



Italy and the Sustainable Development Goals



ASviS Report **2021**





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Introduction: a wake-up call, a word of hope and our commitment

This is the sixth annual ASviS Report on how Italy is faring in its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which, as mentioned in the title of the 2030 Agenda, are aimed at “transforming our world”. The report provides a detailed analysis of the global, European and Italian situation, including what has been done and what still needs to be done, Italy’s attainments with respect to the 2030 Agenda’s Goals and Targets, and ASviS’ proposals to ensure that Italy achieves these Goals.

For the second year running, we are presenting our report at a time when Italy and the world are grappling with the most serious pandemic crisis of the last 100 years, whilst living under conditions that are still abnormal and affecting our wellbeing. We are witnessing how vulnerable our development models and societies are, and we are obliged to bear in mind that systemic crises such as this one are hindering our path to sustainable development. Therefore, we believe we should start our report with a wake-up call and a word of hope: **we can no longer waste time, and we need to marshal all our efforts to bring about change.**

The primary objective of sustainable development is to preserve our planet and its people, and to protect their wellbeing, including on behalf of future generations. Human society is running into serious constraints: regarding the economic system, unjust and unequal social structures, and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. To address these constraints, we need a transition - indeed several transitions - towards greater economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Our greatest challenge in terms of complexity and commitment will be the **fight against climate change, an issue that affects the environment, the economy and the way our societies work.** The targets and timeframes for preventing irreparable damage are set out in the Paris Agreement. Several countries have undertaken ambitious commitments, but opinions are still sharply divided on how to reach the set targets and some other countries have put up resistance. Major efforts will have to be made at COP26, especially by Europe, which aims to be the “world champion of sustainable development”.

The warning signs are increasingly unequivocal: current species extinction rates are tens to hundreds of times higher than the average of the last ten million years, with populations of many vertebrate species declining by an average of 68% since the 1970s. We are registering the highest atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases in the last three million years, a period in which average global temperatures have never gone beyond 2 °C of warming compared with pre-industrial levels. As pointed out in the recent first instalment of the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report on Climate Change, the observed increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations since around 1750 are unmistakably caused by human activities. There are elements of instability in the systems that regulate the state of the Earth system, which may evolve irreversibly. We are experiencing widespread pollution of the air, soil, water and oceans, due to the use of minerals, chemicals and other substances. The frequency of the spread of zoonotic diseases has increased with human degradation of natural habitats, as evidenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. **We cannot be healthy on a sick planet,** as Pope Francis has reminded us.

Our responsibility to guarantee a state of planetary health that safeguards our own future and that of future generations must be a priority objective for everyone. **The choices we make today can ensure a truly sustainable future for our societies, but the time available to reverse the trend is, unfortunately, increasingly short.**

It is now clear that the future of our civilisation is at stake in the choices we make this decade, defined by the UN as the “Decade of Action”. Many problems are still unresolved. For example, we are not yet in a position to map out a sustainability scenario for over nine and a half billion people by 2050, in which *no one is left behind*, although some attempts have been made to do so. We place a great deal of trust in the continuous and rapid evolution of scientific and technological research, but if any innovation is to have significant impact it requires political will, effective governance supports and financial instruments for its implementation, as well as the necessary material and energy flows to bring it about.

At the same time, social problems are worsening. The pandemic has led to an increase in extreme poverty and food insecurity. Inequalities and conflicts, between and within countries, are on the rise. The ongoing tragedy in Afghanistan is just one of many examples. Millions of people move from their places of origin, driven by wars and violence, as well as by the desertification of land and unsustainable economic situations. However, the more developed countries seem incapable of establishing relationships on an equal footing, which could support the growth of sustainable development among the most disadvantaged, and also curb incentives to migrate.

Even in advanced economies, the evolution of the world of work, if not accompanied by lifelong learning and social support programmes, could result in the creation of hundreds of millions of “left behind human beings”: people who are stuck on the margins of the production system, with no secure living conditions and no prospects for improvement. Constant technological innovation leads to profound changes in the world of work, which will require reskilling and upskilling to avoid rising unemployment.

As awareness of the gravity of the challenges we face has grown, we can also see signs of change - albeit insufficient - in the political means for addressing them. The feeling that we cannot merely go back to the pre-Covid situation is present, but perhaps not widespread enough. There is still a lack of vision and courage to alert public opinion to the risks we are running and the radical nature of the changes needed to protect our future as well as the future of coming generations, who must be listened to and engaged in institutional and civil society processes.

Europe has launched the Green Deal, with the stated aim that the rest of the world should follow in a sustainable and socially just transition. **The von der Leyen Commission has placed the 2030 Agenda at the heart of its action**, and with the launch of Next Generation EU has equipped itself with new financial instruments to support the Union in combating climate change and in the digital modernisation of the industrial system and society. The approval of the new Climate Law by the European Council and Parliament has set targets for the decarbonisation process, which will be implemented via precise and stringent measures. The Afghan tragedy has also triggered an important reflection on the role Europe should play in the global arena, giving substance to the Conference on the Future of Europe, which until very recently merely seemed to be a public relations exercise.

In Italy, the birth of a new Government, supported by a majority that is as broad as it is heterogeneous, raises hopes that the steps we have previously highlighted as being indispensable can be taken. The adoption and launch of the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) at least gives us hope, albeit with some reservations. If pursued, the commitments undertaken by Prime Minister Mario Draghi and the statements he has recently made emphasising the need to “honour our climate commitments and, in some cases, be ready to assume bolder ones”, as well as those made by various ministers, could lead to the necessary paradigm shift. We cannot fail to mention the presence in the new Government of Enrico Giovannini, who until February was the president of the Alliance: his new responsibility fills us with pride. We intend to remain, as always, vigilant sentinels of the entire Government, with a critical capacity and a spirit of cooperation in pursuing the good of the country.

The private sector also looks different. Companies are increasingly convinced that they must focus on the wellbeing of all stakeholders, including employees, consumers and local communities, not least because they are aware that the transition we must inevitably undertake, and within a very short timeframe, will undoubtedly favour those who react quickly, thereby reaping the advantages of being the first to move. The importance of sustainable finance is also increasing, with a growing focus on ethical and sustainability aspects.

We hope that this will soon translate into significant concrete action in these areas as well. **The data set out in our report show that Italy’s situation is critical and below the EU average for 10 of the 16 Goals that it was possible to analyse. Unless a decisive step change takes place, Italy will not achieve the 2030 Agenda Goals within the timeframe agreed at the UN. This will entail serious consequences.**

Given the actual state of our country, we all the more need a radical transformation of processes and behaviours at all levels, whilst implementing a significant interconnection between them: individuals, communities, businesses, institutions and government authorities. In order to address such a momentous

challenge, we need to accelerate the just transition to a truly sustainable world, by making policies and measures that boost the economy and people's wellbeing a real priority.

