



REPORT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS — ROMANIA —

The report was prepared as part of the project Empower – learn – led – Expand: YOUth4SDGs changing the rules transforming our world

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Young People - General Information over Romania

In the frame of the project KA2 EIIIE Empower - learn - led - Expand: YOUth4SDGs changing the rules transforming our world, we developed a questionnaire to identify the needs that our youth from Romania have. The survey was distributed in GEYC Community and among youngsters from Romania.

The survey was completed by 17 people between the ages from 16 to 51, coming from different environments. 64.7% of our participants were women, and 35.3% were men. From the total number of participants 76.5% had knowledge about SDGs, while 23.5 % had no knowledge over the topic and didn't hear of SDGs before.

If yes, where you ever heard about SDGs?

13 responses

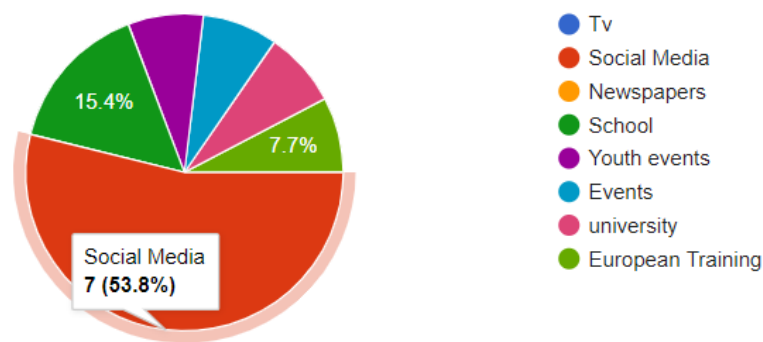


Fig.1. Sources

The main sources that our participants mentioned were social media, school, European trainings, youth events, university and tv (as seen in Fig.1).

NO POVERTY

The survey revealed that the participants are finding the poverty important and very important in Romania and for the young people. All the participants think that the institutions of Romania are not doing enough to fight poverty, but they think the European Union is doing something, but not much.

ZERO HUNGER

The responses revealed that hunger and sustainable agriculture are important issues in Romania. Their opinion is that our country and the European Union are doing almost nothing to fight hunger and promote sustainable rural development.

QUALITY EDUCATION

The participants of the survey think that the European Union favors better educational paths us, and the satisfaction level over the learning opportunities is medium.

GENDER EQUALITY

From the answers provided we can notice that gender equality is not a value of our country, but they strongly agree that in European Union, gender equality is a value.

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

They feel that there is a possibility of having a better future in Romania and in European Union.

REDUCE INEQUALITY

Inequality is one of the issues raised in Romania and in the European Union, but there are big hopes for a better future.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Romania is more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable than in the past and the respondents feel that our country is working to raise the standards. Besides that, young people have the opportunity to actively participate in changes in their community.

CLIMATE ACTION

All the participants agree that climate change is an important issue in our society and that young people are aware of it, but they are not taking any action into solving the problem. The opinions are that the situation will not get better or worse and that our government isn't doing enough in this direction.

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The feelings are that our society is not fair and inclusive and that our country would surely not live better without being part of international institutions.

Personal thoughts of our respondents:

"I think climate change will affect us all and that fast enough, the need for action is immediate."

"Honestly, we are living a time of change, particularly important when considering climate change, and the actions that we take now will determine the kind of future we'll have. I have faith in our generation and our ability to act local while thinking global."

"I hope that these goals will be promoted in a way that will raise awareness and give the opportunity to all citizens to actively participate in implementing and sustaining these initiatives. In order to make a change and create a better and sustainable future for the world all countries need to unite and take action in this direction. People need to understand that their individual behavior have a global impact and the steps they now take in this long journey will give the opportunity for next generations to consolidate this foundation and build a brighter world. Change starts with the initiative of each and every one of us and every person can set an example and inspire by taking action when nobody else will assume the risks and effort."

In September 2015, Romania joined the leaders of the 193 members of the United Nations, at the Summit on Sustainable Development, in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a universal program for global action on development that promotes the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. For the first time, actions are addressed to developed and developing countries alike.

Central to the 2030 Agenda are to be found the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Objectives. The Global Objectives set an ambitious action agenda for the next 15 years to eradicate extreme poverty, combating inequality and injustice and protecting the planet until 2030.

Romania attaches great importance to the United Nations, an organization with a universal vocation, which is the largest multilateral framework for addressing major global issues, including long-term development objectives.

