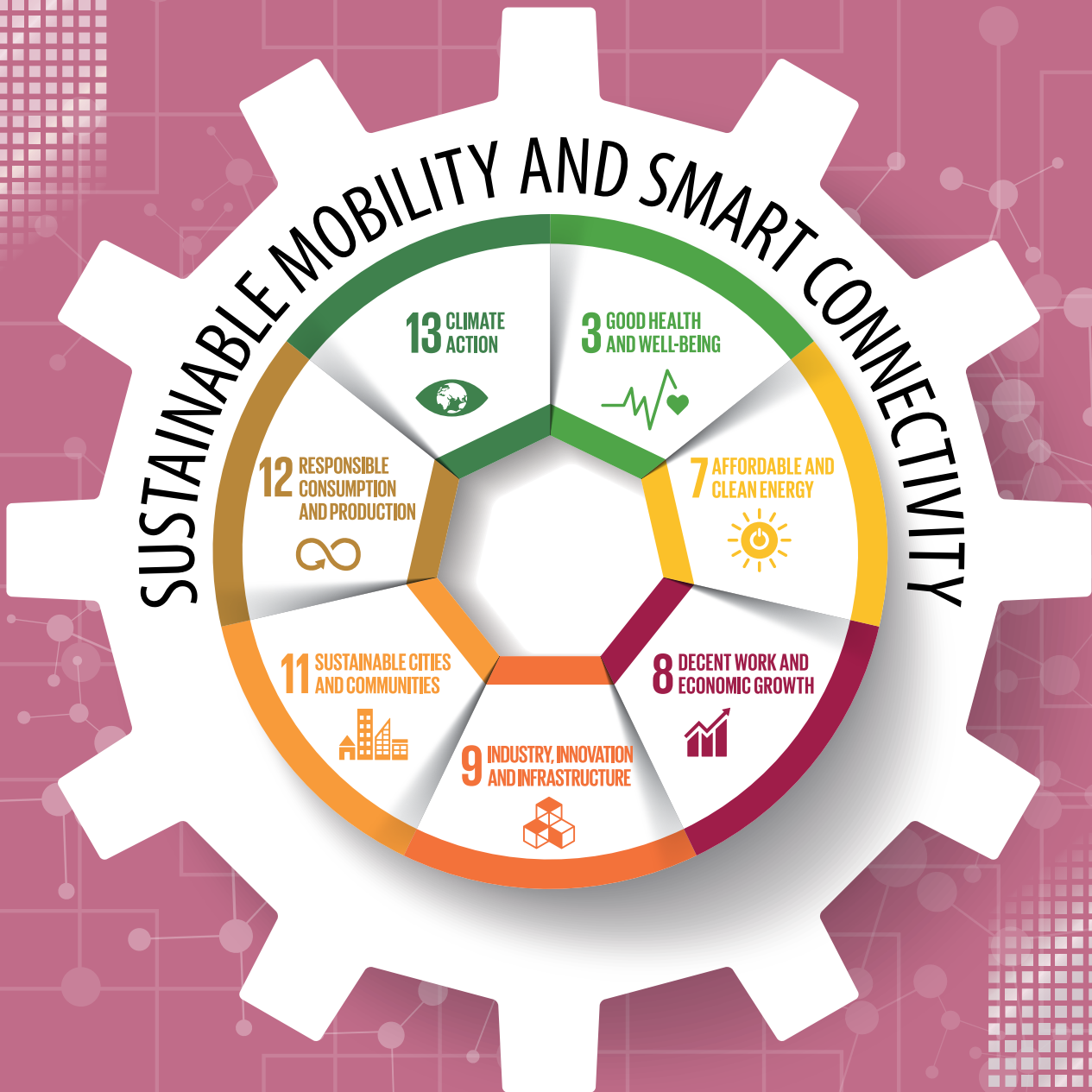


# Sustainable Mobility and Smart Connectivity





**UNECE**

# UNECE NEXUS

## Sustainable Mobility and Smart Connectivity



**UNITED NATIONS**

Geneva, 2021

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# FOREWORD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides an ambitious and comprehensive framework that opens new perspectives for policymaking and international cooperation. While progress in its implementation is being made, current efforts are far below the scale needed to deliver the SDGs within the next 10 years. Ambitious action becomes even more important in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic: the SDGs are vital for a recovery that leads to greener, more inclusive economies and stronger, more resilient countries.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) supports its member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through concrete and results-oriented activities in the areas of its eight subprogrammes: environment, transport, statistics, economic cooperation and integration, sustainable energy, trade, timber and forestry, and housing, land management and population.

This multi-sectoral structure has allowed UNECE to address SDG implementation in an integrated manner, in line with the interlinked character of the SDGs, and to adopt a new way of working that cuts across sectoral boundaries. Four nexus areas have been defined where multiple SDGs converge:

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Sustainable and smart cities
- Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity
- Measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs.
- In each of these areas, a cross-sectoral, inter-divisional team of UNECE experts has undertaken an in-depth substantive analysis of current and future challenges and needs of UNECE member States and identified ways and means to address them, thus assisting member States to design and implement integrated policies in these areas. The findings of these analyses and corresponding policy recommendations are set out in a series of four flagship publications.

