



EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR AN INNOVATIVE CAMPUS UNIFYING REGIONS

## EPICUR Hubs Kick-Off Sustainable Transformation

# “Navigating Transdisciplinary International Research for Sustainability”

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# What is sustainability?



- United Nations

*“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*

- Cambridge dictionary

*“the quality of causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time”*

- Oxford dictionary

*“avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance”*



- **Multidisciplinary**

studying a subject from multiple different disciplines at the same time with no integration of perspectives nor findings.

- **Interdisciplinary**

integrate perspectives or insights from different disciplines through interaction, in order to better understand a complex phenomenon.

- **Transdisciplinarity**

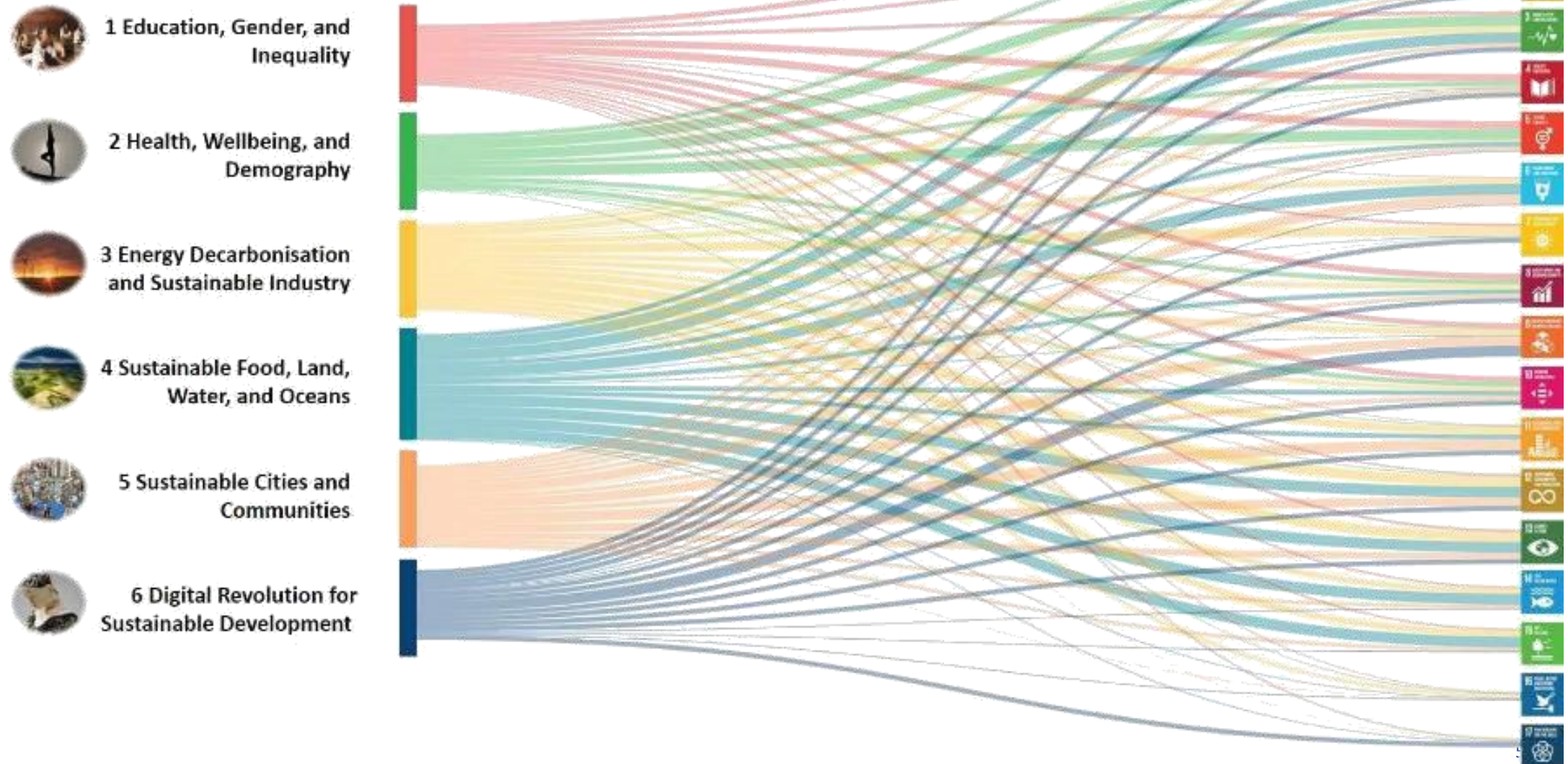
overarching synthesis of disciplines. New methodological and theoretical frameworks, co-production of knowledge with stakeholders