The forces willing to take on this challenge have expanded considerably, contributing efforts to be harnessed and directed towards concrete objectives, in order to bring about a decisive change in political priorities. But achieving sustainability requires global leadership.

In this difficult situation, the Alliance is more committed than ever to making its contribution as we enter our second five-year term. In recent years we have registered significant achievements and played a part in equally important battles, which are described in this report. More than ever we strongly feel the need to stress that this is the moment to call on everyone to make an extraordinary and outstanding commitment. Not only for future generations, but also for ourselves, as we face the perfect storm that is already bearing down on us ahead of earlier expectations.

In the last twelve months, ASviS has engaged in many internal and external activities, involving our network of members, without whom our activities would not be possible. The following chapters bear witness to this commitment, which will culminate in the 2021 Sustainable Development Festival, inaugurated with the presentation of this report. A significant change regards the new organisation of the role of the presidency of the Alliance, which is now shared by the undersigned. We are proud of this change which will help to improve our activities even more. We hope that this inclusive governance model will also be replicated by public and private entities, in the spirit of providing a new gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda Goals, and ensuring openness to diversity in order to promote more equitable and inclusive societies.

In this regard, we would like to conclude by thanking each and every one of you who has helped to make this year's achievements possible, working under conditions that were far from ideal. Without you - our team, the members of the Secretariat, the coordinators and the hundreds of members who make up the working groups - none of what we have done would have been possible. In this spirit, ASviS will carry on doing its utmost to help us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Marcella Mallen and Pierluigi Stefanini
Presidents of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development

Executive summary

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on progress towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the world. The social and economic repercussions have been exacerbated over the past year, especially in developing countries that have had reduced access to effective vaccines. Inequalities within and between countries are increasing and pose a further risk to the multilateral actions needed to ensure greater sustainability for all.

The efforts made by the European Union over the past year mark an element of optimism in the global arena. The EU has confirmed its position as a world leader in the sustainable development policies set out in the von der Leyen Presidency's programme, in response to the commitment to address "climate and environmental issues as the defining task of our generation" and to develop policies for "an economy that serves people". The embedding of the 2030 Agenda Goals in European policies, and the initiatives introduced on social, economic and environmental issues, constitute the best form of cohesive action currently available in the world. The engagement of citizens with initiatives such as the Conference on the Future of Europe is also good practice to be emulated at global and national level.

Italy's situation is still dire, and available data show that progress towards achievement of the Goals has been put at serious risk. The 2020 updates of the composite indicators relating to the SDGs provide an initial quantitative assessment of the impact of the pandemic crisis on the various Goals.

Between 2019 and 2020 Italy shows signs of improvement for only three Goals: regarding the energy system (Goal 7), climate action (Goal 13) and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). Three Goals are largely stable: sustainable food and agriculture (Goal 2), water (Goal 6) and innovation (Goal 9). The indicators for nine Goals have deteriorated: poverty (Goal 1), health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), inequality (Goal 10), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), life on land (Goal 15) and international cooperation (Goal 17). Regarding Goals 12 and 14, it was decided not to assess the situation in 2020 due to the lack of available data.

These trends should be interpreted within the overall framework of progress made from 2010 to 2020. Within this timeframe, Italy registers improvement for five Goals: health (Goal 3), gender equality (Goal 5), the energy system (Goal 7), innovation (Goal 9) and climate action (Goal 13). However, for five Goals the situation deteriorated: poverty (Goal 1), water (Goal 6), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), life on land (Goal 15) and international cooperation (Goal 17). For the remaining five - sustainable food and agriculture (Goal 2), education (Goal 4), inequality (Goal 10), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16) - the situation is largely unchanged.

The comparison of the 16 composite indicators for other European countries, for which it was possible to conduct an assessment, is also highly significant: Italy is below the EU average for ten Goals (Goal 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17), in line with the average for three Goals (Goal 3, 13 and 15) and above average for three Goals (Goal 2, 7 and 12).

In the light of these data, and of the in-depth analysis of 32 quantitative targets - presented in Chapter 3 - and of the comparison with other EU countries - presented in Chapter 2 - Italy's situation remains critical. Unless there is a decisive step change, Italy will not achieve the 2030 Agenda Goals within the timeframe agreed at the UN. This will entail serious consequences.

The commitment of the new Government and the adoption of the NRRP raise hopes for a step change that is crucial for achievement of the set Goals. In Chapter 3 the initiatives and legislation introduced over the past year in the light of the 2030 Agenda are analysed, based on the assessment presented by the Alliance over the past few months. For the first time, analyses are presented in accordance with the individual Targets of the 2030 Agenda Goals. This has enabled - and will do so in the future - greater insight into individual issues and policies, placing them clearly within the context of the Agenda, and providing more effective comparability over time. The report is also accompanied by an analysis of 32 quantitative targets that show how far Italy is from achieving the set Goals. This tool, which was introduced in the 2020 Report on Local Areas, gives a clear picture of the gap separating Italy from effective environmental, social, institutional and economic sustainability.

To assist governmental and institutional action, the Report includes a list of cross-cutting proposals to be urgently implemented. First of all, we reiterate the importance of achieving the 21 Targets in the 2030 Agenda,

which Italy committed to achieving by 2020 as part of the priorities for all political parties and the country as a whole, in order to give substance to the actions of public institutions. These cross-cutting proposals primarily regard:

