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***Sustainable Civil Society Dialogue  
For Sustainable Development Project***

# Handbook of EU best practices on sustainable development



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## Introduction

The purpose of this Handbook is to disseminate European Union’s best practices on sustainable development. Particularly, it focuses on EU policies, standards, regulations, legal framework, civic participation mechanisms and provides a few examples of local implementation and success stories. Its final objectives are to raise awareness among the importance of CSO’s involvement in and contribution to EU accession process, to improve the public knowledge and understanding of the EU especially in the field of environment, and to illustrate the impact of the EU accession process on citizens’ daily lives.

This Handbook also takes advantage of the SCSD-SD project activities already successfully carried out: the Rome, Bologna and Izmir Civil Society Dialogue Meetings, and the Monitoring Activities which led to the publication of the Monitoring Report. The topics have been selected following the inputs collected during these activities.

EU legislation is under constant evolution. The Handbook reflects the situation as of the time of writing – January 2020. All updates are in any case available online on the EU Commission’s relevant websites.



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# 1. Air Quality

## Legislation

### 2013 Clean Air Policy Package:

In 2013, over a third of EU's Air Quality Management Zones exceeded the limit values for PM10 and a quarter for NO<sub>2</sub>. 17 Member States were subject to infringement proceedings for PM10 non-compliance.

The Package includes a *Clean Air Programme for Europe* setting the targets for 2020 and 2030:



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#### a) 2020:

- effective implementation of the existing EU legislation and achieve full compliance with existing air quality standards by 2020 at the latest (Art. 2.2).
- At local level: the EU Commission proposal for the 2014-2020 *European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF)* includes an air quality component, in particular for urban areas. Member States, regions and cities with notable air quality problems are encouraged to consider the use of these funds, where relevant, to implement actions to reduce air pollutions (Art. 2.2.2).
- The expected evolution of the principal air pollution impacts up to 2030 assuming full implementation of the current legislation – relative to 2005: **-40% Health impacts** (premature mortality due to particulate matter and ozone); **-22% Ecosystem area exceeding eutrophication limits.**

#### b) 2030:

additional EU action to reduce emissions at source are required and foreseen by the EU Commission:

- revising the *National Emission Ceilings Directive* – to deliver cost-effective national emission reduction obligations.
- Tapping the full potential of existing source controls: Industrial Emissions, Ecodesign, and Non-Road Mobile Machinery.
- Proposal for a Directive on Medium Combustion Plants.
- Measures to abate ammonia emissions from agriculture.



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- Controlling emissions from shipping.
- The new air policy objectives for 2030 relative to 2005 are: **-52% Health Impacts; -35% Ecosystem area exceeding eutrophication limits.**

## Data and Reporting

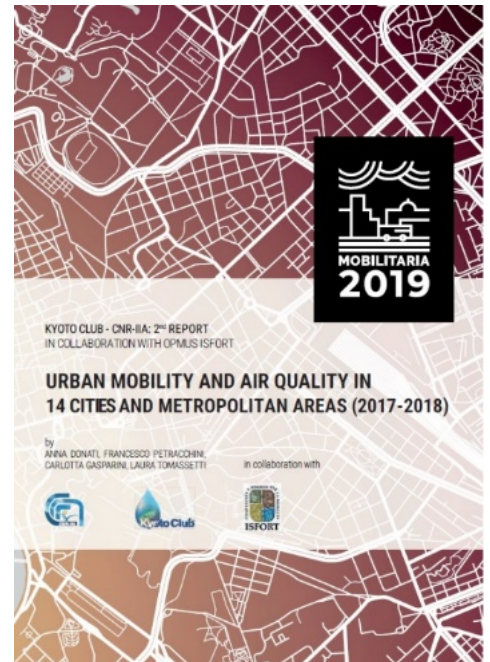
EU Member States are required to ensure that up-to-date information on ambient concentration of the different pollutants is routinely made available to the public as well as to other organizations.

The **European Air Quality Portal** managed by the *European Environment Agency* (EEA) links to several databases on air pollutants in the EU.

