need to reframe the country’s food systems in order to build resilience against future vulnerabilities.

FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SDG (SDG 2)

Ateneo Institute of Sustainability at the Ateneo de Manila University

The Ateneo Institute of Sustainability is Ateneo de Manila University’s hub on sustainable development, and the vehicle of the university’s environment-development agenda which includes education, research, awareness building, services/consultancies, and networking. Currently there are three programs under the AIS campus sustainability, inclusive mobility, and climate change and disaster risk.

SDGS LOCALIZATION/ EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS

SDSN Philippines completed its project entitled “Strengthening Academe-Business-Government (ABG) Partnerships to Address SDGs in the Philippines”, in partnership with the German Development Agency (GIZ). Participants of the nine workshops identified local SDG-related issues such as natural capital, food system and community livability issues. These workshops helped serve as a platform to discuss common concerns and collaborate given the newly-formed partnerships.

9 WORKSHOPS
were organized on strengthening networking in sustainable development for
300 PARTICIPANTS

YOUTH

With the help from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Philippines, the Philippine Commission on Population and Development (PCPD), and the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OxFAM), the network successfully developed a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) themed mobile application to provide online health services.

OVER 240 INDIVIDUALS
PARTICIPATED
in the Philippine Independent Dialogue for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

SDSN HOSTED BY:
Ateneo Institute of Sustainability at the Ateneo de Manila University
Quezon City, Philippines

www.sdsn-ph.org
@unsdsnph

FARMERS IN NUEVA VIZCAYA DURING THEIR SEASONAL RICE HARVEST / © ILO Asia-Pacific/Joaquin Bobot ge

Facilitating the workshop and interacting with the participants
Dr. Delia Saniel from Mapúa University

Facilitators and participants at the Cotabato workshop / Ateneo de Davao University

FIVE NEW MEMBERS
were welcomed in 2020 and 2021

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PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

SDSN PH member, the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD), through its School of Economics, and with the assistance of the Institute of Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) contributed to the ASEAN Green Future Project initiative aimed at accelerating action for decarbonisation to achieve net zero by 2050 for the ASEAN region. Initial research from the UPD stated that strengthening internal coherence and undertaking investments in alternative energy systems, ensuring efficient transportation, and sustaining blue water ecosystems can facilitate action towards this.

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The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi. TERI is an independent, multi-dimensional organisation, with capabilities in research, policy, consultancy and implementation. It has pioneered conservation and action in the energy, environment, climate change, and sustainability space for over four decades. SDSN South Asia established in 2014 brings together academic and policy institutions from around the region working on the SDGs. The network has a strong member-base of over 50 organizations, including research institutions, universities, and think tanks. The Network Chair is Dr. Vibha Dhawan who is also the Director General of TERI and the Network Manager is Mr. Souvik Bhattacharjya, Senior Fellow, Resource Efficiency & Governance, TERI.

OVER 120 PARTICIPANTS joined each of the online events hosted by the Network together with UNDP India, SDGCC and POP Movement.

SDG LOCALIZATION
The network formed key partnerships with the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC), jointly established by UNDP India and the Planning, Programme, Monitoring and Statistics Department of the Government of Karnataka, to launch the SDGCC Youth engagement campaign: SDG For Youth.

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES
TERI is part of the FOLU project and has been consistently working in this area along with other partner institutions in India.

YOUTH
On World Environment Day 2021, SDSN Youth South Asia launched the second series of GO4Youth - an online exam on the environment and sustainable development for university students. The Network in partnership with POP Movement under the aegis of POP Festival for Youth led Climate Action organized a session on ‘Education for Sustainable Development Beyond Boundaries’.

SDG Student Hub - TERI SAS focused on raising awareness about the SDGs and sustainable living through sustainability talks (S-Talks), School University Network (SUN) Programme and collaborations with actors such as Mindhouse, India’s leading meditation map.

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP concluded with the SDG Coordination Centre of the State of Karnataka.

The YOUTH NETWORK PARTNERSHIPS further included UNLEASH Hacks India and Project RELISH as part of Indian Pollution Control Association.
**Engagement with Knowledge Institutions**

The network collaborated with the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) to launch the “Sustainable Development Forum for the Yellow Sea” discussing SDG 14. This was done in partnership with the OECD, the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project of UNDP, the Water Transport Institute and the First Institute of Oceanography (FIO).

The network collaborated with the Korea Development Institute (KDI) to launch a major research project involving 10 prominent experts on “How to Leverage the Korean New Deal to Implement Six Transformations for Sustainable Development” drawing on the idea of ‘Six Transformations’ proposed by the SDSN.

The network continued to support the OJEong Eco-Resilience Institute (OJERI) of Korea University that studies and monitors the water, food, and energy system sustainability in the Mid-Latitude Region (MLR).

**COVID-19 & Recovery**

The network held a series of discussions with the KDI in mid-2020, sharing the lessons of Korea’s so-far successful efforts to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. This also led to the production of English-language video titled “Korea’s National Crisis Management Policy Experience in Response to COVID-19.”

**Youth**

The network held a nation-wide competition on solutions for SDGs for college and graduate students at the start of 2021.

**Focus on Specific SDG**

The MLR Network focuses on sound production and consumption of water, food, energy in ecosystems, and on adapting to climate change in residential areas.

**Reports**

- Mid-Latitude Region Network Prospectus 2020
- Workshop Manuals for Assessing Diagnostic Agricultural Drought Risk using QGIS for Kyrgyzstan
- A Study for Sustainable Development in Korea
- A Study for Sustainable Development in Korea

**Young Leaders**

The network held a nationwide competition on solutions for SDGs for college and graduate students at the start of 2021.
SDG LOCALIZATION

Tri Hita Karana (THK) high-level Climate Dialogue on Indonesia’s Clean Energy Transition was the first in a series of THK Natural Capital Carbon Communities (NCCC) online dialogues. It was held in preparation for President Biden’s Leaders’ Climate Summit, the road to COP26 in Glasgow November 2021 and the Bali G20 Leaders Summit in 2022.

