Highlights
Cluster of Sustainability Transition

Resees@AUEB

SD.U@ATHENA RC and EIT Climate-KIC HUB Greece@ATHENA RC

SDSN EUROPE and SDSN Greece

Launch of SDSN Europe

Following the announcement in December 2020 on the occasion of the release of the 2020 Europe Sustainable Development Report, SDSN has launched SDSN Europe to mobilize and coordinate the knowledge and science across SDSN networks in support of a sustainable and resilient European Recovery.

In addition to the European Green Deal, which had already put the EU in a strong leadership position on sustainable development, the EU has recently approved the Recovery and Resilience Fund. Together, these initiatives create a window of opportunity to push forward the implementation of the SDGs and the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2050.

In order to take advantage of these EU initiatives and enhance SDSN's contribution to the work on sustainable development across the continent, SDSN has invited three leaders from the region to help coordinate SDSN's work in Europe. Adolf Kloke-Lesch (SDSN Germany), Angelo Riccaboni (SDSN Mediterranean) and Phoebe Koundouri (SDSN Greece) have graciously accepted to play this coordination role as European SDSN Chairs. Under their leadership, SDSN Europe will act as a coordination instrument for our networks and members to catalyze actions on issues related to European policy. The group will help streamline our research and policy advice efforts and will facilitate our dialogue with the EU institutions.

With ten national and regional networks of universities and knowledge institutions in the EU, and over 360 member organizations across the entire continent, SDSN is ideally placed to provide evidence-based policy development in Europe. Building on SDSN's work on the Six Transformations, ESDR, Business of Food and FABLE, SDSN Europe will place emphasis on the European Green Deal, national Recovery and Resilience Plans of the Member States, Sustainable Food Systems, as well as other thematic areas that will be co-designed with the European Networks.

SDSN Europe's leadership and secretariat will be constituted from our existing networks, working collaboratively and in close coordination with the SDSN Paris office.

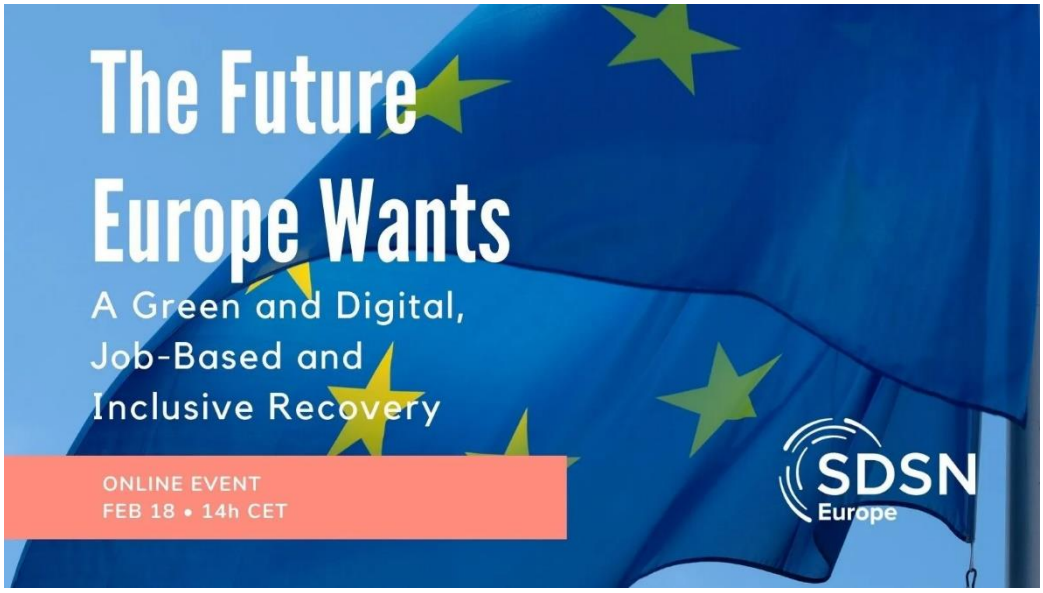
Co-Chairs SDSN Europe: Adolf Kloke-Lesch, Prof. Phoebe Koundouri and Prof. Angelo Riccaboni.