## Best practices

### a) *Mobilitaria Reports 2018 and 2019 (English):*

The Kyoto Club *Sustainable Mobility Working Group*, together with the experts of *CNR-IIA – National Research Council-Institute on Atmospheric Pollution* - has published the *MobilitAria* Report the first time in 2018, and an updated edition for 2019. The document gives a comprehensive picture of the air quality trend in the **14 main Italian urban areas**, linking it with the urban mobility policies. In the 2019 Edition, *MobilitAria* takes advantage of the contribution from *OPMUS – the Observatory on Sustainable Urban Mobility Policies* of *ISFORT – Superior Institute of Training and Research on Transportation*.



*Mobilitaria 2019 Report cover*

The 2019 Report is now available also in English:

<https://www.kyotoclub.org/news-in-english/2019-ott-07/urban-mobility-and-air-quality-in-14-cities-and-metropolitan-areas-2017-2018/docId=9293>.



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## **b) European Mobility Week**

Since 2002, *EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK*<sup>1</sup> has sought to improve public health and quality of life through promoting clean mobility and sustainable urban transport. The campaign gives people the chance to explore the role of city streets and to experiment with practical solutions to tackle urban challenges, such as air pollution. By taking part, towns and cities can showcase the benefits of cleaner transport choices and make progress towards better mobility in Europe.

Local authorities are strongly encouraged to use the week to test new transport measures and get feedback from the public. It is also an excellent opportunity for local stakeholders to get together and discuss the different aspects of mobility and air quality, find innovative solutions to reduce car-use and transport emissions, and test new technologies and planning measures.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mobilityweek.eu/home/>



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## 2. Water

### Legislation

a) **The Drinking Water Directive<sup>2</sup>:**

last updated 31/01/2018, concerns the quality of water intended for human consumption.

b) **The EU Water Framework Directive<sup>3</sup> (WFD):**

getting Europe's waters cleaner by managing water on a river basin scale. The WFD entered into force in 2000, and sets out clear deadlines:

- 2015: meet environmental objectives; first management cycle ends; second river basin management plan.
- 2021: second management cycle ends.
- 2027: third management cycle ends.

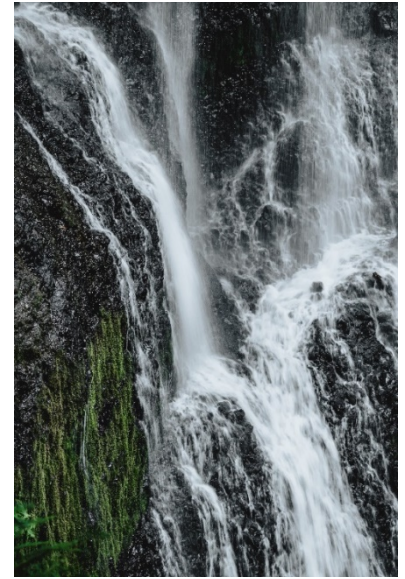


Photo by Cristofer Jeschke  
on Unsplash

This Directive is crucial for the good maintenance of surface and ground waters, and represents a pillar for every climate change adaptation plan. Italy, as one of the EU Member States most hit by the climate change – from the beginning of 2019, according to the European Severe Weather Database<sup>4</sup>, 1.543 severe weather events have been registered, compared to the 17 of 1999 - is a very good example of the effects that a non-complete implementation of the WFD can lead to, with several heavy rains and floods causing great damages in the last years.

c) **Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive:**

last updated 12/02/2019.

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31998L0083>

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eswd.eu/>



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## Data and reporting

### Citizens' involvement: the WFD CIRCABC<sup>5</sup> Information exchange platform

In order to promote greater information exchange and to facilitate the work in the numerous expert groups, the Commission set up an internet-based platform called "CIRCA" which has recently migrated to a new platform called "CIRCABC".

CIRCABC stands for "Communication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations, Businesses and Citizens" and it is a web-based service provided by the European Commission.

## Best practices

As before mentioned, for its particular position and orography, Italy is a well-known climate hotspot. Climate change effects are heavily affecting the Italian territories all over the country, and water management is one of the most debated topics.

No surprise, then, that campaigns calling for a better implementation of the EU Water Directives have been launched and had great success. We include here two examples:

### a) #ProtectWater Campaign

A Civil Society example: The #ProtectWater Campaign.