Happy Digital X, a new professional education program, launched in April 2021, was designed for transformative leaders in the age of the fourth industrial revolution. The themes bookends of the program are happiness and sustainability, and it is designed to contribute to the post pandemic economic recovery.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY

The network responded to the urgent need of Covid-19 pandemic by establishing the Collab4Health tri sector taskforce, co-chaired by United in Diversity (UID)-IDEAS Fellows, Alissa Wahid and Felia Salm. The mission is to support the government Covid-19 national taskforce in Indonesia and in the region through funding aid, knowledge sharing, and mask distribution.

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

United in Diversity Foundation is involved in a new SDSN initiative - the ASEAN Green Future Project, which has mobilised 7 out of 10 country teams. This initiative aims to accelerate action for decarbonisation to achieve net zero by 2050 for the ASEAN region and ASEAN member states.

19 VIRTUAL EVENTS in 2020 and 2021 reached 325,000 participants worldwide

70 OUT OF 73 PARTICIPANTS in the Happy Digital X program are from ASEAN countries

United in Diversity (UID)

The United in Diversity (UID) forum is a non-profit organization established with Indonesian leaders from business, government, and civil society. Founded in 2003, UID has galvanized leaders from all sectors to come together, start a new dialogue of responsibility, and agree on concrete actions to address the root causes of Indonesia’s problems as well as regional and global challenges.
Thammasat University (TU), founded in 1934, is known to be one of the leading universities in Thailand. TU has been a part of several social transformations of the country, often dubbed as “the university of the people”. As a co-host of SDSN Thailand, SDG Move offers SDG-related multidisciplinary policy research and training programmes. It also mobilizes an academic network to promote sustainability transformation in Thailand.

Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, (CPCS), Chulalongkorn University

Chulalongkorn University (CU), founded in 1917, is the oldest and one of the most prestigious universities in Thailand. It is ranked as one of the “World’s Top 100 Universities for the Best Academic Reputation” by QS World University Rankings 2021. CPCS, under CU, is a distinguished peace studies centre, specialized in peace studies and conflict resolutions. CPCS has been using its expertise to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues for the SDGs in Thailand.

Technology and Informatics Institute for Sustainability, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

NSTDA has a mission to perform and support scientific, technological, as well as engineering research and development, in response to the need of the country’s development. The Technology and Information Institute for Sustainability (TIIS), under NSTDA, aims to serve as a central body to house the database for sustainable development as well as to develop a data management system in accordance with the international criteria.

Engagement with Knowledge Institutions

SDSN Thailand, in cooperation with Thailand Science Research and Innovation Office (TSRI) organized the Area-Needs project (the continuation of the Foresight Thailand Project in 2020). This project aims at formulating recommendations for a regional Science Research and Innovation Agenda by using foresight techniques and incorporating SDGs into the process to ensure the balanced inclusion of the sustainability aspects. This project engaged nine universities in six regions of Thailand, and more than 600 experts from government, academic, CSOs/NGOs, and private sector in the process.

From Jan to May 2021, the social media posts on the SDG Watch Project reached 273,000 PEOPLE

SDSN Thailand is recognized and INCLUDED IN THAILAND’S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2021

Flagship Initiative

The SDG Watch Project was launched in January 2021 by the two host institutions - SDG Move and the International Health Policy Program (IHPP). The aim is to create a media outlet where SDG-related news, research, reports, policies, and other progress are shared with Thai audiences.

SDSN Thailand covered the launch of SDR 2021 by producing a press release and an insight article about Thailand SDG index. Both were quoted by 9 media outlets and reached 900 shares and 33,742 views.

Solutions Initiatives

SDSN Thailand’s research series produces four volumes of Stakeholder Action Reports, each representing one of the following stakeholders: youth, volunteers, CSOs, and academia. The aim is to learn about what has been done in relation to the SDGs in these sectors and what support may be needed to advance the SDGs.

SDSN Thailand partnered with 29 ORGANIZATIONS on various SDG-related projects

Center for SDG Research and Support (SDG Move), Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

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Europe & Eurasia
COMMON INITIATIVE OF SDSN NETWORKS AND MEMBERS IN EUROPE

SDSN Europe was launched in December 2020 as an initiative aimed at mobilizing scientific and technological expertise in support of a sustainable and resilient European Recovery. The initiative builds on the momentum created by the European Green Deal and the Next Generation EU, and enhances SDSN’s contribution to the work on sustainable development across the continent.

With twelve national and regional networks of universities and knowledge institutions in Europe, involving over 360 member organizations, SDSN is set to advocate for the alignment of such recovery with the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. Building on SDSN’s work on the Six Transformations, Europe Sustainable Development Report, Fixing the Business of Food and FABLE, SDSN Europe is placing emphasis on the European Green Deal, National Recovery and Resilience Plans of the Member States, Sustainable Seas, Agri-Food Systems, as well as other thematic areas co-designed with the European networks.

Under the leadership of Adolf Kloke-Leusch (SDSN Germany), Prof. Angelo Riccaboni (SDSN Mediterranean) and Prof. Phoebe Koundouri (SDSN Greece), SDSN Europe acts as a coordination instrument for SDSN networks and members to catalyze actions on issues related to European policy.

Similarly to the leadership, SDSN Europe’s secretariat is sourced from SDSN’s existing networks, working collaboratively and in close coordination with the SDSN Paris office.

PRODUCING STATE OF THE ART RESEARCH & POLICY WORK

SDSN Europe hosts a Senior Working Group on the European Green Deal, consisting of top-level academics and stakeholders. This group supports policymakers with actionable strategies that can guide EU-wide and national economic recovery in line with the continent’s overarching sustainability agenda and the SDGs.