Simone Cresti, Manager SDSN Mediterranean; Elena Crete, Manager Senior Working Group on the European Green Deal; Barbara di Paola, SDSN EU, Communication Specialist; Andrija Erac, SDSN Networks Manager; Maria Lentoudi, SDSN EU Communications Manager; Janina Sturm, SDSN EU Manager; Prof. Theodoros Zachariadis, SDSN EU Manager

👉 Find out more about SDSN Europe

NOT TO BE MISSED 📌

Webinar 18 Feb: The Future Europe Wants: A Green and Digital, Job-Based and Inclusive Recovery



Recognizing the global sustainability challenges, European Union leaders have adopted the European Green Deal with wide-ranging goals for a climate-neutral, resource-efficient, technologically advanced, and socially equitable continent. They have also decided to integrate the UN Member States' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the European Semester, which is the major process for the coordination of national economic and employment policies in the EU, thereby deciding to "put people and the planet at the center of EU economic policy". In addition to these decisions made in 2019 and early 2020, EU leaders responded to the immense health, environmental, and economic challenges posed by the pandemic with a strong "Next Generation EU" package of policies and funds to boost economic recovery while pursuing Europe's green transition.

In an attempt to connect the dots between these four major policy initiatives – the SDGs, the European Green Deal, the European Semester, and the EU recovery plan – the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Europe (SDSN Europe) has produced a new report, Transformations for the Joint Implementation of Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal: A Green and Digital, Job-Based and Inclusive Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic, to support policymakers with actionable strategies that can guide EU-wide and national economic recovery in line with the continent's overarching sustainability agenda. This webinar will present key recommendations and findings from the report as well as give an overview of the scope and mission of SDSN Europe.

Confirmed speakers:

- **Prof. Jeffrey Sachs**, President of SDSN and EU Senior Working Group
- **Prof. Phoebe Koundouri**, Co-Chair of SDSN Europe, EU Senior Working Group Chair
- **Martha McPherson**, Head of Green Economy and Sustainable Growth at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)
- **Carlo Papa**, Managing Director, Enel Foundation
- **Theodoros Zachariadis**, SDSN Europe Manager andAssociate Professor at the Energy, Environment and Water Research Centre of the Cyprus Institute
- **Adolph Kloke-Lesch**, Co-Chair of SDSN Europe, Executive Director of SDSN Germany
- **Prof. Angelo Riccaboni**, Co-Chair of SDSN Europe, SDSN Mediterranean Chair

INFO: https://www.unsdsn.org/webinar-the-future-europe-wants-a-green-and-digital-job-based-and-inclusive-recovery

RSVP in the link below:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2016117876787/WN_VHsrawAtSuybW5vvnn11YQ

Launch of the Sustainable Development Unit, directed by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri @ATHENA Research Center

The Sustainability Development Unit (SD.U) operates under the Athena Research Center. SDU is founded and directed by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri. SDU engages in cutting-edge research to enable the transition to sustainability, through the implementation of UN Agenda 2030 (17 SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. The Institute focuses on interdisciplinary systems research and the delivery of innovative solutions to issues related to the inter-dependencies between research and innovation, the economy, the society, the environment, policymaking and politics, to transition to sustainable development. The thematic priorities of the Unit are namely: Blue Growth; Water-Food-Energy Nexus: Smart Agriculture & Smart Urban Water Systems; Circular economy, Green-Digital-Smart cities and Nations, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; and Innovation acceleration.

SD.U hosts the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Greece**, co- chaired by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, which promotes integrated approaches to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation and **EIT Climate-KIC Hub Greece**, directed by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, working towards a prosperous, inclusive, climate-resilient society founded on a circular, zero-carbon economy. EIT Climate KIC Hub Greece hosts many deep demonstration and research projects, as well as many innovation programs, one of which is the EIT Climate KIC innovation accelerator. SDSN Greece coordinates Global, Euro-Asian and European Initiatives, as well as many annual conferences, workshops and education and training programs.

SD.U has a strategic partnership with **Research laboratory on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability ReSEES**, Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB).

Athens University of Economics and Business **(AUEB)** was founded in 1920. It is considered one of the most competitive universities, at the European level, in the fields of Economics, Business Administration, Informatics, Statistics, Marketing, Accounting and Finance. Nearly a century after its establishment, AUEB continues to transmit knowledge in the scientific fields it fosters, to promote effective and innovative management practices, and to contribute to the development of the Greek and the international community, with a view towards the balance between excellence and social contribution.

Athens University of Economics and Business: Is the third oldest University in Greece and the oldest in the fields of Economics and Business Administration. Is comprised of eight academic Departments, each of which offers a four year Undergraduate Program with different areas of specialization, a wide range of part and full-time Postgraduate Programs, as well as internationally acclaimed Doctoral Programs. Has a total of 11,000 students, of which 9,000 are undergraduates, 1,700 are enrolled in Master's programs and 300 are doctoral candidates, all of whom were accepted following demanding examinations and rigorous evaluation of applications. Has a dynamic, 210 member teaching staff which is internationally recognized for its teaching and research contribution, and 50 visiting and adjunct professors. Has 26,000 graduates who are successful in various areas of the Greek economy.