# Multidisciplinary

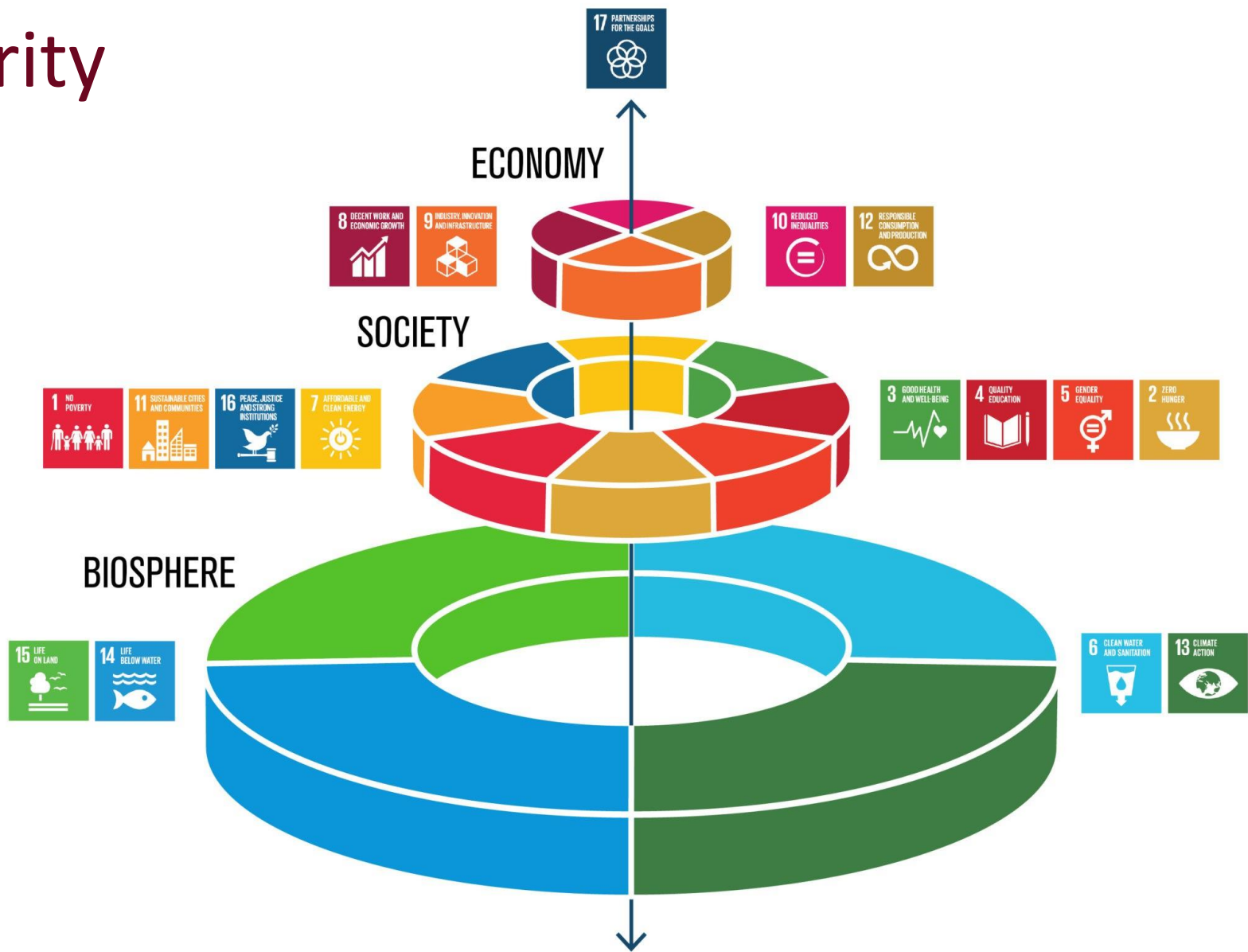




# Interdisciplinarity



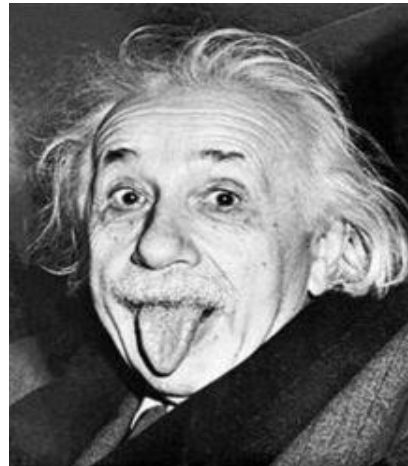
# Transdisciplinarity



Graphics by Jerker Lokrantz/Azote

# Global sustainability... understanding the issues

"If I had an **hour to solve a problem**, I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and five minutes thinking about solutions."



## SDSN is building a global network of sustainable development problem solvers



The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development and operates under the auspices of the UN Secretary General and leadership of Professor Jeffrey Sachs since 2012. We are committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global scales.