- inclusion in the Constitution of the principle of sustainable development, based on the principle of inter-generational justice. An amendment to this effect, modifying Articles 9 and 41, is currently under consideration in Parliament. Its approval within the current legislature would be a step in the right direction;
- clear definition of the Cabinet’s responsibility in overseeing overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Italy;
- revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, in line with the proposals made in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) and the National Reform Programme. It is also important to strengthen the role of the National Conference on Sustainable Development, and to involve various stakeholders from institutions and civil society in revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy;
- use of international commitments on combating climate change and biodiversity loss as a guide for national policies;
- preparation of the Urban Agenda for Sustainable Development, as a component of the National Strategy, with a strong coordinating role for an appropriately reformed Interministerial Committee for Urban Policies, which is also responsible for coordinated management of the many urban regeneration programmes that have already been funded;
- revision of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) to bring it into line with European targets for cutting emissions by at least 55% by 2030, with a view to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, and approval of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNACC), revised to meet the new EU guidelines;
- establishment, via the 2022 Budget Law, of a public research body for future studies and strategic planning, tasked with conducting research into the future evolution of social, environmental and economic phenomena and their implications for the design and implementation of public policies, including at local level. This body’s first action would be the preparation, by the end of 2022, of a strategic forecast report through to 2050, to be revised annually;
- starting with the 2022 Budget Law, preparation of a plan with a set timeframe for the elimination of environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies;
- establishment of a permanent roundtable on gender policy with civil society, which will interact with the Government in discussions on implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2025;
- ensuring that the issue of youth, which is identified as a cross-cutting theme by the Italian NRRP, is a prominent element in the preparation of all policies. In line with the European Pillar of Social Rights, the impact of various measures on young people should be assessed *ex ante*, with a special focus on employment. The National Youth Council should play a more important role as a catalyst for proposals on this issue;
- comprehensive reform of the existing welfare system to give it a universal perspective, as well as simplifying procedures and access to services and guaranteeing coverage for currently excluded sectors of the population, in line with the objectives set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights, as reiterated at the recent EU summit in Porto;
- establishment of a working group by the end of this year to draw up a National Employment Plan by the end of 2022, with a priority focus on youth and women’s employment and employment in southern Italy, with the involvement of key stakeholders from the public and private sectors;
- establishment, by the end of the first half of 2022, of a permanent civil society consultation platform for “cross-cutting” assessment of the impact of legislative measures on the 2030 Agenda, in connection with the request for *ex-ante* (including qualitative) assessment of the expected impact on the 17 SDGs and individual Targets. The platform could also include an assessment of progress made regarding the PNNR;
- ensuring that Italy’s Official Development Assistance accounts for a 0.7% share of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2025, and proposing that the same deadline be met at European level;
- promotion of a reform process to make the European Union a key player in the international arena, in line with the wishes recently expressed by the President of Italy.

In addition to these cross-cutting proposals, the last chapter of the Report sets out a number of proposed actions for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting the same form of presentation used in the analysis of legislation.

Glossary

ACT - Access to Covid-19 Tools	ETS - Emissions Trading System	OECD-DAC - Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
AFDB - African Development Bank	ETUC - European Trade Union Confederation	PA - Italian Public Administration
AI - Artificial Intelligence	EU - European Union	PEFC - Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification
AINOP - <i>Archivio Informatico Nazionale delle Opere Pubbliche</i> National Public Works Information Technology Archive	F2F - Farm to Fork Strategy	PNACC - <i>Piano Nazionale per l'Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici</i> National Climate Change Adaptation Plan
CAP - Common Agricultural Policy	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization	PNIEC - <i>Piano Nazionale Integrato Energia e Clima</i> National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan
CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity	FED - Federal Reserve	PNPG - <i>Piano Nazionale per la Parità di Genere</i> National Gender Equality Plan
CDP - <i>Cassa Depositi e Prestiti</i> Deposits and Loans Fund	FFO - Fondo di Finanziamento Ordinario Ordinary Financing Fund	PNR - <i>Piano Nazionale di Riforma</i> National Reform Programme
ESBA - European Small Business Alliance	FRA - Fundamental Rights Agency	PNNR - National Recovery and Resilience Plan
CICS - Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation	FSC - Forest Stewardship Council	PRIN - Research Projects of National Interest
CIPE - Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning	FSE - Italian Electronic Health Records	SMEs - Small and Medium Enterprises
CIPESS - Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development	FSW - Fair and Sustainable Wellbeing	SUMP - Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan
CNA - Italian Confederation of Crafts and Small and Medium Enterprises	GAVI - The Vaccine Alliance	RCH - Residential Care Home
CNCA - Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance	GDP - Gross Domestic Product	R&D - Research and Development
CNCS - National Development Cooperation Committee	GEM - Global Education Monitoring	RdC - Italian Basic Income Scheme
COP24 - 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement	GEO POLL - Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data	REM - Italian Emergency Income
COP25 - 25th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement	GHG - Greenhouse Gas	RES - Renewable Energy Sources
COP26 - 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement	GIIN - Global Impact Investing Network	RFI - <i>Rete Ferroviaria Italiana</i> Italian State Railways
COVID-19 - Coronavirus	GNI - Gross National Income	RTS - Regulatory Technical Standards
CPIA - <i>Centro Provinciale per l'Istruzione degli Adulti</i> Provincial Adult Education Centre	GPP - Green Public Procurement	RUS - Italian University Network for Sustainable Development
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child	GSIA - Global Sustainable Investment Alliance	SARS-CoV-2 - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2
DAC - Development Assistance Committee	GW - Gigawatt	SCP - Sustainable Consumption and Production
DAC - Direct Air Capture	HLPF - High-level Political Forum	SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
Ddl - <i>Disegno di legge</i> Draft Law	ICMA - International Capital Market Association	SDSN - Sustainable Development Solutions Network
DEF - <i>Documento di Economia e Finanza</i> Economic and Financial Planning Document	IEA - International Energy Agency	SEA - Emergency Support Scheme for the Self-Employed
DL - <i>Decreto-Legge</i> Decree Law	IHR - International Health Regulations	SEA - Strategic Environmental Assessment
D.lgs. - <i>Decreto legislativo</i> Legislative Decree	ILO - International Labour Organisation	SEZ - Special Economic Zones
DL - Distance Learning	IMF - International Monetary Fund	SIC - Site of Community Interest
DPCM - <i>Decreto del Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri</i> Prime Ministerial Decree	INDIRE - <i>Istituto Nazionale di Documentazione, Innovazione e Ricerca</i> Educational National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research	SNA - <i>Scuola Nazionale di Amministrazione</i> National School of Administration
DPR - <i>Decreto del Presidente della Repubblica</i> Presidential Decree	IoT-SHM - Internet of Things/Structural Health Monitoring	SNAI - <i>Strategia Nazionale per le Aree Interne</i> National Strategy for Inner Areas
EBA - European Banking Authority	IPBES - Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	SNPA - <i>Sistema Nazionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente</i> National Environmental Protection System
EBLIDA - European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations	ISTAT - <i>Istituto Nazionale di Statistica</i> Italy's National Statistical Office	SNSvS - <i>Strategia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile</i> National Sustainable Development Strategy
EBS - Environmentally Beneficial Subsidies	JRC - Joint Research Centre	SRI - Socially Responsible Investments
ECB - European Central Bank	LGBQTI - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex	SSN - <i>Servizio Sanitario Nazionale</i> National Health Service
ECOSOC - United Nations Economic and Social Council	LULUCF - Land Use, Land Use Change and Forests	STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
EFS - Environmentally Friendly Substances	MAECI - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	SURE - State supported short-term work
EGD - European Green Deal	MATTM - Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection	TEG - Technical Expert Group
EGC - eGovernment Code	MEC - Minimum Environmental Criteria	TSC - Technical Standard Criteria
EHS - Environmentally Harmful Subsidies	MFF - Multiannual Financial Framework	TWh - Terawatt-hour
EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment	MPA - Marine Protected Areas	UAA - Utilised Agricultural Area
EIB - European Investment Bank	MI - Italian Ministry of Education	UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme
e-ID - European Digital Identity	MIBACT - Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism	UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
EIOPA - European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority	MIPAAF - Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies	UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
EMAS - Eco-Management and Audit Scheme	MISE - Italian Ministry for Economic Development	UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ERDF - European Regional Development Fund	MIT - Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport	UNO - United Nations Organisation
ERTMS - European Rail Traffic Management System	MIUR - Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research	UPB - Italian Parliamentary Budget Office
ESDN - European Sustainable Development Network	mPMI - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	WB - World Bank
ESDW - European Sustainable Development Week	MtCO ₂ eq - Metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent	WiP ECOSOC - Work in Progress at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
ESF+ - European Social Fund Plus	MW - Megawatt	WHO - World Health Organisation
ESG - Environmental, Social, Governance	NASPI - New Social Insurance Provision for Employment	WTO - World Trade Organisation
ESM - Bailout Fund - European Stability Mechanism	NDC - Nationally Determined Contribution	WWF - World Wildlife Fund
ESMA - European Securities and Markets Authority	NEET - Not in Education, Employment or Training	
ETF - Exchange-Traded Fund	NFS - National Forest Strategy	
	NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation	
	NRFP - National Recovery and Resilience Plan	
	ODA - Official Development Assistance	
	OECD - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	