#ProtectWater is an NGO-led campaign calling citizens across Europe to take a stand for Europe's rivers, lakes and wetlands, and the strong law which protects them, the *EU Water Framework Directive*, during the European Commission's ongoing fitness check. The public consultation is now closed, and the campaign has been a success, since the EU Commission at the moment has decided to not modify the Water Framework Directive.



In Europe, 60% of rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands are not healthy, meaning that they do not respect the standards set by the WFD. In Italy – according to WWF Italy – only the 43% of

<sup>5</sup> <https://circabc.europa.eu/faces/jsp/extension/wai/navigation/container.jsp>





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the 7494 monitored rivers is in “good ecological health”, while 41% is well below and 16% is not even classified. Considering the 347 lakes, only the 20% meets the WFD requirements.

The campaign provides a platform for citizens and stakeholders alike add their voice - more than 375,000 citizens have already called on the European Commission to defend the WFD, making the EU’s public consultation on the legislation one of the largest ever in the history of the European Union.

In Italy, Kyoto Club is member of the Coalition Living Rivers – composed by 23 organizations - promoting the #ProtectWater campaign.

#### **b) #Salvalacqua Campaign**

#Salvalacqua (Save the water) is an Italian campaign launched by the FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano (Italian Environmental Fund), dealing with the other side of the climate change challenge: the water scarcity. In 2017, 11 (of 21) Italian Regional governments requested the calamity status for severe droughts. The campaign calls for the development of a national strategy on water based on an efficient use of the resource.

The **Water Pact** is a document of principles and proposals aimed at saving water, recovering and reusing water signed by the main players in the water Italian system: from the research institutions to managers network, from the reclamation consortia to farmers, from technical expert and planners to local authorities.

*Kyoto Club* is a member of the campaign.



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### 3. Waste Management

#### Legislation

##### a) Directive (EU) 2018/851

It makes amendments to Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (the Waste Framework Directive), which provides the legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste, as follows:

- increase targets for preparing for re-use and recycling of waste:

Specific targets for packaging		
	By 2025	By 2030
All packaging	65%	70%
Plastic	50%	55%
Wood	25%	30%
Ferrous metals	70%	80%
Aluminium	50%	60%
Glass	70%	75%
Paper and cardboard	75%	85%

- remove substances intended for animal feed from the scope of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- add a number of new definitions;
- change cease to be waste conditions and requirements;
- set out exemptions for separation of waste collection;
- establish bio-waste separation;
- establish household hazardous waste collection;
- update record keeping requirements.



Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

The Directive, among others, adds the following new targets for the municipal waste:



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- by 2025, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to a minimum of 55% by weight;
- by 2030, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to a minimum of 60% by weight; and
- by 2035, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to a minimum of 65% by weight.

## b) European Strategy for Plastics

The first-ever European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy adopted on January 2018 will transform the way plastic products are designed, used, produced and recycled in the EU. Better design of plastic products, higher plastic waste recycling rates, more and better quality recyclates will help boosting the market for recycled plastics. It will deliver greater added value for a more competitive, resilient plastics industry.

The strategy is part of Europe's transition towards a circular economy, and will also contribute to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, the global climate commitments and the EU's industrial policy objectives.

## c) Directive 2019/904

Formally adopted by the European Parliament and by the Council of the European Union on 5 June 2019, it is aimed at **reducing the incidence of products disposable plastic products on the environment**, in particular on the aquatic environment, and on human health, as well as promoting the transition to a circular economy with innovative business models, products and materials. The Directive (which came into force on 2 July 2019) specifically concerns disposable plastic products that most pollute the beaches and seas of Europe and fishing gear containing plastic.

Main measures established:

- measures to reduce the consumption of food containers and beverage cups.
- Restrictions on the marketing of disposable plastic with readily available alternatives expanded, expanded polystyrene beverage cups).
- Awareness raising measures and extended producer responsibility regimes for all items that do not fall within the market restriction measure, at the end of the prevention costs, of waste management, including treatment costs.
- Labeling obligations to inform consumers about proper waste disposal, plastic content and environmental impact.



Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash



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- Measures related to product design (for example relating to beverage bottles with a cap attached).

