



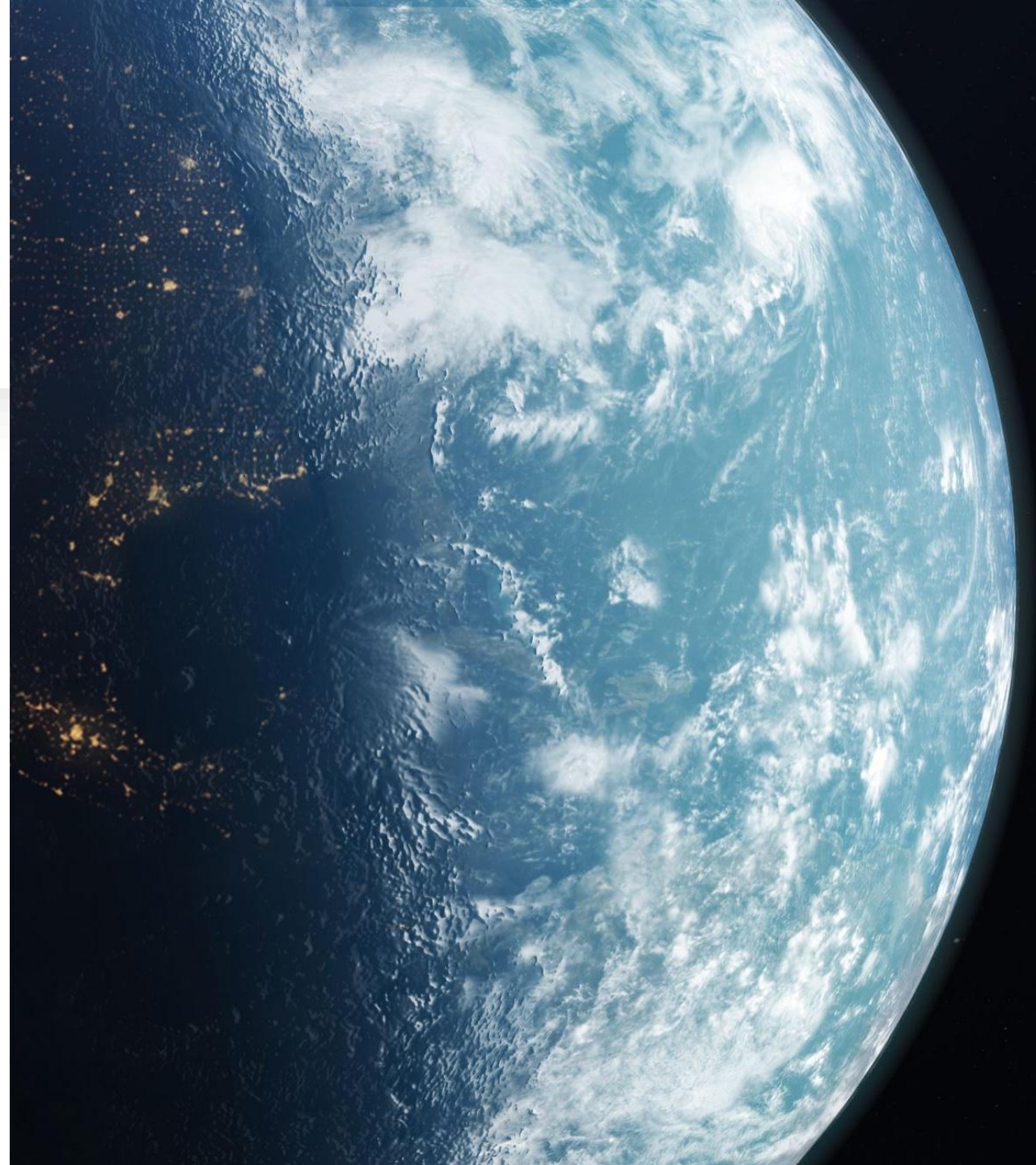
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# EU External Action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

23.09.2025

# EU External Action and the SDGs

The EU integrates the SDGs directly into its external action and global engagement.



