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**Transition to green economy in Europe**

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this publication is to give an overview about the Green zone in Europe, mostly in terms of progress. The database will contain the full list of Green countries, including non-European ones, which will help us evaluate European countries and compare them to the others.

**Introduction**:

Linked to the notion of sustainable development, [Green Economy](https://www.unece.org/sustainable-development/green-economy/what-does-green-economy-mean.html) consists in putting in place a long-term sustainable economic development strategy while taking care not to depreciate natural capital, in other words natural resources and biodiversity. A green economy also involves limiting greenhouse gas emissions. For this, we must reduce or even eliminate our consumption of fossil fuels by achieving the ecological transition. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, green economy policies must include: productivity optimization through greater efficiency to reduce the use of natural resources, energy consumption and waste generation, boost investor confidence through a clearly defined environmental policy, the opening of new markets by stimulating the demand for ecological products, services and technologies, the reduction of the risks of economic crisis caused by the reduction of resources of raw materials, by pollution become uncontrollable or by climatic events.

**Concept and questions:**

This concept was first mentioned in a 1989 report for the Government of the United Kingdom by a group of leading environmental economists, entitled Blueprint for a Green Economy (Pearce, Markandya and Barbier, 1989). When and by whom was the initiative launched? What were the objectives pursued when implementing the initiative in Europe? What has been the result so far and what are the prospects? We shall find the answers in the lines below.

**Answers and data processing:**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched its Green Economy Initiative in October 2008, in order to provide analysis and policy support for investment in green sectors and for greening environmentally unfriendly sectors. In April 2009, the Global Green New Deal (GGND) -a report that had been prepared by one of the original authors of Blueprint for a Green Economy commissioned by UNEP- was released and suggested a blend of policy actions that would, at the same time, stimulate economic recovery and improve the sustainability of the world economy. In this report -The Global Green New Deal-governments were required to allocate a considerable portion of stimulus funding to green sectors and set out three objectives: economic recovery; poverty eradication; and reduced carbon emissions and ecosystem degradation; and were proposed a framework for green stimulus programs as well as supportive domestic and international policies (UNEMG, 2011).

