

COMUNICAZIONE ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

The Sustainable Development Foundation

From 2008 to 2016

Statement of Continued Support by the President of the Sustainable Development Foundation



The purpose of the Foundation is the promotion of a green economy, one of the core principles of sustainable development. Promoting solutions to the climate crisis as well as the economic crisis and, aiming for a better and more inclusive welfare while protecting natural capital and ecosystem services, are practices good not only for the environment, but also for a way to give solidity and sustainability to the economic recovery. In the complex path towards a green economy, the year 2015 marked two events of great importance: the Laudato si' Encyclical of Pope Francis, the Paris Agreement on climate change at COP 21 and the UN Agenda 2030.

On one hand, the Encyclical, addressed to all people of good will, contributes to greater environmental awareness. On the other, the Paris Agreement has brought as many as 187 countries, including China and the United States, to adopt plans of national measures to mitigate the climate crisis. The purpose of the agreement is to ratify their will to work deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and to try not to exceed the increase of 1.5 ° C.

Although things are taking a turn in the green direction there is still much to be done, since the pace of change continues to be inadequate and our Adhesion to the UN Global Compact, and the active collaboration with the Italian Global Compact Local Network, is one of the means through which our Foundation supports a shift of business towards sustainability and is engaged to promote the principles and actions included in the UN Agenda 2030. In the first eight years, our organisation has grown and the staff has tripled. The rising authority of the Foundation and its assets' growth are a source of pride for those who have pledged their support over the years and that are driving us to do better.



Edo Ronchi

The President

Who we are

Founded in 2008 by will of companies, business associations and sustainability experts, the Sustainable Development Foundation is a Rome-based think-tank with links at european and international level aimed at encouraging the transition towards a green economy.

Chaired by Edo Ronchi, the Italian Minister of the Environment (in charge from 1996 to 2000) who signed for Italy the Kyoto protocol in 1998, nowadays, the Foundation relies on a network of near 100 associated green companies and more than 50 top level senior experts and young talents in the sustainable development field.

As a reference organization active in deepening and spreading knowledge on thematic areas such as climate change, renewable energy, resource efficiency, sustainability strategies and reporting, sustainable mobility, etc., the Foundation holds workshops, lectures, conferences and learning events open to public participation. At national level the Foundation is the reference organization for the “States General of the Green Economy”, a multi-stakeholder engagement process aimed at promoting solutions towards a green economy in Italy. It is promoted by the National Council of the Green Economy (composed by 64 Italian business organizations) in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of the Economic Development.

In the international scenarios the Foundation is member of the UN Global Compact, organizational stakeholder of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and associated to the ISWA (International solid waste association) and Transport&Environment in Brussels. Furthermore, it cooperates with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Union of Railways (UIC), the Institute for environment and energy (IFEU) in Germany. Under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic, the Foundation promotes every year the "Sustainable Development Award", a prestigious award devoted to enterprises and start-ups particularly active in the field of the green economy.

Main activities

The General States of the Green Economy

The General States of the Green Economy have the purpose to develop proposals and recommendations for policy makers in order to affirm a new Italian economy trend towards the development of a green economy with the broad involvement of companies and business organizations.

Promoted by the National Council of the Green Economy – which gathers 64 business organizations – in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Economic Development, the General States are a multi-stakeholder participatory process based on a bottom-up consultation approach of the main Italian green economy actors.

The whole process sees its conclusion, each year, with a large and public two days event with over 2000 participants held at Rimini Fiera during “Ecomondo”. The preparatory work takes place throughout the year and it is the result of the activities

of 10 working groups on each one related to 10 different strategic areas, several public initiatives for consultation and, institutional dialogue and interactions.

In this context a session is organized each year in partnership with the Italian Global Compact Local Network in order to promote and discuss with companies and relevant stakeholders issues related to the Global Compact initiatives.

For more information please visit: www.statigenerali.org

Sustainable mobility

The aim of sustainable mobility is to promote social inclusion, the efficient use of resources and the continuous reduction of mobility impacts on human well-being and the environment. The intervention strategy to achieve this goal lays on three integrated lines of action: reduce mobility needs (Avoid / reduce), encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes (Shift); continuously improve means of transport to render them more efficient (Improve). This strategy, adopted by EEA and UNEP, takes the acronym ASI. Using this approach, the Foundation develops strategies for action, writes research reports for evaluation of policies and, organizes events and meetings for the dissemination and diffusion of good practices.

Energy and Climate

The fight against climate change represents a major challenge, not only of environmental nature, but also of our age. The world of energy, in its broadest sense, is changing rapidly. It is necessary to accelerate this process in order to achieve full decarbonisation of the economy by 2050. It is a challenge that we can win, thanks to the growth of renewable sources of energy, to the increase of clean energy savings and to the promotion of efficiency in all areas. On these issues, the Foundation has conducted many studies and research, analyzing different subjects ranging from national energy scenarios to the costs of energy; it supports companies and public bodies in planning and programming like in the European initiative of the Covenant of Mayors. Moreover, the Foundation organizes conferences and workshops on relevant issues and it produces periodic insights, such as the Climate Dossier and the Italy climate report, taking stock of current policies and of updated national and international data.

Reporting, green strategies, ecoinnovation

To succeed, a green economy needs innovative instruments and approaches which apply to the business world and beyond. There is need for new reporting tools, able to grasp and transparently communicate the real contribution made to the green transition. Tailored strategies to guide organizations' choices towards models of governance and green business are needed. The ability to develop eco-innovation both in processes and in products, pursuing continuous improvement, is also essential. The Foundation supports businesses and public administrations in the definition of advanced green strategies, in the search for new business models oriented towards sustainability, in environmental certification paths and in the assessment and reporting of their performance. For this purpose, it has also developed an original product, the Green Economy report, which is specifically designed for those enterprises active in the transition to a green economy.

