

Environmental detective without borders



Europe is home to people, including children who come with their families, who have had to flee their countries for a wide range of reasons. The national youth section of the Workers Welfare Institution (AWO) and German Young Naturefriends (NFJD) would like to get these people involved in environmental events. The project Umweltdetektive grenzenlos ('Environmental detective without borders') was launched in October 2016 with this in mind.

The project aims to produce environmental education material and a handbook for trainers in a range of languages for use by youth organisations and in out-of-school environmental education. The materials enable environmental education events to be organised for children of primary school age, including refugees and migrants. Five sets of action cards are available – one on "Getting started" and further ones addressing fire, water, earth and air – together with five accompanying handbooks for teachers. The action cards and handbooks can be ordered together in a compact folder or individually. There is also a personal 'environmental detective experience book' that the children can use in conjunction with the various activities. One should be ordered for each child. The activities focus not only on the shared experience of nature but also on improving language skills through play. Following preparation of the materials and a trial phase in late summer 2017, three national trainer workshops were held in 2018 at which the materials were presented and participants were given useful hints and tips on using them.

[bundesjugendwerk.de/
umweltdetektive-grenzenlos](http://bundesjugendwerk.de/umweltdetektive-grenzenlos)

WECF film and campaign 'not wasting our future'



17 young people from 10 countries document the waste they produce in a film that was shown at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in the Czech city of Ostrava. Project independence and recognition shaped the awareness of the young people and their environment. The campaign attracted more attention on social media than at the conference; it was presented in other countries and led to the creation of a WECF Youth Group that campaigns for implementation of the SDGs

[youtube.com/
watch?v=1TMJ56pySTU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TMJ56pySTU)

The carbon footprint in nursing and day care



For the last two years AWO in Germany has been working with Viabono on development of a method of calculating the carbon footprint of nursing homes and children's day-care centres. The tool is intended to help these facilities identify the action they can take to help protect the climate. AWO nurseries and nursing homes are invited to take part.

The institutions spend around three months to collect the relevant data and enter it in an online form. Viabono then performs a detailed analysis and provides a comprehensive benchmarking report. The information provided to each institution includes:

- Annual CO2 emissions per care/nursing place
- Distribution of emissions by source (heating, electricity, mobility, etc.)
- Energy consumption per care institution (electricity and heating)
- Comparison of all figures with the AWO average and the most climate-friendly AWO institutions ('top runners')
- Ranking in 'climate efficiency classes'

All the results are documented and made available to the institutions together with a certificate. They form the basis for changes and action to improve the carbon footprint of AWO voluntary welfare institutions.

[awo.org/
klimaschutz-co2-fussabdruck-fuer-kitas-und-pflege-startet](http://awo.org/klimaschutz-co2-fussabdruck-fuer-kitas-und-pflege-startet)

Energy partnerships and cooperatives



In collaboration with German energy cooperatives, WECF has founded gender-sensitive energy cooperatives in Georgia and Armenia to promote the production of technologies (solar panels, energy-efficient stoves, building insulation) and rural access to renewable energy. This sustainable and democratic business model reduces (energy) poverty and promotes decent jobs, health, infrastructure, climate change mitigation, gender equality and citizen participation. Other partnerships are being established between German and African energy cooperatives with the aim of promoting green 'citizens' energy'.

[calendar.boell.de/sites/default/
files/energy_cooperatives_wecf_
short_version.pdf](http://calendar.boell.de/sites/default/files/energy_cooperatives_wecf_short_version.pdf)

Education for sustainable development (ESD) in voluntary services



Every year around 100,000 voluntary service workers in Germany gain personal, social and technical skills through practical placements in the social sector, in nature conservation and protection of the environment, in culture or in sport. The training days that are required by law in voluntary service organisations provide a special framework for non-formal learning. The training seminars offer scope for input relevant to the field in which the volunteers are working and for social and political education.

