



PRESS RELEASE

Nicosia, 30th August 2022

The 2022 Sustainable Report – the state of the SDGs in Cyprus

It is with some concern that SDSN Cyprus has analysed the Cyprus results of the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) for 2022, which was published earlier this summer. Cyprus was ranked 43 out of 163 countries, and most notably ranked last in the EU, with an overall Score of 74.2, which is lower than the score of 74.9 in 2021.

Some of the most problematic indicators include the excessive use of nitrogen in Agriculture (SDG2), new HIV infections (SDG3), women's representation in parliament (SDG5), compensatory water imports (SDG6)¹, the share of renewables in the primary energy supply (SDG7), a slight decline in GDP growth in 2020 (SDG8), the low investment in research and development as a share of the GDP (SDG9), a stagnating Palma ratio² of inequalities (SDG10), public dissatisfaction with public transport (SDG11), the production of electronic waste and the export of plastic waste (SDG12), CO₂ emissions (SDG13), overfishing (SDG 14) and the percentage of the surface area of the island which are protected areas, both on land and at sea (SDGs 14 and 15), corruption perceptions and the percentage of unsentenced detainees (SDG16), and finally low levels of Overseas Development Assistance and a poor tax haven score (SDG17).

This data do come with some caveats, for example many of the data sources are from previous years, not from 2022, and some of the poor scores can be explained by the unique situation of Cyprus. For example the divided status of the island can partially, but not entirely, explain the poor performance in terms of the percentage of the surface area which is protected for wildlife, while Climate Change and the geographical situation of the island can explain the scarcity of water resources. However, it is within our power to improve most, if not all, of the problematic indicators. Particular attention should be paid to Climate Action (SDG 13), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG12) and Life Below Water (SDG 14).

There are signs of hope, however. For example, there has been mild to strong progress for all SDGs except SDG 2 (Hunger) and SDG 13 (Climate), while the targets of SDG 1 (Poverty) and SDG 4 (Education) can be considered as achieved. It is also important to note that a range of very positive developments have happened this year and the last, with the release in 2021 of the Cyprus SDG Voluntary National Review, and the production in 2022 (under the auspices of DG Growth, with the help of UNITAR), of the first comprehensive SDG plan for Cyprus. However, since data for sustainable development reports is usually drawn from data provided a few years earlier, it could be 2 years or more before we see the results of these changes reflected in an SDR. Nevertheless, it gives us great hope for the near future, and SDSN Cyprus wishes to encourage all efforts in this positive direction.

Over the past few years, [SDSN Cyprus](#) has worked with all sectors of society to improve the country's performance in implementing the SDGs, collecting and disseminating best practices, raising

¹ A measure of water withdrawals as a percentage of the existing local renewable freshwater resources.

² The share of income received by the 10% people with highest disposable income divided by the share of all income received by the 40% people with the lowest disposable income.



awareness, promoting sustainable development education, engaging with youth, and assisting the authorities, the private sector and civil society organisations in mainstreaming the SDGs into their daily operations. Some of our notable contributions have been to link the policies in Cyprus COVID [Recovery and Resilience Plan](#) to the SDGs, to take part in civil society consultations on the implementation of the SDGs, led by DG Growth and UNITAR (ahead of the publication of the 2021 Cyprus [Voluntary National Review](#) and the 2022 Cyprus National SDG Action Plan), and to recruit new SDSN members among the Cypriot Universities and Academic Institutions, namely UCLAN, Future Worlds, the Open University of Cyprus, and the European University of Cyprus (the Cyprus Institute, Neapolis University, the Cyprus University of Technology, Frederick University and the University of Nicosia are also members of this growing network).

If you want to know more, or you simply want to help make the SDGs a reality in Cyprus, visit our website (<https://sdsn.cyprus.cyi.ac.cy>), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SDSNCyprus>), or e-mail us at sdsn.cyprus@cyi.ac.cy. The SDSN 2022 Sustainable Development Report can be found at: <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/>

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ILLUSTRATION (Source: SDSN Sustainable Development Report, 2022)

CYPRUS

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING

CYPRUS

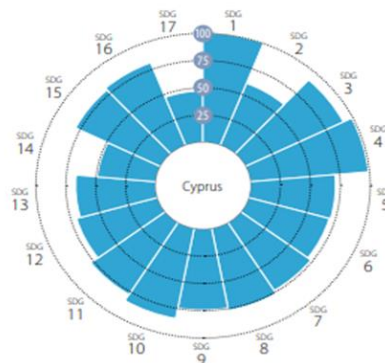
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COUNTRY SCORE



REGIONAL AVERAGE: 71.6

AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



■ Major challenges
 ■ Significant challenges
 ■ Challenges remain
 ■ SDG achieved
 ■ Information unavailable
↓ Decreasing
 → Stagnating
 ↗ Moderately improving
 ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement
 ● Information unavailable

Note: The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>