In the first half of 2021, SDSN European Green Deal Senior Working Group published the paper titled “Transformations for the Joint Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the European Green Deal: A Green and Digital, Job-Based and Inclusive Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic.” A second report will be released in early 2022, and it will use machine learning techniques to analyze the connections between the European recovery plans and the SDGs, as well as present insights on sustainable finance and the impact of the green transition on jobs and growth.

Furthermore, two thematic groups of SDSN Europe were launched in April 2021. The first group will focus on Sustainable Agrifood Systems and Land Use. Second, the Sustainable Euro-Asian Seas (SEAs) Initiative will build on research and demonstration projects, developed by a consortium and its collaborators, and will create an SDSN high-level working group, which will work on the Science-Policy interface related to Blue Growth, as well as on producing an SDSN SEAs annual report.

STIMULATING ACTION THROUGH DEBATES AND PARTNERSHIPS

SDSN Europe hosted an event on the alignment of the European Recovery plans with the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement in October 2020. In February 2021, SDSN Europe supported SDSN Belgium and CIFAL Flanders in organizing another online event with Belgium as a case study. This webinar brought together representatives of the European Commission, the Belgian government and academia, and was attended by over 350 participants.

In early 2021, SDSN Europe also entered into several partnerships. Together with SDSN Italy, SDSN Europe provided support to the European Youth Parliament’s 92nd International Session in Milano, attended by 200 young participants. Likewise, the initiative partnered with the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) held in September 2021. SDSN Europe will support members and networks that wish to organize events during this week as well as during the European Week of Regions and Cities, held in October 2021.
Reading between the lines, Borgloon

The University of Antwerp is a young, dynamic and forward-thinking institution, and one of the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE). More than 20,000 students are enrolled, of which 20% are international students. Ecology and sustainable development are some of the frontline research domains. Specifically, SDSN Belgium is hosted by the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IMDO). IMDO offers multidisciplinary research and education programs that aim to support the complex challenges of society, industry, and authorities on sustainability questions.

Catholic University of Louvain

The Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain) is Belgium's largest French-speaking university. It welcomes more than 30,000 students in seven locations in Brussels and Wallonia. The university offers courses in all disciplines, from bachelor’s degree to doctoral degree level, as well as many lifelong learning programmes. It is also a pioneer in the creation of massive open online courses (MOOCs), and the first French-speaking university in Europe to offer online courses on the edX platform. UCLouvain is amongst the top 1% universities worldwide.

YOUTH

Web-based application developed by The Shifters Belgium, in cooperation with The Shift and SDSN Belgium youth, analyses university curricula in Belgium and identifies climate and environmental sustainability courses, programs and professors with proven education expertise in this field. This innovative, extended and up-to-date mapping tool enhances the awareness among students, and facilitates inter- and multidisciplinary education and research on sustainable development within and amongst universities. At the policy level, the board of governors of the higher education institutions now has a tool to compare and the evidence to enhance their sustainability efforts.

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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

of the Belgians invited the Network Manager for a one on one exchange on SDSN Belgium in the Royal Palace

More than
350 PEOPLE ATTENDED
the webinar on the alignment of the European and Belgian recovery plans with the SDGs

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

Together with CIFAL Flanders, SDSN Belgium and SDSN Europe advocated for aligning the European and Belgian recovery with the SDGs. The role of the SDGs in the recovery and resilience plans was discussed in a webinar which hosted senior officials from the European Commission and Belgian Government.

SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES

Large knowledge networks are difficult to align and manage, risking to lose scientific progress due to lack of detailed insights and effective communication. Belgian professors Vera Meynen and Ludo Diels created multi-purpose, well-connected and integrated clusters of researchers that are small but through their connection keep an integrated view and leverage their impact towards a carbon neutral industry and society. This solution was shared at the 2020 Global Solutions Forum.
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh) was founded in 1925 and is the largest university in Greece, covering all disciplines, consisting of 11 faculties and 41 schools. It is widely recognized as a vibrant center of learning which draws its inspiration from a long tradition of academic achievement. It hosts three UNESCO Chairs, including on Education for Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, the International Network of Water-Environment Centers for the Balkans, and the C2c Center for Integrated Water Resources Management.

4 EVENTS on the involvement of students and academia in the implementation of the SDGs each attracted more than 100 PARTICIPANTS from several countries.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS

SDSN Black Sea, SDSN Mediterranean and the ERASMUS+ funded EUSTEPs project co-organized an event about how HEI educators can use interactive tools and materials for teaching and implementing sustainability on campuses. It was attended by 94 educators from 30 countries.

SDG LOCALIZATION

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, host of SDSN Black Sea, and the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, published the “Feasibility Study for a Black Sea SDGs Observatory.” The study, funded by the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF), identifies the strengths and weaknesses of such an Observatory which could serve as one of the main axes for SDSN Black Sea to pursue regional collaboration.

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

Via SDSN Europe, the Black Sea, Greek and Mediterranean SDSNs established the Sustainable Euro-Asian Seas Initiative (SEAS), to accelerate science-driven blue growth and the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Euro-Asian Seas. The related high-level working group will work on the science-policy interface related to Blue Growth, as well as on producing an annual report.

SDSN Black Sea and SDSN Youth Black Sea REVAMPED THEIR OFFICIAL WEBSITE

The new design, which is easily accessible by anyone, along with recent events that have been organized, attracted MORE VISITORS.

YOUTH

Since SDSN Youth Black Sea was established in July 2020, it organized many events informing young people about the SDGs while allowing them to actively participate in the network. The event “Our Future through the Sustainable Development Goals” welcomed more than 200 young people from different academic backgrounds and 40 countries to discuss how the SDGs can be achieved through various scientific fields.

EUROPE & EURASIA

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40% INCREASE in the number of Facebook followers

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) was founded in 1925 and is the largest university in Greece, covering all disciplines, consisting of 11 faculties and 41 schools. It is widely recognized as a vibrant center of learning which draws its inspiration from a long tradition of academic achievement. It hosts three UNESCO Chairs, including on Education for Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, the International Network of Water-Environment Centers for the Balkans, and the C2c Center for Integrated Water Resources Management.