Each member state must be regulated to comply with the new rules by 3 July 2021. According to data released by the European Commission, thanks to the new directive, so quantifiable environmental and economic benefits will be gained:

- the emission of 3.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent components will be avoided.
- Environmental damage will be reduced for an equivalent cost of € 22 billion by 2030.
- Savings of around € 6.5 billion will be generated for consumers.

## **Data and reporting**

### *Economia circolare in Italia*

**Economia circolare in Italia (Circular economy in Italy)** is a 2018 study promoted by Kyoto Club's **Recycling and Recovery Group** and commissioned by CONAI's packaging recycling sector, CIAL, COMIECO, COREPLA, RICREA and the water sector illustrated by the CAP Group.

This is a first real balance sheet on the circular economy in Italy showing how the Italian economy is today in Europe the most performing in terms of material circularity, productivity of resources, recycling capacity. Some numbers:

- circular economy in Italy in 2017 had a total revenue of 88 billion euros, with 575.000 related jobs.
- Secondary raw materials recycle in the Italian economy can lead to potential savings of 58 million of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq – around the 14,6% of the total national emissions.



"Economia circolare in Italia"  
book cover



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## Best practices

### a) *Bio-economy – Novamont<sup>6</sup> MATER-BI*

*Novamont* is an Italian company, international leader in the bioplastics sector and in the development of biochemicals. Their innovations are the result of a circular bioeconomy model based on the reconversion of decommissioned or no longer competitive industrial sites, on an agricultural value chain integrated in the local area and not in competition with food production and on products designed to solve specific environmental concerns, closely related to soil and water quality.

MATER-BI is an innovative family of biodegradable and compostable bioplastics Novamont developed: it helps to divert organic waste from landfills, allowing its transformation into compost, a soil improver and a valuable tool to arrest its degradation. Bioplastics biodegradable in soil are instead suitable for those applications with a high risk of dispersion in the environment.



### b) *European Week for Waste Reduction<sup>7</sup>*

The European Week for Waste Reduction is an initiative aiming to promote the implementation of awareness-raising actions about sustainable resource and waste management during a single week. It encourages a wide range of audiences (public authorities, private companies, civil society as well as citizens themselves) to get involved.

Main features are:

- coordination of awareness-raising actions during one week of the year;
- development of target-group-specific communication tools for schools, businesses, administrations/associations and citizens;



Flyer of the initiative

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.novamont.com/eng/company-profile>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ewwr.eu/en>



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- development and promotion of an annual *Thematic Focus* about one specific waste prevention topic per year;
- development and testing of the concept of a *European Clean-Up Day*: “Let’s Clean Up Europe”.



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## 4. Nature and biodiversity

### Legislation

The reference is still the *Council Directive 92/43/EEC*<sup>8</sup> on the conservation on natural habitats of wild fauna and flora:

- it contributes to ensuring biodiversity in the European Union by the conservation of natural habitats.
- It sets up the *Natura 2000* network, the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world.

### Best practices

#### a) *The Natura 2000 network*<sup>9</sup>

It covers over 18% of the EU's land area and more than 250 000 km<sup>2</sup> of marine area – almost the 6% of EU marine territory.

It stretches across all 28 EU countries, both on land and at sea. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, listed under both the *Birds Directive* and the *Habitats Directive*.

The *Natura 2000 Viewer*<sup>10</sup> is an online tool that presents all *Natura 2000* sites. It provides key information on designated species and habitats, data on population sizes and information on conservation status.



#### b) *The Birds and Habitats Directives*

The *Birds and Habitats Directives* have had to evolve to reflect successive enlargements of the European Union.

<sup>8</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20130701>

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm)

<sup>10</sup> <https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/#>



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Member States unanimously adopted the *Directive 79/409/EEC* in April 1979. It is the oldest piece of EU legislation on the environment and one of its cornerstones. Amended in 2009, it became the *Directive 2009/147/EC*.

The *ORNIS Committee* assists the Commission in the implementation of the Birds Directive. The *Habitats Directive* ensures the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic animal and plant species. Some 200 rare and characteristic habitat types are also targeted for conservation in their own right.