The 2030 Agenda around the world



1. The 2030 Agenda around the world

1.1 The 2030 Agenda and Covid-19 recovery policies around the world

A year ago, we remarked on how the Covid-19 pandemic had radically changed the way we live, work and relate to each other. A year ago, the Covid-19 crisis had already claimed over a million lives and set the global economy in freefall. No vaccines or treatments with scientifically proven efficacy were available. Since then, the pandemic has caused at least 4.5 million confirmed deaths, with more than 210 million people infected and devastating effects on the global economy. It continues to inflict great suffering, especially on the most vulnerable people. While some countries are planning recovery, in other countries the pandemic is accelerating.

As pointed out in the UN Secretary-General's report to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the Covid-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by approximately 4.6% in 2020. In February this year, 36 low-income countries were experiencing sovereign debt distress or at high risk of doing so. The equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs were lost in terms of working hours, around four times the number reported for 2007-2009. The pandemic has driven another 124 million people into extreme poverty. Nearly one in three people worldwide lacked access to adequate nutrition in 2020, marking an increase of almost 320 million people in one year. Two out of three students are still affected by school closures. An estimated 112 billion days of education have been lost worldwide. Save the Children's latest global analysis of 194 countries shows that children in Latin America, the Caribbean and South Asia have missed out on almost three times as much education as their peers in Western Europe. Many young people may never go back to school. The main causes are an increase in child labour, and a spate of early marriages, which mainly involves young women. Violence against women has risen to shocking levels,

and reports of abuse have doubled and tripled in some places in the world. Another scourge affecting unpaid domestic and care work is the expulsion of women from the world of work.

The structural challenges underlying the SDGs, including the climate emergency and other major environmental crises, as well as growing inequality, have become even more dangerous. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations are now at their highest level in 3 million years - 148% of pre-industrial levels - and we are facing a climate situation that needs to be addressed without delay, as the global temperature increase is already approaching 1.2°C. Many other interconnected environmental crises are also evident: biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented and alarming rate, with one million species threatened with extinction. Every year, 10 million hectares of forest are lost and the degradation of ecosystems continues apace.

Inequality still stands at unsustainable levels. The net worth of around 2,500 billionaires rose by more than US\$5.2 billion a day during the pandemic, while 4 billion people still lack basic social protection. And in the meantime, conflicts and crises have displaced 1% of the world's population. Global poverty is expected to reach 7% by 2030, which is only marginally below its 2015 level. In short, we are on the brink of the abyss.

Although the global situation is serious, there are isolated glimmers of hope. With regard to the Covid-19 pandemic, a series of highly effective vaccines was developed as early as the end of 2020, which have been tested and distributed in hundreds of millions of doses. This has dramatically altered the trajectory of the pandemic in the countries that had adequate amounts of vaccines and therefore the largest number of inoculations. Although these vaccines are not a complete guarantee against infection, they are a proven bulwark against the most severe symptoms and substantially reduce the risk of death, especially in the most vulnerable population groups. Doubts still remain regarding the duration of vaccination immunity, which may need to be extended with ad-

ditional booster doses, as is already the case with other common vaccines such as those used against common flu or tetanus. However, on the whole mass vaccination seems to offer the safest route back to a more “normal” life, as long as necessary individual protection measures are taken.

Discussions are also in progress on the possibility for poorer countries with lower vaccination rates to purchase vaccine supplies, and also regarding the cost of vaccines and therefore pharmaceutical companies’ intellectual property rights, including a request for their temporary withdrawal, in accordance with the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which was passed by a majority of the European Parliament on 10 June 2021, and had already been proposed by President Biden on 5 May and accepted by UN Secretary General Guterres.

Another insidious challenge regards the many people, concentrated mainly in wealthier countries, who do not want to protect themselves and their loved ones with vaccines. It should be borne in mind that, in tandem with the long and pervasive disinformation campaign regarding the causes and impacts of climate change, there is another one regarding the efficacy of vaccines, which has been going on for decades and involves a substantial portion of the population

that refuses vaccination. (In Italy, the percentage could be as high as 17% of the adult population, according to an Ipsos survey¹, a figure that also includes people who cannot be vaccinated due to illness, allergies or other impediments). In addition to the risks for those directly concerned, this also entails considerable risks for the population as a whole, which is more exposed to the possibility of contact with infected persons, thereby increasing the risk of contracting variants developed among people who do not benefit from vaccination protection, and of unnecessarily prolonging the pandemic. On this front, politicians, institutions, the media, the scientific community, businesses and civil society need to make a concerted effort to avoid the spread of false or contradictory information, as well as risky connivance with conspiracy and denialist theories, especially those transmitted via the internet.

CONFLICTS AND THE 2030 AGENDA’S ROLE IN PROMOTING PEACE

The effects of the pandemic, the risk of the consequences of climate change and concerns about the socio-economic resilience of Italy and other countries should not lead us to ignore the fact that armed conflicts, civil wars and large-scale human rights violations are rampant in various parts of the world. These conflicts affecting the world demonstrate the urgency of adopting the principles set out in Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda, and of a firm commitment by all countries to renounce war as a means of resolving disputes and to work towards resolving ongoing conflicts involving millions of people, most of them civilians, in a peaceful manner by promoting dialogue and mutual understanding.