SDG LOCALIZATION

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, host of SDSN Black Sea, and the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, published the “Feasibility Study for a Black Sea SDGs Observatory.” The study, funded by the Black Sea Project Promotion Facility (BSPPF), identifies the strengths and weaknesses of such an Observatory which could serve as one of the main axes for SDSN Black Sea to pursue regional collaboration.

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The Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF) was established in February 2004 driven by the vision of promoting the advancement of knowledge and its humane and benevolent applications throughout the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, highlighting the role of Cyprus as a gateway of knowledge and innovation between EU and the region and to help in the transformation of Cyprus’ economy into a knowledge-based economy. To realize its vision and objectives, CREF planned the establishment of a new research and educational institution, which would promote research and education in Cyprus and its region. CREF designed the new institution, The Cyprus Institute (CyI), aiming at benefiting the public interest at large. The Cyprus Institute, which is both a research and educational institution, as well as the physical manifestation of CREF, is the physical location for the Secretariat of SDSN Cyprus, and provides all the necessary administrative backstopping.

**SDG LOCALIZATION**

At the request of the Cypriot Directorate General for European Programmes, Cooperation and Development, the country’s competent authority for the SDGs, SDSN Cyprus provided inputs for the 2021 Cyprus Voluntary National Review, which was presented at the HLPF.

**COVID-19 & RECOVERY**

SDSN Cyprus Leadership Council Member and Manager of SDSN Europe, Theodoros Zachariadis, co-authored a report for the World Bank entitled “Building Back Better in Practice: A Science-Policy Framework for a Green Economic Recovery after COVID-19”. This report and other interventions were integrated into the Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan, which was recently submitted to the European Commission.

Prof. Zachariadis also contributed to SDSN Europe’s event, entitled: The Future Europe Wants: A Green and Digital, Job-Based and Inclusive Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic.

**FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE**

Frederick University, SDSN Member, contributed to the SDG Academy Spotlight Initiative, by shedding light on architectural heritage.

**Contribution to 3 REPORTS (SDSN Europe and Mediterranean Sustainable Development Reports) as well as a World Bank Report**
9 PUBLICATIONS
released and/or co-authored by SDSN Germany in 2020/2021

2,000 FOLLOWERS
REACHED
on social media in 2020.
The tweet of the year had 92 likes and was shared 41 times

ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS
In the process of the overhaul of the German Sustainability Strategy, SDSN Germany recommended six transformations and five levers as the framework to move forward until 2030. Its recommendations were ultimately adopted by the German government in the new German Sustainability Strategy (Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie). After the official adoption of the new strategy, SDSN Germany, together with other knowledge institutions, organized events on each of the five levers to increase their uptake in different parts of society.

Specific policy recommendations on the basis of these events will be made for the incoming government in autumn 2021.

25% INCREASE
in membership in 2020/2021, now reaching 27 members

SDG LOCALIZATION
In the run-up to German Federal elections in September 2021, SDSN Germany held private exchanges with the leadership of all democratic political parties on how best to include the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their respective election manifestos. SDSN Germany thereby strengthened the political relevance of the 2030 Agenda in Germany.

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES
SDSN Germany has a leadership role in SDSN Europe and has co-hosted many events, inter alia a webinar “The Future Europe Wants: A Green and Digital, Job-Based and Inclusive Recovery.”

SDSN Germany actively participated in over 40 NATIONALY AND INTERNATIONALLY relevant events and webinars in 2020, thereby deepening its presence in both the German, European, and international context.
ATHENA Research Center

In 2021, ATHENA RC became the third host institution of SDSN Greece. Previously, the network worked closely with the ATHENA Research and Innovation Centre team via the Sustainable Development Unit and EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece, both directed by Professor Phoebe Koundouri. A significant part of SDSN Greece’s research and administrative activities are carried out under ATHENA RC.

International Center for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8)

ICRE8 is a nonprofit, private institution dedicated to interdisciplinary research on sustainable development and management of the environment, energy, economy, and eco-innovations.

Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab (PESD)

The PESD Lab of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is devoted to the political economy dimension of sustainable development.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY

SDSN Greece participates in the Lancet COVID-19 Commission, promoting best practices in the control of the pandemic, social protection, and recovery. Prof. Phoebe Koundouri and Prof. Jeffrey Sachs launched the SDSN European Green Deal Senior Working Group aimed at supporting successful implementation of this transformative regulatory framework.

SDSN Greece organized events on the acceleration of innovation towards a sustainable recovery from the COVID–19 Pandemic.

YOUTH

SDSN Youth Greece, in partnership with Get Involved, developed an e-Democracy project that aims to address the main challenges resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic. The network also supported 24-hour climate hackathons called Greek Climathons.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

The Sustainability Summit for South-East Europe and the Mediterranean has become a seminal platform for sustainability discourse at the regional level, with its mobilization of resources and the participation of prominent international business and finance leaders, along with cabinet ministers, academics, and Nobel laureates from around the world.

PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES

The Greece, Black Sea, and Mediterranean SDSNs through SDSN Europe, are leading the Sustainable Euro-Asian Seas (SEAs) Initiative, which builds on research and demonstration projects to create a high-level working group, which will work on the science-policy interface as it relates to blue growth, as well as on producing an SDSN SEAs annual report.

In 2020, SDSN Greece welcomed 11 NEW MEMBERS, an increase of 45% compared to the previous year.

Organized 30 and participated in 130 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS with an audience ranging from 30 to 500 participants.

+100 PARTNERS from Greece and abroad participated in the network’s initiatives and conferences.

EUROPE & EURASIA

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Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) was founded in 1989 and is a non-profit, policy-oriented, international research center and think-tank that produces high-quality, innovative, interdisciplinary research on sustainable development, contributing to the quality of decision-making in public and private spheres. Its international network integrates the activities of the best academic institutions and think tanks around the world.