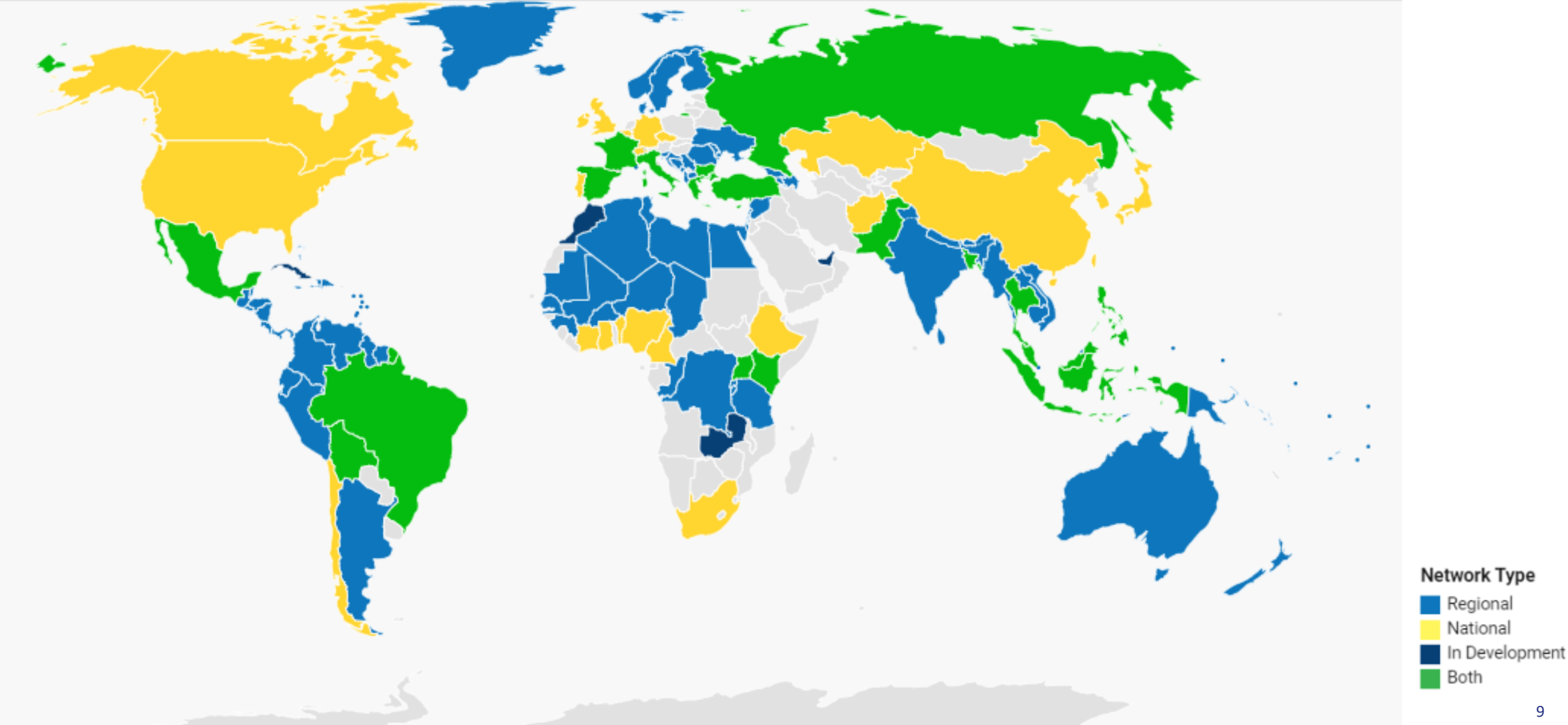
Through the network, SDSN brings together **universities, research centres, and other knowledge institutions** focusing on:

- Providing and mobilizing support for the SDGs;
- Promoting practical Solution Initiatives and long-term pathways for sustainable development;
- Promoting high-quality education and research collaboration for sustainable development;
- Supporting governments in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development.





2000+ SDSN Member institutions supported by 57 National & Regional Networks



## Global editions



## Regional editions



## Subnational editions



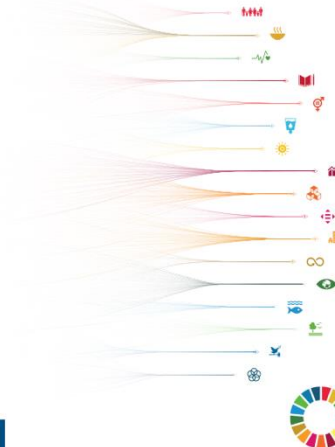
# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2024

The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future  
Includes the SDG Index and Dashboards