The example of what has and is happening in Afghanistan, as in many other places, highlights the need to rethink how we deal with such problems. First and foremost, the United Nations should try to prevent these “conflicts” arising. Moreover, a debate has recently begun on the role of the European Union (EU) and its capacity to intervene in conflict situations. This is a positive development and the opportunity should not be missed to define, in the light of the 2030 Agenda, a proactive position for the EU, with a view to preventing conflict escalation and promoting peaceful solutions. In this regard, the words of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, were highly relevant. Speaking in Ventotene on 29 August, the head of state remarked that what had happened in Afghanistan “highlighted the lack of advocacy capability of the European Union, which played no part whatsoever in these events. It is vital to guarantee common foreign and defence policy instruments immediately. NATO is important, but the European Union now needs to have an enhanced presence in foreign policy and defence. This approach is also important for the United States”².

1.2 The G7 and the G20

2021 has seen a return to in-person multilateral summits, which were suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic. This year, the presidency of the G7 was assigned to the United Kingdom, while for the first time ever the presidency of the G20 went to Italy. With a new openness to multilateralism, represented by the Biden administration, and Prime Minister Johnson's desire to project an image of "global Britain", the G7 proposed an ambitious agenda and opened up participation in its proceedings to the heads of government of Australia, South Korea, India and South Africa, as well as UN Secretary General Guterres.

Topics for discussion included development of a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, with the aim of building a better post-pandemic world, responding to environmental and climate emergencies, and making a commitment to *leave no one behind*, as set out in the 2030 Agenda. The G7 leaders' statement of 19 February 2021 said:

"Recovery from Covid-19 must build back better for all. We will put our global ambitions on climate change and the reversal of biodiversity loss at the centre of our plans. We will make progress on mitigation, adaptation and finance in accordance with the Paris Agreement and deliver a green transformation and clean energy transitions that cut emissions and create good jobs on a path to net zero no later than 2050. We are committed to levelling up our economies so that no geographic region or person, irrespective of gender or ethnicity, is left behind³".

This was reiterated at the Carbis Bay Summit on 11-13 June in the communiqué, *Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better*⁴:

"As we develop recovery plans to support our economies and build back better, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through innovative measures and strong budget support, developing partner countries, especially in Africa, cannot be left behind. We are deeply concerned that the pandemic has slowed progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and continues to exacerbate global unrest, so we recommit ourselves to stepping up our efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030".

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged to ask the G7 to work on a global approach to pandemics, in order to ensure fair global distribution

of Covid-19 vaccines and prevent future pandemics. In particular, he proposed a five-point plan that includes a worldwide network of zoonotic research centres, development of global production capacity for treatments and vaccines, design of a global early warning system, agreement of global protocols for a future health emergency and reduction of trade barriers. At the G7, at President Biden's instigation, it was agreed to donate one billion vaccines to other countries.

On the environmental and climate front, G7 member countries have committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, as well as halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, ahead of COP26 on climate change and COP15 on biodiversity.

The G7 sees coordinated action on carbon pricing, green finance, the phasing out of coal, helping poorer countries to step up climate action and aligning trade practices with the Paris Climate Agreement commitments as crucial.

Another topic of discussion was international coordination of economic policies. US Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, said that focusing on continued economic support would help to revive American multilateralism. Other finance ministers, including Italian Minister of the Economy and Finance, Daniele Franco, French Finance Minister, Bruno Le Maire, and British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, also called for close economic coordination regarding recovery plans and economic policies. Negotiations were also held on reforming the taxation of multinational companies, by imposing a global minimum corporate tax rate of at least 15%, aimed at pre-empting recourse to the tax havens that attract large multinationals. The commitment will also include measures to ensure that taxes are paid in the countries where companies operate. The G7 countries also launched the Build Back Better World initiative, a plan to finance infrastructure development in low- and middle-income countries. The heads of state and government were also hosted by Queen Elizabeth, who presented their environmental restoration programmes.

Italy's G20 presidency concentrated on the importance of multilateralism in an increasingly interconnected world, focusing on three key pillars for action, explicitly echoing the ones set out in the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosper-

ity. With this in mind, the final summit at the end of October 2021 will focus on solutions to guarantee a rapid international response to the pandemic - ensuring equitable and universal access to diagnosis, treatment and vaccines - and to strengthen global resilience to future health crises.

OFFICIAL G20 ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

With a view to achieving broader inclusion and participation, the G20 decision-making process has been enriched over the years by the involvement of “social actors”, who periodically meet as G20 Engagement Groups.

These groups address many areas that are vitally important for the work of the G20, especially themes relating to entrepreneurship, labour, youth, women’s empowerment, urban policies, sustainable development and combating inequality. They are also involved in promoting the activities of think tanks and universities, and social and natural sciences.

The Engagement Groups are autonomous and work independently of governments. They submit formal recommendations to the G20 Presidency ahead of each summit⁵. Eight active groups participated in the G20 2021, and this year saw strong leadership of the major Italian organisations, among both coordinators and participants, many of whom were Alliance members. The groups included:

- the B20⁶, dedicated to business and involving around 1,000 participants from all countries, will meet on 7 and 8 October to draw up its recommendations to the heads of state and government;
- the C20⁷, dedicated to civil society, which this year brought together more than 500 organisations from around the world. The group produced a substantial policy pack⁸ on all the G20 themes and often held discussions with the sherpas and at ministerial level, ahead of the final summit scheduled for 5-8 October;
- the L20⁹ convenes trade union leaders from the G20 countries, who represent millions of workers worldwide. It contributes to the work of the G20 with analyses and policy recommendations aimed at improving labour-related issues. The group will meet to present its recommendations on 27-28 October;
- the S20 regards the G20 Science Academies. This year’s theme for the S20, entitled “Preparing for pandemics”, will regard the preparedness of the scientific community, and identification of the most promising research programmes and possible policy options governments might adopt to support them. The final meeting is scheduled for 28-30 September;
- the T20¹⁰ brings together leading think tanks and research centres from around the world, with the aim of contributing to the G20 leaders’ reflections on major global governance issues, through research and policy proposals. The group’s final summit will be held from 4-6 October;
- the U20¹¹, dedicated to cities and urban policies, aims to channel the outlook and priorities of cities into the broader G20 process, with a specific focus on issues such as global development, climate, the future of work, social inclusion and integration. The group’s communiqué¹² was published after the 12 June Summit;
- the W20¹³ aims to ensure due consideration is given to gender issues in G20 discussions, to promote gender equality and to encourage women’s empowerment. The group concluded its work on 13-15 July and issued its appeal¹⁴ to heads of state and government;
- the Y20¹⁵ aims to allow young people to express their visions and ideas to the G20 heads of state and government. Via an inclusive discussion platform, its agreed recommendations¹⁶ regarding the G20 agenda were compiled in a joint communiqué from 19-23 July.

