



# Envision 4.7

## Policy Paper: Resources for SDG Target 4.7



## Why does SDG 4.7 need to be properly resourced?

**T**arget 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims at ensuring that ‘all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development’, through education for sustainable development. This target was developed with the understanding that education systems, albeit fundamental, seldom fully promote the transformative approach that is needed to address today’s challenges and serve Agenda 2030.

Considering its scope, the target directly contributes to SDG 4, inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long opportunities for all and is also an enabler for progress towards achieving all of the SDGs. Target 4.7 is specifically aligned with other targets under SDG 12, sustainable consumption and production patterns, and SDG 13, climate action.

Given the key role of the target to advance the broader 2030 Agenda, it should be sufficiently resourced. The Envision 4.7 Roadmap calls for such resources to be translated into dedicated and adequate funding, but to also go far beyond this: key stakeholders should prioritise Target 4.7 and ensure use of technology and the development of relevant capacities and capabilities.



**TARGET 4.7**

By 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development (ESD) and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship (GCED), and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development

## How can the EU adequately resource progress?

EU institutions are among the largest donors to SDG 4 worldwide and, together with its Member States, they are the leading provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to this Goal. While this level of effort is very welcome and tracked on multiple fronts, it is not possible to disaggregate the amount of resources attributed to the different targets. This is further complicated due to the different understandings and definitions used to frame Target 4.7.

The EU has earmarked resources through its Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme (DEAR), in order to support engagement of citizens in global and complex issues related to social, economic and environmental development. Several EU Member States promote programmes of the same nature, although these are difficult to compare due to the varying definitions. The volume of these programmes tends however to remain far from the 3% of ODA recommended by the UNDP and the

‘European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education and Awareness Raising’.

But while this tracking refers mainly to ODA, Bridge 47 argues that Target 4.7 is universal and should also be promoted at the EU and national level within formal, non-formal and informal learning systems. Also, at these levels, it is difficult to detail the level of investment allocated to promote Target 4.7 and the broad Global Citizenship agenda; in fact, recent studies show that in most of the European countries, there is little evidence of the contribution from Ministries of Education to deliver global citizenship education. Moreover, there are few indications of how the EU and its Member States are supporting the implementation of Target 4.7 through non-financial resources. Adequately resourcing future-oriented education systems has also been called for in the Council 2019 Resolution on further developing the European Education Area.

By investing in a comprehensive and holistic approach that is properly resourced, Bridge 47 believes that implementing Target 4.7 will contribute to successfully advancing EU’s policy priorities. The EC’s current priorities and respective instruments offer channels to adequately resource this target.

<sup>1</sup>For further information, please consult the [SDG Financing Lab](#).

<sup>2</sup>Recommendation of the [Overview to the Human Development Report of UNDP 1993](#), Page 8.

<sup>3</sup>[European Consensus on Development: contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising](#), 2007.

<sup>4</sup>[Global Citizenship Education in Europe: How much do we care?](#), CONCORD, 2018.

<sup>5</sup>[Council Resolution on further developing the European Education Area to support future-oriented education and training systems 2019/C 389/01](#).



### **A European Green Deal**

For the EU to successfully shift from a high- to low-carbon economy, while improving people's quality of life, it is key to ensure all individuals build capacities to jointly create systemic change. The European Commission is proposing to create a Just Transition Fund, aiming to ensure resources to manage the green transition, including for new capacities and capabilities. This offers an opportunity to allocate adequate resources to Target 4.7, as an enabler of this priority.



### **A Europe fit for the digital age**

EU's commitment to ensure that the digital transformation serves people, the economy and the environment, in full respect for the principles of sustainable development, requires new capacities and capabilities. Making adequate technology available will be key to enable transformative life-long education, in its various forms.



### **An Economy that works for the people**

For all Europeans to have the same opportunities to thrive, everyone must have the right to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning – this is the first principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Upcoming initiatives, such as the Updated Skills Agenda for Europe, can build upon existing efforts and ensure adequate resources are allocated to the multidimensional scope of SDG Target 4.7.



### **A stronger Europe in the World**

In the new European Consensus on Development,<sup>6</sup> the EU highlights that 'development education and awareness raising can play an important part in raising levels of engagement among the public and in addressing the SDGs [...]'. Initiatives such as the DEAR programme and the allocation of resources to Target 4.7 under development programmes honour this vision and can be strengthened.



### **Promoting our European Way of Life**

The EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, among others (Article 2 of the Treaty on EU) – these values are well anchored in all key elements of Target 4.7. The EU has committed to building capacities and capabilities for promoting these values through initiatives such as the European Education Area.



### **A new push for European Democracy**

The EU recognises that citizens need a stronger role in the EU decision-making process and priority-setting – this realisation is central to the discussions on the Future of Europe. Dedicated and adequate funding, appropriate technology and the development of relevant capacities and capabilities will be crucial to guarantee this level of agency and engagement.

<sup>6</sup>[The New European Consensus on Development 'Our World, Our Dignity, our Future'](#), 2017.

# Recommendations

For the EU to successfully implement the SDGs while advancing its priorities, and in line with the recommendations of the Envision 4.7 Roadmap, **Bridge 47 calls on all actors to:**

1. Create a pan-European overarching strategy for Target 4.7, sufficiently resourced, to be defined and implemented at all levels.
2. Translate this strategy into the European Semester Country Specific Recommendations, implicitly linking the reception of EU funding with compliance.
3. Use the negotiations around the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 to establish coherent and long-term funding strategies to achieve Target 4.7 under the different policy priorities. These strategies may include cross-sectoral funding schemes at national and EU levels. Funding should correspond at a minimum 3% of ODA, in addition to resources coming from educational, research and environmental budgets.
4. Ensure the availability of funds, time, use of technology and the development of capacities and capabilities in order to establish by 2023 EU, national, sub-national (where relevant) and local strategies by key stakeholders to the achievement of Target 4.7.

**Bridge 47 further calls on EU member states to:**

5. Provide sufficient national resources, financial and non-financial, to key stakeholders focused on implementing Target 4.7, in order to ensure relevant capacities are in place.

**Bridge 47 further calls on the European Commission to:**

6. Guarantee that EU programmes under all policy priorities, including those developed under all areas of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, allocate sufficient resources to implement SDG 4.7. These should be financial and non-financial.
7. Build on the lessons learnt from the DEAR programme and ensure its successor is instrumental in advancing Target 4.7.

**Bridge 47 further calls on the European Parliament to:**

8. Monitor and promote the implementation of an adequate level of resources.



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