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022

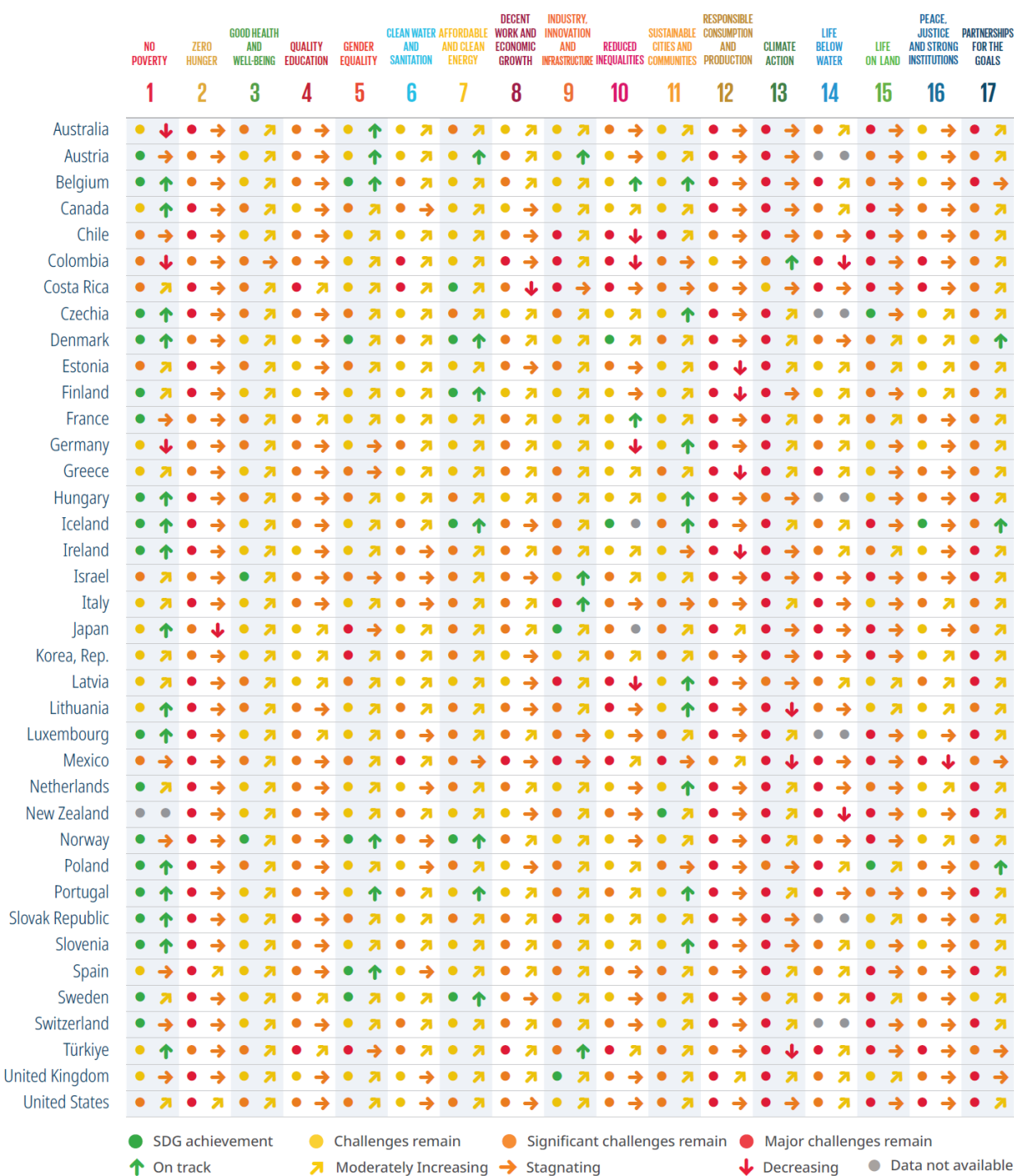
From Crisis to Sustainable Development:  
the SDGs as Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond  
Includes the SDG Index and Dashboards



<https://www.unsdsn.org/resources/the-sustainable-development-report-2024/>



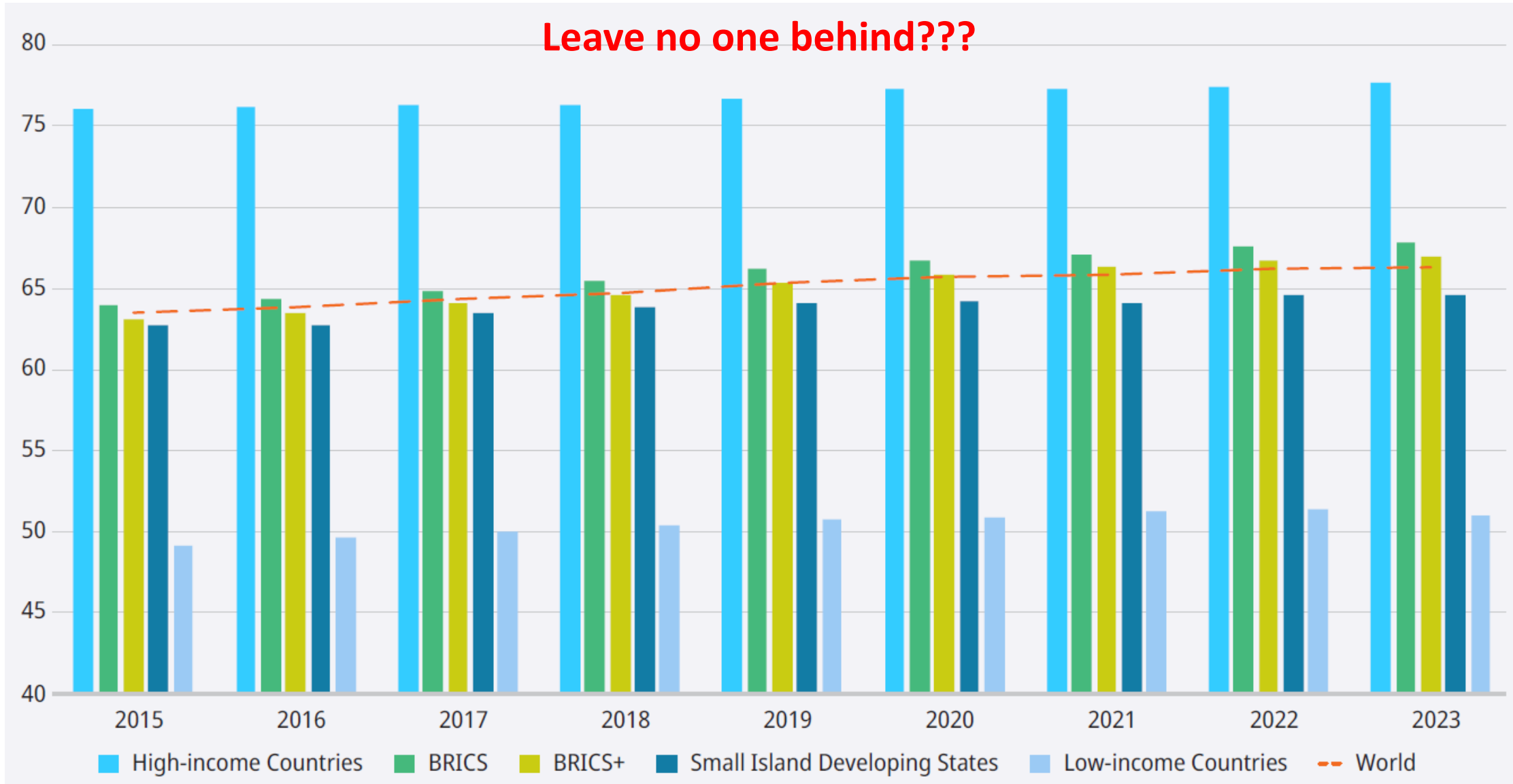
# 2024 SDG dashboards for OECD countries (levels and trends)





