



Who are we?

> The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD is a non-profit international organisation representing subnational governments and associations of subnational governments at global level.

> Established in 2002 at the World Summit of Johannesburg, today nrg4SD totals some 50 subnational governments from 30 countries and 7 associations of subnational governments.



A legitimate network

> nrg4SD represents directly a critical mass of subnational governments from across the Globe.

A representative network

> This worldwide constituency of common interests and goals makes of nrg4SD a powerful political platform.

A relevant network

> nrg4SD offers expertise, products and contacts that are well suited to the design and delivery of sustainable development strategies at subnational level.



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North and South subnational governments committed to sustainable development





What do we do?

Our mission, objectives and areas of activity

- > To promote sustainable development at the level of subnational governments around the Globe.
- > To act as the voice and representative of subnational governments at global level in the field of sustainable development. nrg4SD is the only international network on sustainable development matters with worldwide presence and representing solely subnational governments.
- > To seek a wider recognition at international level of the importance of the commitment of subnational governments towards sustainable development.
- > To contribute to the elaboration and implementation of responsible and ambitious territorial policies, tools and resources, which are adapted to the subnational level.
- > To encourage expertise exchange, partnerships and projects among our members, as well as between them and other major international stakeholders.
- > nrg4SD's work programme focuses on 3 thematic areas – climate change, biodiversity, water resources and sanitation – and the cross-cutting theme of sustainable development.

How do we work?

- > Early since its creation, the Network has worked directly with and been accredited to several entities of the United Nations (UN), including the Environment Programme UNEP, the Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity CBD. Thanks to the presence of its permanent Secretariat in Brussels (Belgium), nrg4SD works directly with the different institutions of the European Union (EU).
- > The Network consists of a series of working groups which enhance the 'network approach' of the organisation. The activities carried out by each working group contribute to positioning the Network and its member governments in international initiatives, and to identifying project proposals for interregional cooperation.

Current nrg4SD working groups concentrate on: (1) international climate change negotiations; (2) financing climate action at subnational level; (3) forest policy; (4) the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities of the UN Convention for Biological Diversity; (5) water resources, and (6) the Rio +20 sustainable development process.

- > nrg4SD establishes partnerships with national and local governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the business sector and academia.
- > The General Assembly and Steering Committee of nrg4SD ensure that the governance of the Network is exercised directly by its members, who also elect the Chairs and Vice-Chairs. The Network has a Secretariat and a Treasury, which are coordinated by the Secretary General.



What services do we provide to members ?

Smart partnering and networking for common goals

- > Being part of a global network of like-minded subnational governments which are passionate for sustainable development and face similar challenges, allows members to: (1) compare and benchmark approaches; (2) exchange information and experiences for the elaboration of their subnational sustainable development policies, and (3) to set up interregional and decentralised cooperation projects.
- > Members can access a solid network of specialised contacts within other subnational governments, as well as in international institutions and organisations, which facilitates advice and funding.

The thematic events organised by nrg4SD within its working groups, general assemblies and world summits of subnational governments or alongside key international dates offer excellent networking opportunities to our members and open the door to other major international organisations and stakeholders. Beyond the obvious advantages of face-to-face networking, much of this interpersonal exchange can be achieved on a daily basis taking advantage of virtual communication technologies – in some cases a simple email exchange – allowing members to benefit from nrg4SD services as travelling budgets tighten.



Access to resources - Information and advice, capacity building, funding opportunities and partners

- > Technical background information and analysis of international sustainable development policies and available funding streams.
- > Specialised advice adapted to the context of subnational governments and their regional and local partners, with a view to the definition of regional sustainable development strategies in anticipation to European and international decisions in this area.
- > Building capacity and skills on current dossiers and tools with the objective of bringing real development benefits to subnational government administrations, as well as to political representatives and technical staff.
- > Identification and exchange of project proposals for interregional cooperation eligible under international funding sources; as well as direct and quick access to potential partners from North and South subnational governments.

nrg4SD offers specialised and technical products in various sustainable development thematic areas that are adapted to the needs of subnational governments. This implies a wide coverage of interconnected topics that are essential to the delivery of both thematic and comprehensive sustainable development strategies. It also contributes to an integrated approach to sustainable development strategies. The 'network approach' favours project ideas and credible partnerships that can be eligible under international funding streams, which are often essential to their implementation.

Influencing future policy and funding - Being in the right place at the right time

- > Coordination and representation of subnational positions and case studies in international decision-making processes on sustainable development policies with direct impact on the subnational level.
- > Participation in the elaboration of policies and tools seeking ambitious and responsible goals with a territorial dimension.
- > Long-term strategic work towards the set-up of international funding streams and tools adapted to the subnational level.
- > Direct participation of members in technical discussions and negotiations.

nrg4SD's advocacy work is oriented to the recognition of the vital contribution that subnational governments make to sustainable development goals. Thanks to its accreditation to several UN entities and its direct work with the EU and other global organisations and agencies; nrg4SD participates in international decision-making processes and contributes to the elaboration of responsible and ambitious policies, tools and resources with a territorial dimension. Helping to improve our members' grasp of the strategic context of their sustainable development work inspires new thinking not only at subnational level but also within international decision-making instances. This generates long-term opportunities for subnational governments.

The legitimacy and credibility of nrg4SD in international negotiating fora comes from its role as representative of subnational governments across the Globe. This worldwide constituency of common interests and goals makes nrg4SD a powerful political platform.

Profiling and learning – From common struggle to pioneering initiatives and mutual learning

- > International projection of the experiences and expertise of our members at international events and working groups, often at the fringes of international negotiation sessions.
- > Positioning pioneering subnational governments at the forefront of international sustainable development action and creating opportunities for participating in international pilot initiatives.
- > Exchange of experiences and benchmark approaches with peers and influential stakeholders at political and technical level.
- > Representation of nrg4SD at international events or co-organisation of nrg4SD events, thus multiplying the benefits of international visibility for the territory and the achievements of its subnational government.

nrg4SD provides a high-profile international platform for committed and responsible subnational governments who both implement and are keen on improving ambitious and innovative actions for sustainable development. The access to grass-roots case studies demonstrating complementary solutions for similar challenges is the best evidence-based tool for nrg4SD advocacy work, and turns the common struggle and challenges of subnational governments into mutual learning.

Participating actively in nrg4SD events and publications or using the opportunity to take part in international events as an nrg4SD representative brings international visibility to the territory and its achievements. Hosting these events multiplies such benefits.



Our members optimise these services through their active participation in nrg4SD working groups, discussion sessions and good practice exchanges. Member governments and associations thus benefit directly from the 'network approach'. At the same time, the nrg4SD Secretariat sharpens its understanding of membership needs and expectations in order to generate further opportunities for policy shaping, project proposals, profiling and capacity building.

How to become a member of nrg4SD?

- > All subnational governments and associations of subnational governments which accept the nrg4SD Founding Declaration of Gauteng and the payment of an annual fee can apply for membership to nrg4SD.
- > Annual membership fees are individually determined in accordance to population and GDP, based on official and public information directly provided by members and candidate members on the annual fee and application forms.
- > Once the forms completed by the relevant authority are received by the Secretariat, the Steering Committee of nrg4SD will examine the application.
- > Following the positive recommendation of the Steering Committee, the General Assembly of nrg4SD ratifies the accession of the new member.