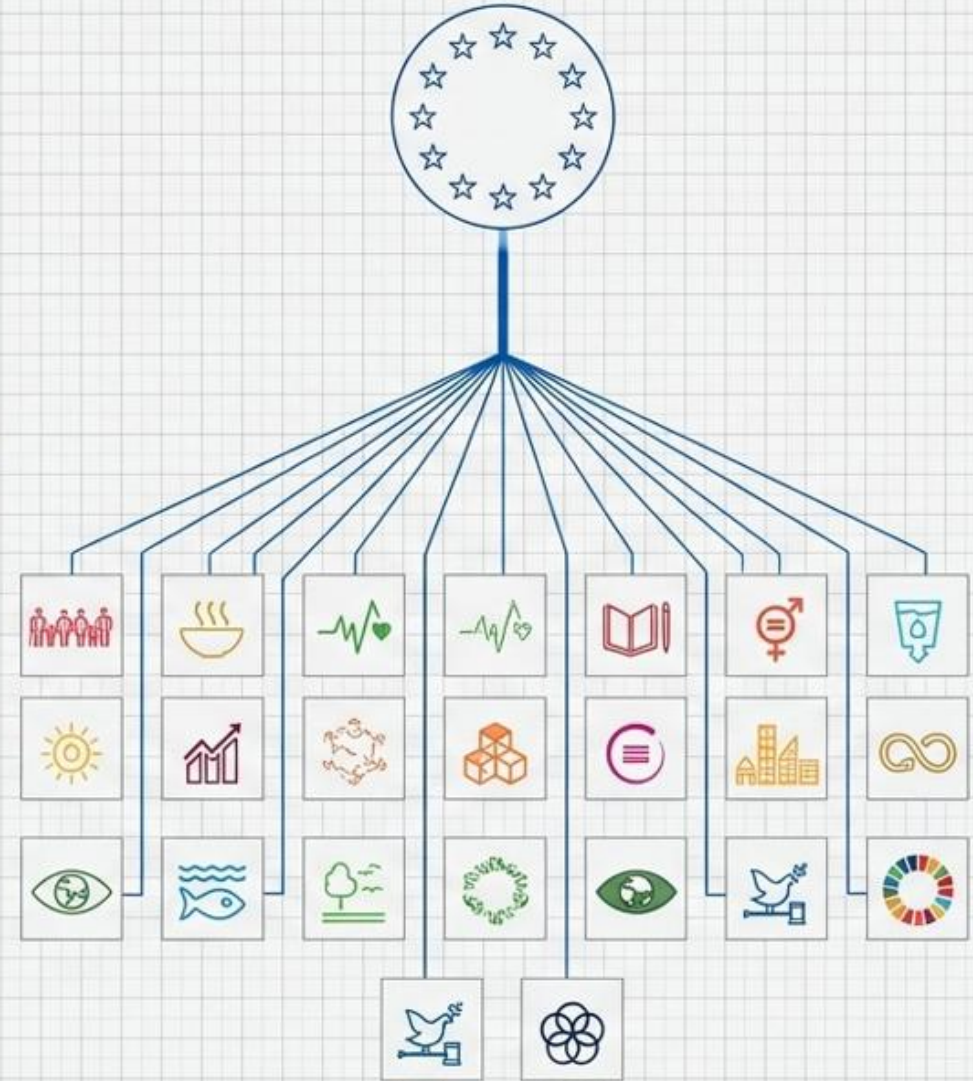
## The Foundation: A Core Political Commitment

The European Commission is fully committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not a parallel track but a central element of the Commission's policy programme under the leadership of President von der Leyen.

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*The SDGs are an 'intrinsic part of the President's political guidelines' and lie at the heart of policymaking on internal and external action across all sectors.*

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# The Strategic Imperative: Building Resilience for the Future

Full implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda is crucial for strengthening Europe's resilience and preparing the world for future shocks.

This proactive approach is essential as we navigate the twin challenges and opportunities of the:

- **Green Transition**
- **Digital Transition**





# EU Commitment to the 2030 Agenda

SDGs are central to the European Commission's political guidelines.

