

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17\*

*Avrupa Birliđi ve Latin Amerika'da Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefi 17: Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefi 17 Çerçevesindeki Girişimler*

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## **Abstract**

*The aim of this study is to explain SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) within the scope of the EU and Latin America. SDGs are supposed to be achieved by 2030 according to UN Agenda. In this process, policies regarding the SDG 17 need to be in coherence at national, regional and international level. While, the EU countries have been progressing at relatively close rates, Latin American countries have been in different phases of their progress. Considering global partnership fields, both regions have capacity to cooperate with each other. However, there is still room for further improvement in this domain.*

**Keywords:** SDG 17, Sustainable Development, EU, Latin America, Policy Coherence.

## **Öz**

*Bu çalışmada, sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerinin on yedincisi olan "Hedefler İçin İşbirliđi" alanının AB ve Latin Amerika ülkeleri kapsamında açıklanması amaçlanmıştır. BM gündemine göre, bu hedeflerin 2030 itibariyle başarılması gerekmektedir. Bu aşamada ilgili politikaların ulusal, bölgesel ve uluslararası düzeyde uyum içerisinde olması gerekmektedir. AB ülkeleri birbirlerine görece yakın oranda ilerleme gösterirken Latin Amerika ülkelerinin bu kapsamda ilerleme dereceleri birbirinden farklıdır. Küresel işbirliđi alanları düşünöldüğünde her iki bölge de birbiriyle işbirliđi yapma kapasitesine sahiptir; ancak bu alan halen geliştirilmeye muhtaçtır.*

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Hedefler İçin İşbirliđi, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, AB, Latin Amerika, Politika Ahengi.

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\* Received on: 15.04.2021

Accepted on: 17.05.2021

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs) adopted by the UN in September 2015 cover all kinds of developmental issues within the sustainability concept. Designed after the Millennium Development Goals, SDGs have targets that are specified in detail. Especially the environmental issues are outlined under different goals to emphasize the importance of the issues. As well as familiar goals which are in majority, there are some new ones. Moreover, these are getting much more attention through achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

In this study, the starting point is the SDG 17, which is “to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”. Strategies of the countries that adopted SDGs vary according to their priorities. While a country is dealing with hunger problem or clean water and sanitation, which are the fundamental problems of human being, another country may be dealing with some other issues in priority. Thus, the policies adopted by the countries may not be in accordance with each other. Moreover, disparities exist within national, regional and global level. By using the method from the general to the specific, this study analyzes the available cooperation fields within the EU and Latin America. The success of SDGs notably depends on partnerships in all levels. The policies and policy coherence within the EU help her to be successful in regional and international cooperation. By the help of capacity to act as a single entity, the EU has an important role on dominating policies regarding global partnerships in which she takes part. The potential cooperation fields in Latin America attract international cooperation. Even though countries in both regions are on the way to success SDGs, global partnerships are inevitable for the achievement of SDGs until 2030. Cross-border cooperation plays an important role in the EU policies and sustainability of her legitimate power. Latin America has heterogeneous characteristics regarding the development path of each country. So, these countries may be in need to cooperate with

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17**

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more developed countries and global partnerships. The EU strengthen her presence by the help of legitimacy of SDGs. In the first part of the study, the extent of the SDG 17 is explained in detail. In the following part, general overview of the EU and Latin America region considering the statistics and data on goals are evaluated by especially emphasizing the SDG 17. In the last part of the study, the means of implementation and concrete initiatives are put forward. While doing this, the institutions, which facilitate the partnerships and lead the project in worldwide are indicated. After providing adequate information about the region and the general approaches of the EU, the advances and the challenges through achieving the SDG 17 are discussed in the last part of the study.

### **THE EXTENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17**

The UN SDGs defines the Goal 17 as “Partnership for the Goals” in general. However, the detailed explanation includes strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Since the success of the SDG 17 depends on the partnerships and widening implementations the other 16 Goals, collecting data from different fields facilitates the evaluation of the improvements in this field. Collected data and derived statistics from different regions give the hints about the global success of the SDGs. The lack of proper data in national level causes the lack of data in regional level and the lack of data in regional level causes the lack of data in global level. This is a complicated problem for all SDGs. However, since the global partnerships require information sharing, the lack of data directly affects the success of the SDG 17. The coordination among the goals also increases the success of the SDG 17 in overall. Even if the SDG 17 is not likely to be accomplished by 2030, this does not mean that the other goals will not be accomplished. Every single country, every region may succeed some goals better than the other goals.

SDG 17 has many targets under five important theme. These themes are finance, technology, capacity building, trade and systemic issues. Whatever the target issue is, the scope of actors included in the development process is widening. Alignment of the targets to sustainable development requires coordination and information sharing among many actors such as governments, civil society, scientists, academia and private sector. At this point, mobilizing all resources, which means transfer of technological development, financial resources and capacity building activities, has crucial importance to enhance the existing situation in the countries. However, changing the general situation and mobilizing the resources may require some interventions. The interventions of all actors must comply with one of the most important principles of international law. This principle is “respect for sovereignty”. In the UN Resolution (A/RES/50/172-1996), “respect for the principles of national sovereignty” is indicated explicitly. The UN and its bodies should abide by the principle of national sovereignty and non-interference of internal affairs. So, the implementations of the UN SDGs should be adopted consensually.<sup>1</sup> The notion of national sovereignty has always been central in the UN documents. Supported in the official documents, national sovereignty principal strengthens the adaptation of the SDGs in national level. However, it may be abused by the reluctant states that do not want to adopt policies and international environment cannot make pressure for this. While the national sovereignty tries to safeguard sovereign decision-making, tensions increase among the international demand to build or increase state capacity is on rise.<sup>2</sup> However, sometimes countries are not inclined to cooperation and when the principle of national sovereignty is perceived as a mechanism to justify non-cooperation, it becomes an enormous challenge on achieving the SDGs.<sup>3</sup> To increase the

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1 UN Resolutions, A/RES/50/172.

