90 participants. 13 topics. 2 hours.

On November 27, 90 members of the Geneva 2030 Ecosystem gathered to exchange and build relationships with a large community of like-minded individuals committed to advancing the SDGs.

The event was set up to allow participants to receive insight into some of the key questions facing the SDG community and gather input on ecosystem challenges.

An open space format was used to mobilize the collective knowledge of the individuals allowed participants to “dig deep” into one single challenge or to move from table-to-table gaining perspective on multiple topics.

The SDG Lab and International Institute for Sustainable Development kicked off the session by providing statistics on how the Ecosystem has grown and changed since its inception in 2016. Participants identified 13 ideas or challenges to brainstorm on during the open space exchange.

The open space format showcased the potential of collective intelligence and leveraging the unique and rich Ecosystem knowledge and expertise to accelerate our individual and collective work to foster the implementation of the SDGs.
ECOSYSTEM BY THE NUMBERS

COMPOSITION

- UN: 42%
- NGO: 33%
- Academia: 8%
- Private Sector: 10%
- Other International Organizations: 4%
- Independents: 3%

GROWTH

[Graph showing growth from Mar-16 to Dec-18]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPEN SPACE TOPICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW AGE COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS
Joachim Monkelbaan

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- “From skills to action”
- Stressed the importance on having new age competencies and skills for SDGs.
- Importance on contextualizing education, talking about specific cases of SDGs and coupling this with skills such as system thinking and involve more actors (e.g. private sector) in order to make this happen.
- Save the date: Geneva Trialogue 21 January 2019 [http://genevatrialogue.com/]
SDG BUS
Adrien Olesykiewicz, Earth Focus Foundation

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- “Everyone can be an agent of change and everyone can contribute to the SDGs.” Instilling this in individuals will be the primary mission of the Sustainabus.
- The plan is to use the buses to create awareness and give an opportunity for everyone to exchange their views on the global goals by going to people instead of having them need to come to learn.
- Share the message about the SDG bus! https://www.earthfocusfoundation.org/sustainabus/
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- The conversation began by exploring the policy and legal framework that would be needed to implement green rooftops all over Geneva, but ended up going much bigger than one instrument.
- Creating a label to certify rooftops, embedding the permaculture philosophy, and working with municipalities. (e.g. referendum on a communal level, Rooftop contest, financial incentives etc.) were all ideas that were raised.
- Following the example of the city of Basel in Switzerland, which has the largest area of green roofs per capita in the world.
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- The group endeavoured to answer how to build capacity for people who are employees within organizations to be change agents?
- Focus on the language adaption between corporate engagement and institutional engagement.
- Next steps will include a deeper discussion together with the University of Geneva and the Canton of Geneva in December.
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- Creating self-sustaining solutions should include a values-based approach, which contributes to the necessary mind-set shift to achieve the SDGs.
- This can start with family, the basic unit of the society. Using this as the start point more emphasis can be placed on cross-generational dialogue and on women as a role model for this change.
- 3 pillars have been identified as cross cutting issues that build solidarity and prosperity.
  
  - Health <-> Education <-> Enterprise
- Key question: how to bring those pillars together and what is the role of the Geneva community in doing this?
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- Technology has the potential to advance the SDGs, however it could also enhance the divide between the rich and the poor.
- Data can be powerful for developing AI solutions but there is a lack of data globally and data framework. In particular this is an issue when it comes to biases which could propagate the challenges we are trying to solve. For example, if all technology is being designed and built by a few, privileged demographics of people will they address the needs of those who are vulnerable?
- Localisation could combat this and allow people to create technology to serve their communities.
- The group explored how the AI For Good Summit happening in Geneva could be leveraged for advancing these ideas.
- Save the date: AI for Good Summit - May 2019
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- All topics embedded in the SDGs have gender dimensions. Creating awareness on the gender dimensions can be done through intergenerational dialogue.
- Technological solutions such as mass analysis of articles to find gender bias could provide new evidence for raising these conversations.
- Sport was also discussed as a vehicle for gender equality but also a place where harassment happens – awareness in this area is important.
- The group observed that the discussion was made up of all females which is common when it comes to gender discussions. It is often considered a women’s issue and we need to encourage more men to come the table.
- More reading can be found in Plan’s Girls’ Rights are Human Rights Report: https://plan-international.org/publications/girls-rights-are-human-rights
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- In order to effectively reach audiences with what's working and what is not working - Sharing, Learning are keywords and not competition. A safe space is essential for this to happen.
- Knowledge management is the base level requirement. Then we can explore our network and what it can offer, which level to target (local, regional, international) and which mix of tools to use (e.g. database, events and workshops)
- It is important that the SDG Lab have a process for collecting feedback on activities it helped to establish.
- Two way amplifications is also a necessary: amplify and get amplified.
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- The discussion focused on how to improve innovative formats like hackathons to drive action beyond the initial event.
- How do we ensure that a specific format, (e.g. workshop) can deliver and create social impact?
- The group questioned whether the format, resources and structure (i.e. how IP is handled) are not right for encouraging longterm action.
- Suggested to consider a hackathon as an engagement activity to identify potentially committed individuals and to raise awareness and then have a longer, more structured process.
- It is important to involve users so that the individuals thinking about solutions are connected with the challenge
- It would be helpful to have a knowledge repository in advance so that there is sufficient background and understanding.
ACADEMIA TO FOSTER INNOVATION
Katya Tatarinov, UNIGE

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- Academia has the research capacity and ability to add evidence to decisions large institutions make when it comes to innovation.
- Develop an academic framework to tackle innovation challenges within large institutions, it could include:
  - How to communicate innovation internally and externally
  - How to bridge the gap between developed and developing world
  - How to understand the key skills needed for innovators and build capacity
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- Accelerate 2030 is interested in helping social entrepreneurs contribute to the SDGs.
- Geneva has a unique ecosystem that can be useful to these entrepreneurs however it can be difficult to access as many UN entities and NGOs are not used to working with social entrepreneurs.
- It is also important to consider the political nature of UN entities.
- They discussed what it may mean to push innovation inside organizations that are not used to it.
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- The group explored how to make the expertise of the Geneva 2030 Ecosystem available to the UNECE regional forum to national policy makers that will be present during the forum.
- It was suggested to have a discussion where policy makers present their challenges on SDG implementation and a peer group support comes up with ideas, partnerships and solutions, in a similar format done at the Ecosystem meeting.
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS / TAKEAWAYS

- Community approach assessing the needs of the community and reaching with the right means, technologies, messages and approaches.
- Focus on nexus between humanitarian, development and peace.
- We spoke about community innovation in the sense of community led talk. Issue is how to reach beyond the community to those that don’t have the necessarily framework of governance – irregular migrants or IDPs.
- Cost-efficiency of the approaches; Keeping the focus on the government approach; capacity building, ownership of government and that we also speak the same language.
PLEASE FILL OUT OUR SURVEY!

Feedback is essential for evaluation and improvement

The Geneva 2030 Ecosystem is now two years old and we are undertaking an in-depth review. Please take 10-15 minutes to fill out our survey before December 21. Our goal is for 100 responses so please help us reach it!

ACCESS SURVEY HERE
CONTACT

Contact Kali Taylor if you have any questions:

ktaylor@iisd.org or kali.taylor@un.org
mobile: +41 76 691 07 50

GENEVA2030.ORG