Hosts 25 research laboratories, which annually administer an average of 200 funded programs in the areas of Economic Science, Management, Informatics, Statistics, and others. Has one of the largest ratio of Erasmus students with respect to its active student population, in Europe. Organizes a host of pioneering and socially-responsible activities which reflect the outward-looking orientation and social contribution of the University. These include programs of corporate social responsibility and training for business executives. Is the first public University in Greece that received the distinction of Excellence, according to the internationally accepted EFQM (European Foundation of Quality Management) Excellence Model. At the same time that AUEB received the European distinction, it also received the corresponding "Ever to Excel" Greek one. **According to international rankings and external evaluations, Athens University of Economics and Business is the top institution among Greek Universities and Research Centers and in the top 2% of European Union Institutions in the field of Economics.**

Research laboratory on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability - ReSEES

Research laboratory on Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability ReSEES founded by Prof. **Phoebe Koundouri** , does policy relevant interdisciplinary research on environmental, natural resources and energy issues. The overarching goal of ReSEES theoretical and empirical research is to support the understanding and implementation of Sustainable Development.

ReSEES has an impressive track record in attracting research funding from European Commission, International Organizations and Foundations.

ReSEES research tools include, among others, financial analysis, socio-economic and econometric analysis, environmental valuation, political and institutional analysis, integrated environmental-economic modeling, life cycle analysis, risk analysis, geographical information systems, game theory, information technology decision making tools development and systems innovation approach.

Since 1997, she has coordinated more than 100 interdisciplinary research projects and has attracted significant competitive research funding. Professor Koundouri and her large interdisciplinary team have produced research and policy results that have contributed to accelerating the research commercialization for the sustainability transition in Europe as well as contributed to shaping European policies. Over the last two decades, Professor Koundouri has given keynote and public lecturers all over the world and received various prizes for academic excellence, including the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Synergy Grant (2021-2027) http://unsdsn.gr/to-professor-phoebe-koundouri-athens-university-of

Prof. Koundouri elected Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science

Prof. Phoebe Koundouri was elected Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. This is indeed one of the biggest honors for a scientist in academia.

The number of fellows from all around the world is restricted to 1000.

The World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS) was founded in 1960 by eminent intellectuals including Albert Einstein; Robert Oppenheimer, Father of Manhattan Project; Bertrand Russell, Joseph Needham, co-Founder of UNESCO; Lord Boyd Orr, first Director General of FAO; Brock Chisholm, first Director General of WHO and many others. The Academy serves as a forum for reflective scientists, artists, and scholars dedicated to addressing the pressing challenges confronting humanity today independent of political boundaries or limits, whether spiritual or physical -- a forum where these problems can be discussed objectively, scientifically, globally, and free from vested interests or regional attachments to arrive at solutions that affirm universal human rights and serve the common good of all humanity. WAAS is founded on faith in the power of original and creative ideas -- Real Ideas with effective power -- to change the world.

Our motto: Leadership in thought that leads to action

WAAS Fellows come from diverse cultures, nationalities, intellectual disciplines and professions, chosen for eminence in the natural, technological and social sciences; the arts and humanities; different professions and fields of public service. Its focus from the beginning has been to address global social challenges. Its founding motive comes from the knowledge that academic knowledge cannot be separated or divorced from the social responsibility of how the knowledge is used.

WAAS approaches all its activities from a value-based, human-centered, comprehensive and transdisciplinary perspective encompassing issues related to peace and security, human rights and governance, economy and finance, education and human development, society and culture, technology and ecology. It is engaged in a variety of activities with UN organizations. The Academy collaborates with a network of national centers and international partners around the world.

1 ERC + 4 H2020 New Projects

Scientific Responsible: Prof. Phoebe Koundouri

ERC Synergy Grant Water Futures: The results of the "Water-Futures" project will provide the theoretical and practical basis to enable various stakeholders, policy makers and administrators of these systems to make socially acceptable and fair decisions, which will balance short-term decisions. taken algorithmically in real time, together with long-term decisions concerning the transition and planning of new infrastructure for the evolution of urban water distribution systems. In addition, the new scientific results will be applied to three exemplary studies presenting different types of systems: a mature and relatively stable system in the Netherlands, a mature and rapidly growing system in Cyprus and a relatively recent supply system in Mexico with high growth and specific challenges, which contain limited resources, intermittent supply and significant water loss due to leaks.

The project team, including Professor Barbara Hammer (Bielefeld University), , Professor Phoebe Koundouri (Athens University of Economics and Business), Professor Marios Polycarpou (University of Cyprus) and Professor Dragan Savić (KWR Water Research Institute/University of Exeter), brings together knowledge from different disciplines. To design the next generation of smart urban drinking water systems, this interdisciplinary research team will look at methodologies from water science, systems and control theory, economics, and decision science as well as machine learning.