Looking beyond the crisis, the G20 also aims to ensure a fast recovery centred on people's needs. This entails a special focus on the protection of the most vulnerable people and countries, women's empowerment, the role of youth, employment support, social protection and food security. To achieve this, the G20 intends to create the conditions for an ambitious, effective and sustainable recovery. This would involve a more efficient restart, partly based on better use of renewable energy and a clear commitment to safeguarding climatic and environmental stability. These are essential prerequisites for lasting prosperity, which also requires strategic use of the main drivers of growth and innovation. Therefore, the G20 is striving to bridge the digital divide, make digitalisation an opportunity for everyone, increase productivity and - in short - *leave no one behind*, as called for in the 2030 Agenda. Over the years, the G20 has increasingly established itself as the forum of choice for critical international decisions, going beyond its initial mandate that only regarded economic aspects. In this context, Prime Minister Draghi convened an emergency summit of heads of state and government to discuss the situation in Afghanistan following the fall of Kabul. The summit was postponed until after the UN General Assembly.

The ministerial summits preceding the summit of heads of state and government were held throughout the year, leading to several important outcomes. We would particularly like to mention the G20 Environment, Energy and Climate (the latter being the subject of a specific document for the first time), with the final meetings held on 22 and 23 July in Naples. The two final texts¹⁷ identified the areas regarding which the G20 countries agreed a common approach.

The Environment communiqué, referring in particular to the scientific basis of the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and International Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on biodiversity and pandemics, and the IPBES/IPCC report on the link between biodiversity and climate change, dealt with:

- Protection of natural capital and biodiversity; restoration of ecosystems with nature-based solutions; protection and restoration of degraded soils; protection of water resources, oceans and seas, with a renewed focus on plastic pollution in the seas.
- Efficient use of resources and circular economy, and encouraging innovation, design and production to ensure durable, repairable, reusable and recyclable products, in order to create sustainable and socially inclusive supply chains. Meetings were organised with a specific focus on circular cities, education and training, and the involvement of young people as agents of change.
- Sustainable finance, highlighting the urgent need to align financial flows with sustainable development, emphasising in particular the various synergies in financial flows for climate, biodiversity and ecosystem services; recognising the need to strengthen these synergies to maximise co-benefits; and the role that development finance can play by including environmental considerations, using the 2030 Agenda as a compass.

In the Energy and Climate communiqué, based on the recognition that the impacts of a global temperature rise within the 1.5°C limit would be far less than those of a 2°C rise (2018 IPCC Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C), countries acknowledged the need to step up joint efforts during this decade, dubbed the “critical decade”, agreed to take into account actions that contribute to achievement of the Paris Agreement in national post-Covid-19 programmes and recognised that cities are crucial for developing and trying out effective strategies.

The communiqué recognises the inescapable link between energy production, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, and consequently places acceleration of the energy transition at the heart of the fight against climate change, emphasising the key role of renewable energy. It also recognises the need to develop technologies linked, for example, to the use of hydrogen, as well as the role of methane in reducing emissions, with the proposed establishment of an International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO).

With regard to energy security, among other things, they recognised the need for the development of sustainable and reliable supply chains for rare earths and materials, semiconductors and related technologies.

The need to drive a transition to clean energy that leaves no one behind was particularly relevant in this difficult year, as the fight against the pandemic continues unevenly around the world.

Considering the need to ensure a transition to a carbon-neutral future and to move towards the eradication of energy poverty and universal access to energy, the commitment to mobilise US\$100 billion every year until 2025 was reaffirmed, and multilateral development banks were also urged to align investments with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

In spite of these important steps, there are still strong political divisions at global level. In particular, China, India and Russia have not agreed to stay below the 1.5°C global warming threshold by 2030 and to eliminate coal from energy production by 2025.

The G20 Culture meeting, once again the first of its kind in the history of the G20 to be devoted to these issues, was held in Rome on 29 and 30 July and ended with the unanimous adoption of the Rome Declaration of the G20 Culture Ministers. The 32-point document introduces the culture sector into the G20 process, and also recognises its economic value. The commitment of all member states to create means of intervention to protect cultural heritage at risk in crisis areas was also shared. The document was examined by ministers and delegations from the participating countries, together with the heads of the main international organisations active in this field, including: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); and the Council of Europe, with the involvement of the Youth Engagement Group (Y20).

In the context of the G20, the first conference on women's empowerment took place in Santa Margherita Ligure on 26 August. Once again, this is the first time that a women's empowerment event has been planned within the G20 system, focusing on the quality of women's employment, implementation of policies to increase women's participation in leadership positions, protection of women's rights and combating gender-based violence. The conference involved gender equality ministers from G20 and host countries, representatives of international organisations (UN Women, ILO, OECD), and representatives from the business community, academia and civil society. The discussions focused on three specific areas:

- STEM subjects, financial and digital literacy, the environment and sustainability;

- labour and economic empowerment;
- the work-life balance.

The conference also hosted a specific meeting, convened by Minister Bonetti, specifically dedicated to the condition of women in Afghanistan.

Finally, another very important topic for the work of the G20 Italian Presidency was food and nutrition, in collaboration with various international organisations and stakeholders, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which leads the Food Coalition¹⁸, established to **mobilise political, economic and technical capital to improve the resilience of agri-food systems and vulnerable people** around the world, and to prevent the current health emergency from degenerating into a food crisis.

The Italian Government played a **key role in proposing the Food Coalition**, an idea also advocated by the Italian Parliament.

The Food Coalition encouraged the G20 to mobilise high-level political commitment, financial support and technical expertise with regard the following areas in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic:

- a global humanitarian response;
- economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty;
- the reduction of food loss and waste;
- the transformation of food systems.

The G20 Foreign Ministers' Summit culminated in the **Matera Declaration on Food Security, Nutrition and Food Systems. A Call to Action in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond**¹⁹.

This is a declaration by the ministers of the G20, FAO²⁰ and other UN agencies and partners.

With this document, the signatories "agree to deliver on food security priorities by enhancing efforts in ensuring safe and adequate nutrition for all, ending all forms of malnutrition, preserving agrobiodiversity, as well as relying on science, innovation, advanced business practices and responsible behaviour complementing traditional knowledge, local food culture and best practices in order to achieve SDG 2 targets".

THE COMMITMENT OF FOUNDATIONS AND THE F20 TO THE 2030 AGENDA

In Italy, the 2030 Agenda is gradually being embedded in the planning processes of a growing number of foundations, making the SDGs the "guiding principle for their activities". This process is continuing despite the fact that the current pandemic has forced most foundations to reformulate their activities. Indeed, including at international level, philanthropic support associations and partnership networks play an important role in the implementation of the Goals, as they promote specific training and information activities, the circularity of good practices and the sharing of experiences, and also facilitate partnerships between different actors. This is particularly relevant at local level, where they encourage a strengthening of the social, entrepreneurial and cultural fabric of a local area, thereby increasing the resilience of local communities and their capacity for innovation. Moreover, thanks to their research activities and the connections they are able to promote at national and transnational level, foundations play a key role in local advocacy projects, the empowerment of third sector organisations and communities, and investments that have a local sustainable impact.

