

Background Note

Secretary-General - European Year for Development

The EU has designated 2015 as the 'European Year for Development', focusing attention on the EU's development policy and aid. This is the first time that a 'European Year' has been dedicated to an external policy. It signals the EU's commitment to contributing to the framework for Sustainable Development Goals after 2015, both in terms of financial resources and through the transfer of skills and technology.

The primary objectives of the European Year for Development (EYD) are to raise awareness of European citizens and national governments of development issues, foster their direct involvement, raise awareness of the benefits of development aid for both the beneficiaries and for EU citizens themselves, and demonstrate the EU's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide.

The EYD is run by EuropeAid – the European Commission department in charge of designing development policy and delivering aid.

Each month will highlight a fundamental aspect of the EU's work in developing countries: Europe in the world; Education; Women and girls; Health; Peace and security; Sustainable green growth, decent jobs and businesses; Children and youth; Humanitarian aid; Demography and migration; Food security; Sustainable development and climate change; Human rights.

The EYD2015 website (<https://europa.eu/eyd2015>) highlights relevant events organized throughout the year, both by EU institutions and Member States, and partner organisations, which include several UN Programmes and Entities (UNDP, UNESCO, UN Women, UNEP, UNIDO). Planned activities include art and development projects, activities with schools and universities and large-scale sporting events. Awards such as the Lorenzo Natali Prize for journalists will help focus media attention on development issues.

Some key events organised by the EYD2015:

- **Official opening** event in Riga, Latvia, on 9 January 2015.
- **Thematic hearings** organised by the European Parliament's development committee throughout the year.

- **EYD2015 participation in World EXPO 2015** "Feeding the planet - energy for life", Milan, May-October 2015.
- **European Development Days**, high-level forum focusing on how the EU can help to eradicate poverty and defend human rights, Brussels, June 2015.
- **28 Kapuscinski lectures** throughout the year (one in each Member State).
- **Official closing** event, Luxembourg, 8 December 2015.