Newly funded:

H2020 DOORS. DOORS will bring the four pillars of the SRIA into reality, turning the challenges into opportunities for a highly valued Black Sea. It will harmonise research and provide the infrastructure to better understand the Black Sea, particular ecosystem characteristics, develop the framework to support Blue Growth and early development of start-ups, and provide evidence to inform policy and behavioural change. To reach its ambitious objectives, the project team will work closely with stakeholders from the start to develop an open research system and establish a framework to support continuous stakeholder dialogue. DOORS will implement three Work Programmes: a System of Systems to harmonise approaches and provide an accessible data repository, a Blue Growth Accelerator to support enterprise, and Knowledge Transfer and Training to share best practice and build capacity.

Scientific Responsible: Prof. Koundouri

H2020 BRIDGE-BS. BRIDGE aims to understand how the multi-stressors impact Black Sea ecosystems and alter the sustainability of ecosystem services provided to society. Building on a unique concept linking oceanographic dynamics to resilience, ecosystem services, multi-stressors and innovation in Blue Growth; BRIDGE will deploy an interdisciplinary approach building on past and ongoing initiatives and using stakeholder knowledge. Physical, biogeochemical and ecological processes, as well as the socioeconomic dimension of the Black Sea will be assessed, mapped and modelled to establish ecosystem status and the role of multi-stressors on its resilience and potential tipping points. Beyond predicting the future states, tools will be developed for policymaking, contributing to our ability to sustain the ecosystem services. The resilient ecosystems of the Black Sea will be evaluated as a booster of innovation in the region. Further, BRIDGE will undertake an extensive outreach and capacity building campaign involving joint Masters programs, PhD student mobility and outreach integrating science, innovation and art. Working closely the Black Sea CONNECT CSA, BRIDGE will generate major impacts such as providing the harmonized data and facilities needed for addressing multistressors towards the vision of a healthy and resilient Black Sea by 2030, as well as contributing to major EU policies (e.g., the Green Deal, MSFD, CFP) and UN SDGs (2, 13 and 14). BRIDGE's outputs will demonstrate how a resilient Black Sea ecosystem can be sustained while supporting the Blue Growth. By the end of BRIDGE, a community of young researchers and innovators will emerge with new start-ups that incubate in a culture of scientific excellence.

Scientific Responsible: Prof. Phoebe Koundouri

H2020 SEAwise. The SEAwise overall objective is to provide a fully operational approach for European Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management based on persistent networks and co- designed innovation. SEAwise overcomes the four major challenges by addressing four specific objectives using state of the art risk assessment methodology:

1) Build a network of stakeholders, advisory bodies, decision makers and scientists to co-design key priorities and approaches to EBFM and to ensure SEAwise's continued impact long after the project period.

2) Assemble a new knowledge base on European fisheries interactions with social and ecological systems that integrates scientist and stakeholder experience based knowledge.

3) Develop predictive models of fisheries interactions with social and ecological systems to evaluate, select and implement EBFM strategies across Europe accounting for changes in the environment and use of marine space.

4) Provide ready-for-uptake advice for EBFM for Mediterranean, western and northern European waters.

IntelComp. A Competitive Intelligence Cloud/HPC Platform for AI-based STI Policy Making. IntelComp sets out to build an innovative Cloud Platform that will offer Artificial Intelligence based services to public administrators and policy makers across Europe for data- and evidence-driven policy design and implementation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy. Large STI datasets are processed on High Performance Computing (HPC) environment part of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) imitative. Public administration at all geographical and organizational levels, STI stakeholders and civil society produce a great amount of dynamic, multilingual and heterogeneous data (i.e. national STI strategies, plans and work programmes, calls, projects, reports, scientific publications, patents, dissemination articles, etc.), so understanding and analyzing this data is crucial for evidence-based policy making. The objective of IntelComp is to deliver a platform that provides tools for assisting the whole spectrum of STI policy, i.e., agenda setting, modeling design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It will do so by involving multi-disciplinary teams to co-develop innovative analytics services, Natural Language Processing pipelines and Artificial Intelligence workflows and by exploiting open data, services and computational resources from the EOSC, HPC environments and federated distributed operations at the European Union, national and regional level. It will ensure a cooperative environment where different actors can visualize, interact and analyze information. Through co-creation, IntelComp will adopt a living labs approach and will engage public policy makers, academia, industry, SMEs, local actors, civil society and citizens to explore, experiment with and evaluate STI policies at all stages. IntelComp will be targeting domains aligned with the European Agenda and the Horizon Europe Missions: Artificial Intelligence, Climate Change and Health. http://www.unsdsn.gr/intelcomp

Duration: 36 months as of 1 January 2021|EUROPEAN COMMISSION |**Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme**

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