	NO POVERTY	ZERO HUNGER	GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	QUALITY EDUCATION	GENDER EQUALITY	CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	REDUCED INEQUALITIES	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	CLIMATE ACTION	LIFE BELOW WATER	LIFE ON LAND	PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Australia	● ↓	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↑	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗
Austria	● →	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↑	● ↗	● ↑	● ↗	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● →	● →	● →	● ↗
Belgium	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↑	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↑	● ↑	● →	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● →
Canada	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗
Chile	● →	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↓	● ↗	● →	● →	● →	● →	● →	● ↗
Colombia	● ↓	● →	● →	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↓	● →	● →	● ↑	● ↓	● →	● →	● ↗
Costa Rica	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↓	● →	● →	● →	● →	● →	● →	● →	● →	● ↗
Czechia	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗	● ↗
Denmark	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↑	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↑
Estonia	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↓	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗
Finland	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↑	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↓	● →	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗
France	● →	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↑	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● ↗
Germany	● ↓	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↓	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗
Greece	● ↗	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↓	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗
Hungary	● ↑	● →	● ↗	● →	● →	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● ↗	● →	● →	● →	● →	● →	● ↗

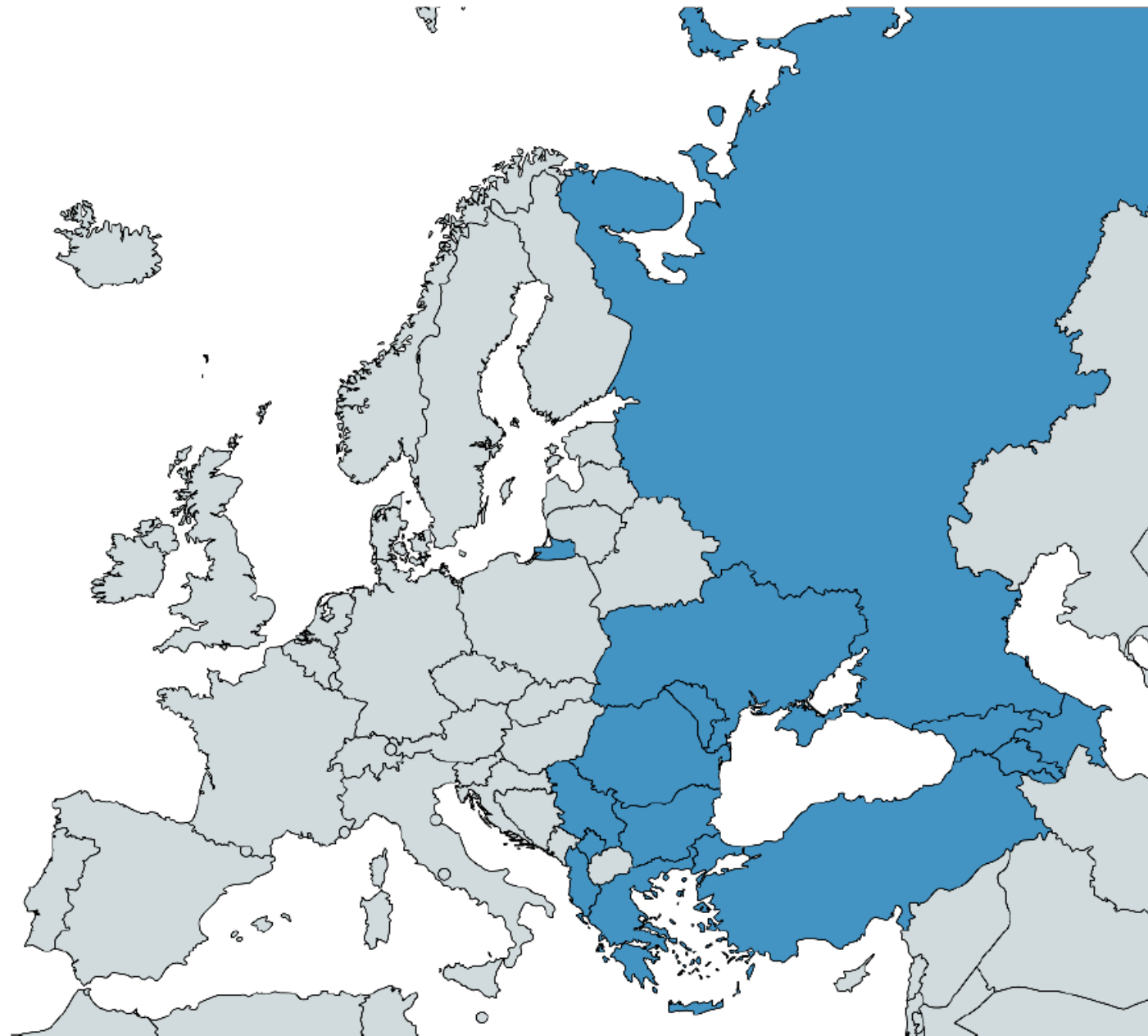
# Average SDG Index score by selected country groups, 2015–2023