2 Magdalena Bexell-Kristina Jönsson, “Responsibility and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals”, *Forum for Development Studies*, 44(1), p. 21.

3 Kirstin I. Conti-Joyeeta Gupta, “Global Governance Principles for the Sustainable Development of Groundwater Resources”, *International Environmental Agreements*, 16(6), p. 857.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

efficiency of the process, multi-stakeholder partnerships are strategically important.<sup>4</sup> SDG 17 considers the differences in development levels of the countries and tries to make appropriate policies especially in fragile economies. Even though SDG 17 has 19 targets in special, the success of each target changes from sub-region to sub-region, country to country. However, all the detailed targets are under different themes such as resource mobilization within the countries and through countries, official development assistances, additional resources, debt related issues, investment opportunities, promoting and development of technology, capacity-building activities, increasing the trade volume, a well-functioning multilateral trade system, policy and institutional coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability.<sup>5</sup> Data collectivity has always been a problematic area. However, during the time of Coronavirus pandemic, this problematic has become a more serious issue. According to the UN Stats, data are available for only about 61% of the countries.<sup>6</sup> On the way of achieving SDGs, data collection and data reporting play vital importance. Pandemic has jeopardized the data collection. The operations of most of the National Statistics offices around the world has declined during this period. As well as the closure of many offices around the world, Latin America and Caribbean region has reported that 88% of the countries in the region have difficulties about in meeting international data reporting requirements. Priority areas that have been demanded by the offices which couldn't be able to function properly are technical assistance, capacity building, financial aid and software for remote data collection.

According to a survey that was applied to regional representatives, only 17.7% of the countries or regions think that pandemic has affected their ability to meet international reporting standards quite a lot, while

<sup>4</sup> The UN. Goal 17. Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> "The SDGR-2020, The Need for Data Innovations in the Time of COVID-19", UNSTAT, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/the-need-for-data-innovations-in-the-time-of-COVID-19/>, (Date of Accession: 04.04.2021).

## ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

70.4% answer that pandemic affected their ability partially and 11.75% think that pandemic has not affected their ability to meet the criteria. According to the results from Europe and Northern America, only 2.56% of the respondents think that pandemic has affected in a serious way while 35.9% of the respondents think that it has affected partially. The majority of the respondents with the rate of 61.54% thinks that pandemic has not affected their ability to meet international reporting standards. The second question that is about covid-19 pandemic's effect on the ability to produce essential monthly and quarterly statistics. Latin America and the Caribbean respondents have given answers "yes, severely" with the rate of 23.53%, "yes, moderately" with the rate of 64.71% and "no, not at all" with the rate of 11.76%. The answers to same question given by Europe and Northern America in the same order are 0%, 47.37% and 52.63%. The last question is about the ability to produce administrative data statistics. The answers again the same order for Latin America and the Caribbean are 11.76%, 64.71% and 23.53%. Europe and Northern America's answers are 2.56%, 28.21% and 69.23%.

**Table 1: A Survey on the Effects of Pandemic on Reporting and Statistics**

	Effects on mobility to meet international reporting requirements		Effects on ability to produce essential monthly & quarterly statistics?		Effects on ability to produce administrative data statistics	
	Latin America and the Caribbean	Europe and Northern America	Latin America and the Caribbean	Europe and Northern America	Latin America and the Caribbean	Europe and Northern America
Yes, severely	17.65	2.56	23.53	0	11.76	2.56
Yes, moderately	70.59	35.9	64.71	47.37	64.71	28.21
No, not at all	11.76	61.54	11.76	52	23.53	69.23

Source: UN Stats, SDGR 2020

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

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As it is indicated in the last SDG Progress Report, some progress in enhancing capacity-building support to developing countries to increase the availability of timely, qualified and disaggregated data has been made. However, this progress is yet not enough to meet the target.<sup>7</sup> Support for implementation of SDG goals has been steady. However, the lack of data about the crucial issues is a vital problem which is preventing access to full information about partnerships and improvements within countries and regions. During the COVID-19 pandemic period, all achievements related to the targets under SDG 17 have been decreasing and all the briefing that have been delivering via digital platforms has shown the importance of multilateralism and global partnerships one more.<sup>8</sup> Another issue which has arisen during the pandemic is access to internet connection and fixed-broadband. Because of lack of infrastructure and high costs, many people cannot have the internet connection to meet their daily needs.<sup>9</sup> In order to summarize, short-term impacts of pandemic are mixed and partially negative. States feel less responsible to help the poorest countries and the responses to their needs have been decreasing during the pandemic. This means the reduction in international aid. Decline in international remittances and cross-border financing is also possible consequence of this period. Closure of the borders has also caused the decline in terms of trade. All the deprivation from financial and other sources have caused debt crisis in the related countries in the end.<sup>10</sup>

The results of the SDG 17 target that were supposed to be achieved by 2020 are disappointing. No progress has been made about target 17.11 that means increase in the exports of developing countries and double the share of LDC global exports. Share of LDC exports is a criterion that

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7 "Sustainable Development Goals Report-2020", UNSTAT, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/>, (Date of Accession: 01.04.2021).

