

Youth-led event: advancing the SDGs through Global Gateway

Jointly supported by the EU and the UN

As the world evolves, the main stakeholders on the global stage need policies and initiatives to reflect the deep shifts and historic changes occurring across our world. The Global Gateway programme of the EU seeks to achieve this, by thrusting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN 2030 targets to the top of the international development agenda.

Global Gateway is the new European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. Between 2021 and 2027, the EU will mobilise up to EUR 300 billion of investments to progress SDGs.

The Global Gateway will play a key role in accelerating action towards the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, endorsed by all countries in 2015. Especially in the context of the EU's intention to present at the 2023 High Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF), the first ever EU Voluntary Review on the implementation of the SDGs through its internal and external actions.

The SDGs are more important than ever as they provide a compass for a sustainable recovery from the current crises, which has been strongly advocated by EU and UN leaders alike. The intergenerational character of these goals and the responsibility that we have to create a greener and more sustainable world necessitates strong voices and determined stakeholders willing to fight for these changes.

In the context of the 2022 European Development Days, young people will be given a voice to express their expectations and recommendations related to the 5 Global Gateway themes. These are digital, climate and energy, transport, health, and education and research.

To this end, we, young people, call upon the European Commission, the European Council and Council of the EU, the European Parliament, the United Nations, and national governments to:

Education and research

- Invest funds and strengthen partnerships with the UN and other relevant stakeholders to design and implement youth empowerment educational and training projects on integrity and ethics for the achievement of all SDGs. These include:
 - Organise activities to raise awareness for teachers and youth to recognise and counter corruption.
 - Capacity building activities to promote digital innovation and social entrepreneurship as catalysers of youth action for the promotion of integrity.
 - Inclusion of dedicated modules on anti-corruption and professional ethics in the curricula of all European university and vocational training programmes.
 - Establish permanent youth-led dialogues to give young people the chance to continuously discuss challenges and solutions to the modern problems.

- Set up, expand and raise awareness about funding and scholarship programmes (such as Erasmus+) aimed at providing access to quality education for everybody, especially young people from vulnerable backgrounds, equipping them with needed infrastructure (e.g. ICT), transferable skills, and up-to-date education curricula.

Transport and urban development

- Channel investments to a rural-urban model of governance inclusive of youth and marginalised communities, in the areas of green city infrastructure, local food value chains, and green energy.
- Underscore safety, sustainability, and accessibility as the three foundational and complementary pillars of the global agenda on mobility.
- Fully reflect the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the transport sector in taxation. It should minimise cumulative emissions and keep them within safe limits, prioritising larger early emissions abatements over future reductions.

Health

- Build the capacities and resilience of supply chains for vaccines, treatments and medicines in the most vulnerable countries, where these commodities are mostly needed, and lift intellectual property rights and patents to help facilitate their manufacturing at local and national level for the sake of redressing inequalities.
- Advocate for access to information, counselling and medical help in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights. This includes actions spanning from education and awareness raising activities to access to doctors, vaccines (e.g. HPV vaccine) and treatments. Increase awareness on the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases in order to combat their spread and associated stigma that leads to discrimination, especially amongst young women.

Digital

- Develop a multi stakeholder approach to regulation to hold social media platforms, such as Meta, Twitter, Tiktok, online advertising companies and search engine companies such as Google, accountable for disinformation and information manipulation on their platforms. We must encourage and ensure the development of safe online spaces for young people.
- Increase investments and develop long-term strategies for e-governance to provide greater accessibility and bolster efficiency in the public sector.
- Increase collaboration with national governments to invest in education and digital literacy by developing curricula, which are aligned with the market needs and technological developments, through a human centred, multi-stakeholder approach.

Climate and Energy

- Foster more participation and allow systematic integration of youth and vulnerable communities. This could be context-based interventions, where there is a true consultation process including vulnerable groups, youth, gender balance, and taking into account multilayered dimensions of vulnerability.
- Address the energy transition at the root cause and reduce consumption to enable a truly sustainable transition, considering resource impacts, human rights and values.