**Database:**

*Nota Bene: The results below are sorted in descending order of performance (best to worst) and the results are expressed as percentiles representing an aggregate result from the four main dimensions of the GGEI: leadership & climate change; efficiency sectors; markets & investment; and environment.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | **Countries** | *2018 result* | *time series available* |
| 1 | Sweden | 0.7608 | 2010-2018 |
| 2 | Switzerland | 0.7594 | 2014-2018 |
| 3 | Iceland | 0.7129 | 2010-2018 |
| 4 | Norway | 0.7031 | 2010-2018 |
| 5 | Finland | 0.6997 | 2010-2018 |
| 6 | Germany | 0.6890 | 2010-2018 |
| 7 | Denmark | 0.6800 | 2010-2018 |
| 8 | Taiwan | 0.6669 | 2014-2018 |
| 9 | Austria | 0.6479 | 2014-2018 |
| 10 | France | 0.6405 | 2010-2018 |
| 11 | United Kingdom | 0.6230 | 2010-2018 |
| 12 | Colombia | 0.6188 | 2014-2018 |
| 13 | Singapore | 0.6154 | 2018 |
| 14 | Costa Rica | 0.6142 | 2014-2018 |
| 15 | Ireland | 0.5993 | 2014-2018 |
| 16 | Canada | 0.5966 | 2010-2018 |
| 17 | Netherlands | 0.5937 | 2010-2018 |
| 18 | New Zealand | 0.5928 | 2010-2018 |
| 19 | Japan | 0.5927 | 2010-2018 |
| 20 | Monaco | 0.5909 | 2018 |
| 21 | Kenya | 0.5809 | 2014-2018 |
| 22 | Uruguay | 0.5784 | 2014-2018 |
| 23 | Zambia | 0.5740 | 2014-2018 |
| 24 | Belgium | 0.5737 | 2014-2018 |
| 25 | Italy | 0.5606 | 2010-2018 |
| 26 | South Korea | 0.5591 | 2010-2018 |
| 27 | Thailand | 0.5551 | 2014-2018 |
| 28 | China | 0.5531 | 2010-2018 |
| 29 | Peru | 0.5526 | 2014-2018 |
| 30 | Greece | 0.5485 | 2016-2018 |
| 31 | United States | 0.5471 | 2010-2018 |
| 32 | Hungary | 0.5419 | 2016-2018 |
| 33 | Brazil | 0.5417 | 2010-2018 |
| 34 | Spain | 0.5411 | 2010-2018 |
| 35 | Portugal | 0.5405 | 2014-2018 |
| 36 | India | 0.5398 | 2010-2018 |
| 37 | Chile | 0.5395 | 2014-2018 |
| 38 | Albania | 0.5366 | 2018 |
| 39 | Andorra | 0.5346 | 2018 |
| 40 | Ethiopia | 0.5294 | 2014-2018 |
| 41 | Mexico | 0.5263 | 2010-2018 |
| 42 | Cape Verde | 0.5255 | 2018 |
| 43 | Luxembourg | 0.5231 | 2016-2018 |
| 44 | Georgia | 0.5183 | 2018 |
| 45 | Malta | 0.5163 | 2016-2018 |
| 46 | Mauritius | 0.5162 | 2014-2018 |
| 47 | Lithuania | 0.5159 | 2016-2018 |
| 48 | Morocco | 0.5128 | 2014-2018 |
| 49 | Israel | 0.5120 | 2010-2018 |
| 50 | Rwanda | 0.5092 | 2014-2018 |
| 51 | Philippines | 0.5078 | 2014-2018 |
| 52 | Slovenia | 0.5058 | 2016-2018 |
| 53 | Nigeria | 0.5056 | 2016-2018 |
| 54 | Cambodia | 0.5022 | 2014-2018 |
| 55 | Malaysia | 0.4990 | 2014-2018 |
| 56 | Croatia | 0.4912 | 2016-2018 |
| 57 | Tanzania | 0.4908 | 2014-2018 |
| 58 | Panama | 0.4903 | 2014-2018 |
| 59 | United Arab Emirates | 0.4889 | 2010-2018 |
| 60 | Turkey | 0.4870 | 2010-2018 |
| 61 | Nepal | 0.4835 | 2018 |
| 62 | Vietnam | 0.4827 | 2014-2018 |
| 63 | Laos | 0.4813 | 2018 |
| 64 | Gabon | 0.4809 | 2018 |
| 65 | Romania | 0.4799 | 2016-2018 |
| 66 | Ecuador | 0.4794 | 2018 |
| 67 | Egypt | 0.4792 | 2018 |
| 68 | Madagascar | 0.4775 | 2018 |
| 69 | Czech Republic | 0.4773 | 2014-2018 |
| 70 | Guinea | 0.4746 | 2018 |
| 71 | Seychelles | 0.4723 | 2018 |
| 72 | Qatar | 0.4715 | 2014-2018 |
| 73 | Cameroon | 0.4708 | 2018 |
| 74 | Burkina Faso | 0.4676 | 2014-2018 |
| 75 | Maldives | 0.4670 | 2018 |
| 76 | Dominica | 0.4667 | 2018 |
| 77 | Estonia | 0.4662 | 2016-2018 |
| 78 | Latvia | 0.4632 | 2016-2018 |
| 79 | Ghana | 0.4603 | 2014-2018 |
| 80 | Democratic Republic of Congo | 0.4602 | 2018 |
| 81 | Vanuatu | 0.4583 | 2018 |
| 82 | Jordan | 0.4570 | 2016-2018 |
| 83 | Indonesia | 0.4527 | 2014-2018 |
| 84 | Slovak Republic | 0.4527 | 2014-2018 |
| 85 | Myanmar | 0.4515 | 2018 |
| 86 | Cyprus | 0.4511 | 2016-2018 |
| 87 | Cote d'Ivoire | 0.4489 | 2018 |
| 88 | Kuwait | 0.4481 | 2016-2018 |
| 89 | Armenia | 0.4480 | 2018 |
| 90 | Saudi Arabia | 0.4451 | 2016-2018 |
| 91 | South Africa | 0.4376 | 2010-2018 |
| 92 | Azerbaijan | 0.4366 | 2016-2018 |
| 93 | Central African Republic | 0.4359 | 2018 |
| 94 | Dominican Republic | 0.4354 | 2018 |
| 95 | Senegal | 0.4346 | 2014-2018 |
| 96 | Argentina | 0.4341 | 2010-2018 |
| 97 | Macedonia | 0.4322 | 2018 |
| 98 | Mozambique | 0.4304 | 2014-2018 |
| 99 | Djibouti | 0.4299 | 2018 |
| 100 | Australia | 0.4259 | 2010-2018 |
| 101 | Mali | 0.4226 | 2018 |
| 102 | Montenegro | 0.4205 | 2018 |
| 103 | Equatorial Guinea | 0.4146 | 2018 |
| 104 | Tunisia | 0.4141 | 2018 |
| 105 | Russian Federation | 0.4115 | 2016-2018 |
| 106 | Poland | 0.4101 | 2014-2018 |
| 107 | Bulgaria | 0.4027 | 2016-2018 |
| 108 | Saint Lucia | 0.4019 | 2018 |
| 109 | Chad | 0.3981 | 2018 |
| 110 | Lebanon | 0.3970 | 2018 |
| 111 | Oman | 0.3970 | 2016-2018 |
| 112 | Niger | 0.3957 | 2018 |
| 113 | Bangladesh | 0.3941 | 2016-2018 |
| 114 | Pakistan | 0.3935 | 2018 |
| 115 | Serbia | 0.3927 | 2018 |
| 116 | Sao Tome and Principe | 0.3912 | 2018 |
| 117 | Comoros | 0.3912 | 2018 |
| 118 | Moldova | 0.3880 | 2018 |
| 119 | Burundi | 0.3879 | 2018 |
| 120 | Mongolia | 0.3834 | 2014-2018 |
| 121 | Ukraine | 0.3813 | 2018 |
| 122 | Togo | 0.3802 | 2018 |
| 123 | Mauritania | 0.3790 | 2018 |
| 124 | Trinidad and Tobago | 0.3778 | 2018 |
| 125 | Congo | 0.3764 | 2018 |
| 126 | Guinea-Bissau | 0.3510 | 2018 |
| 127 | Bosnia-Herzegovina | 0.3441 | 2018 |
| 128 | Benin | 0.3434 | 2018 |
| 129 | Haiti | 0.3390 | 2018 |
| 130 | Bahrain | 0.3304 | 2018 |