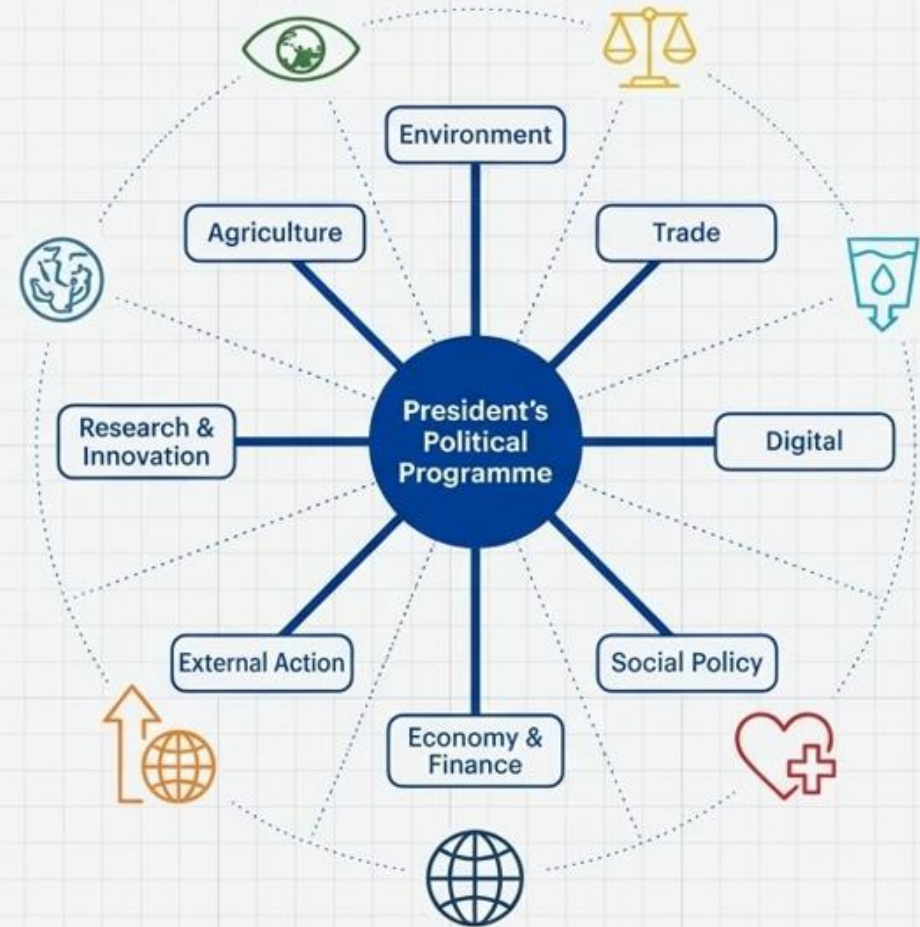
Integrated into policymaking across all sectors, internal and external.

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## The Architectural Principle: A 'Whole-of-Government' Approach

The Commission has focused on delivering concrete actions that will bring tangible progress. The strategy is not to create new SDG-specific policies, but to integrate the SDGs directly into the President's political programme.

The SDGs are integrated into *all* Commission proposals, policies, and strategies, ensuring coherence and maximizing impact.