For Romania the Millennium Development Goals represented a complementary tool to mobilize internal action in support of economic and social development. The 2030 Agenda goes beyond the Millennium Development Goals, keeping issues on the agenda such as poverty eradication, education and health and addressing new ones such as peaceful and inclusive societies. All countries must ensure that appropriate policies are prepared to implement this Agenda. Countries should promote inclusive and effective institutions and elaborate policies based on the rule of law, human rights, women's rights, gender equality and the increased involvement of women.

Romania fully supports the idea that the 2030 Agenda must be implemented by local institutions, responding directly to citizens' needs. Their needs, interests and concerns must be addressed by formulating local and national development strategies.

Romania is committed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals at national level and will review the National Strategy for Sustainable Development to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals. Social exclusion is identified as a major challenge to implementing the Goals. The Romanian revised Strategy will focus on supporting the inclusion in development policies of persons with disabilities, the youth and women. Eradicating poverty requires decent employment opportunities, and preventing and eradicating social exclusion requires social cohesion policies.

As a member of the European Union, Romania contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals not only at national level, but also at international level through the support it provides to developing countries through the official development assistance. The experience gained by Romania in the transition process could be shared with countries interested to benefit from such support.

Romania developed the current Voluntary National Review with the occasion of celebrating 100 years from the Great Union, providing information about the implementation process of Agenda

2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (emphasizing the goals under review this year). The Review presents the progress accomplished so far and the aims for 2030, resulted from the analysis of SDGs indicators from multiple sectors and from here on will represent a reference line for further development of Romania, in the spirit of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The current Programme of Government stated from its vision the principle “Leave no one behind”, addressing all policies and priority actions in an integrated approach. The first National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania (NSDS) was elaborated in 1999, reviewed in 2008 (one year after the EU accession) and now we are in the process of reviewing the Strategy in order to localize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs. The process of localizing the SDGs started in 2016, feeding both - VNR and the reviewing of the NSDS.

The institutional architecture for sustainable development in Romania comprises the Inter-ministerial Committee with responsibilities of coordinating the sustainable development policy lead by the Viceprime-Minister, Minister of Environment (with members who are vice-ministers from all Governmental institutions), the Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development of the Parliament of Romania and the Department for Sustainable Development under the Prime-Minister Office.

Romania’s biodiversity can be described as unique and generous, going through all the levels of the ecological systems, and thus, being the main reason why we should have a regional partnership to stop in tracks the biodiversity decline, tackling species extinction and ecosystems degradation due to anthropic impact. The Programme on Environmental Protection through Biodiversity Conservation (part of the Programme of Government 2018-2020) addresses the fundamental role of habitat played in biodiversity conservation, with the main habitat targeted being represented by forest ecosystems.

Romania’s low dependency on imported energy resources, combined with structural changes in the economy, leads to the downsizing and relative decline of energy-intensive industries, helping the country to avoid major disruptions during Europe’s recurring energy crisis. Romania has a geographical location which favors wind, solar and water energy, as well as mineral resources with a significant untapped potential caused by savings of applied sustainable development and circular economy. The energy sector has an essential contribution to Romania’s development with strong influence on economic growth, wellbeing and the environment. To meet consumer expectations in the long run, the Romanian energy sector must become cleaner, more economically robust and technologically advanced.

We acknowledge the potential of a leap in an adequate ecological-economical interface with our natural capital represented by energy consumption. Once this potential is going to be used, it is going to drive an unforeseen economical increase and environmental anthropic impact reduction, unleashing a sustainable technology and economy growth that would enable us to export energy and good practice for a regional green partnership. One such example of lowering our energy consumption for sustainable purposes is represented by the Green House Programme that aims to minimizing the use of energy necessary for household heating, by the means of thermal

insulation and solar panels. In the past 15 years we managed to achieve a 24% (and slightly above) renewable energy share in energy production, target that has been settled for the year 2020, mainly with the help of solar panels and wind power, auxiliary with usage of cogeneration.

Romania has a long tradition as a sustainable and resilient society, being one of the oldest sustainable rural civilizations in Europe, rich in natural resources and human knowledge on how to live in harmony with nature. The revolutionary work "The Entropy Law and the Economic Process" published in 1971 by Nicolae Georgescu-Roegen represents a milestone on developing the sustainable development concept. For Romania, as well as for all countries, sustainable development is not one of several possible options, but the only rational prospect for advancement as a nation.