



ECOSOC  
Partnership  
Forum

2025

SDGacademy

An Initiative of the Sustainable  
Development Solutions Network

5 FEBRUARY 2025 | UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK

## 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum Side Event

### *Public-Private Inclusive and Sustainable Knowledge Partnerships*

5 February 2025, 8am - 9h15am ET, online (Zoom)

Organized by: University College Dublin, Government of Ireland SDG Champion, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), UAE, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF), UNESCO, UNITAR, UNIDO, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, and BuildSkills Academy

#### **Background on the event**

Public and private sector leaders gathered at the ECOSOC 2025 Partnership Forum side event, "Public-Private Inclusive and Sustainable Knowledge Partnerships," to explore how SDG knowledge can be transformed into a global public good. The event showcased six innovative projects that support sustainable, inclusive, and equitable access to knowledge through collaboration between governments, businesses, and academia.

#### **Key Issues discussed**

- **Open and equitable access to knowledge is key:** Open licensed educational content on the SDGs is a powerful tool to train educators, shape policies and ensure equitable access to knowledge, but it requires sustainable open educational resources models that takes into consideration technology advancements, and strengthening international cooperation.
- **Promoting more inclusive and equitable global value chains:** National industrial policies are still fragmented and there is a major gap in building capacities for a greener and more inclusive transition for businesses. There must be a space where governments, business, and communities can find more cohesive and inclusive learning on the skills needed for the future, and cooperate towards a cohesive industrial policy.
- **Private sector's role in achieving the SDGs:** Successful partnerships for the SDGs also include the private sector, especially the insurance sector, which directly impacts many goals and targets by providing a financial safety net and supporting growth and innovation.
- **Upskilling workers:** Achieving the green and digital transition requires the workforce is prepared and upskilled. However, many sectors are still falling behind, such as the construction sector, and vocational educational centers are not updating their curriculum fast enough.

- **Higher education for inclusive and sustainable knowledge:** There must be options for students and workers to upskill and embed sustainability into their careers through more flexible and inclusive learning pathways.
- **Transforming attitudes about environmentalism:** Many citizens still do not understand what it means to go green. Education and community engagement hold a great importance in teaching how to include sustainable practices in day to day actions

## Key recommendations for action

- **Support the [Dubai Declaration on Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#):** The Declaration aims to help the implementation of the [2019 UNESCO OER Recommendation](#) – UN’s only instrument dedicated to openly licensed educational content - in light of the digital technologies advancements that are reshaping how content is created and shared. This declaration sets up five key areas to implement and promote openly licensed educational content on the SDGs that are truly open, high-quality, and equitable for learners everywhere.
- **Join and support the [Capabilities 4 the Future Hub](#):** This initiative seeks to bridge skill gaps and ensure global value chains are more inclusive by bringing together different stakeholders to align strategies, share expertise and coordinate efforts to ensure small businesses and less resourced economies are not left behind.
- **Learn how the insurance sector is impacting and driving the SDGs:** In an innovative approach, the soon-to-be-launched [MOOC on Insurance and the SDGs](#), aims to showcase the impact of insurance in achieving the SDGs through case studies and real-world examples.
- **Support the update of VET programs and curriculum:** VET centers need to adapt their programs to the skills needed for the green and digital transition. One key project that is addressing this issue through a multi stakeholder approach is the [BuildSkills Academy](#).
- **Support flexible and inclusive learning:** Expand access to online education programs that enable professionals to integrate sustainability into their careers. The SDG Academy currently partners with Sunway University in Malaysia, and University College Dublin in Ireland, to deliver [online master’s programs](#) focused on sustainable development.
- **Encourage individuals to take action:** Campaigns like the [Green Pledge](#) by the [Green Institute](#) aims to encourage people and organizations to adopt simple, impactful eco-friendly habits, which can deliver a big impact in the environment.

By fostering these partnerships and initiatives, the event underscored the importance of collective action in advancing sustainable development goals worldwide. Access the [webpage for more information](#).