Due to their autonomy, flexibility and long-term approach to investing, foundations play a crucial role in promoting and protecting individual wellbeing in all its forms, focusing mostly on the "social" aspects of the 2030 Agenda: eradicating hunger and poverty, combating discrimination, and promoting dignity, and equality and equal opportunities for all members of society. In particular, the pandemic has highlighted serious shortcomings regarding crucial issues in which foundations can play an important role:

- gender equality at all levels;
- the right to quality, lifelong education;
- solving critical issues in the healthcare system, which are exacerbated by demographic trends towards an increasingly elderly population;
- people living in precarious conditions;
- poor housing;
- inclusion policies, especially for young people;
- economic and opportunity inequalities, and risks arising from social fragmentation and exclusion;
- environmental issues;
- the need to design cities of the future;
- the digital divide.

In order to achieve the ambitious Goals of the 2030 Agenda, foundations promote collaboration and networking by establishing strategic networks and partnerships. One example of such networks is the F20²¹, which consists of more than 60 foundations and philanthropic organisations from the G20 countries, united in their commitment to take transnational joint action to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Via the role and commitment of the foundations, the F20 works to achieve sustainable development in civil society, businesses, the financial sector, research centres and politics, both within and between G20 countries. It engages in dialogue with the G20 heads of state, finance ministers and heads of central banks in the G20 countries regarding the implementation of a joint plan that is in line with sustainable development principles, and collaborates in synergy with the other G20 Engagement Groups, in particular in the preparation of joint documents and the organisation of events. Finally, each year it organises an international event in the G20 host country to present the outcomes of its reflections and the calls addressed to the heads of state and government. In 2021, the event will be held in Milan on 29 and 30 September.

1.3 COP26 and the climate emergency

Six years on from the Paris Agreement, there are no signs of a reduction in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases or, consequently, in the Earth's average surface temperature. Anthropogenic CO₂ emissions dropped significantly in 2020, but they are expected to pick up again everywhere.

The Agreement, as you will recall, sets a legally binding limit for a temperature rise of between 1.5 and 2°C by the end of the century. We have already gone beyond 1.1°C. In Paris, the combined commitments would have led to a rise of no less than 3°C by the end of the century. Therefore, ambitions must be substantially raised to meet the Agreement's objective.

COP26 was originally scheduled to take place at the end of 2020, the year in which the Paris Agreement entered into force and the interim period of the second Kyoto Protocol ended. It was postponed by a year due to the pandemic and will be held, as planned, in Glasgow at the end of 2021, under a joint Italo-British presidency. The city of Glasgow had already declared renewable electricity consumption of 97.4% in 2020, and aims to reach net zero by 2030. For the first time since the Paris Agreement, COP26 is tasked with collecting the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through which all countries update their commitments to address emission reductions. The UK has set a 68% reduction target for 2030 compared to 1990 levels, and recently a new target of 78% for 2035. Following publication of the European Green Deal in December 2019, which was confirmed by the Climate Law in June 2021, the EU has planned a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. On 21 April, at the Leaders' Summit on Climate, the US announced a 50 to 52% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050. China has confirmed peak emissions ahead of 2030 and net zero emissions in 2060. Many other countries have made similar commitments.

COP25 in Madrid in 2019 had failed to reach consensus in many key areas of negotiation, leaving important issues unresolved and postponing decisions to COP26 where the United States will return to the negotiating table. President Biden intends to make tackling climate change a priority, after bringing the United States back into the Paris Agreement, from which it had withdrawn in 2019.

By hosting the Leaders' Summit in the spring, the United States appeared willing to resume some form of leadership in the fight against climate change, with public opinion heavily influenced by fires, droughts, heatwaves and hurricanes.

The main objective of COP25 was to finalise the Paris Rulebook, an operating manual to govern the mechanisms required by the Agreement and to make it fully operational. However, the parties were unable to reach a consensus on key points relating to the Article 6 rules regarding the international carbon market, carbon pricing and development support measures, including bilateral cooperation on emission cuts. Putting a price on carbon makes emitters responsible for the significant costs of adding greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere; these costs include polluted air, rising temperatures and the various problems that ensue, threats to public health and food and water supplies, and increased risk of dangerous weather events.

Seventy-three countries also presented their improved NDCs at COP25, and, remarkably, about 630 global investors issued a declaration on climate change urging the phasing out of coal-fired thermal energy and the ending of fossil fuel subsidies. One of the few achievements of COP25 was to agree on a five-year gender action plan to support the full and equal participation of women in climate policy. By the 31 July deadline, 110 countries had submitted new or revised NDCs but, as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) points out, we are a long way from the levels of ambition needed to meet the Paris targets.

The issues referred to COP26 include:

- determination of the percentage share of revenue from the sale of emission permits in the global carbon market that should be set aside to finance adaptation measures in countries vulnerable to climate change;
- definition of the implementation timeframe for the NDCs, which countries originally set in a piecemeal fashion with deadlines ranging from 2020 to 2030;
- definition of climate impact funding to support developing countries, in implementation of the 2009 Copenhagen commitment to provide the Green Climate Fund with US\$100 billion by 2020 (a goal that is still far from being achieved), as well as further increasing this amount;

- recognition of the right of poor countries impacted and damaged by climate change to receive compensation from the international community (loss and damage), above and beyond the Green Climate Fund;
- implementation of the just transition principle and support for the economies of countries that live off fossil fuels, and shifting towards new low-emission sources of energy;
- the problem of inclusion and broad engagement of the public, especially young people, who deserve credit for reviving the stalled climate negotiations.

The aim of COP26 is to bring about a step change in commitments to reduce emissions; to strengthen adaptation to the impacts of climate change; to secure funding for climate action; and to strengthen international collaboration, including campaigning for an energy transition and the protection of natural capital.

1.4 COP15 and the new Global Biodiversity Strategy

The issue of the progressive and dramatic loss of biodiversity around the world, and the actions undertaken to counteract it and reverse the course of decline, must be urgently placed at the centre of major political priorities for the sake of everyone's future. The political and economic spheres of all countries around the world must be aware that biodiversity loss is not just one of the many problems regarding our sustainable future, but rather the cornerstone of life on Earth and of the extraordinary co-evolution of the living and the non-living that has taken place on our planet (a one-off in the entire universe, as far as we know), with all that this implies for the great biogeochemical cycles that enable the human species to live and prosper. There can be no economic development of humankind if biodiversity is in decline. If we breathe, drink and eat, it is thanks to biodiversity. Human pressure on the world's biodiversity, from which our species, *Homo sapiens*, derives and without which we cannot live, is clearly unsustainable and fully documented by the wealth of scientific knowledge on the subject.