The “Sustainable mobility and smart connectivity” publication reviews the challenges affecting mobility and connectivity within the ECE region. It highlights the vital importance that mobility and connectivity play in the operation of an economy and in moving goods and people within and across borders showing that the digitalization of many of these processes are key to improving efficiency and effectiveness. Addressing the challenges in these two areas is fundamental in assisting Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda. Each country has actions to pursue in relation to meeting these challenges and this publication highlights which are the main ones.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how fundamental adequate mobility and connectivity are to the correct functioning of medical care and the economy without which vital medical relief and supplies cannot reach those most in need. The pandemic has also shown how a shift to more sustainable mobility coupled with smarter connectivity can facilitate accessibility, assist the recovery and place the economies of the region on a more sustainable track.

I trust that these flagship publications will offer useful guidance to governments and other stakeholders engaged in developing integrated solutions to the multifaceted challenges of our time and in building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Olga Algayerova**

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Foreword</b> . . . . .	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> . . . . .	<b>viii</b>
<b>Acronyms</b> . . . . .	<b>ix</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b> . . . . .	<b>xiii</b>
Background . . . . .	xiii
Approach and aims . . . . .	xiii
Sustainable development . . . . .	xv
COVID-19 . . . . .	xvii
Smart connectivity . . . . .	xviii
Smart trade . . . . .	xviii
Smart support for a better environment . . . . .	xxi
Future trends and opportunities . . . . .	xxiii
Sustainable mobility . . . . .	xxvi
Transport efficiency . . . . .	xxvi
Conclusion, challenges and the role of the UNECE . . . . .	xxxvi
<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	<b>xxxix</b>

## SECTION 1 SMART CONNECTIVITY

<b>1.1 Introduction to Smart Connectivity</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
1.1.1 What do we mean by Smart Connectivity? . . . . .	1
1.1.2 Smart connectivity in practice . . . . .	2
1.1.3 Smart Connectivity supports the Sustainable Development Goals . . . . .	4
<b>1.2 ECE region</b> . . . . .	<b>4</b>
<b>1.3 Smart Trade</b> . . . . .	<b>5</b>
1.3.1 The First Foundation: Data Exchange . . . . .	5
1.3.2 The Second Foundation: Standards and quality infrastructure for smart trade . . . . .	8
1.3.3 Smart Identification for Trustworthy Trade . . . . .	9
1.3.4 Smart authentication of trade documents . . . . .	11
1.3.5 Starting the Smart Trade Process: Electronic Purchasing . . . . .	13
1.3.6 Smart Goods Movement in Trade: Transport and Logistics . . . . .	15
1.3.7 Smart Trade – Regulatory Fulfilment and Enforcement . . . . .	17
<b>1.4 Smart Support for a Better Environment</b> . . . . .	<b>25</b>
1.4.1 Smart Conservation of Both Natural Resources and Trade (Fishery). . . . .	25
1.4.2 Smart Energy Management (electricity grid) . . . . .	27

<b>1.5</b>	<b>Future Trends in Smart Connectivity</b>	<b>29</b>
1.5.1	Infrastructure	29
1.5.2	Knowledge Management	30
1.5.3	Collaboration	31
<b>1.6</b>	<b>Opportunities for future work</b>	<b>33</b>
1.6.1	Infrastructure	33
1.6.2	Knowledge Management	35
1.6.3	Collaboration	37

## SECTION 2 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

<b>2.1</b>	<b>Introduction to Sustainable Mobility</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Transport efficiency</b>	<b>46</b>
2.2.1	Introduction	46
2.2.2	Road transport	46
2.2.3	Rail transport	51
2.2.4	Inland water transport	56
2.2.5	Efficient transport in urban environments	59
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Transport affordability and accessibility for people and society</b>	<b>63</b>
2.3.1	Introduction	63
2.3.2	Affordable mobility for individuals and households	63
2.3.3	Transport affordability for public authorities	65
2.3.4	Accessibility for people and business	66
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Transport safety</b>	<b>67</b>
2.4.1	Introduction	67
2.4.2	Road safety	68
2.4.3	Railway safety	75
2.4.4	Inland waterway transport (IWT) safety	78
2.4.5	Intermodal transport safety	81
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Transport security</b>	<b>81</b>
2.5.1	Introduction	81
2.5.2	Prevention of theft in road, rail and intermodal transport	81
2.5.3	Cybersecurity	82
2.5.4	Protection of rail infrastructure	83
2.5.5	Dissemination of information about security methods, standards and norms in rail and road transport	84
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Transport and the environment</b>	<b>85</b>
2.6.1	Introduction	85

2.6.2	Road and urban transport . . . . .	.88
2.6.3	Rail transport . . . . .	.92
2.6.4	Waterway transport . . . . .	.94
2.6.5	Resilience to climate change effects . . . . .	.96

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .99

<b>Annex I: Challenges and Possible Role of UNECE</b> . . . . .	<b>100</b>
<b>Annex II: References</b> . . . . .	<b>107</b>
<b>Annex III</b> . . . . .	<b>109</b>
<b>Box 1:</b> Digitalization of documents and progress towards e-CMR and e-TIR . . . . .	109
<b>Box 2:</b> Euro-Asian intermodal rail freight transport: the EATL . . . . .	109
<b>Box 3:</b> River Information Services . . . . .	110
<b>Box 4:</b> Promotion of cycling as an equal transport mode: the Pan-European Master Plan for cycling and the Eurovelo network . . . . .	110

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure I:</b> 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals . . . . .	xv
<b>Figure II:</b> Nexus alignment with SDGs . . . . .	xvi
<b>Figure III:</b> The three dimensions of Smart Connectivity . . . . .	xviii
<b>Figure IV:</b> ECE region energy sources as % of supply 2014 . . . . .	.xxii
<b>Figure V:</b> Modal share in main cities (2017)	xxix

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