# Sustainability Beyond the EU

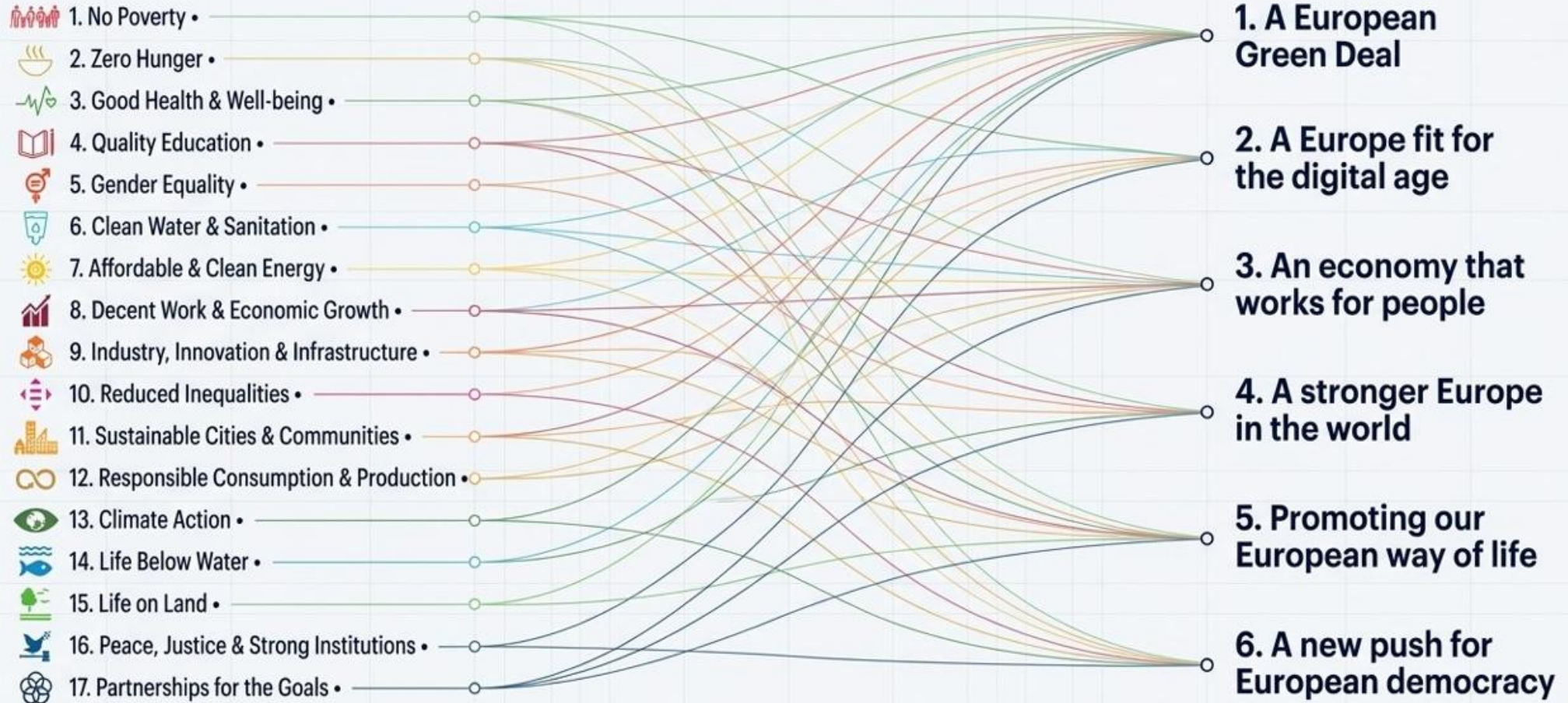
The EU implements sustainability policies domestically AND globally.

Goal: contribute to worldwide sustainable development.

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# The Master Schematic: Mapping Global Goals to European Ambitions

All 17 Sustainable Development Goals feature in one or more of the six headline ambitions announced in President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines.





# A Global Europe – One of EU’s Key Priorities

Among the EU’s seven strategic priorities is “A Global Europe”.

Focus: a sustainable, digital, inclusive global future.

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# International Cooperation

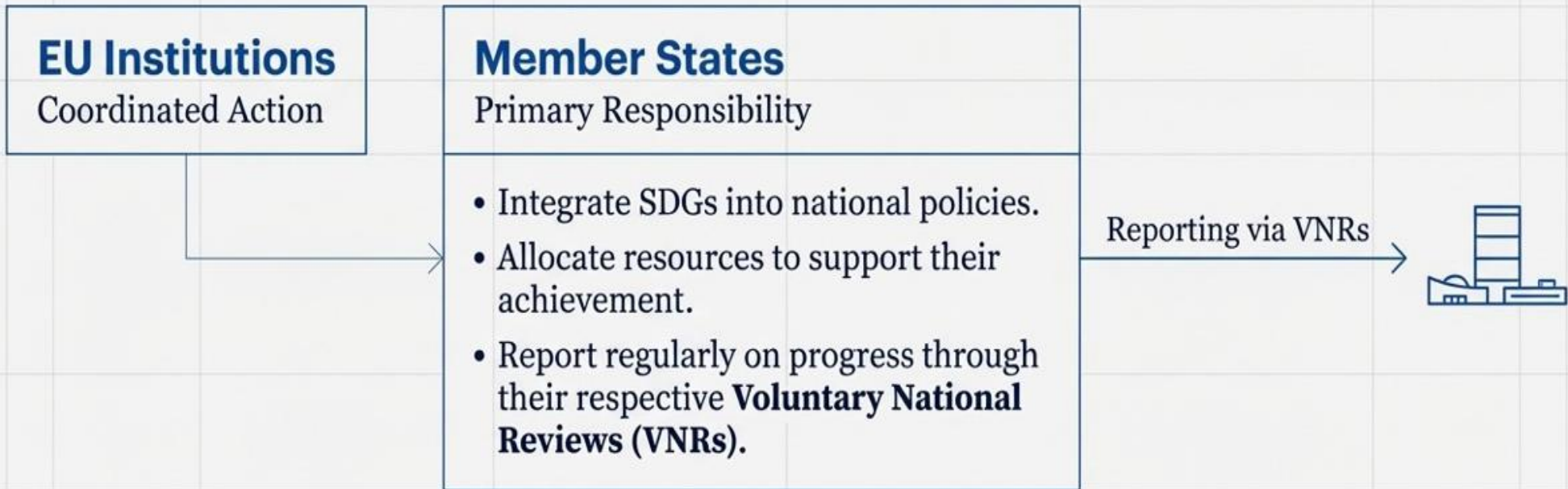
SDG implementation framework includes strong emphasis on global partnerships.

