Partnership for the goal  
2015-2019 Output, Impact, Collaboration

Research supporting SDG17 has grown since 2015, with a compound annual growth rate of 11.9% compared to nearly 3.5% for research in all fields

Yet the data shows that more research is needed on SDG17. Research output, at 229 total publications, was the lowest among all the SDGs, and nearly 100% lower than SDG3 which had the highest output with more than three million total publications.

In order to advance the SDGs, partnerships are vital. They can help scale ambition and complement the strengths of respective partners, providing new perspectives on challenges. Prospective partners may have specialist sector knowledge, on the ground expertise, and/or provide access to key stakeholders which one partner does not have. Transparency is critical and partners should be clear about expectations and engage frequently.

A key RELX partner on the SDGs is the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) which brings UNGC signatories together with civil society partners to plan projects and develop tools and guidance that can help all companies increase their SDG performance. We support the UNGC SDG Action Platform – Decent Work and Economic Growth – which helps business address important SDG targets such as 8.7. “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.”

The UNGC is a partner, along with Global Citizen, the Ban Ki-Moon Centre for Global Citizens, and the Responsible Media Forum on RELX

SDG Inspiration Days, which convene business, government, investors, academia, youth and NGOs – stakeholders needed to accelerate the SDGs – to explore positive, collaborative action.

Partnerships for the SDGs are also central to Elsevier’s mission to support inclusion and diversity, research capacity building, climate action and global health. One of the most compelling examples of how Elsevier contributes content, data, analytics, expertise and funding to build strong partnerships is Research4Life. For nearly 20 years, Elsevier has collaborated with UN agencies, publishers, key universities and non-profits to bridge the digital research divide for developing country researchers and healthcare workers. It provides a quarter of Research4Life content benefiting more than 10,000 registered institutions in over 125 countries.

Key themes in SDG17 Research

This analysis builds on Elsevier’s Sustainability Science in a Global Landscape report, which was released in 2015 to coincide with the launch of the SDGs. See a 2017 update on key findings on the RELX SDG Resource Centre.

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