Certain articles of the Habitats Directive (Art. 6, 12, 16 and 17) require Member States to report on the conservation status of habitats and species, on compensation measures taken for projects having a negative impact on *Natura 2000* sites or on derogations they may have applied to the strict protection measures.

The *Habitats Committee* assists the Commission in the implementation of the 'Habitats' directive and delivers an opinion on the draft list of LIFE-Nature projects to be financed each year.

### **Potential impact on the citizens' daily life:**

*Natura 2000* is not a system of strict nature reserves from which all human activities would be excluded. While it includes strictly protected nature reserves, most of the land remains privately owned. The approach to conservation and sustainable use of the *Natura 2000* areas is much wider, largely centered on people working with nature rather than against it. However, Member States must ensure that the sites are managed in a sustainable manner, both ecologically and economically.

As it is one of the oldest EU Directives in force, clearly representing an excellence at global level, we thought it might be useful to give an overview of the situation in Turkey, to better understand the impact it could have at local level once the Turkish legislation would be adapted accordingly.

As highlighted on the *SCSD-SD Monitoring Report*, the lists of habitats and species detected in Turkey under the Habitats and Birds Directives have been prepared. However, Turkey's framework legislation on nature protection, national biodiversity strategy and action plan still have to be adopted. Regulations allowing planning and construction in wetlands, forests and natural sites are still not in line with the *acquis*. The institutional framework for managing future *Natura 2000* sites needs to be streamlined and adequately resourced. Investments, particularly in hydropower and mining, need to comply with nature protection obligations, especially for potential *Natura 2000* areas.

As of today, protected areas in Turkey covers around the 7,2% of the territory.





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## 5. Climate

### **EU Climate Policy**

#### **a) Paris Agreement**

The European Commission proposal for an EU position for COP21 was spelled out in the communication *The Paris Protocol – a blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020*, which was presented at the same time as the *Energy Union* package on 25 February 2015. The latter translated into action the climate and energy 2030 targets decided on by EU leaders at the October 2014 European Council. On 6 March 2015, the EU presented its intended nationally determined contribution, and was the first major economy to do so.



Photo by William Bossen on Unsplash

#### **b) Climate Finance**

The EU is the world's largest contributor to international climate finance: in 2017, 20.4 billion euros of public money. It devotes at least 20% of its budget to climate-related activities.

Last 14 November 2019, the *European Investment Bank (EIB)* agreed a new energy lending policy<sup>11</sup>, with the following priorities:

- the EIB will end financing for fossil fuel energy projects from the end of 2021.
- Future financing will accelerate clean energy innovation, energy efficiency and renewables.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy#>



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- EIB Group financing will unlock EUR 1 trillion of climate action and environmental sustainable investment in the decade to 2030.
- EIB Group will align all financing activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement from the end of 2020.

### c) EU Climate Action

At least 20% of the EU's budget for 2014 to 2020 - as much as €180 billion - should be spent on protecting the climate. This is on top of funding from individual EU countries:

(EUR million, commitment appropriations)

Programme	2014-2017				2018-2020 estimates			Total 2014-2020
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Total EU Budget	118.054,4	158.606,8	151.498,4	154.507,1	156.623,4	160.553,9	164.880,1	1.064.724,0
Climate Change finance	16.098,3	27.451,8	31.738,1	29.792,9	30.481,2	31.956,0	32.606,7	200.124,8
Share of climate	13,6%	17,3%	20,9%	19,3%	19,5%	19,9%	19,8%	18,8%

#### The Green Deal

On the 11 December 2019, the President of the EU Commission Ms Ursula von der Leyden presented the *European Green Deal*<sup>12</sup>.

As long-term objective, the EU intends to be climate neutral in 2050.

To achieve this ambitious target, The Commission will propose a European Climate Law turning the political

commitment into a legal obligation and a trigger for investment. The EU Commission foresees to mobilise at least 1 trillion of investments over the course of 10 years, of which 503 billion as EU budget for Climate and Environment.

### d) Adapting to Climate change:

The European Commission has adopted an EU Adaptation Strategy and wants all its Member States to adopt national plans to cope with the inevitable impacts of climate change by 2017. As of today, 25 of 28 EU countries have already presented their *National Adaptation Strategies* (NAS).