EU promotes multilateralism and cooperative solutions.

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# The Role of EU Institutions and Member States

While EU institutions work closely together to implement the SDGs efficiently, Member States hold the primary responsibility for ensuring sustainable development at the national, regional, and local levels.



# EU Development and Aid Policies

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EU external action supports global SDG progress through:

- Development aid

- Aid effectiveness

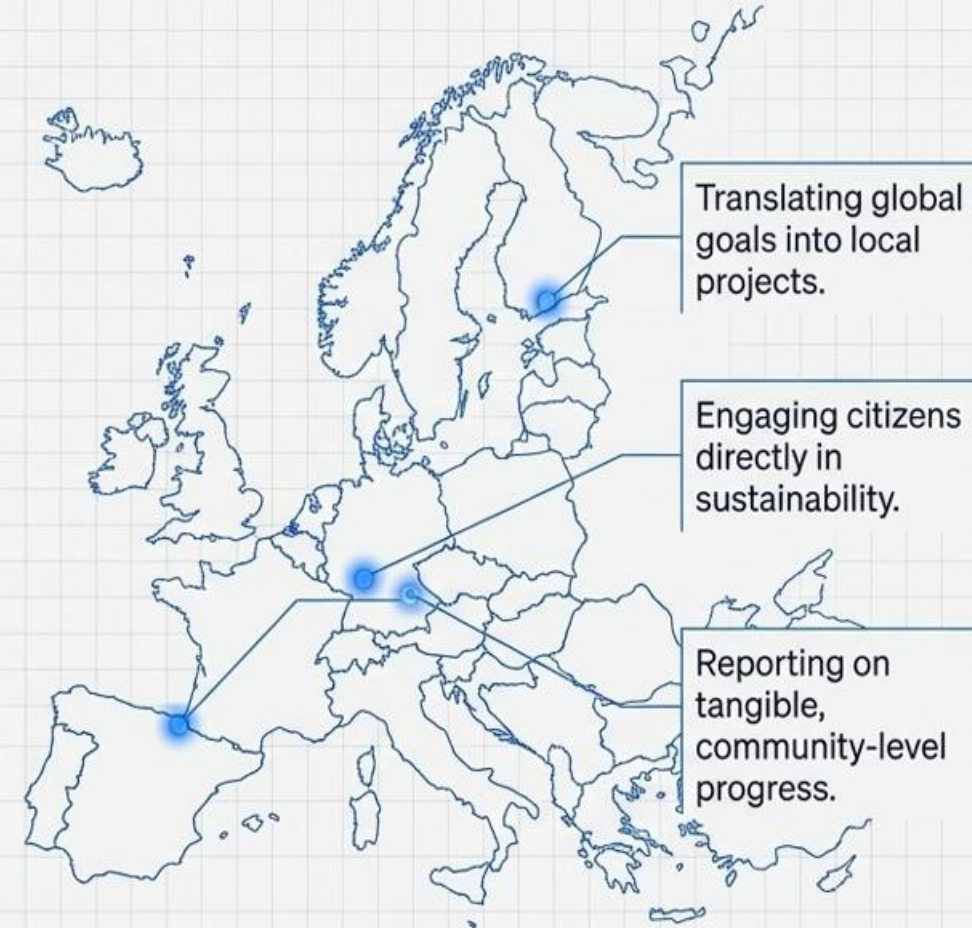
- Monitoring results

- Transparent funding mechanisms

# Ground-Level Execution: Regional and Local Engagement

**Key Insight:** Many local and regional authorities are increasingly engaging in the process, which helps foster the delivery of the SDGs close to citizens.

**Key Mechanism:** Authorities often produce **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)**, which frequently contain tangible commitments in support of the 2030 Agenda.