A project involving cooperation between four associations – AWO, NABU, the association of Protestant voluntary service organisations and the Association of German Catholic Youth (BDKJ) – places education for sustainable development at the heart of this educational work. As part of the goal of enshrining the ESD approach as a cross-cutting issue in educational support work, training schemes open to all associations were created throughout Germany. These training workshops enabled educational specialists from across the voluntary sector to identify starting points for ESD in their own educational work and to address the didactic and content-related dimensions of the educational approach.

Through the pool of advisors and associated materials, those who are interested can continue to receive support in the provision of ESD after the end of the project. The library of materials brings together background information on sustainability-related issues and details of methods specifically aimed at the volunteer target group. The inter-organisation and cross-sectoral dialogue will be continued with concrete cooperation schemes to promote debate and initiatives – as a contribution to the socially and environmentally sound transformation of society.

bne-freiwilligendienste.de/

Municipalities as key stakeholders in gender-fair implementation of the SDGs



Municipalities are where our everyday lives unfold, where we – ideally – are close to the political decision-making process and can exert direct pressure through our decisions as workers and consumers and our activities as experts and activists. Two conferences in Munich were devoted to SDG 5, which addresses gender equality, at the municipal level. The resulting publication, with examples of good practices and calls for action, raises awareness among municipal workers of the supportive function of the SDGs as a framework, and shows how progress can be made towards SDG 5 and SDG 11, which addresses sustainable cities and communities.

[wecf.eu/german/news/2017/
Munich-SDGevent-feb2017.php](http://wecf.eu/german/news/2017/Munich-SDGevent-feb2017.php)

[wecf.eu/german/news/2017/
sdgs-muenchen.php](http://wecf.eu/german/news/2017/sdgs-muenchen.php)

vision 2030

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have shown that success in human development can be achieved if the political will for action and change is there. The final report on implementation of the MDGs states that global poverty has fallen significantly in the last two decades. The number of children who do not attend primary school has fallen by almost half since 2000 to an estimated 57 million and many more girls are now in school compared to 15 years ago. The report records a sharp decline in deaths of children under five years. It states that new HIV/Aids infections fell by 40% between 2000 and 2013. The maternal mortality rate has been almost halved since 1990. The report further notes that ozone-depleting substances have been virtually eliminated since 1990.

Despite this, there is still much to do. For example, while fewer people now live in poverty, inequality – both within and between countries – has increased. The 2030 Agenda therefore includes the reduction of intra- and inter-country inequality as one of its key goals. Politicians must ensure that laws and international agreements are coherently designed so that success in one area is not counterbalanced by setbacks in others. The greatest task for us all is to implement our own 2030 Agenda at the local level, at work and in our private lives. This involves reviewing how we consume, identifying where there is scope for action and forming a vision of how we and those that follow us want to live from 2030 and beyond. Our vision must then be implemented, step-by-step.

Civil society has the important task of monitoring and supporting the implementation of the global agenda for sustainable development by and in the EU and its Member States and leading the way with good examples. The 2030 Agenda invites us to emerge from the confines of our specialisms and forge new alliances in order to pool civil society expertise from all sectors and hence ensure coherent support for implementation. The solidarity between social and environmental organisations, human rights groups and others opens up new scope for action and innovative projects. Here are some examples from Germany.

imprint

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European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
The EEB is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe. It currently consists of around 140 member organisations in more than 30 countries, including a growing number of European networks, and representing some 30 million individual members and supporters.
Contact: Patrizia Heidegger
Director for Global Policies and Sustainability
Tel. +32 (0)2/ 274 10 82
patrizia.heidegger@eeb.org

idea and text:



International e.V.

AWO International

AWO International is the association set up by AWO to support development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects. In Germany we generate additional impetus through development-related information and training and opportunities to get involved.
Contact: Roman Fleißner
Global Learning & the 2030 & Agenda 2030
Tel. +49 (0)30/25292 364
roman.fleissner@awointernational.de



German Forum on Environment and Development

The German Forum on Environment and Development was set up in 1992 following the UN Conference on Environment and Development. It coordinates the activities of German NGOs in international political processes.

