

2023 Strategic Foresight Report

Sustainability and people's wellbeing at the heart of Europe's Open Strategic Autonomy

#StrategicForesight

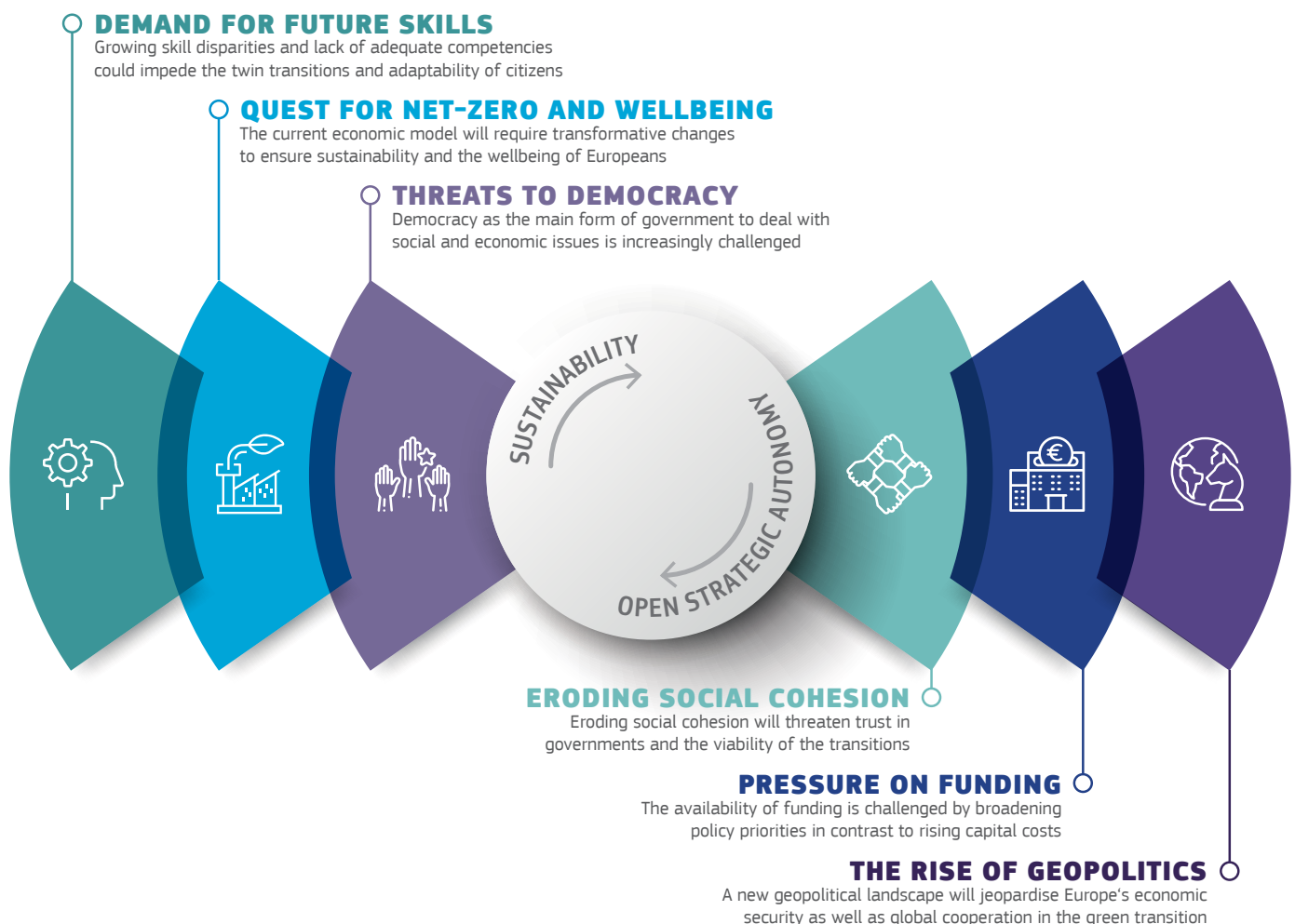
The 2023 Strategic Foresight Report analyses the key challenges for Europe's transition towards sustainability. It outlines 10 areas for action to reconcile wellbeing and prosperity of current and future generations. Ultimately, this will strengthen the EU's global leadership. Its results draw from an inclusive foresight exercise and build on the three previous editions.



Addressing social and economic challenges

6 July 2023

The EU is forging ahead with unprecedented action to achieve climate neutrality and sustainability. This will have major impacts on the economy and life of Europeans. The report identifies six main challenges that the EU will need to address while pursuing the EU's sustainability transition:





Why is it important to strengthen the links between the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainability?

- For current and future generations of Europeans, this will mean living healthier and longer lives, finding private and professional fulfilment, and having a greater say about the future they want.
- European businesses will have the first-mover advantage of a net-zero economy, globally leading in sustainable products and services.
- Other regions of the world will benefit from cooperation and sustainable development.

How to better measure progress and prosperity?

With recent developments such as stronger effects of climate change or the pandemic, it has become increasingly clear that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is incomplete as a measure of our progress and prosperity. It also does not fully reflect the important environmental or social challenges of our times. The report explores practical ways to go beyond GDP, by taking into account social and environmental factors to move towards an adjusted GDP. These can include quality of life (health, education, or recreation), unpaid care and domestic work, inequalities, costs of environmental damage (pollution or emissions), or natural resource exhaustion.

10 PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

RECONCILING WELLBEING AND PROSPERITY



1. Ensure a new European social contract with renewed welfare policies and a focus on high-quality social services.



6. Make public budgets fit for sustainability through an efficient tax framework and public spending.



2. Deepen the Single Market to champion a net-zero economy, with a focus on open strategic autonomy and economic security.



7. Further shift policy and economic indicators towards sustainable and inclusive wellbeing, including adjusting GDP for different factors.



3. Boost the EU's offer on the global stage to strengthen cooperation with key partners.



8. Ensure that all Europeans can contribute to the transition by increasing labour market participation and focusing on future skills.



4. Support shifts in production and consumption towards sustainability, targeting regulation and fostering balanced lifestyles.



9. Strengthen democracy with generational fairness at the heart of policymaking, to reinforce the support for the transitions.



5. Move towards a 'Europe of investments' through public action to catalyse financial flows for the transitions.



10. Complement civil protection with 'civil prevention' by reinforcing the EU's toolbox on preparedness and response.