The University of Siena - Santa Chiara Lab

The Santa Chiara Lab is the multidisciplinary center at the University of Siena focused on research support and promotion, innovation, and teaching. The Santa Chiara Lab serves as an incubator for many multidisciplinary projects on sustainable development, including SDSN Mediterranean, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), and the PRIMA Observatory on Innovation.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS

SDSN Italia, together with SDSN Mediterranean, the Italian Network for Universities for Sustainable Development, Leonardo, and ENEL Foundation, organized the 3rd edition of the Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development. The Advanced School gathered speakers from academia, public institutions, and businesses. Participants gained knowledge and skills in policy, science and innovation, and new business models for sustainable development.

16 K TWITTER VISUALIZATIONS in 2020

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7,469 DOWNLOADS of the 3 publications from June 2020 to May 2021

SDG LOCALIZATION

Two new reports and one online portal released by SDSN Italia and FEEM in 2020 assess the SDG performance in Italy at the national and sub-national levels. The reports reveal where Italy and its cities stand five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and two years after the publication of the SDG City Index. The new online SDG Portal provides the state of the art on urban sustainable development, increasing citizens' awareness and facilitating national and international dialogue to promote and accelerate progress towards full sustainability.

6% INCREASE in membership in the last 12 months

EUROPE & EURASIA

SDSN Italia supported the 4th edition of Youth in Action for the SDGs, a competitive call in which 430 students presented innovative ideas on sustainable development.

COVID-19 & RECOVERY

FEEM’s COVID-19 & SDGs brief released in June 2020 features a qualitative analysis of the impact of the pandemic on the achievement of the 17 SDGs in Italy. The document attempts to understand the impacts resulting from the pandemic, the ensuing lockdown, and the overall economic crisis.

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The University of Siena - Santa Chiara Lab
Siena, Italy

The University of Siena - Santa Chiara Lab
Founded in 1240, the University of Siena is one of the world’s oldest universities. With a campus of about 15000 students, it is actively involved in numerous international projects of education, research, mobility and training on sustainable development. In particular, the Santa Chiara Lab serves as an incubator for many multidisciplinary projects on sustainable development, including SDSN Mediterranean, PRIMA, and POI.

10 online events hosted in 2020, with a total of 1200 PARTICIPANTS

YOUTH
In 2021 SDSN Youth Mediterranean launches the first SDSN Mediterranean Youth Report that highlights 25 projects led by youth organizations around the Mediterranean region. The report will help promote successful initiatives across the region thanks to partnerships with organizations such as UNEP-MAP and UfM.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS
SDSN Mediterranean, in collaboration with SDSN Italy, the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainability Leonardo and Enel Foundation organized the Siena Advanced School on Sustainable Development and trained 40 professionals and researchers on the issues of sustainability.

SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES
SDSN Med participated in the Global Solutions Forum 2020 with an IT Platform named Prima Observatory on Innovation, aimed at showing innovative solutions with scientific bases for the agrifood sector.

The network was INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE UNEP-MAP MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION for Sustainable Development and contribute to the State of Environment and Development in the Mediterranean.

>7500 STUDENTS ENROLLED in the MOOC “Sustainable Food Systems: a Mediterranean Perspective” co-developed by the Network
Together with the National Coordinator for the Agenda 2030 in Sweden, SDSN Northern Europe started a project with 16 partners (8 universities and 8 municipalities and regions) aiming to jointly identify problems and generate solutions for the local and regional context. Given the pivotal role of municipalities and regions for society’s implementation of the SDGs and the role of universities in bringing knowledge and solutions for sustainable development, several SDG localization initiatives are being implemented in the Nordic countries.

**SDG LOCALIZATION**

Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development at Chalmers University of Technology and University of Gothenburg

University of Gothenburg and Chalmers University of Technology share the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development (GMV). GMV promotes education, research, innovation and stakeholder communication in sustainable development and aims to increase interdisciplinary knowledge on the SDGs among the public and experts.

**COVID-19 & RECOVERY**

The network conducted a survey among the member universities’ staff to collect experiences and attitudes from the transition caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The data from the survey will allow member universities to outline a future strategy on travel and on the use of online meetings.

**9 ONLINE EVENTS**

organized by The network secretariat in 2020 welcomed approximately 300 PARTICIPANTS

**ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS**

An analysis of how member universities in Northern Europe communicate sustainability on their international websites was performed. 37 member universities in the Nordic countries were analyzed and guided to improve their sustainability communication.

**EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS**

To promote education for sustainable development, the SDG Impact Assessment Tool was applied in five courses at the University of Gothenburg and Chalmers University of Technology. To scale up this initiative, several workshops were held where university teachers could test the tool in a teaching situation.

**THE NUMBER OF USERS OF THE SDG IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL GREW ALMOST 6 FOLD, FROM 1200 IN January 2020 TO 7000 IN June 2021**

13 NEW MEMBERS joined the SDSN Northern Europe in 2020. AN INCREASE OF 23%

9 ONLINE EVENTS

organized by The network secretariat in 2020 welcomed approximately 300 PARTICIPANTS
**PARTICIPATION IN SDSN INITIATIVES**

RANEPA is contributing to SDSN FABLE and developing a FABLE calculator and a GLOBIUM model for Russia.

More than

**20 WEBINARS** and events hosted in 2020, gathering over **1000 PARTICIPANTS** in total

**YOUTH**

SDSN Youth Russia, in partnership with SDSN Russia and RANEPA, launched the “Vaccination against Covid-19” guide that will increase awareness about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine among young people in Russia. So far, the guide has reached more than 300 young people.

SDSN Youth Russia and SDSN Russia launched and successfully conducted their first short-term volunteering program in research and educating activities.

SDSN Youth Russia’s webinar on achieving responsible consumption without going to extremes attracted 50 young people.

The new Russia Youth Solutions Report will include more than 40 youth solutions.

