

THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

A partnership for inclusive growth
and sustainable development



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Over the years, UNIDO and the European Union have developed a strategic partnership on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The EU and UNIDO work closely to accelerate industrial development in the developing world focusing on trade capacity-building, including establishing industrial norms and standards for competitiveness and consumer protection, as well as on modernizing the private sector for jobs and wealth creation in poor countries. We, in UNIDO, hope to expand this collaboration into other areas, including sustainable production and consumption, energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy for productive use.

Between 2001 and 2011, the EU approved more than € 100 million for UNIDO technical cooperation programmes, covering more than 70 developing countries and countries in transition with particular attention given to Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

In recent years, UNIDO and the EU have jointly developed successful models and experiences in close partnership with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their member countries. The positive results achieved by an EU-funded regional programme to strengthen the export competitiveness of the eight West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) countries led to a successor programme in support of all 15 countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania, once again funded by the EU.

In 2006, UNIDO opened an office in Brussels, and has helped strengthen ties with the different EU bodies.



The office maintains close contact with the European Commission and the European Parliament, and throughout 2011 it continued to expand its cooperation with the EU and to play an increasing role in development policy, in close consultation with the European institutions.

This publication offers a snapshot of the achievements of the UNIDO-EU partnership over the past years and a preview of the plans ahead. I am confident our partnership will move forward in a positive spirit and with the necessary ambition to help developing countries promote socially inclusive, competitive and green industrial development, sustainable energy for all, private sector investments, and contribute to climate change mitigation.

Kandeh K. Yumkella
UNIDO Director-General

Africa is the continent of the future.

Nevertheless, alleviating poverty remains a serious challenge. Growth alone is not sufficient to drive broad-based inclusive development. For growth to result in sustained poverty reduction, greater attention must be paid to the quality of growth, its sustainability and spread. A country's openness to trade and investment, the existence of market institutions, measures to combat corruption, the quality of regulation and of the policymaking processes, its industrial policy and its competition and state aid rules are key factors.

I have great admiration for the support UNIDO has been providing to African countries. As this publication shows, the UNIDO-EU partnerships during the last decade have been successful in making progress in numerous areas towards the goal of accelerating sustainable industrial development in Africa.

We must step up our joint efforts especially in encouraging investment growth, strengthening our partnership to help local industry, in particular small business, and help the younger generation to acquire the skills to enter labour markets. We must expand our cooperation in other areas of inclusive growth and sustainable development, such as socially-inclusive, competitive and green industrial development, energy matters, private sector investment and potential collaboration on climate change mitigation. "New wealth" from natural resources, such as raw materials, must be intelligently used to promote sustainable industrial development in Africa, diversification of economic sectors—including traditional ones such as



Antonio Tajani
Vice-President of the
European Commission
European Commissioner for
Industry and Entrepreneurship

the agro-business—and increased trade in value-added goods. Our cooperation needs to focus on high-impact activities that can attract investments.

I trust that our closer cooperation with UNIDO will allow us to succeed in these challenges and I call on all our development partners, governments, international organizations and the private sector to join together in realizing our vision of Africa's accelerating economic transformation. Let us not forget, Africa needs Europe and Europe needs Africa.

Antonio Tajani
Vice-President of the European Commission
European Commissioner for Industry
and Entrepreneurship

The international development landscape has undergone significant changes in recent years, creating both new challenges and new opportunities.

UNIDO and the EU have responded to those challenges by devising ways and means to support developing countries in embarking on a path of inclusive and sustainable growth as a springboard for poverty reduction.

Growth and job creation—themselves key targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy—are essential in any country's development strategy, they should also become central to the EU's support to developing countries. The European Union is ready to step up its engagement with governments and institutions to help them address their countries' specific competitiveness gaps.

Over the years UNIDO has proven itself a reliable and effective partner, acting as a catalyst in transforming developing countries' economies by reinforcing productive capacities and fostering investments that add value to local production, stimulate economic diversification and strengthen local competitiveness. At the same time the social and environmental dimensions of such actions are not forgotten.

As this publication shows, joint UNIDO-EU activities at country and regional level have succeeded in establishing standards and norms, building up investments, creating training centres and jobs, improving the competitiveness of local enterprises, and assessing and mitigating industrial pollution.



Andris Piebalgs
European Commissioner for
Development

While our cooperation initially focused in the main on “Aid for Trade”, new areas of collaboration are gaining momentum. We are looking at ways of working with UNIDO in these areas, which include energy and climate change, rural agro-processing and food security.

In the spirit of our renewed EU development policy, I am looking forward to closer cooperation with UNIDO that makes a real difference to people on the ground.

Andris Piebalgs
European Commissioner for Development

Looking back in time, the cooperation agreement signed by the EU and UNIDO in 1993 was the beginning of a “beautiful friendship”.

There is no doubt that UNIDO is and will remain one of the most important EU partners in the field of industrial development cooperation. Under the leadership of Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, UNIDO has become an important, reliable and effective partner in the implementation of development assistance. UNIDO’s efforts to promote industrial development cooperation through trade capacity-building and improved access to sustainable energy sources is an important factor in deepening the integration of developing countries into the world economy.

Poland appreciates many years of fruitful cooperation with UNIDO. During our membership in this Organization, we have come a long and difficult way—starting as a beneficiary of development aid, we became an emerging donor. Today, while exercising for the first time the function of the rotating Presidency of the EU Council, Poland has not forgotten how much UNIDO has to offer to developing countries or countries in the process of transition. Therefore, during our Presidency, we have undertaken steps in order to further deepen the cooperation between the EU and UNIDO.

Hitherto experiences described in this report show that the EU and UNIDO are able to cooperate effectively in various fields. In our opinion, specific potential for collaboration exists particularly in the fields of energy, environment and climate change, which are today one of the most pressing global challenges—affecting both



Marcin Korolec
Undersecretary of State,
Ministry of Economy of the
Republic of Poland

developing and developed countries. We also see the possibility for synergies between the EU Eastern Partnership Initiative and the projects implemented by UNIDO in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus. The practice also proves that UNIDO is an effective platform for dialogue between the EU Member States and communities of developing countries. These are just a few examples where cooperation with UNIDO brings significant added value for the EU. I assure you that Poland—both as an EU Member State and the current Presidency—supports all efforts aimed at the full use of UNIDO’s potential.

Marcin Korolec
Undersecretary of State
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Poland

The cooperation between UNIDO and the European Union

A partnership for inclusive growth and sustainable development

A partnership for inclusive growth and sustainable development	1
A fruitful cooperation for development	5
Facts and figures	9
A partnership for inclusive growth	13
A partnership for competitive industries.....	17
A partnership for green industry and energy.....	23
Recent joint activities.....	26
The way forward.....	27
Abbreviations	30



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