Contact: Elisabeth Staudt
Policy Advisor National Sustainability Policies
Tel +49 (0)30/678 1775 916
staudt@forumue.de



Women Engage for a Common Future

WECF is a global network that seeks to bring the environment, health and the economy into equilibrium in a way that takes into account the differing needs and perspectives of women and men.

Contact: Katharina Habersbrunner
Sustainable Energy & Climate Solutions
Tel. +49 (0)89/2323 938 13
katharina.habersbrunner@wecf.org

Layout: Marischka Lutz, www.marischkalutz.de
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International e.V.



The sustainable development Goals

In 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations (UN), including Germany, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through the Agenda, the international community aims to tackle such global challenges as poverty, hunger and climate change. At its core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. The 2030 Agenda is universally applicable: all countries – including the Members of the EU – must implement the 17 SDGs and its 169 targets. States are expected to report regularly on their progress towards achieving the goals at international meetings under the auspices of the UN.

Implementation in and by the EU – what needs to happen?

European policies must be reoriented toward the SDGs in order to achieve them. Beyond the EU's borders, its policies must not conflict with the SDGs, and the European Union must support other countries in their national implementation efforts. Unfortunately, the EU has so far not developed a strategy to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

The EU's existing Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) has not been updated after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and is a dormant instrument. That is, EU clearly lacks an overarching strategy to realise the SDGs by 2030 and to make sure that all policies and programmes are oriented towards the 2030 Agenda.

In the European Commission, Vice-President Frans Timmermans, is responsible for the 2030 Agenda together with Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. The Commission has established a Multi-Stakeholder Platform which advises the

EU's political leadership on the Implementation of the SDGs. Eurostat publishes an SDG monitoring report once a year (the first one was presented in November 2017) based on a set of indicators. In the European Parliament, different Committees deal with Sustainable Development; however, different from some national parliaments it has not yet established a dedicated body.

Even though the political leadership of the EU likes to argue that Europe is a champion of sustainable development, civil society organisations fear that implementation will take place in only a few sectors.

The current political priorities only focus on a smaller subset of the SDGs and targets and fails to comprehensively address the 2030 Agenda in its entirety. In addition, the lack of an overarching strategy and lack of policy coordination mean that sustainable development objective are often sidelined in important political decisions.

Civil society organisations are therefore calling for the drafting of a comprehensive and binding European Sustainable Development Strategy with an implementation plan.

In their view, all proposed legislation and policy strategies must in future be reviewed to check that they are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and adjusted if necessary. This requires institutions with strong implementation powers. Adequate human and financial resources must also be made available through a Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) which must become a driver for the realisation of the SDGs.

Implementation at all levels – what it means for us

The global sustainability agenda is not only critical for countries, the scientific community, the economy and civil society but also for each and every one of us. How we consume, especially in the global North, shapes our societies.

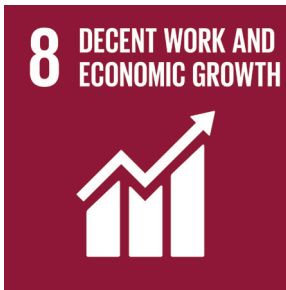
We should therefore not underestimate the extent of our personal influence. We must examine our resource-intensive lifestyles, review their sustainability, develop a sense of global solidarity and respect planetary boundaries. The change starts with us and continues in our immediate personal environment, through our social commitment and in the choices that we make.

A building block: Make Europe sustainable for all!



makeeuropesustainableforall.org

Twenty-five European organisations have joined the 'Make Europe Sustainable for All!' project, which sets out to draw attention to the SDGs at the regional, national and European level and campaigns for action to implement the 2030 Agenda. An important element of this is getting civil society organisations in Europe to work together as partners and build their capacity to monitor and support implementation of the Agenda.



goal

End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Guarantee access to land and poverty-reducing services.

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture..

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Reduce maternal and infant mortality. Tackle serious diseases.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. Promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Enable access to education for sustainable development.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. End discrimination and violence against women.