**SDG LOCALIZATION**

SDSN Russia co-authored the first Civil Society Report on SDGs implementation in Russia made by KURS (the Coalition for Sustainable Development of the Country). Published alongside 3 governmental reports, the report shows an alternative vision on the SDGs implementation in Russia.

SDSN Russia’s host research institution, RANEPA, worked with the metrics of SDGs implementation in Russia and presented the SEM model, which explains the variations of the latent variable (sustainable development) through indicators of economic, social and environmental development.

RANEPA also cooperates with Russian governmental bodies on the SDGs implementation.

**890 FOLLOWERS** on SDSN and SDSN Youth Russia social media accounts, **52% GROWTH** from the previous year

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In the fight against depopulation in Spain, REDS promoted a project which aims to connect the SDGs with the rural dimension and expand the 2030 Agenda’s scope beyond the urban area. The results of the survey that was carried out in two ‘emptied rural areas’ in Spain were collectively interpreted in a multi-stakeholder workshop hosted in March 2021. Conclusions can be useful to the rural world in order to draw their own roadmap towards the SDGs.

REDS’ multi-stakeholder workshop on culture and sustainable development gathered over 100 cultural agents from all over the country to discuss the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The network delivered the conclusions to the Spanish Government, published a practical guide for integrating the 2030 Agenda in the cultural sector and released the first Spanish website entirely dedicated to culture and SDGs.

The second edition of the report ‘The SDGs in 100 Spanish cities’ published by REDS measures the progress of the SDGs at the local level since 2018. The 2020 report focuses on the SDG 12 and is complemented by an interactive website and a visualization tool.

EDUCATION FOR THE SDGS

REDS has established different tools to support the implementation of the SDGs within universities and higher education centers: three reports about measuring, good practices and how to accelerate the SDG education in the Spanish universities.

SDG LOCALIZATION

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)
The REDS association is hosted in partnership with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). The UAM has earned itself a prestigious reputation as a state-of-the-art public university in view of the high-quality teaching and research activities on offer. Guided by its vocation to serve society, the academic and social values of its centres and services are reflected in their activities which aim to enhance solidarity, cooperation and the overall health of people and the environment.

51 MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

circulated since September 2015

73 ACADEMIC MEMBERS

from all over the country, making REDS the 2nd largest national network, just after SDSN USA
Factsheet “Achieving the SDGs with Biodiversity” explains the importance of biodiversity for implementing all SDGs and provides decision makers with entry points for transformative change.

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) at the University of Bern

CDE is Switzerland’s centre of excellence for sustainable development. It is one of the University of Bern’s strategic research centres tasked with mainstreaming sustainability throughout the university’s research and teaching. Its aim is to chart pathways to sustainable development and to initiate transformations in line with the Agenda 2030.

Biovision Foundation

Founded in 1998, Biovision combats hunger and poverty at their roots. Through its active participation in the negotiations, Biovision captures the transformative power of the Agenda 2030 and the political processes that will support such a transformation. In Switzerland and internationally, Biovision is known for conducting a constructive dialogue with different stakeholder groups.

SOLUTIONS INITIATIVES

SDSN Switzerland’s Call for relevant and pioneering solutions for achieving the SDGs received 12 proposals from the SDSN members and partners. These projects and activities develop and test high-impact innovative solutions that open up transformative pathways to critical challenges of sustainable development in Switzerland and beyond. 3 initiatives were awarded financial support (total CHF 100’000) to help advance sustainability in higher education, in business as well as entrepreneurship for sustainable development.

6 ONLINE WORKSHOPS on Sustainable Swiss Economy resulted in 6 CALLS FOR ACTION prepared by more than 300 PARTICIPANTS

+2000 FOLLOWERS on social media, 25% MORE THAN IN 2020

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

60 organizations gathered at SDSN Switzerland’s Open Forum with the aim to discuss and strengthen Switzerland’s next Sustainable Development strategy. Stakeholders from all sectors (economy, science, politics, public administration, culture and civil society) agreed that the strategy presented in the consultation was not ambitious and concrete enough to induce change which, according to science, is urgently needed. The network’s written response to the consultation was endorsed by several key actors and relayed by a few other organizations.
SDSN Turkey

**INCREASED ITS MEMBERSHIP BY 40% in 2020 and reached more than 250,000 STUDENTS**

**SDG LOCALIZATION**
SDSN Turkey contributes to raising awareness and developing capacity among the Turkish municipalities on SDGs together with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, Marmara Municipalities Union, and other Municipalities.

SDSN Turkey organized multiple webinars on circular economy and on localizing the SDGs in the cities.

The network also contributed to Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Reports of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, and the Municipality of Sultanbeyli, Istanbul, the first VLRs of Turkey.

**Climate 2030: Climate Change Education with Children and Youth**
© Bahar Özay

Boğaziçi University was founded in 1863 as the first American college outside of the United States and is one of the leading institutions of higher education in Turkey. The University shapes the future through being a pioneer in education and teaching experiences with innovative and creative approaches. With this vision of strengthening the culture of science, research, creativity, and innovation the University works hard to become one of the leading research universities in the world. The University teaches its students open-mindedness and ethical values, respect for nature and environment, providing them with a capacity to take on leadership positions anywhere in the world.

**SDSN Turkey hosted 22 EVENTS, contributed to 24 and gathered more than 5,000 PARTICIPANTS**

**“WE FOLLOW AND SUPPORT the work and activities of SDSN Turkey with interest”. Bora Tuncer, President of Schneider Electric - Cluster Turkey, Central Asia and Pakistan”**

**FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE**
SDSN Turkey contributed to the “Global Hope Festivals”, organized under the auspices of First Lady Mrs. Emine Erdoğan.

In addition to the SDSN Mediterranean Report, SDSN Turkey members wrote for several ecology and sustainability magazines and journals and contributed to two YouTube videos as well as book chapters such as “Sustainability and Digitalization in the Business” by Dr. Tamer Atabarut.