Albania

Armenia

- Azerbaijan
- Bulgaria
- Georgia
- Greece
- Moldova
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Türkiye
- Ukraine



Created with mapchart.net

<https://sdsn-blacksea.auth.gr/>

# Sustainability is a big word. We're making its impact even bigger.

We empower young people to lead the way in building a better, lasting world. And we can only do it together.

How We Do It

How You Can Help

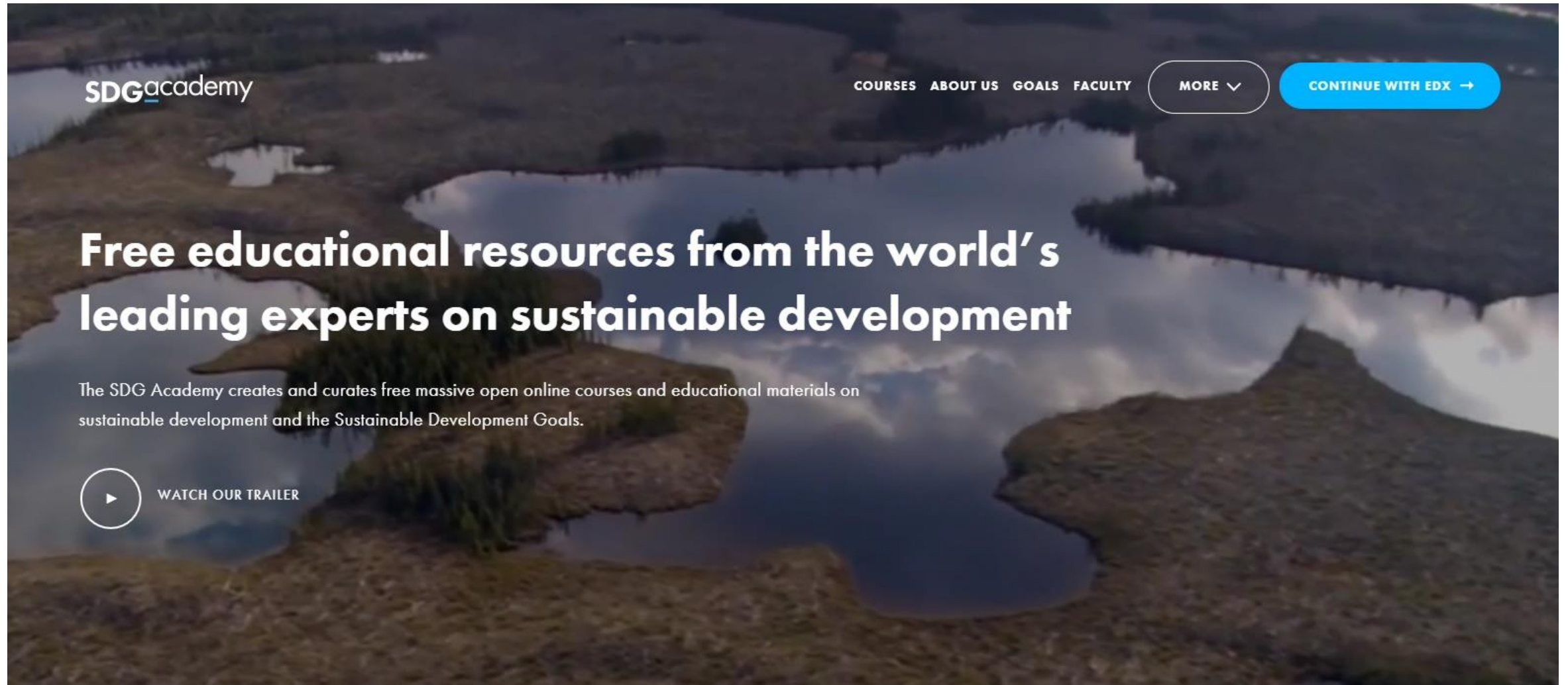
<https://www.sdsnyouth.org/>





# SDG Academy

<https://sdgacademy.org/>

The banner features a dark, atmospheric landscape with a body of water reflecting a cloudy sky. The SDG Academy logo is in the top left. Navigation links are in the top right. The main headline is centered in large white text. Below it is a descriptive paragraph. In the bottom left, there is a play button icon and the text 'WATCH OUR TRAILER'.