For example, this includes measures such as:

- using less water

<sup>12</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)



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- adapting building regulations
- building flood defences
- developing crops that cope better in drought conditions

Turkey also has presented in 2011 its *National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan*<sup>13</sup>.

## Regulation

- The EU's emissions trading system is the key tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industry at the lowest cost.
- EU countries are required to support renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and biomass to reach the green energy targets.
- EU countries have to reduce the energy use of their buildings and industries are required to improve the energy efficiency of a wide array of equipment and household appliances.
- Car manufacturers have to reduce CO2 emissions from new cars and vans.

The EU has set key targets for 2020 and 2030:

- 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990.
- At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990.



Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

Finally, by 2050 the EU aims to cut its emissions substantially – by 80-95% compared to 1990 levels as part of the efforts required by developed countries as a group.

### A unique case – first of the list?

On 20 December 2019, the Netherlands' supreme court has upheld a **ruling ordering the country's government to do much more to cut carbon emissions**, after a six-year fight for climate justice started in 2013 by the non-profit *Urgenda Foundation*.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.dsi.gov.tr/docs/iklim-degisikligi/turkeys-national-climate-change-adaptation-strategy-and-action-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=2>



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## Best practices

### a) *BLUE AP – Bologna Local Urban Environment Adaptation Plan for a Resilient City*<sup>14</sup>

*BLUE AP* (Bologna Local Urban Environment Adaptation Plan for a Resilient City) is a LIFE+ project, ended in 2015, for the implementation of an Adaptation Plan to Climate Change for the Municipality of Bologna, providing for some concrete local measures to test, in order to make the city more resilient and able to meet the climate change challenges.

The *BLUE AP* planning and testing actions developed in the city of Bologna led to the creation of guidelines useful for the definition of similar adaptation plans, that can be adopted by other medium-size Italian cities. Bologna has been the pilot-city that, first in Italy, faced climate changes with the appropriate and creative tools.

The project produced the following outputs (documents):

- Bologna Local Climate Profile, with an analysis of the most vulnerable areas.
- A list of adaptation best practices
- The Bologna Local Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

### b) *Divesting*

*Fossil Free*<sup>15</sup> is an international network of campaigns and campaigners working toward freeing communities from fossil fuels. While each campaign is independently run and may bring different emphases and asks depending on their local context, the majority of campaigns are asking institutions to:

- immediately freeze any new investment in fossil fuel companies.
- Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years.
- End their fossil fuels sponsorship.

The latest updates: 1176 institutions divesting an approximate of 12,02 trillion-dollar value. More than 58.000 individuals divesting about 5,2 billion dollar.

The main related Italian campaign is *#DivestItaly*<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.blueap.eu/site/en>

<sup>15</sup> <https://gofossilfree.org/divestment/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.divestitaly.org/>



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## 6. RES and EE

### Legislation

- Renewable Energy Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive: they set rules for the EU to achieve its renewables and energy efficiency targets by 2020.
- National Renewable Energy Action Plans 2020: provided by the EU countries to meet their 2020 renewable energy obligations.
- Support Schemes: a guidance for EU countries when designing and reforming support schemes for renewables.



Photo by Martijn Baudoin on Unsplash

### Targets

#### a) Renewable Energy Sources:

- 2020: the EU's original *Renewable Energy Directive* (2009/28/EC) sets binding targets of 20% consumption from renewable sources and by 2020. To achieve this, EU countries have committed to reaching their own national renewables targets for 2020 ranging from 10% in Malta to 49% in Sweden. They are also each required to have at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.
- 2030: the new revised Renewables energy directive (2018/2001) entered into force, establishing a new binding renewable energy target for the EU for 2030 of at least 32%, with a clause for a possible upwards revision by 2023.



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## b) Energy Efficiency:

- 2020: in 2012, under the *Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU*, the EU set a 20% energy savings target by 2020 (when compared to compared to PRIMES<sup>17</sup> model of projected use of energy in 2020) – this is roughly equivalent to turning off 400 power stations.
- 2030: In December 2018, the revised *Energy Efficiency Directive* entered into force (amending Directive EU (2018/2002) updating some specific provisions and introducing some new elements. Above all, it establishes a headline EU energy efficiency target for 2030 of at least 32.5% (compared to PRIMES 2008 projections) with a clause for a possible upwards revision by 2023.

