

Sustainable Development and Low Emissions Economies

Essay Topics

1 SDG Performance

- Choose **2-3 SDGs** and evaluate Greece's (or any other country you choose) performance based on *Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)*
- Assess the Impact of national and international policies on SDG implementation
- Compare performance on the 17 SDGs and selected sub-indicators for EU economies
- Use statistical data on SDG performance to estimate the determinants of progress at the national level

2 Climate Finance

- Analyze trends and challenges for attracting and leveraging financial resources for the green transitions for enterprises/regional authorities
- Focus on Adaptation Finance and identify the **most important barriers** for regions, governments and corporations in *financing* adaptation actions
- Analyze the **solutions and tools** provided by EU and national institutions
- Assess the impact of **Green Accelerators** in fostering green innovation and bolstering start-ups using case studies from the EU (or Greece in particular)
- Analyze case studies of innovative financial solutions

3 ESG Metrics & Critical Evaluation

- Assess the importance and relevance of **ESG reporting** in the context of Climate Resilient Development
- Summarize **key ESG metrics** from official sources and comment on their complementarities and differences
- Critically assess ESG reporting against the backdrop of *greenwashing*

4 Just Transition in Greek Regions

- Describe EU initiatives for **Just Transition** with a focus on *vulnerable* Greek Regions
- Assess **policies and measures** based on current trends in the regions using official data sources
- Critically assess the regional traits that act as *catalysts* for the Just Transition and use official data to describe the Greek regions' profile
- Use data for other EU regions under the initiative and provide critical comparisons and policy recommendations

5 Energy Transition

- Elaborate on the need and means for the Energy Transition in the EU (and beyond)
- Summarize recent developments in the **Energy Sector** focusing on the EU
- Examine the *interlinkages* of the energy crisis with the cost-of-living crisis and outline the policy response from the EU
- Critically elaborate on the **opportunities** for net-zero transition and the elevated role of renewable energy in the Energy Crisis context

6 Net Zero Scenarios using EN-ROADS

- Use the **EN-ROADS simulator** to calculate 2 scenarios that would lead to the 1.5 C target or *any other Target you choose* based on national or EU commitments
- Evaluate the feasibility of the scenarios and elaborate on the trade-offs and synergies arising from your selection
- Address any positive or negative *externalities* arising from the policy levers you used to achieve your target