SDGacademy

COURSES ABOUT US GOALS FACULTY MORE ▾

CONTINUE WITH EDX →

## Free educational resources from the world's leading experts on sustainable development

The SDG Academy creates and curates free massive open online courses and educational materials on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

WATCH OUR TRAILER

17

# Climate-resilient regions through systemic solutions and innovations





## Climate-resilient regions through systemic solutions and innovations









# 9 Case studies in Europe



**CS#1:**  
Athens metropolitan  
area



**CS#2:**  
Mediterranean  
Ports



**CS#3:**  
Main River



**CS#4:**  
Ohrid/Prespa  
lakes



**CS#5:** Canary  
Islands



**CS#6:**  
Black Sea



**CS#7:**  
Southern  
Denmark



**CS#8:**  
Torbay and Devon  
county

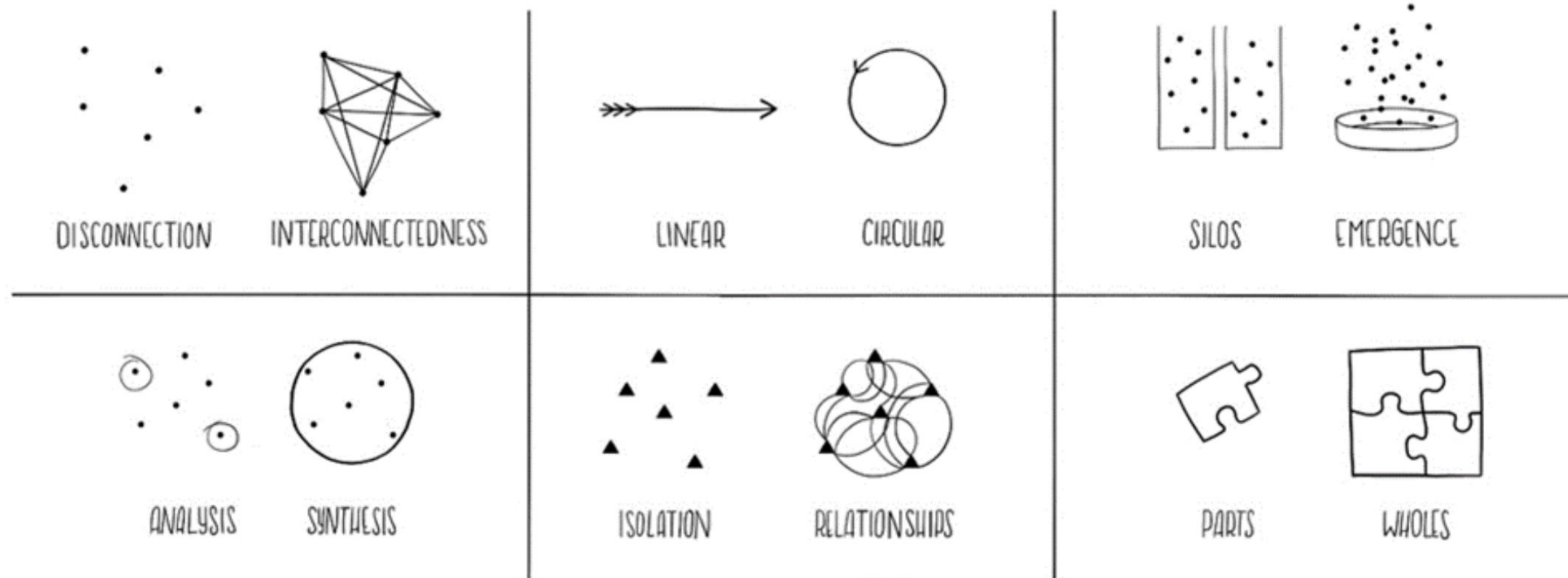


**CS#9:** Sardinia



# Systems Innovation Approach

In a systems innovation approach, **solutions become a set of integrated and coordinated interventions** in economic, political and social systems.



Visualizing Systems Thinking

([https://arsinoe-project.eu/securstorage/2024/03/ARSINOE\\_D2.1.pdf](https://arsinoe-project.eu/securstorage/2024/03/ARSINOE_D2.1.pdf))