Under the new Governance regulation, Member States were required to draft 10-year National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs) by the end of 2019, outlining how they will meet the new 2030 targets for renewable energy and for energy efficiency.

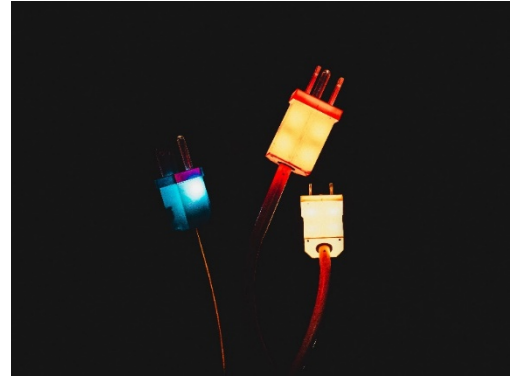


Photo by Murat Onder on Unsplash

## Policies to improve Energy Efficiency

The EU has adopted a number of measures to improve energy efficiency in Europe. They include:

- an annual reduction of 1.5% in national energy sales.
- EU countries making energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central governments per year.
- Mandatory energy efficiency certificates accompanying the sale and rental of buildings.
- Minimum energy efficiency standards and labelling for a variety of products such as boilers, household appliances, lighting and televisions (ecodesign).
- The preparation of National Energy Efficiency Action Plans every three years by EU countries.
- The planned rollout of close to 200 million smart meters for electricity and 45 million for gas by 2020.
- Large companies conducting energy audits at least every four years.
- Protecting the rights of consumers to receive easy and free access to data on real-time and historical energy consumption.
- The Commission has published guidelines on good practice in energy efficiency.

<sup>17</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/analysis/models\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/analysis/models_en)



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- On the 9 Jul 2018 came into force the revise Energy Performance of Building Directive<sup>18</sup> (EU) 2018/844. It includes measures that will accelerate the rate of building renovation towards more energy efficient systems and strengthen the energy performance of new buildings, making them smarter.

## Best practices

### a) EUASE and eceee

The *European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)*<sup>19</sup> was established at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16) in December 2010. Its members and partners include some of Europe's leading multinational companies, a prominent cross-party group of European politicians and energy efficiency campaigners from across Europe.

EUASE 's mission is to:

- serve as the leading European business organization gathering and representing all industrial sectors engaged in energy efficiency.
  - Give visibility and enhance technological and market solutions for energy efficiency whose potential is today not fully exploited, aiming for a doubling of the rate of energy efficiency improvements to at least 3% per year.
  - Strengthen and enforce a well-functioning EU legislative and financial framework for energy efficiency and cost-effective decarbonisation, in line with the Paris agreement.
  - Promote a forward-looking political agenda where energy efficiency will facilitate further decarbonisation efforts and the integration of renewable energy sources.
- The *European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy – eceee*<sup>20</sup> is a membership-based non-profit association. As Europe's largest and oldest NGO dedicated to energy efficiency, it generates and provide evidence-based knowledge and analysis of policies, and we facilitate co-operation and networking.

eceee members are found among private and public organisations, as well as among all those professionals from all sectors who share eceee's goals.

<sup>18</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-energy-performance-buildings-directive-comes-force-9-july-2018-2018-jun-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-energy-performance-buildings-directive-comes-force-9-july-2018-2018-jun-19_en)

<sup>19</sup> <https://euase.net/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.eceee.org/>



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ecccc generates and provides evidence-based knowledge and analysis of policies. It facilitates co-operation and networking through its Summer Studies, workshops, social media, web site and newsletter.

### **b) The European Sustainable Energy Week**

*European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)*<sup>21</sup> is a month-long series of activities to build a secure energy future for Europe. It brings together public authorities, private companies, NGOs and consumers to promote initiatives to save energy and move towards renewables for clean, secure and efficient power.

Anyone can take part by:

- creating or attending an *Energy Day*.
- Competing for the *Sustainable Energy Awards*.
- Presenting at or attending the *Networking Village*.
- Organising a session or presentation at the *Policy Conference*.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.eusew.eu/>





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