8 UNSTAT, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

9 UNSTAT, *op. cit.*, p. 59.

10 UNSTAT, *op. cit.*, p. 5.



is not better than ten years ago. Developing countries also have made no progress regarding the global merchandise and services exports.<sup>11</sup> SDG 17.8 is a target on which much more progress has been made. The target 17.18 is to enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to increase the availability of timely, qualified and disaggregated data. In this field, by 2019 132 countries have reported that their national statistic legislation are compliant with the UN Fundamental Principles of Statistics. However, 141 countries and territories have been carrying out a national statistic plan by 2019. Under this heading, one of the most important problems is the lack of sufficient funding for implementations.<sup>12</sup>

Partnerships, agreement or any kind of interaction mechanism, and even a single incident that any country makes may have effects on the rest. While some effects are positive, others may be negative effects and all of them are called “spillover effects”. When a country meets counteracts from other countries, it is less likely for their efforts to achieve SDGs. These spillovers may be in different fields such as environmental and social spillovers, spillovers related to economy, finance and governance and security spillovers. When spillover index gets a higher score, it is likely that the country has more positive and less negative effects on the other countries’ development processes.<sup>13</sup>

## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE EU AND LATIN AMERICA ON SDG 17

### THE EUROPEAN UNION

Achieving SDGs is an accomplishment that the EU has adopted swiftly and been doing pretty well. Within the region itself, the EU has many

<sup>11</sup> UNSTAT, *op. cit.*, p. 61.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> “Spillover Rankings”, *SDG Index Dashboard*, <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings/spillovers>, (Date of Accession: 26.03.2021).



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

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regulations and agreements about specific issues. It is both a part of regional problems/solutions and global regulations. Especially in the field of trade, the EU accepts trade as a way of delivering prosperity and wealth. Moreover, sustainable supply chains are also part of this relation to achieve SDGs. Besides, the EU concentrates on the “European Green Deal”. Within the EU, there are some priority areas that need to be enhanced. Those areas are:<sup>14</sup>

1. Education, skills and innovation
2. Sustainable energy
3. Sustainable communities, mobility and housing
4. Sustainable food production, healthy diets, and biodiversity protection
5. Clean and circular economy with zero pollution
6. Digital transformation

These priority areas are all integrated with the Green Deal. However, external action and implementations related to achieving SDGs are another agenda that the EU deals with. The requirements of Green Deal and SDG Diplomacy that the EU has conducted could help to achieve SDGs worldwide. These two main principles have attracted the attention of other countries to cooperate with European initiatives. EU leadership and diplomacy play crucial role on advancing multilateral processes in the way of achieving SDGs. As mentioned before, negative spillovers are also important issues that must be dealt with. European trade and external policies must be in cohesion. Hence, the assessment of these policies is analyzed on a regular basis.

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14 SDSN-IEEP, “The 2020 Europe Sustainable Development Report: Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic”, *Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Institute for European Environmental Policy*, Paris-Brussels 2020, p. 43-49.

## ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

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Some major tools are identified according to the assessments with key stakeholders and these tools help to the implementation of SDG policies. A New European Industrial and Innovation Strategy for the SDGs has been put forward. In this context, climate neutrality is identified as the main challenge and main opportunity to secure long-term well-being in the Europe. So, the innovation of technologies mostly concentrates on the digital and clean-energy technologies. Even though there is currently no direct reference to the SDGs, The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Next Generation EU COVID-19 recovery package (NGEU) have the potential to advance them. To achieve climate and energy targets, 1.5% of EU GDP is required until 2030. Besides, the coherence of national policies with the EU SDG targets also plays a vital role on accomplishment process. In this process, the challenges are identified and solutions to these challenges are advised on a regular basis. For sound cooperation policies between poorer and wealthier countries, a mechanism that is combined by many institutions and regulations needs to be established. Coordination mechanisms need to cooperate closely with each other led by the mechanisms within the EU's External Action Service. Directorate Generals for Trade (DG Trade) and International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), as well as all directorate generals in charge of Green Deal should be in corporation in this process. Business standards also need to be in coherence with SDGs. Reporting procedure is more institutionalized within the EU. As well as official statistics presented on EuroStat' SDGs Monitoring Report, unofficial monitoring reports, such as ESDR 2020, are also supplementary to them.<sup>15</sup> In general, SDGs are Europe's goals and the EU has to implement its policies according to these strategies.

The latest report which was prepared in a different way than the one preceding it, because of Covid-19 conditions, shows an overall

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<sup>15</sup> SDSN-IEEP, *op. cit.*, p. x.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

improvement. However, when analyzing each SDG, some differences occur. The SDG 17-Partnerships for the Goals are in a better situation in Norway, Denmark and Sweden that means SDG has been achieved and implementations are on track. However, in Germany, while challenges remain, implementations are on track. Moreover, major challenges remain and implementations are on track in Luxembourg. Most countries in the region are in a stagnation process regarding the SDG 17.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 2: SDG 17 Performance within European Union Countries**

Countries <sup>17</sup>	Spillover Index Score and Rank	SDG Index Score <sup>18</sup> and Rank <sup>19</sup>	Status on SDG 17
Austria	56.3 / 154	80.7 / 7	Major challenges-moderately improving
Belgium	59.9 / 149	80.0 / 11	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Bulgaria	85.4 / 112	74.8 / 39	Challenges remain-on track
Croatia	83.1 / 113	78.4 / 19	SDG achieved-no information available
Cyprus	59.9 / 150	75.2 / 34	Major Challenges-decreasing period
Czechia	69.7 / 129	80.6 / 8	Major challenges-moderately improving

<sup>16</sup> SDSN-IEEP, *op. cit.*, p. 6.

<sup>17</sup> Only the members of the EU are included in the chart since the coverage of the policies and implementations in the last session are only the ones under the EU Frame.

<sup>18</sup> In the sustainable development report of the UN and in the Sustainable Development Goals report of the UN, country classifications are different. However, countries within the Europe are divided into different regions. Hence, only the members of the EU are selected in this study.

<sup>19</sup> Ranking is out of 166 sample countries and communities.

## ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

Denmark	66.4 / 141	84.6 / 2	Challenges remain-on track
Estonia	69.4 / 130	80.1 / 10	Significant challenges-moderately improving
Finland	66.6 / 140	83.8 / 3	Significant challenges-stagnation period
France	51.1 / 158	81.1 / 4	Significant challenges-moderately improving
Germany	57.0 / 153	80.8 / 5	Challenges remain-on track
Greece	69.4 / 131	74.3 / 43	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Hungary	77.1 / 124	77.3 / 29	Significant challenges-moderately improving
Ireland	57.8 / 152	79.4 / 14	Major Challenges-decreasing period
Italy	69.0 / 132	77.0 / 30	Significant challenges-on track
Latvia	70.4 / 127	77.7 / 24	Major Challenges-decreasing period
Lithuania	65.6 / 144	75.0 / 36	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Luxembourg	33.5 / 164	74.3 / 44	Major challenges-stagnation period
Malta	56.3 / 155	76.0 / 32	Major challenges-moderately improving
Netherlands	44.9 / 159	80.4 / 9	Major challenges-stagnation period
Poland	81.8 / 117	78.1 / 23	Major challenges-stagnation period

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

Portugal	66.7 / 139	77.6 / 25	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Romania	91.6 / 101	74.8 / 38	Challenges remain-decreasing period
Slovakia	72.7 / 126	77.5 / 27	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Slovenia	66.4 / 142	79.8 / 12	Significant challenges-moderately improving
Spain	61.3 / 146	78.1 / 22	Significant challenges-moderately improving
Sweden	67.4 / 137	84.7 / 1	Challenges remain-on track

Source: Sustainable Development Report, 2020.<sup>20</sup>

The table shows us a general tendency of low scores regarding the spillover effects which means that the region has negative spillovers to other regions more than Latin America has. A contradiction in this table lies in the difference between relatively low scores of spillover and relatively high scores on SDG Index. Only one country, Croatia, has achieved the SDG 17. However, there are many states with higher rankings on SDG Index. This means that many countries in the region have been doing well on the other SDGs except the Goal 17 and this situation put them in a higher ranking. The relative success of region is not because of the success on SDG 17, but others. The world's top 10 (except 6<sup>th</sup> one) are in the region. These countries are Sweden, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Austria, Czechia, Netherlands and Estonia in order. However, in the Spillover Index ranking, the region is not doing good in contrast. The region still has to cope with many challenges regarding the SDG 17 and should accelerate its implementations to achieve the targets.

<sup>20</sup> Jeffrey Sachs et al., *The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2020.

## ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

Even though it is not indicated explicitly in the policies of the EU, EU countries are almost in the same line with 2030 targets. Available EU strategies on the targets seem adequate on the way of achieving goals, but political commitment is needed to succeed it them. Pandemic period has increased the pressures on multilateralism and international rule-based policies and thus, SDG as shared goals of world's sustainable development have been questioned. Hence, the position of the EU with its all institutions plays an important role through the policy coherence. The European Council, the European Parliament, and the European Commission are the main players of the EU governance. Progress towards the goals should be reported annually by the European Commission.<sup>21</sup>

"*Horizon Europe*" is one of the very well-known programs originated in Europe and it is the largest research funding program in the world. In the path of achieving SDGs technology and innovation challenges play a vital role and they might be supported by the advantages of this program. There are many completed and ongoing projects all over the world that can affect the improvement of SDG indicators in a very positive way.<sup>22</sup> Implementation of "Paris Climate Agreement" is also supported by the development of technologies required to achieve the policies in the agreement by delivering the high-impact innovation.<sup>23</sup> "Farm to Work Strategy" is a strategy to recognize sustainable food production healthy diets and biodiversity protection. The six pillars on EU's policies regarding sustainable development are on Education, Skills and Innovation; Sustainable Energy; Sustainable Communities, Mobility and Housing; Sustainable Food Production, Healthy Diets, and Biodiversity Protection; Clean and Circular Economy with Zero Pollution; The Digital

21 SDSN-IEEP, *op. cit.*, p. 41.

22 The projects initiated by the EU and European countries and including other regions throughout the world can be found in the EC web-site. Further information see: "European Commission", *CORDIS*, <https://cordis.europa.eu/projects/en>, (Date of Accession: 09.04.2021).

23 SDSN-IEEP, *op. cit.*, p. 44.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17**

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Transformation.<sup>24</sup> Regarding all these pillars and policies of the EU, the EU makes intra-regional, international and inter-governmental policies in coherence with each other. This harmony is very important development through the way of achievements of the SDGs, especially Goal 17.

### **LATIN AMERICA**

In a disequilibrium including trading openness and national policies, inequalities, environmental emergencies, weak international trade growth, political and economic instabilities may occur. As a response to all these unrest, while some governments tend to adopt unilateral policies and weaken multilateralism, some governments may behave in the opposite way of that. However, in this region, it is necessary to make a fresh start regarding the inclusion of international cooperation with all kind of stakeholders to the policies through development, especially for SDG 17.<sup>25</sup>

Considering the SDG 17, Latin America has been analyzed in a different manner. There is some statistical information reported to the UN as numerical data and besides there are also projects implementing throughout the region in different fields. Hence, this part of the study is divided into two parts. In the first part, numerical statistics are submitted and in the second part, projects are explained in general.

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<sup>24</sup> SDSN-IEEP, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

<sup>25</sup> UN ECLAC, *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the New Global and Regional Context-Scenarios and Projections in the Current Crisis*, UN, Santiago 2020, p. 16.



# ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

Graph 1: Institutional Architecture for Regional Statistical Follow-Up to the SDG in Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: *The 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*<sup>26</sup>

Foundation of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean The requirements through 2030 Agenda, was approved by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in June 2016. The group is composed of the representatives of the national statistical systems. ECLAC in the Group functions as technical secretariat. The Group acts a hub of region's statistical actors.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>26</sup> This diagram has been prepared by Statistics Division, ECLAC. Further information see: "Institutional Architecture for Regional Statistical Follow-up to the SDG in Latin America and the Caribbean", *SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean: Statistical Knowledge Management Hub*, <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/institutional-architecture-regional-statistical-follow-up-sdg.html>, (Date of Accession: 05.04.2021).

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*. An information system has also founded in which any researcher can find the case of all indicators within the region by selecting related targets. However, the last data belongs to 2017-2019 period. Further information see: "Support to the National Statistical System on SDG Monitoring and Reporting", *SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean: Statistical Knowledge Management Hub*, <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/support-sdg-monitoring-and-reporting.html>, (Date of Accession: 05.04.2021); "Regional and global dimensions of the 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development", *CEPAL*, <https://www.cepal.org/en/infografias/dimension-regional-global-la-agenda-2030-desarrollo-sostenible>, (Date of Accession: 10.04.2021).

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

Latin America and the Caribbean's overall score of SDG Goal-17 was 74% regarding the meeting of objectives under the goal.<sup>28</sup> However, only 6 indicators were analyzed in ECLAC report and for three indicators, the target was likely to be reached on the current trend.<sup>29</sup> Progress was stalled for two indicators and it was regression period for one indicator.<sup>30</sup> 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP is the first indicator of this Goal under the 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization target and the forecast progress for this indicator is being stalled. The second stalled indicator is 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes under same target. Three indicators that are likely to be achieved are 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services, 17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (by speed), 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet.<sup>31</sup> And lastly, target 17.19 can be achieved by significant policy interventions. Target 17.19 which is to build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries uses indicator 17.19.1 which is the dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries.<sup>32</sup>

28 "2019 SDG Index for Latin America and the Caribbean", *SDG Index*, <https://www.sdgindex.org/reports/2019-sdg-index-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean/>, (Date of Accession: 02.04.2021).

29 All indicators of the targets of Goal 17 can be found at Statistical Knowledge Management Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean. However, this data belongs to 2018 and therefore not used in this study. Further information see: "Regional SDG Statistical Profiles by Target", *SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean: Statistical Knowledge Management Hub*, <https://agenda2030lac.org/estadisticas/regional-sdg-statistical-profiles-target-1.html?lang=en>, (Date of Accession: 01.04.2021).

30 UN ECLAC, *op. cit.*, p. 46.

31 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress. 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism. 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.

32 UN ECLAC, *loc. cit.*

## ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

The UN SDG dashboard ratings are based on the worst two indicators of each goal. In this case doing great on the indicators does affect least to the relatively less successful ones. The probability of compensation of indicators to each other has lessened. According to this analyzing methodology, there are some countries which are on track regarding the SDG 17 within the region. These are Belize, Brazil and Honduras. Many countries in the region are on a stagnation period while there is no data available for many countries.<sup>33</sup> Other analyses made by the UN special to OECD countries, performance gaps have been identified for each country. An analysis based on the shares according to population, some countries such as China and India have risen the ratio of performance gap overall. According to this index, some countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Mexico are relatively successful by their performance gaps which are less than 2%.<sup>34</sup> The indicator which is increasing overall performance on SDG 17 is increasing government spending on health and education within the region.

**Table 3: SDG 17 Performance within Latin American Countries<sup>35</sup>**

Countries <sup>36</sup>	Spillover Index Score and Rank	SDG Index Score <sup>37</sup> and Rank <sup>38</sup>	Status on SDG 17
Argentina	94.0 / 86	73.2 / 51	Challenges remain-stagnation period
Belize	93.4 / 92	65.1 / 102	Challenges remain-on track
Bolivia	97.9 / 51	69.3 / 79	Challenges remain-no information available

33 Sachs et.al, *op. cit.*, p. 43.

34 Sachs et. al, *op. cit.*, p. 46-47.

35 Data of selected countries are derived from the report one by one. The table is prepared by the authors in accordance with their general preferences in the study.

36 The Caribbean countries and communities are excluded from the chart, because the general preference in the whole study.

37 Regional average score is specified as 70.4%.

38 Ranking is out of 166 sample countries and communities. Many Caribbean countries are not included the SDG Index System due to the lack of data. Further information see: Sachs et al., *op. cit.*, p. 82.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

Brazil	97.3 / 60	72.7 / 53	Challenges remain-on track
Colombia	94.7 / 79	70.9 / 67	Challenges remain-decreasing period
Costa Rica	89.6 / 106	75.1 / 35	Challenges remain-moderately improving
Ecuador	96.8 / 63	74.3 / 46	Challenges remain-decreasing period
El Salvador	92.6 / 98	69.6 / 77	Challenges remain-moderately improving
Guatemala	97.0 / 62	61.5 / 120	Major Challenges-decreasing period
Honduras	96.0 / 71	64.4 / 105	Challenges remain-on track
Mexico	94.9 / 78	70.4 / 69	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Nicaragua	97.85 / 53	68.7 / 85	Significant challenges-moderately improving
Panama	81.9 / 116	69.2 / 81	Significant challenges-no information available
Paraguay	93.7 / 91	67.7 / 90	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Peru	96.7 / 64	71.8 / 61	Significant challenges-stagnation period
Uruguay	90.0 / 105	74.3 / 45	SDG achieved-no information available
Venezuela	96.4 / 68	61.7 / 118	Challenges remain-no information available

Source: Sustainable Development Report, 2020.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

As it is seen in the table, spillover index scores are quite high which means that these countries affect the others in a positive way more than negative. Only Uruguay has achieved the SDG 17 and there has been no information available after achieving the target. 8 countries out of 16, there have been challenges that the countries still need to tackle with the SDG 17 targets. The best ranking on the SDG Index score belongs to Costa Rica by being 35<sup>th</sup> in the world while the lowest ranking is of Guatemala by being 120<sup>th</sup> in the world. While the most countries in the sample have high scores on spillovers index score, Panama has relatively very poor score by 81.9.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES OF THE EU AND LATIN AMERICA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS-GOAL 17**

SDGs have been adopted in 2015, the projects regarding the SDGs are analyzed since then. There are many projects and implementations within the region. In this part of the study, the common projects and initiatives between EU and Latin America have been addressed. The method of this part of the study is to explain initiatives individually by starting from 2015 after explaining general overlook of the relations between them.

DG Regio (Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy) of European Commission has established regional policy dialogues with the countries in Latin America. Besides aims such as exchange of information and practices for economic, social and territorial cohesion, setting up and implement regional policies and partnership issues, the EU's special interest to region covers cross-border cooperation and inter-regional cooperation, regional innovation and competitiveness and sustainable

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

urban development issues.<sup>40</sup> Besides the projects specific to countries, there are some projects that covers almost whole Latin America region. *EULAC-RIS* is a program that aims to promote of innovation in wider sense. Regional Innovation Strategies were co-funded by DG Regio and after then DG Regio has been supporting several projects within Latin America to exchange experiences in policy setting, implementation and management with respect to clusters and SME innovation inducing policies.<sup>41</sup> *EULAC-CBC* covers the cross-border cooperation between two regions. This type of cooperation seems fundamental to development of regional integration processes, of economic and social cohesion. It is a growing field between two regions.<sup>42</sup> *URBELAC* aims to promote sustainable urban development. This program has included 9 cities within EU and 13 cities within Latin America to exchange.<sup>43</sup>

***Programa de Cooperación Técnica CEPAL – AECID:*** This program was a technical cooperation program in the years 2014-2016. CEPAL and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation were in cooperation to improve the institutional capacities of government of Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>44</sup>

***UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG-F):*** The Fund has been founded to ensure smooth transition from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals. It was created by the Government

40 "EU-Latin America", *European Commission*, [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/), (Date of Accession: 12.04.2021).

41 "EULAC-RIS: EU-Latin America Cooperation on Regional Innovation Systems", *European Commission*, [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/eulac-ris/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/eulac-ris/), (Date of Accession: 12.04.2021).

42 "EULAC-CBC: EU-Latin America Cooperation on Cross-Border Cooperation", *European Commission*, [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/eulac-cbc/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/eulac-cbc/), (Date of Accession: 12.04.2021).

43 "URBELAC: Urban European and Latin American and Caribbean Cities", *European Commission*, [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/urbelac/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/latin-america/urbelac/), (Date of Accession: 12.04.2021).

44 "Programa de Cooperación Técnica CEPAL-AECID", *CEPAL*, <https://www.cepal.org/en/node/36187>, (Date of Accession: 10.04.2021).

## ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

of Spain and the UNDP in 2014 and launched in March 11, 2015. Latin America and the Caribbean are among beneficiaries in addition to 18 African countries, the Arab States and the Asia in the beginning. It was to support SDG activities by multidimensional joint programs.<sup>45</sup> In the first round of the approved projects, a high budget was spared for the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>46</sup>

**Nordic Development Fund:** Latin America and the Caribbean are the beneficiaries of NDF -supporting of climate- smart and resilient agriculture planning. This €10 million financing was transacted to Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) NDC Pipeline Accelerator Trust Fund, and this fund was supposed to be used in actionable projects.<sup>47</sup>

**World Bank Aligns Water Services Program with SDGs:** Under the targets of the SDGs, in April 2017, the World Bank aligned its activities by support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The participatory countries were Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.<sup>48</sup>

**GWP and Honduras Prepare for SDG 6 Implementation:** In August 2017, the Government of Honduras conducted its own "SDG 6 Initiative". The Global Water Partnership (GWP) supported this effort. GWP's SDG Preparedness Facility supported many countries in the world in addition to Hungary and Moldova in Europe; El Salvador, Honduras and Peru in Latin America.<sup>49</sup>

45 SDGF, <https://www.sdgfund.org/who-we-are>, (Date of Accession: 01.04.2021).

46 "SDG-F Approved Joint Programmes", SDGF, <http://proposals.sdgfund.org/sites/default/files/SDG-F%20Approved%20JP%20with%20budget%20Dec.pdf>, (Date of Accession: 01.04.2021).

47 "February 2017 Climate Finance Update: Focus on New Financing Tools", IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/february-2017-climate-finance-update-focus-on-new-financing-tools/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

48 "World Bank Aligns Water Services Programme with SDGs", IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/world-bank-aligns-water-services-programme-with-sdgs/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

49 "GWP and Honduras Prepare for SDG 6 Implementation", IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/gwp-and-honduras-prepare-for-sdg-6-implementation/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

**Climate Mitigation Finance Update:** Investing in a Sustainable Planet: “One Planet Summit” took place in Paris on Dec 12, 2017. Multinational Development Banks and financial actors made commitments to increase the climate finance. Considering this initiative Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean benefited from new investments in sustainable infrastructure. In this context, it is important to mention about Maguerite Fund that was launched as a 10-year plan led by The European Investment Bank (EIB) and some credit institutions and banks within Europe. This pan-European infrastructure fund was going to implement its works under the 2020 European Fund for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure. This fund functions like a complementary initiative to key EU policies, especially regarding climate change and energy security. In the Latin American side IDB Invest functions as the private sector part of IDB (Inter-American Development Bank). This initiative together with the UK Government’s Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) started a partnership that aimed to catalyze private sector investment to contribute nationally determined policies and implementation.<sup>50</sup>

**Climate Mitigation Finance Update: Renewable and Energy Efficiency Financing and Guidance for Paris-compatible Investments:** In this context, funding for renewable energy projects was announced. And within the Latin America, Peru got \$ US 150 million investment provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB).<sup>51</sup>

**EU, ECLAC and OECD Launch Regional Facility for LAC Countries in Transition:** In May 2018, a program called “Facility for Development in Transition” launched by the EU, OECD and UN ECLAC to promote

50 “Climate Mitigation Finance Update: Investing in a Sustainable Planet”, *IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub*, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/climate-mitigation-finance-update-investing-in-a-sustainable-planet/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

51 “Climate Mitigation Finance Update: Renewable and Energy Efficiency Financing and Guidance for Paris-compatible Investments”, *IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub*, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/climate-mitigation-finance-update-renewable-and-energy-efficiency-financing-and-guidance-for-paris-compatible-investments/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

sustainable development of LAC to get a higher level of development. This facility was supposed to support the designing and implementation of policies to achieve SDGs.

**European Commission, IOC-UNESCO Launch Marine Spatial Planning Initiative:** In November 2018, EC, IOC and UNESCO launched a project to promote transboundary maritime spatial planning. Supporting this initiative, two 3-year MSP initiatives were launched. While the first was from the West Mediterranean countries, the second included Ecuador and Peru. Training activities in the South Pacific also included Chile, Colombia and Panama.<sup>52</sup>

**OECD Program Leading Development of Localized SDG Indicator Framework:** Launched in May 2019, OECD's Program on a Territorial Approach to the SDGs was to support to cities and regions on their development path, implement and monitor the strategies considering the achievement of SDGs. And as the pilot countries, nine countries from Latin America, Europe and Asia were selected. Argentina and Brazil were the countries from Latin America while Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Germany were from Europe.<sup>53</sup>

**Leading up to Ministerial, WTO Negotiating Group Focuses on Fisheries Subsidies:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference held on December 2017. It was to enhance global momentum and action on ocean issues. seven proposals were collected from seven regions and the EU solely itself and Latin American group was included in this regions. In Latin American group, there were Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.<sup>54</sup>

52 "European Commission, IOC-UNESCO Launch Marine Spatial Planning Initiative", *IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub*, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/european-commission-ioc-unesco-launch-marine-spatial-planning-initiative/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

53 "OECD Programme Leading Development of Localized SDG Indicator Framework", *IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub*, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/oced-programme-leading-development-of-localized-sdg-indicator-framework/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

54 "Leading up to Ministerial, WTO Negotiating Group Focuses on Fisheries Subsidies", *IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub*, <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/leading-up-to-ministerial-wto-negotiating-group-focuses-on-fisheries-subsidies/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

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Trade and Health Initiative: It was pitched by the Ottawa Group. Co-sponsor for the proposals were Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, the EU, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Freedom of decision making and implement necessary trade policies during this pandemic period in order to fight it are the main logic of this initiative.<sup>55</sup>

**Cooperation Program ECLAC-BMZ/giz:** Based on urban connectivity, this program aims to improve technical and institutional bases for sustainable development. This program is initiated by ECLAC and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The duration of the program is 2020-2022.<sup>56</sup>

### CONCLUSION

Since the achievement of the SDG 17 is directly dependent on the achievement of other goals and vice versa, this goal still needs to be strengthened in terms of tax revenues, debt sustainability, statistical capacity, technology transfer, international cooperation, trade conditions and policy coherence on sustainable development. The EU uses the SDGs for strong international legitimacy to strengthen its standing. It uses SDGs as a frame for its diplomacy. European partnerships, diplomacy and soft power may advance Europe's internal and external relations and also SDGs. The Green Deal has attracted attention for cooperation with Europe and learning its experiences.<sup>57</sup> Europe's efforts on to implement cohesive policies within the region are leading to success. However, multilateral and bilateral diplomacy fields still need to be enhanced. Cooperation cross-

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55 "As Vaccine Roll-out Begins, WTO Members Intensify Debate over Policy Solutions", *IISD-SDG Knowledge Hub*, <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/as-vaccine-roll-out-begins-wto-members-intensify-debate-over-policy-solutions/>, (Date of Accession: 31.03.2021).

56 "Cooperation Program ECLAC-BMZ/giz", *CEPAL*, <https://www.cepal.org/en/node/48416>, (Date of Accession: 10.04.2021).

57 ESDR 2020, *op. cit.*, p. 50.

## ULUSLARARASI KRİZ VE SİYASET ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ

borders, intra-regional cooperation are to be based on “sustainability”. Within this context, the available cooperation fields may be strengthened and relations need to be enhanced.

The EU’s bilateral relations with upper-middle income countries such as the members of ASEAN and MERCOSUR raise the disagreement issues by a shared overall agenda. With these countries, fields of development cooperation might be exchanged in technology, technical assistance, problem solving on many different issues. In the field of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, bilateral approaches are more valued than multilateral approaches. EU keeps its leadership in multilateral level, in biodiversity and climate issues. Well-functioning mechanisms within the EU bodies support the achievement of development cooperation. EU as a total and also each member states have chance to find bilateral or multilateral partners to support the SGDs strategies.<sup>58</sup>

Green Deal Diplomacy is expected to maintain policy coherence across trade, investment, development cooperation and industry revolution. Achieving this coherence supports the sustainability of supply chains and controls the negative spillovers. As it is political stand and brand suggested, Europe must not be self-centered by being protectionist about its policies regarding the poorer countries’ development. However, because of the lack of technical information, some poorer countries are not able to develop themselves and need technical help from outer countries. Besides development cooperation mechanisms, Europe pays attention to the issues identified as “Global Commons” such as protecting tropical forests, marine ecosystems.<sup>59</sup> However, Europe needs to reduce its negative spillover effects through the other countries and regions in the future. This seems quite urgent issue that Europe has to deal with while being on the way of achievement of SDGs.

<sup>58</sup> ESDR 2020, *op. cit.*, p. 53.

<sup>59</sup> “The 2020 Europe Sustainable Development Report: Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic”, *SDSN-IEEP*, Paris-Brussels 2020, p. 55.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 IN THE EU AND IN LATIN AMERICA: INITIATIVES IN FRAME OF THE SDG 17

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While coordinating Green Deal principles and SDG strategies in coherence, these policies also should be in coherence with the EU's bilateral, multilateral relations including development cooperation. One particular priority of the EU should be regional and supranational bodies in the other regions aiming to deepen regional integration. In this regard, different bodies in Latin America are included in this priority partners. Means of these efforts are mostly related to trade facilitation and creation of single markets.<sup>60</sup> Considering the above mentioned initiatives, it is seen that the EU has been playing a leading role about the projects in which the EU and Latin American countries are benefited, or Latin American countries are beneficiaries of the EU budget. Hence, partnership initiatives in which both region can play equal roles are suggested. To be able to succeed this, first of all countries within regions should institutionalize their own mechanisms related to SDGs and to be coherent with each other. When the cohesion reaches the regional level, it is more likely to reach this success to global level. Especially when the partner is EU, whose policies are relatively more in cohesion, it plays vital importance for Latin America to be politically, institutionally and economically in cohesion within the region.

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60 SDSN-IEEP, *op. cit.*, p. 62.

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