



A good life for all – How to reach a good life for all in a sustainable way?

In terms of development, 2015 has the potential to be a turning point during which the deadline for the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) is reached and negotiations for a post-2015 framework take place. It is the time to look forward in defining the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) for the decade to come. The new framework agreements on development collaboration and a **global climate deal** should be mutually reinforcing and include a profound shift in ‘development-thinking’. It is currently understood as being directly related to individual consumption standards; with untenable consequences on **planetary boundaries** and livelihoods in the Global South. Instead of blindly believing that the development model within our current policy frameworks is bringing indisputable improvements, we must question this paradigm and take responsibility!

In light of cited ‘common but differentiated responsibilities,’ Europe, as a main beneficiary of the current global infrastructure, must do its part to tackle global challenges head on. Is current European development strategy really coherent with a sustainable future for all?

Climate Alliance’s new project, “**EYD2015: The future we want – Local Authorities for Sustainable Development**”, focuses on the **European Year for Development 2015** (EYD2015) and serves to heighten citizens’ awareness of development issues as well as promote active engagement with major development debates. Via the project, the 16 project partners from 10 European countries, will give citizens and politicians a deeper understanding of global interdependencies by calling into question European overconsumption of natural resources and showing the way toward more responsible and globally fair consumption habits.

To reach these goals, the project focuses on two main activities during the three years. The first is the **Europe-wide awareness raising campaign “A good life is simple”**, developed by the project consortium, which showcases positive examples to follow in daily life. A progressive approach urges people to integrate climate action into their lives and become active in the fields of mobility, nutrition, consumption and energy. The second main activity will **bring indigenous ‘counsellors’ to Europe**, making use of their wisdom to evaluate pressing European challenges. Our indigenous partners are living since thousands of years in their own sustainable development model in the rainforest and there is a lot we can learn from them in terms of our own consumer habits, resource efficiency and forest management. How can we translate their knowledge into our life and culture and how can this translate this into concrete recommendations towards national and European policy makers?

A third branch of our activities focuses on **education and community evolvment** towards different target audiences (from primary schools to adults) on the decentralised development cooperation and the addressed future challenges. Practically, activities will include implementation of **learning platforms** on unsustainable impacts on natural resources, sustainable mobility tools for young students, competitions between schools and new educational materials resulting from exchanges with indigenous communities.

Finally, a horizontal part of the project focuses on the policy implications and conducts **advocacy work towards the European institutions**. This includes direct meetings between partners and members of the European Parliament, exchanges with the Committee of the Regions and other key stakeholders (DG Devco, EESC, Platforma, NGOs). Different

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conferences and local / national / European events will be organised in order to hand over recommendations from the 'Counsellors of the South' in regards to different focuses such as:

- The Post 2015 development framework and SDGs implementation,
- The UNFCCC process for an international Climate Deal (COP21) and the deployment of the Green Climate Fund,
- The deforestation footprint of the EU (both domestic as international) due to its increasing import of commodities or biofuels.

As Climate Alliance's work is based on the acknowledgement that the devastating overuse of natural resources is having a dramatic impact on climate change and leading to social problems in the global south, the EU funded project contributes to a **behaviour change in Europe for a more sustainable use of resources and fosters a global partnership with indigenous communities in the Amazon Basin**. Only if the unsustainable consumption and demand of resources is reduced will we succeed in creating the conditions required for effective climate protection.

To face these global challenges Climate Alliance is working since 25 years in cooperation with the indigenous partners of the rainforest and over 1.700 member local and regional authorities from 25 European countries. It is the level of cities and municipalities, which is the **closest level of governance to the citizens** (and their needs) and thus can raise effective awareness for sustainable livelihoods. This level will induce the positive transition by implementing sweeping policies to manage energy, mobility, infrastructure, water, food and waste amongst other fields. **The local authorities are well positioned to build inclusive societies and are corner stones to develop Europe itself in a sustainable way!**

How to get involved?

- Visit our website www.overdeveloped.eu
- Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/EYD2015
- Answer the question "How do YOU want to live in the future?" and post the result on our facebook site
- Join the Art Projection on **18 Nov. 2015** in Brussels
- Be part of the campaign!
- Send us your best practices examples of how to face global challenges on the local level.



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ABOUT CLIMATE ALLIANCE

The "Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples" is a European network of cities, municipalities and districts committed to protecting the global climate. The member municipalities strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally. The indigenous peoples of the Amazon rainforest are their alliance partner.

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