# Systems Innovation Approach

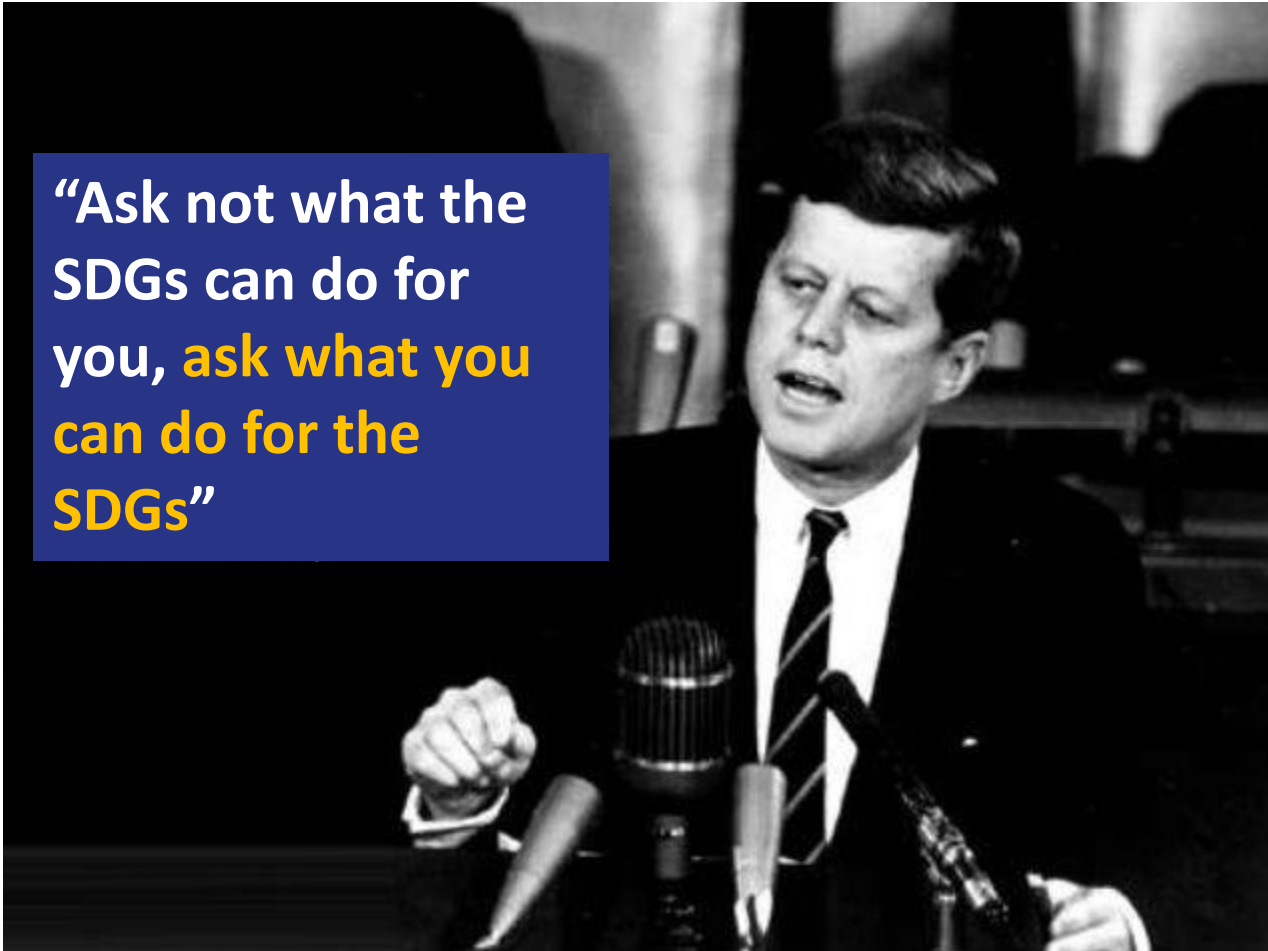
In a systems innovation approach, **solutions become a set of integrated and coordinated interventions** in economic, political and social systems.

Context and solutions to face climate change are identified by qualitative analysis in LLs and through interviews and workshops, where the targeted stakeholders and citizens will co-design an accepted vision of the future and set a list of possible pathways to reach their goals.

Visualizing Systems Thinking

([https://arsinoe-project.eu/securstorage/2024/03/ARSINOE\\_D2.1.pdf](https://arsinoe-project.eu/securstorage/2024/03/ARSINOE_D2.1.pdf))

**“Ask not what the  
SDGs can do for  
you, ask what you  
can do for the  
SDGs”**





# “Politicians discussing global warming”

## Isaac Cordal (Berlin)





Director, Water Resources Engineering and Management Lab



Chair, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network – SDSN Black Sea



Vice-president, Department of Civil Engineering



Member, UN SDSN Global Climate Hub



Director, postgraduate program "Protection of the environment and sustainable development"



Member, UN Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition



President, Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties



Former President, Greek Hydrotechnical Association



Elected fellow, World Academy of Arts and Science



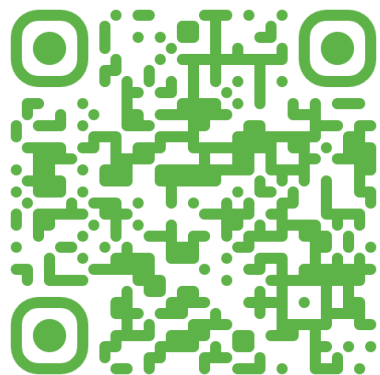
Member, Global Climate Innovation Coalition



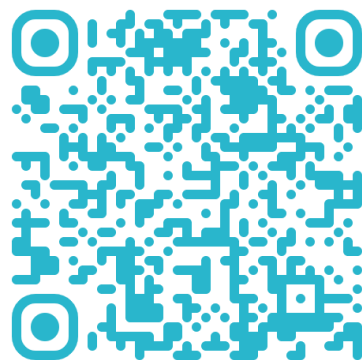
Member, European School of Sustainability Science and Research



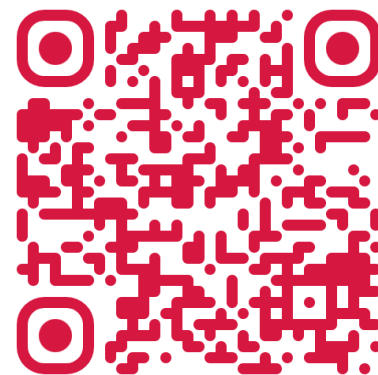
Funder-Director, Resilient and Innovation Sustainable Engineering hub



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