

# Policy Brief on Sustainable Growth. Recommendations on Energy, Climate and Environmental Policies

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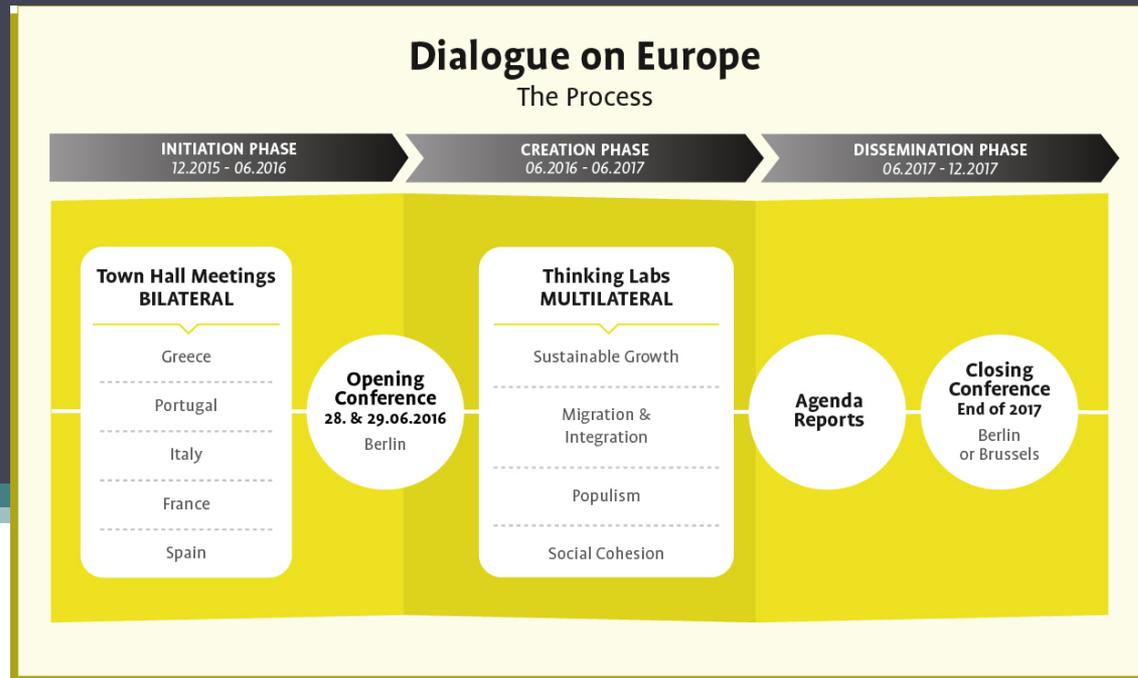
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# Project “Dialogue on Europe”



This paper is a presentation of the proposals made by a group of civil society activists and professionals from six European countries (France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain) aiming to promote a sustainable, inclusive and climate-friendly growth path.

# Project “Dialogue on Europe”



During the years 2016-18 the Berlin-based think tank Das Progressive Zentrum organized the trans-European civil society project ‘DIALOGUE ON EUROPE’.

The overall project has been supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

# Project “Dialogue on Europe”

Within this framework, four so-called ‘Thinking Labs’ have worked to deliver fresh ideas and to independently elaborate concrete policy recommendations.

**The output was policy recommendations on four European key areas:**

# Project “Dialogue on Europe”

## 4 Thinking Labs

**Migration & Integration  
Populism,  
Social Cohesion, and  
Sustainable Growth**



# The Thinking Lab for Sustainable Growth



Focused on Innovation and a ‘Greener’ Economy as drivers for sustainable well-being and a fairer society.

# Thinking Lab on Sustainable Growth Policy Brief was published in:



Over the course of the last two years, the Berlin-based think tank Das Progressive Zentrum organised, in cooperation with numerous partner organisations, the trans-European civil society project 'DIALOGUE ON EUROPE'. Within this framework, experts and practitioners from across Europe gathered in four so-called 'Thinking Labs' to deliver fresh ideas and to independently elaborate concrete policy recommendations on four European key areas: Migration & Integration, Populism, Social Cohesion, and Sustainable Growth. The overall project has been supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

## Introduction Genesis of the Recommendations

By the co-facilitators  
**SABINA SCHULZ** | Head of the Berlin Office of EPC,  
an independent climate change think tank, Germany, &  
**LUÍK TELLEZ MORAIS** | Director of the Institute of Public  
Policy, Portugal

### Our Approach: What does Sustainable Growth mean to us?

This paper presents proposals by a group of young civil society activists and professionals from six European countries (France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal and

Spain) who are passionate about the future of the European Union and about promoting a sustainable, inclusive and climate-friendly growth path for their societies.

Growth is usually understood as merely related to increasing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and competitiveness. This does not, however, always deliver benefits to all societal groups, nor does it address their needs and visions for a prosperous and meaningful life. Our Thinking Lab therefore focused on sustainable well-being, rather than growth, as the overarching goal of its proposals.