European countries

**Observation:**

In [The Global Green Economy Index 2018 results](https://dualcitizeninc.com/global-green-economy-index/) (above), 35 out of the 130 countries are European. Sweden appears to be the top GGEI (Global Green Economy Index) performer for the 3rd straight edition, joined by the other Nordics, Switzerland, Germany and France among the top 10. The Global Green Economy Index results across the European Union continue to be uneven, with the top GGEI performers counterbalanced by poor results in the Baltic states, Bulgaria and Poland.

**Prospects:**

When it comes to the future of Green Economy in Europe, the European Environment Agency in its 2018 article named “Investing for sustainability” announces the European Commission’s recently adopted package of legal proposals to boost sustainable finance in the European Union (EU). As obvious as it is, this requires a considerable Investment: ’For instance, there are estimates that about EUR 1 trillion worth of investments are needed, annually, from 2021 onwards, to meet the EU’s 2030 climate and energy targets.’’ (Andreas Barkman, 2018). Certainly, there are many other challenges to face, but this approach towards environment and the enlargement of the community by the various states joining over the years would make us predict a promising future for this initiative.

**Conclusion:**

“The most sustainable way is to not make things. The second most sustainable way is to make something very useful, to solve a problem that hasn’t been solved.’’ –Thomas Sigsgaard. The process of solving the global challenge of environmental issues by restructuring the economic system is the way chosen by the European countries listed above, each one with its own rhythm. The progress is prominent, the type of policy framework provided will determine its success in the next decades.

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[Some of the sources above are linked in the text]

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