Waste and circular economy

Intelligent use of materials is one of the pillars of sustainable development. The philosophy of the Foundation is to always look ahead to stimulate, support, and facilitate the change of the current production and consumption models. In order to achieve the green economy objectives and, with them, to accomplish circularity, the instruments chosen to do so are consensus-building, development of proposals and cognitive support.

To fulfill such a commitment, the Foundation has established a structure for the development of studies, analysis and proposals in the field of efficient use of materials within production, distribution and consumption processes, as well as in the area of waste management.

The activities are varied since they target both the private and the public sector. They consist of reports and assessments on economic circularity of the supply chains, development of prevention programs and waste management plans, evaluation and analysis of governance models, studies and legal / regulatory assistance, support for the implementation of sectoral policies, development and support for the implementation of innovative proposals.

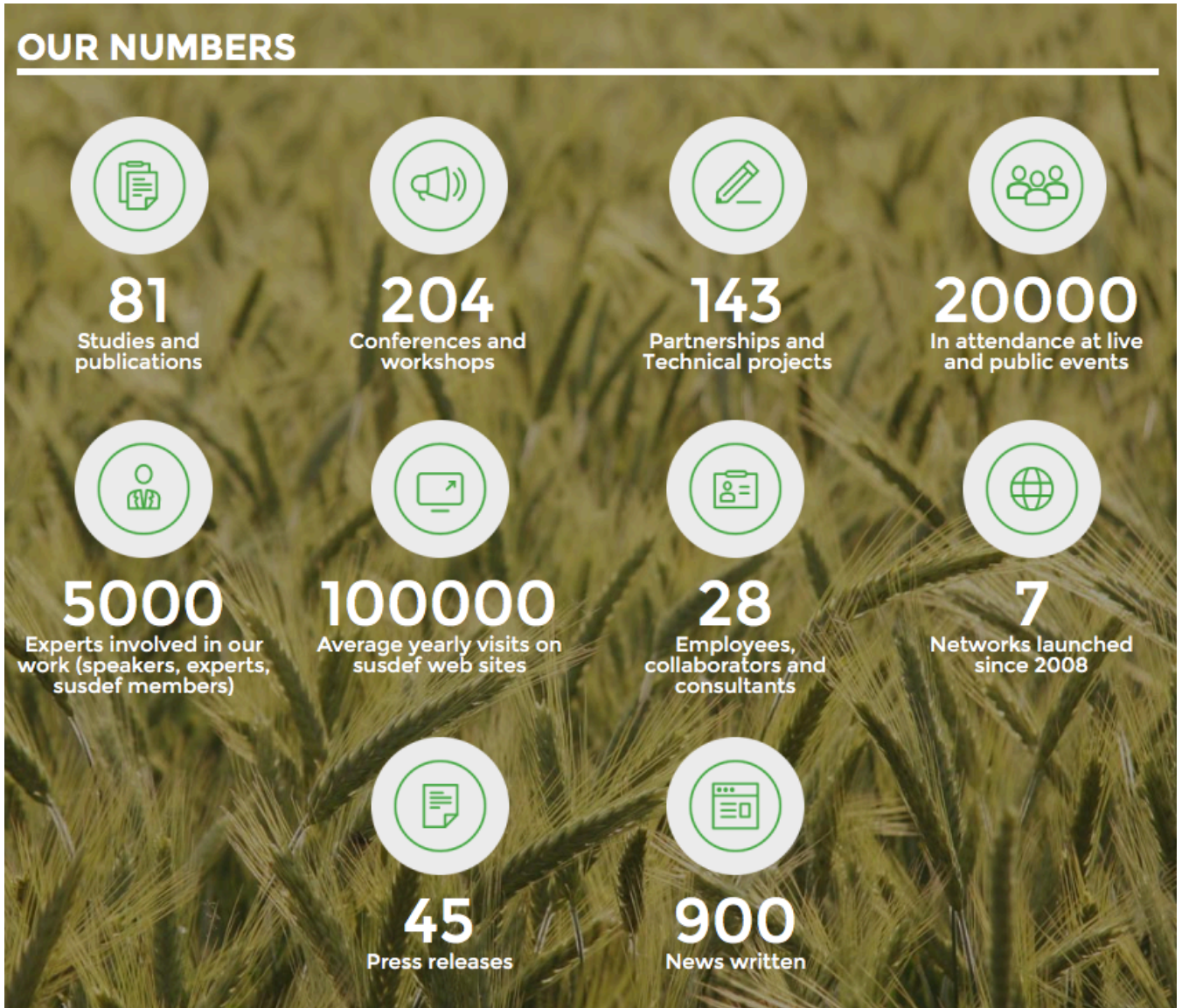
Natural capital, green infrastructure, agriculture

The need to develop new business models which really take into account the services provided by natural systems, has been promoted with ever greater commitment by the most important international organizations. In this context, companies will need to be able to play an active role in the enhancement of the Natural Capital, in order to seize the opportunities arising from a market that looks at these issues with growing interest.

The Foundation promotes activities aimed at the environmental rehabilitation of territories, at the creation of green infrastructure, at the recognition and valuation of ecosystem services towards business involvement in conservation initiatives and, at the enhancement of the Natural Capital. In support of the Ministry of Environment, the Foundation is involved in the initiating actions to implement the Charter of Rome that aims to optimize synergies between the Cultural Capital and the Natural Capital as well as to develop virtuous experiences of green economy in National Parks.

The Sustainable Development Foundation elaborate and publish researches, presentations, studies and reports on numerous green economy issues that are made freely public available on our website:

<http://www.fondazionevilupposostenibile.org/pubblicazioni/>



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