Sustainable well-being prioritises environmental and social benefits as well as good governance. **Fairness across generations** is key, which includes the **protection of our natural heritage** for future generations.

- [http://www.progressiveszentrum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Policy-Brief-2018\\_Dialogue-on-Europe-Sustainable-growth.pdf](http://www.progressiveszentrum.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Policy-Brief-2018_Dialogue-on-Europe-Sustainable-growth.pdf)

DIALOGUE ON EUROPE came to an end in March 2018 with the publication of the Thinking Lab's results.

**The Closing Conference** of the project took place in Brussels on 19 March 2018.



# Project “Dialogue on Europe”

## Policy Brief on Sustainable Growth

Co-facilitators: Sabrina Schulz, Luís Teles Morais.

### **6 authors – 6 contributions**

Vanta-Vasiliki Kyriakou,  
Ana Margarida Esteves,  
Igor Fayler,  
Robin Huguenot-Noël,  
Thomas Pellerin-Carlin,  
Pablo Valdés-Stauber González.

# Policy Brief on Sustainable Growth Contributions - 1st group

## **CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY POLICY**

“Smart Islands and Energy Communities – Key future Actors for Climate Change Adaptation and Energy Sustainability in the EU”, by Vanta-Vasiliki Kyriakou (Greece)

“Local Energy Communities – An Opportunity for Sustainable Value Creation and Employment in peripheral Regions of Europe?”, by Ana Margarida Esteves (Portugal)

“Spain’s Energy Production – An integrated Energy Market as a Driver for sustainable Growth in Europe?”, by Pablo Valdés-Stauber Gonzalez (Spain)

“Driving the European Energy Transition through e-Mobility”, by Thomas Pellerin-Carlin (France)

# Policy Brief on Sustainable Growth Contributions - 2<sup>nd</sup> group

## **INEQUALITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN EUROPE**

- “Reconciling Competitiveness and Social Protection: Social Investment as a strategic Priority for the next EU Budget” by Robin Huguenot-Noël (France)
- “Safeguarding Sustainable well-being for All – The Significance of strengthening Resilience through economic Diversification and Disaster Risk Prevention” by Igor Fayler (Germany)

# Smart Islands and Energy Communities - Key future Actors for Climate Change Adaptation and Energy Sustainability in the EU

VANTA-VASILIKI KYRIAKOU

Policy Context and Problem Analysis was based on two main issues:

Strengthening sustainable Energy Production at the local level.

Connecting innovative islands at the European Level.

- Southern EU Countries such as Greece have a huge potential to drive Europe's transition into a resilient, sustainable and inclusive economy through local energy communities and smart islands, thus adapting to the challenges of climate change and an economy in continuous transition.

“Promoting the autonomous production of renewable energy on islands, would enable these to better benefit from their comparative advantages.”

- Today, most islands in the European Union face high energy costs and other problems when it comes to security of energy supply.

On a positive note, various practical and successful examples for cooperation among islands can be found in Greece

- The Pact of Islands enjoys the official recognition of the European institutions and engages island authorities across Europe in meeting or going beyond the EU's 2030 climate and energy targets by developing and implementing Sustainable Energy Action Plans specific to the islands' needs and capacities.



The European Commission has also been acting as key driver for enhancing the economic and energy situation of islands.

At the global level, the historic Paris Agreement (reached at COP21), has placed special emphasis on the need to strengthen the role and capacity of local authorities in the fight against climate change.



- Taking into account all these developments, European islands are facing a unique window of opportunity to demonstrate worldwide their contribution to a low-carbon, circular and sustainable model of development.



# Policy Recommendations:

Three main issues:

Enabling Administrations of Small Islands

Tailor-made 'Hybrid Technologies', and

Promotion of Green Tourist Destinations

- European islands are very diverse in terms of their location, geographic and climatic potential, size and population. As a consequence, a ‘one size fits all’ programme cannot be the answer. Instead, there is a need for tailor-made solutions, underpinned by general principles for all parties involved.

- Local island administrations need to be provided with tools and competences for assessing the potential of renewable energy sources on their islands. This would allow them to create sustainable local economic growth and to ensure a high quality of life, security of supply and energy services for the local population.

- Future policy measures should not only take into consideration technological aspects, but also social, financial and environmental factors. In the long-term, the upgrading of the necessary energy infrastructure can only be achieved when there is a broad-based acceptance for this among the local communities.

- Finally, under no circumstances should improving the energy production harm the local economy (first and foremost the tourist industry) but, rather, foster key local sectors as well. Smart islands should therefore become a role model for ‘green tourist destinations’.

- With their strong sense of community and their territorial potential, European islands not only have the potential to be the architects of their own energy transition, but also to contribute significantly to a more sustainable, more secure and more efficient energy production in the EU.

**Thank you for your attention**

**Vasiliki Kyriakou**



**<http://dialogue-on-europe.eu/people/kyriakou/>**