



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SOLUTIONS NETWORK**  
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

## The SDSN

The **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem solving on a local, national, and global scale.

SDSN was established in 2012 by the UN Secretary General, as a global academic expert network which promotes practical problem solving around sustainable development challenges. Since 2012, the SDSN has been actively involved in supporting the Secretary General's office, the UN system and national governments on the design (and now the implementation) of the **SDGs**. Our work also spans the SDG knowledge creation and education process, offering **massive open online course materials** and disseminating evidence of good practice and sustainable development solutions.



## National and Regional Networks

Spanning six continents, the SDSN draws upon the knowledge and educational capacity of over 400 universities, research centers, civil society organizations, and other knowledge institutions. They work together to direct a **multidimensional global network** that attempts to address some of the world's most pressing problems.

Each of the networks has its own priorities focusing on all or a subset of the following objectives:

- Raising awareness about the SDGs and "localizing" the goals
- Promoting Solution Initiatives for sustainable development
- Promoting education for sustainable development

Assisting governments in identifying local, national and regional sustainable development challenges and in devising long-term strategies.

## European Networks

This brochure represents the five already established European networks, with more than a hundred institutions from all over the European continent.

Greece SDSN and Eastern Europe SDSN will be launched soon.

- Host institution: **German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)**
- Launched: April 2014
- Co-Chairs: Mr. Klaus Töpfer (2014/15), Mr. Dirk Messner (since 2014) and Ms. Gesine Schwan (since 2015)
- Number of member institutions: 13

## Highlight:

In addition to leading the **Deep Decarbonisation Pathways Project (DDPP)** for Germany, this network has been a very active contributor to the policy debates regarding the SDGs-business link and the role of science in Germany's sustainability architecture. **SDSN Germany** also advocates for ambitious **G7** and **G20** contributions in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement. Germany's G7 presidency in 2015 and the upcoming German G20 presidency in 2017 have and will provide important reference points for these activities: Besides drafting SDSN declarations and presenting them to Leaders and Sherpas, members and partners of SDSN Germany engage in G7/G20-related academic and think tank processes – like Think 20 (T20).





- Host institution: **Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei**
- Launched: March 2016
- Co-Chairs: Ms. Sabina Ratti and Mr. Angelo Riccaboni
- Number of member institutions: 34

## Highlight:

With the aim of translating the 2030 Agenda into a relevant Italian context, mobilizing national academic and research actors and connecting them to civil society and business leaders, the country has **launched SDSN Italia**.

SDSN Italia builds on three main pillars:

- Contributing to the implementation of SDGs through scientific research and innovation
- Promoting knowledge and awareness about SDGs throughout Italian society implementing dissemination, educational and training initiatives
- Identifying, proposing and realizing concrete solutions for sustainable development

SDSN Italia operates under the auspices of **SDSN-Mediterranean**.





# SDSN - Mediterranean



- Host institution: **University of Siena**
- Launched: July 2013
- Co-Chair: Mr. Angelo Riccaboni
- Number of member institutions: 67

## Highlight: Plastic Busters in the Mediterranean Sea

An **SDSN Solution Initiative** to detect and monitor the presence and effects of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea with the goal of identifying and implementing prevention and mitigation solutions. This project has recently received the label of the **Union of the Mediterranean**, after a unanimous decision of the 43 Member States of the Union considering the project to have the potential to deliver concrete benefits for the citizens of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Marine litter represents a serious concern for the Mediterranean environment. An estimated three billion pieces of litter float or cover the sea bottom, 70 to 80% of which is plastic.

The project has three components:

- to measure and document the nature, prevalence and impact of marine plastic litter by tracking a number of sentinel organisms in different ecological compartments across the entire Mediterranean basin
- to sequence the genome of bacteria living on the plastic in order to understand how these pathogens may be affecting human health
- to support organizations and campaigns in Mediterranean countries advocating for policies to reduce the inflow of plastic into the Mediterranean



# SDSN - Northern Europe



- Host institution: **The Centre for Environment and Sustainability**
- Launched: February 2016
- Co-Chairs: Ms. Katarina Gårdfeldt and Ms. Katherine Richardson
- Number of member institutions: 17

## Highlight:

The **SDSN Northern Europe (SDSN NE)** has a primary focus on the policy for the SDGs and its call for transformation of the transport sector, production and consumption patterns, intensification of climate actions, enabling techniques in the ICT sector and capacity building of academic institutions in developing countries.

In addition to its member institutions, 6 Danish universities are affiliated to SDSN NE via the **Centre for Sustainability Science** at Copenhagen University, 10 universities have pending applications and 7 are working on their applications to become members. Member countries so far are Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Lithuania. The network also works in close contact with universities in Finland.

The SDSN Northern Europe is currently exploring four initial areas for **Solutions Initiatives**, namely:

Oceans, connecting cities and regions, environment for development in low income countries and academia as a host for immigrants.



SDSN NE's Co-Chairs Katarina Gårdfeldt and Katherine Richardson.

Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.



- Host institution: **Universidad Autónoma de Madrid**
- Launched: January 2015
- Co-Chairs: Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé and Ms. Teresa Ribera
- Number of member institutions: 18

### Highlight:

On November 24, 2015, **SDSN-Spain** launched a **Declaration** for all political parties in Spain to publicly commit to the implementation of the Agenda 2030, right before the elections were held on December 20. The Declaration was presented in a public arena hosted by the chairs of SDSN-Spain/REDS, Miguel Angel Moratinos and Teresa Ribera. This was followed by a round table debate to discuss the implementation of the SDGs in Spain.

The event generated a wide media coverage and all major political parties were represented, including Partido Popular, PSOE, Podemos, UPyD, Ciudadanos, Equo and Izquierda Unida.

In addition, SDSN Spain is now working with Spanish cities to think about the role they can play in the implementation of the SDGs.







**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SOLUTIONS NETWORK**

A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS