

Unit 1: Introduction to Smart City 3.0

1.2. European Union legal environment in brief (and SDG's)

Duration: 45 Minutes

Teaching topic:

- MDGs&SDGs
- Main policies
- Main framework programmes

Learning Aims:

- To learn more about Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- To understand the process of the EU law in this field

1.2.1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2000, leaders of 189 countries signed the historic Millennium Declaration, in which they committed to achieving a set of eight measurable goals by the target date of 2015.

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combating HIV/AIDs, malaria, and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The MDGs were revolutionary in providing a common language to reach global agreement. The 8 goals were realistic and easy to communicate, with a clear measurement/monitoring mechanism.

See more: <https://www.sdgfund.org/mdgs-sdgs>

The Millennium Development Goals expired in 2015, so in September 2015, the countries of the world agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a new milestone at the United Nations General Assembly.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/sustainable-development-goals/eu-and-united-nations-common-goals-sustainable-future_hu

1.2.2. European Union legal environment in brief

There are no uniform, comprehensive and binding EU or national smart city regulations. There are rules, recommendations and guidelines for each area or sub-area. We have collected these relevant rules in this module.

Within the EU, there are various framework programmes, mainly around energy efficiency, resource management, economic competitiveness, innovation and community involvement, and governance renewal. The EU funding is also linked to this.

Main policies:

Several EU policies promote more sustainable, healthier and competitive urban areas, while also tackling climate challenges, which are the follows:

1. [European Green Deal](#)

The European Green Deal will transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring:

- *no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050*
- *economic growth decoupled from resource use*
- *no person and no place left behind*

*The European Green Deal is also our lifeline out of the COVID-19 pandemic. **One third of the €1.8 trillion** investments from the [NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan](#), and the EU's seven-year budget will finance the European Green Deal.*

1. [Energy strategy/ REPowerEU](#)
 - a. [EU Long-term strategies](#)
 - b. [National long-term strategies](#)
 - c. [REPowerEU](#) is helping the EU:
 - i. save energy
 - ii. produce clean energy
 - iii. diversify its energy supplies

If we briefly summarise the main milestones and steps of the regulation, the following should be highlighted in addition to the above:

- March 2010 – Europe 2020: A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
- March 2011 – European Commission - 2050 Energy Strategy (Roadmap to a competitive renewable energy economy, 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions)
- March 2011 – White paper 2011- Mobility and Transport (Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system - 2050)
- May 2014 – Energy Security Strategy (reducing external energy sources)

- October 2014 – Council decision on the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework Programme (SN 79/14) (reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing renewable energy sources, increasing energy efficiency, with mandatory metrics)
- May 2016 május – EU Urban Agenda for improving the regulatory, financing and cooperation environment for urban development

Main European Framework Programmes:

Urban development is a key area of the EU's regional development strategy, the main objectives of which are aligned with the three priorities of the 2020 Growth Strategy, namely:

1. Smart development,
2. Sustainable development,
3. Inclusive development
4. The Smart Cities and Communities programme of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP), now part of the [EU CAP Network](#), is directly linked to smart growth. The R&D&I programme has launched collaborations between cities and industries in more than six categories:
 - Sustainable urban mobility;
 - Sustainable districts and built environment;
 - Integrated infrastructures and processes for energy management,
 - ICT and transport;
 - Citizen centricity;
 - Integrated planning and management;
 - Business models,
 - Public procurement and financing/funding

Az [URBACT](#) programme helps cities to develop an integrated set of actions for sustainable change. *URBACT supports integrated development to achieve policy integration in cities. Positive change can best be achieved when local authorities work together with different levels of government (regional, national, EU) - vertical integration - and when challenges and problems are addressed in a holistic way, taking into account environmental, economic and social dimensions simultaneously - horizontal integration.*

The city-level administration is represented by [Eurocities](#). It works in seven priority areas (culture, economy, environment, knowledge society, mobility, social affairs, cooperation). Its main tasks are strategy development, exchange of knowledge and active research and development. The main objectives of its strategy are quality jobs, diverse and inclusive cities, a green and healthy environment, smarter cities.

Urban Europe research and development cooperation was launched under the European Commission's JPI Joint Programming Initiative. The [JPI Urban Europe](#)'s task is to connect public authorities, civil society, scientists, innovators, business, and industry to provide an effectful environment for research and innovation to contribute to urban transformation processes.

References:

- <https://www.sdgfund.org/mdgs-sdgs>

- https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/sustainable-development-goals/eu-and-united-nations-common-goals-sustainable-future_en
- https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
- https://transport.ec.europa.eu/white-paper-2011_en
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- https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/repowereu-affordable-secure-and-sustainable-energy-europe_en
- https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en
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