# Human Rights in EU External Action

Human rights protection in non-EU countries is a core policy area.

Aligned with SDG 16 (peace, justice, strong institutions).

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# Strategic Context: Preparing for Global Shocks

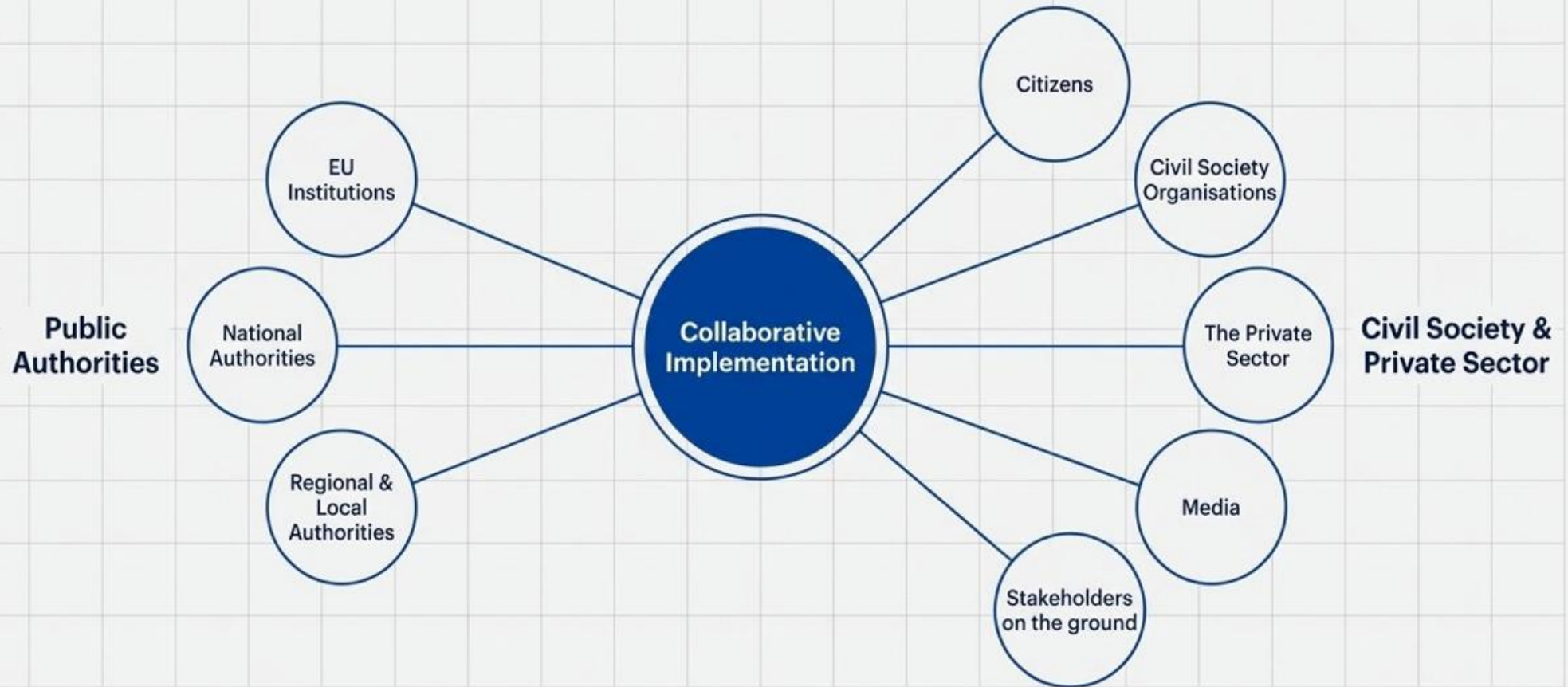
Implementation  
of the SDGs  
strengthens  
global resilience.

Supports green  
and digital  
transitions  
worldwide.

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# An Ecosystem of Builders: The Role of Civil Society and the Private Sector

Delivering on the SDGs is not only a matter for public authorities. It requires the full participation of civil society and the private sector.



# Key EU Strategic Documents

- 2019 Joint Synthesis Report on SDGs

- EU Policy Coherence for Development Report (2019)

- European Consensus on Development (2017)



# Key Takeaways

EU external action is  
deeply aligned with  
SDGs.

Focus on  
sustainability,  
cooperation, human  
rights, and  
development support.

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