



EYD2015

THEMATIC FACTSHEET ON SUSTAINABLE GREEN GROWTH, DECENT JOBS & BUSINESSES.

European Year for Development in 2015

2015 is a landmark year for international aid and development cooperation as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to their conclusion. Based on these, the world will come together to agree on a new course of action and a post-2015 development agenda. Each month, the EYD2015 is focusing on a different development theme, to raise awareness of the benefits of the EU's development cooperation in that field, and encourage direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest of EU citizens.

JUNE, THE MONTH OF SUSTAINABLE GREEN GROWTH, DECENT JOBS & BUSINESSES

Sustainable green growth and decent jobs are the best way out of poverty. The private sector is the engine of economic growth, trade, investment, innovation and job creation, providing nine out of every ten jobs in developing countries.

Economic growth can enable human development. However, growth should not come at the expense of the environment and poverty can only be reduced if the benefits of growth reach the poor. 70 percent of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas, so encouraging sustainable growth in agriculture and rural economies is the most effective way to lift people out of poverty.

We talk about 'decent' jobs, not just 'jobs'. Decent work means that workers have a fair wage and labour rights and standards, including social dialogue and social protection. While more women are participating in labour markets than ever before, women are over-represented in occupations with low pay and low productivity, with little protection. Ensuring decent work for women translates directly into gender equality, poverty reduction and the greater well-being of children.

The policies of governments are crucial to create the conditions for sustainable green growth, decent jobs and businesses. These policies should consist of a sound macro-economy, access to finance, a good regulatory system, the rule of law, a fair tax system, conditions conducive to trade, and labour, consumer and environmental standards. These all form part of a policy mix to facilitate sustainable growth that benefits all in society.



Sokhna Faye, an onion farmer from Senegal, grew her business and began exporting her produce to Europe as a result of EU support. Read her story on europa.eu/eyd/2015.

THE EU'S COOPERATION IN ACTION

- **Tanzania:** The *Trade and Agriculture Support Programme* supported the tea and coffee industries to improve quality standards to facilitate exports and to increase productivity, which grew by 50%. As a result, access to international markets increased and the net income of smallholder farmers grew by at least 20%.
- **Paraguay:** An *EU-funded Economic Integration Programme* supported the creation of a 'Single Window for Exports', which reduced the total time for administrative procedures needed to export meat from 40 days to 50 minutes and boosted the number of exporting enterprises by 500% since 2004.
- **Africa, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP):** The *ACP-EU Micro-finance programme* supported microfinance institutions in remote areas in 12 Sub Saharan African countries and Haiti. As a result, 120,000 new clients in rural areas benefited from better access to financial services.
- **Asia:** The *SWITCH-Asia Programme* has provided 86 grants in 16 countries that have, for example, made industries more energy efficient and sustainable, reduced the negative impact of mass tourism and increased 'eco-entrepreneurship'.
- **Eastern Partnership Countries:** The *Enterprise Growth Programme and Business Advisory Services (EGP-BAS)* provides services to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from the EU's neighbouring countries. To date, more than 600 SMEs have benefited and 90% have increased their turnover by an average of 43%, after just one year.



Sustainable fishing in Nicaragua, where the EU is supporting local fishing communities. Read the story on europa.eu/eyd/2015.

EU and Sustainable Green Growth, Decent Jobs & Businesses

The European Union works closely with governments in developing countries to help them implement policies in support of private sector development and decent work. For sustainable green growth to take root, the EU is working to improve gender equality, local governance, infrastructure, human capital, biodiversity, green energy, technology and trade.

The EU provides substantial grant funding across a wide range of areas, including regulatory reforms, capacity-building, sustainable consumption and production, eco-entrepreneurship, and the provision of business development services, with a focus on strengthening local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The EU recognises that development assistance is only one part of the resource pot and is increasingly working to leverage additional development finance for infrastructure investments and to facilitate access to finance for companies.

The EU is supporting developing countries' private sectors through other policy areas such as trade. Trade policy also promotes sustainable development and growth. The EU is the world's leading provider of 'aid for trade', which supports partner countries to develop their capacity to trade and access international markets. The EU has provided significant unilateral trade preferences through what is called the 'Generalised Scheme of Preferences'. The 'Everything but Arms' initiative provides duty-free and quota-free access to the EU's market to all products from least developed countries, except arms or ammunition.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

The importance of promoting Sustainable Green Growth, Decent Jobs & Businesses in the post 2015 development agenda has been recognised with the proposal of a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

THEMATIC MONTHS

Each month during the campaign will focus on a different theme involved in development around the world:

- January:* **EUROPE IN THE WORLD**
- February:* **EDUCATION**
- March:* **WOMEN AND GIRLS**
- April:* **HEALTH**
- May:* **PEACE AND SECURITY**
- June:* **SUSTAINABLE GREEN GROWTH,
DECENT JOBS, BUSINESSES**
- July:* **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**
- August:* **HUMANITARIAN AID**
- September:* **DEMOGRAPHY AND MIGRATION**
- October:* **FOOD SECURITY**
- November:* **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND CLIMATE ACTION**
- December:* **HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE**



SPREAD THE WORD!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online!

Join the EYD2015 campaign online! Stay up to date with information and news on the official campaign website, join the conversation on Twitter (#EYD2015) and have your say on Facebook.

Infographics, online banners, campaign trailers and more materials can be downloaded from the EYD2015 website. You can also join the group "European Year for Development 2015" on capacity4dev.eu to join the debate and get the latest news.

To get more involved, you can join us at events across the EU, and spread the impact of the campaign by co-branding with the EYD2015.

europa.eu/eyd2015

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