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Protect water-related ecosystems.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Increase the share of renewable energy.

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

Reduce inequality within and among countries. Regulate and supervise global financial markets. Handle migration safely and responsibly.

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Ensure affordable housing and sustainable transport systems. Reduce environmental impacts.

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and efficient resource use. Reduce food waste. Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and integrate it into national policies and strategies.

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. End overfishing, protect coastal areas.

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Establish global partnerships, spend 0.7% of GDP on international cooperation, foster debt relief, fair trade and policy coherence.

social and environmental challenges

700 million people live on less than US\$1.90 a day. The affluent part of the world's population (11 %) causes half of all CO₂-Emissions, whereas the poorer part suffers more from the consequences of climate change. Phenomena such as child poverty, poverty among the elderly and poverty despite work are also present in wealthy countries.

13% of the world's population are affected by hunger. Just 1% of the food that is already available would be sufficient to meet their needs. Over production, food waste, and land use conflicts exacerbate global imbalances and create inequality.

2 billion people have no regular access to medical care. 90% of all available medicines are used by 15% of the world's population.

61 million children and 62 million young people do not attend school. In poorer countries, 46 % of total education expenditures go toward a small number of higher-learning institutions serving an average of only 10 % of learners. Education for sustainable development must be anchored in curricular and extracurricular education and in lifelong learning.

Women are particularly often discriminated against, disempowered and subject to violence. They make up the majority of the 'have-nots', the poor and the illiterate.

In 2015, around 660 million people were without access to clean drinking water and 2.4 billion were lacking adequate toilets and sewerage systems. Lack of access to usable water sparks conflict and increases inequality.

1.1 billion people need access to energy that is more oriented towards the common good and more environmentally friendly. Energy production is currently responsible for one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions. Overall energy consumption must be reduced.

Billions of people need prospects Improve the prospects of billions of people through fostering economic development that is socially acceptable, uses resources responsibly and respects planetary boundaries. The concept of growth must be questioned, since neither the increase in material opportunities nor the fall in unemployment has reduced poverty risks in all industrialised countries.

Despite contradictory objectives, the majority of public investment in transport goes into road-building. Germany's national Transport Infrastructure Plan (2016), for instance, sacrifices 2.9 hectares of countryside to road-building every day. The costs of maintaining this infrastructure are a burden on future generations.

Most investment and public money goes into products and companies that destroy the foundation of our existence and increase inequality. Global transparency standards on the environmental and social impacts of loans and investment must be strengthened. This investment should also target the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised groups.

Cities worldwide are currently responsible for around 70% of all resources used and more than 75% of all CO₂ emissions. At the same time, poverty is increasingly concentrated in urban areas.

Our Earth cannot support a lifestyle that is geared towards economic growth and consumption. The gap between our resource consumption and what our planet can sustain is getting ever wider. If we continue down this path, we will need a second planet to meet our material needs by 2030.

Developing countries have contributed just 24% to climate change, but they are particularly hard hit by its consequences. Industrialised countries with high living standards thus have a particular responsibility in this area.

Almost 800 million people work in the fishing industry. Overfishing of entire coastal regions leads to the decline of small-scale fishing, results in precarious working conditions in the fishing sector and fuels further migration. Pollution of the oceans, especially by plastic waste, is increasing.

Poor people are most severely affected by the local consequences of climate change and destruction of the environment. They often depend on natural resources for their livelihood and frequently live in areas directly affected by environmental destruction. The conservation of nature is really a question of generational justice.

Conflict is triggered not only by violent disputes but also by inequality and by use of natural resources in ways that exacerbate discrimination. Some EU Member States' approach to arms exports, Germany being a negative example, contradicts the position it took during the SDG negotiations, during which it supported restrictions on the proliferation of small arms.

In the past two years the EU has had a trade surplus with Africa, partly as a result of the trade in highly subsidised products. Exports were worth EUR 145 billion, while imports totalled EUR 117 billion. This results in African countries incurring higher levels of debt and destroys livelihoods, especially the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.