SDSN Turkey organized various education programs for k12 schools and university teachers focusing on the SDGs, such as “Climate 2030 with Children and Youth”, “Climate 2030 with Teachers”, “Water Academy for Youth and Agenda 2030: ESD for Teachers”, SDSN Turkey-BOUN 101 SDGs camps. The programs reached more than 600 teachers and 10,000 students.

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Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London

The SDSN UK hub is hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) at University College London. The mission of IIPP is to change how public value is imagined, practiced and evaluated to tackle societal challenges and, by doing this, deliver economic growth that is innovation-led, sustainable and inclusive. IIPP encourages people to imagine a new role for the public sector as an ambitious and entrepreneurial partner with the private sector. The institute is nested within University College London, which is one of the UK’s premier universities, consistently ranked in the world’s top 10 and whose staff and former students have included 32 Nobel Prize winners. IIPP forms part of the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment that ranks number one for Architecture and the Built Environment in the QS World Ranking.

SDSN ENGAGEMENT WITH KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS

SDSN UK was established in 2021 as the new UK hub of the global SDSN network. The network spent the first half of 2021 planning the launch of the first-ever UK-based SDSN, which included scoping out the wider UK sustainable development landscape, especially focusing on existing SDG research in UK universities. The UK network engaged in network building with existing members, as well as attracting new partners from various academic institutions. The hub explored alignment between members on key research topics, both existing and new. After a series of conversations held with potential members, SDSN UK attracted a small group of leading academic institutions across the UK. The initial members of the UK SDSN include: SOAS, University of Northampton, University of Strathclyde, University of Aberdeen, University of Manchester, University of Warwick and University of Winchester.

130 000+ STUDENTS across SDSN member institutions in the UK.

SDSN UK WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2021, with its first 7 new members joining in summer 2021.

SDSN UK held a ‘Soft Launch’ event in late June 2021, where members got together for informal networking and to discuss network priorities and future agenda. The launch was the network’s first official event, in preparation for a formal launch on 1st December 2021. The event was attended by 15 representatives of 7 universities across the UK and received positive feedback from the guests, who had the opportunity to ask questions about network management to representatives from SDSN Global and SDSN Northern Europe and find common interests with fellow academics.

‘Soft Launch’ event, 15 participants include REPRESENTATIVES FROM 7 ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE UK
Newly Approved Networks

SDSN Czech Republic
The Czech Republic is the best performing country in Central and Eastern Europe on the SDG Index and among the top 10 in the world. SDSN is working on establishing a national network hosted by the Charles University Environment Centre (CUEC), the country’s leading research institution focused on interdisciplinary sustainability science. Established in 1348, Charles University is the oldest university in Central Europe, and the largest, most renowned and the best-rated institution of higher education in Czechia.

SDSN Pakistan
In December 2020, SDSN’s Networks Strategy Council enthusiastically approved the creation of SDSN Pakistan hosted by the Institute for Global Health and Development at The Aga Khan University. Besides addressing pressing national needs like poverty alleviation and improving health, the network is setting out to work on the globally shared challenges of climate change and environmental protection. The official launch is envisaged for spring 2022.

SDSN South Africa
The University of Pretoria was recently approved to host a new national network in South Africa. UP also hosts the South Africa SDG Hub, which connects policymakers with the research and innovations needed to implement the SDGs. The network will be formally launched in early 2022.

SDSN Western Balkans
Western Balkans are united by their wish to join the European Union and secure a more sustainable future for the new generations. Agenda 2030 offers an opportunity to build a consensus vision for social development in the region, with full respect of distinct identities. Shared Society and Values Foundation and the Institute of Economics in Sarajevo are working on establishing a regional SDSN network, which will mobilize knowledge institutions and other relevant actors for the implementation of the SDGs.

Upcoming Networks

Argentina
The 3rd largest economy in Latin America and G20 member, Argentina was an active participant in the negotiation process that led to the 2030 Agenda. Its national development priorities are adapted to locally implement and achieve the SDGs. SDSN is in discussions with the Centro de Implementación de Políticas Publicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIIPPEC) and Fundación Bariloche to establish a National SDSN.

Bulgaria
Implementing the SDGs is a task of great importance for most countries in the world. Bulgaria is no exception. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, all the country’s strategic documents refer to the SDGs. SDSN is currently in discussions with the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) with regard to the creation of a new SDSN network in Bulgaria.

Georgia
At the intersection of Europe and Asia Georgia has demonstrated commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda. While Georgian universities have engaged with the SDSN’s Black Sea regional network, the University of Georgia has expressed interest to create a new national network to specifically focus on domestic SDG challenges.

Ghana
Ghana has shown a great deal of leadership on the SDGs and President Akufo-Addo is a co-Chair of the SDG Advocates. With the help of the Millennium Promise Alliance (MPA), SDSN is in discussions with the University of Education, Winneba and the University of Ghana to set up a national network.

Kazakhstan
As a landlocked country rich in natural resources, Kazakhstan has recognized the importance of SDG achievement for the long-term prosperity of the country. However, research and educational activities around the SDGs remain low. Nazarbayev University, together with SDSN, is seeking to form a national alliance for sustainable development, connecting academia, civil society, and policy makers to help fasttrack action for the SDGs in the country.

Lebanon
Lebanon is a strategic actor in the MENA region in terms of trade, academic and research excellence, and entrepreneurship. Consistently ranked within the top 10 universities in the Arab world, the American University of Beirut is an SDSN member and has developed a proposal to host a new national network.
Thematic Networks
Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems

Hosted by Wageningen University & Research. Wageningen, The Netherlands.

www.unsdsn.org/sustainable-agriculture-and-food-systems

The Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems network has been organizing e-conferences since before the COVID-19 pandemic. For all e-conferences, the network supports an online platform where participants interact as they would in a ‘normal’ conference, by asking questions, discussing their work, and making new connections.

