

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IEEP AND THE SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan to eradicate poverty and guarantee humanity an equal future in a free and peaceful environment. At its core are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Protecting the environment is a pre-requisite for sustainable development. As an environmental sustainability think tank, we are dedicated to advancing a sustainable society through the analysis and development of policy and the delivery of the SDGs.

To advance the 2030 Agenda, it is crucial that the SDGs speak to a broad range of interests and policymakers. By working across nine environmental areas and engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, this is precisely our aim.



The SDGs are a framework for a global sustainable development strategy.

At IEEP, our team of scientist, economists and lawyers provide evidence-based policy analysis and advice on European environmental policy.

Aligning our work to the SDGs advances a sustainable future not only for the citizens of Europe, but also for citizens of all countries.

Céline Charveriat
Executive Director IEEP

Across nine work areas, our cross-cutting approach aligns with the SDGs

 Agriculture & Land Management

 Climate Change & Energy

 Green Economy

 Industrial Pollution & Chemicals

 Water, Marine & Fisheries

 Natural Resources & Waste

 Biodiversity

 Global Challenges & Solutions

 Environmental Governance

Institute for European
Environmental Policy (IEEP)

Brussels Office
4 Rue de la Science,
1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel : 00 32 (0) 2 738 74 82
www.ieep.eu

Our work on the health and social benefits of nature



Our research found lack of access to nature and natural areas contributes to health inequality, and improving it is key to tackling these challenges.

Europeans face health and social challenges that merit urgent attention – obesity, mental health problems, social exclusion, air and noise pollution, and heat stress in cities. These issues particularly affect socio-economically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and put pressure on already stretched health budgets.

According to a growing body of evidence, health inequalities are linked to access to nature. Health inequality affects all stages of life: pre-birth, childhood, adult life and old age. A number of studies show access to nature is vital for good mental and physical health at all ages.

The evidence at a glance

- Living in areas with green spaces significantly reduces income-related health inequalities, counteracting the effect of deprivation (Mitchell and Popham, 2008).
- Doctors prescribe fewer anti-depressants in urban areas with more trees on the street (Taylor et al., 2015).
- For recent immigrant youths in Zurich, Germany, public parks and green spaces provided potential for cross-cultural social inclusion such as coming to understand and respect unfamiliar gender roles and develop friendships that cross the boundaries of ethnicity (Seeland et al. 2009, p.11).



Ideas for governments & IGOs

The evidence calls for more accessible and well-maintained natural areas for disadvantaged groups. Governments, international organisations and the European Union should recognise that access to nature is a fundamental human right and protect nature through the Natura 2000 network, funding investment and supporting related projects.

Patrick ten Brink

Director and Senior Fellow, IEEP

SDG Target 3d

Strengthen all country capacities, in particular developing ones, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

SDG Target 5.4

Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and promotion of shared household and family responsibilities as nationally appropriate.

SDG Target 10.2

Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status.

SDG Target 11a

Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.



Briefing: Nature for health and equity (2017)



Report: Health and social benefits of nature and biodiversity protection (2016)



Workshop: Health and social benefits of nature (2016)

Key contact

Konar Mutafoglu
kmutafoglu@ieep.eu

www.ieep.eu