The network’s e-dialogue series on the future of small-scale farming, organized in collaboration with Foresight4Food, IFAD, and APRA, attracted over 550 participants in the second half of 2020, with an average audience of 60 from around the globe. This initiative aims to leverage scenario thinking to address challenging questions around how small-scale agriculture can contribute to healthy, sustainable, and responsible diets. The network hosted sessions on (i) emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities for small-scale farming, (ii) local perspectives, (iii) regional perspectives, (iv) transition pathways and strategies, and (v) policy implications.

eDialogue sessions remain available as videos on YouTube, as well as podcasts. Blogs, vlogs, and an e-discussion group allowed participants to engage further and disseminate findings. Over the same period, Network members also published articles on key issues, including the food security conundrum of sub-Saharan Africa and carbon-free conferencing in the age of COVID-19.

Looking ahead

Outcomes of the eDialogue series will be made available for the Food Systems Summit in September 2021 and will contribute to the IFAD 2021 Rural Development Report on Food Systems, being prepared by Wageningen University and Research in collaboration with a global network of researchers.

Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources

Hosted by Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI). New York, USA.

www.unsdsn.org/extractive-and-land-resources

The Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources network looks at how to improve resource use, including land, for sustainable development.

Extractive industry and land investments contribute to many states’ economies, but also often burden the environments and communities near project sites. The SDSN Thematic Network on the Good Governance of Extractive and Land Resources looks at how to improve resource use, including land, for sustainable development.

As stewards of their resources, governments have a responsibility to effectively manage and regulate extractive and land investments, to leverage natural resources to provide sustained prosperity for both current and future generations and protect the rights of people living in the affected areas. Governments, but also companies, must respect individual and community rights, and comply with high international standards on environmental, social, and human rights.

Working across the SDSN

This network recently launched a new working group on mining in partnership with the SDSN Amazonia and SDSN Member Instituto Quadrilatero from Brazil. The group will work to promote good governance in mining, and explore how mining territories can achieve the SDGs. Mining is essential as it provides the raw materials needed for the energy and information technology transition, but must be done in such a way as to promote the achievement of environmental and social objectives.

Looking ahead:

This network will continue to develop resources for stakeholders to support the achievement of the SDGs in the coming months, and continue to offer its massive, open online courses (MOOCs) through the SDG Academy.

Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)

The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, is the only university-based applied research center and forum dedicated to the study, practice and discussion of sustainable international investment. Their mission is to develop practical approaches for governments, investors, communities and other stakeholders to maximize the benefits of international investment for sustainable development.
Health for All

Hosted by Barcelona Institute of Global Health (ISGlobal), Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)

www.unsdsn.org/health-for-all

The SDSN health for all network has proven its ability to rise to the challenge, leveraging its global expertise in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented health challenge has sickened millions and resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths globally. It has rapidly redefined the ways we live and work, and its consequences will be felt for years to come.

The Network’s chairs and host institutions are actively engaged in The Lancet COVID-19 Commission. The Commission is an interdisciplinary initiative that promotes solutions to improve global public health and support an equitable, transformative, green, and digital recovery (www.covid19commission.org). From July 2020 to June 2021 the Commission produced over twenty reports and publications. The work of the India Task Force was particularly well-received, with coverage in over 40 media outlets and thousands of impressions on Twitter. In addition, a report of the Vaccines and Therapeutics Task Force advocating for more treatment options, especially ones that are accessible in the area of public health.

The Network also organized several events through co-host Fiocruz. On April 30th an event featuring Prof. Jeffrey Sachs and the SDSN health for all network has proven its ability to rise to the challenge, leveraging its global expertise in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking ahead

SDSN’s thematic research network (TReNDS) mobilizes technical and policy-oriented solutions to advance the data revolution for sustainable development. Its network of experts hail from across the global scientific, development, public, and private sector data communities. TReNDS works to strengthen the data ecosystem by advancing the use of more frequent, high-quality data to guide and spur progress and to ensure that the data revolution is grounded in strong expertise and evidence. Specifically, TReNDS aims to:

- Develop timely, multi-sectoral, policy-relevant research to strengthen the impact of local, national, and global statistical systems, focused on themes improving data use in policymaking, data governance and stewardship, new technologies, SDG monitoring, and data collaboration.

TReNDS will also develop strategies to avoid “data graveyards” by assessing the effectiveness of national government data access and use strategies.

Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS)

Hosted by SDSN Secretariat

sdsntrends.org

TReNDS is also leading a workstream to improve cross-learning between Chief Data Officers in Smart Cities with national government statisticians to improve data governance throughout the data ecosystem. Finally, by leveraging the expertise of its global network, TReNDS will work to improve south-south collaboration in improving development data, develop new collaborations between citizen science and earth observation experts, and explore how private sector sustainability reporting processes can benefit from new national standards in environmental and ecosystem accounting.

Barcelona Institute of Global Health

The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) was set up in 2010 as a centre of excellence in research and knowledge equipped to meet the new challenges facing global health in the 21st century. Today, ISGlobal encompasses over 30 years’ experience in the field of health and is a consolidated hub of expertise in scientific research, drawing on experiences from both hospitals and academic institutions.

Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)

For over 100 years, Fiocruz has produced and disseminated knowledge and technologies to strengthen and consolidate the Unified Health System and contributed to the promotion of health and quality of life in Brazil. Fiocruz works to reduce social inequalities, support innovation, and defend the right to health.

Public Health Foundation of India

The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) is a public-private initiative that has collaboratively evolved through consultations with multiple constituencies, including Indian and international academia, state and central governments, multi & bi-lateral agencies, and civil society groups. PHFI is a response to redress the limited institutional capacity in India for strengthening training, research, and policy development in the area of public health.

Looking ahead

In 2021-22, TReNDS will expand its country engagement to improve data for development through the Data 4 Now (D4N) initiative, co-led by TReNDS, the World Bank, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and the United Nations Statistics Division. Guided by the specific needs of policymakers, the D4N Country Engagement Approach draws from local and global expertise to support countries in developing their data production and use capacities.

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