It is a serious matter to ignore the great value of biodiversity for our near and far-off future, for current and future generations, as was unfortunately all too often the case in the preparation of Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which was primarily focused on energy transition measures, some of which provoked debate, whilst neglecting care for biodiversity in our beautiful country. Regarding the great planetary problems caused by human pressure on the dynamic balances of our natural systems - taking into account the complexity and the strong interconnection of all the dynamics disrupted by human interventions and the effects they produce - the close link between climate change and biodiversity loss is increasingly clear, as has been further highlighted by the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and International Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPCC - IPBES)²² Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Moreover, as aptly summarised in the comprehensive Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the IPBES²³ of the United Nations, which systematically sets out the state of planetary biodiversity, we have now signifi-

cantly altered 75% of terrestrial ecosystems and 66% of oceanic ecosystems, causing a radical transformation and modification of many ecosystems and the extinction of a large number of living species, with at least one million species predicted to face extinction in the coming years. If the pace of human impact were to continue unabated for the next few decades, in a business-as-usual scenario, the IPBES Report estimates that 90% of the landmass could be significantly changed by 2050. Humankind as a whole would be left with around 10% of land that is still natural to some extent. Therefore, it is not by chance that, at this point, the United Nations has decided to dedicate the decade from 2021-2030 to Ecosystem Restoration²⁴ (Prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems) with a UN General Assembly Resolution, adopted on 1 March 2019²⁵.

Scientific data on the state of the biomass on our planet is very worrying. The presence of human beings, who make up 0.01% of the earth's biomass, has radically altered the balance between living species. For example, only 30% of the planet's birds are wild species; the remaining 70% are chickens, turkeys, geese and other farm birds. The proportions among mammals are even more shocking: 60 per cent are farm animals (cattle, goats, sheep, horses and pigs), 36 per cent are humans and only 4 per cent are wild mammals (ranging from small shrews to large blue whales)²⁶.

Political and economic figures should read the sound report published in early 2021, which was commissioned by the British government from the distinguished economist Partha Dasgupta, professor emeritus at Cambridge University, who, with a large interdisciplinary team of authoritative specialists, published *The Economics of Biodiversity: the Dasgupta Review*²⁷. The United Kingdom followed up on its 2006 review of the economics of climate change by commissioning Sir Nicholas Stern to produce the famous report on this subject, which triggered a wide-ranging and interesting debate and motivated further action to combat climate change²⁸.

The report makes it clear that we are all holders and managers of assets, which we manage to the best of our ability, in accordance with our personal beliefs. But prudent individual management may not coincide with collective benefit, and therefore our actions may lead to a gigantic collective failure in the proper management of global goods. The report is based on a clear approach:

to adopt an overtly anthropocentric perspective when assessing nature. Indeed, if we appreciated the need to protect and support nature even when it is produced and consumed for human purposes, we could recognise its intrinsic as well as its extrinsic value.

The report recalls that throughout the 20th century, economic thought pursued a utopia: the realisation of a human world completely detached and independent of nature, and the liberation of man, thanks to technology, from the yoke of natural constraints. This has led to continuous and growing extraction of resources from the natural world, and the (free) provision of ecosystem services, and the steady degradation of natural systems have long been left out of macroeconomic calculations. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the main tool for measuring the growth of national economies, completely ignores the “good of nature”. The report points out that our current habit of relying on GDP to assess economic performance is based on a distorted application of economics. GDP only takes into account capital flows and fails to calculate “inclusive wealth”, the totality of a nation's assets. By only measuring flows, the changes goods are subjected to are inevitably ignored. For example, in the case of natural capital, the economic consequences of the deterioration of ecosystems are not taken into account, as this is deemed to be a mere externality. The environmental crisis of recent decades has been systematically ignored in the economic sphere. It is vital to recognise that we depend on natural resources and belong to nature in order to ensure that economic development - in the short and long term - is truly sustainable. Therefore, the economics of biodiversity aims to broaden the scope of economics, which should no longer only refer to human society, but rather to the entire biosphere, of which the economy is but a subset. This means, for example, taking action to reduce the “depreciation” of natural assets.

The report clearly reminds us that the sustainability of our relationship with nature ultimately concerns all the functions of the biosphere, not just the living part of it. Therefore, we cannot continue to replace natural goods (water, soil, biodiversity, ecosystem services, etc.) with human production (infrastructure, things, money). This is an erroneous equation which fails to recognise that such natural assets are not only a resource but also the very foundation of the survival and

wellbeing of human societies. Protecting nature is thus in our own interest: any increase in material wellbeing will be pointless if these foundations are irreparably destroyed.

For all these reasons (briefly mentioned here with references to some of the most recent and authoritative reports on the great planetary drama of biodiversity loss), the formulation of the new International Biodiversity Strategy for the next decade, which is being carried out as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity, takes on a truly pre-eminent and priority role. It will conclude with approval at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention - which will be held in Kunming, China, on two separate occasions: the first from 11 to 15 October 2021; and the second from 25 April to 8 May 2022.

Currently, the framework document under preparation for the new Strategy²⁹ that will be approved at COP15 includes 21 targets and 10 milestones for 2030, as an intermediate step towards 2050 with humankind partially living in harmony with nature.

Key targets include protection of at least 30 % of terrestrial and marine areas that must be protected and managed effectively; restoration of 20% of degraded areas of terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments, with elimination of the use of pesticides by at least two-thirds, as well as plastic waste; implementation of an ecosystem approach to help climate change mitigation and adaptation, contributing at least 10 billion tonnes of CO₂eq per year; elimination of subsidies that harm biodiversity amounting to at least US\$500 billion per year; increased funding of at least €200 billion per year for biodiversity and at least €210 billion per year for financial flows for biodiversity in less wealthy countries and the inclusion of biodiversity in national accounts.

Through the Commission, the European Union has already developed a Biodiversity Strategy³⁰ for 2020, and the European Parliament has adopted a resolution on the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030³¹. This resolution essentially endorses the text of the strategy proposed by the Commission, but also calls on the Commission to broaden the scope of the strategy and include some further proposals, reiterating its position that, in addition to the ecosystem protection targets of at least 30% by 2030, COP15 should also call for at least 30% of damaged ecosystems to be restored, with the aim of reversing the global biodiversity loss curve by

2030. It calls for the EU to set similar targets within its borders, with a governance framework to ensure policy coherence and a legally binding system in the form of a European biodiversity law to be presented in 2022.

1.5 From the Rome Global Health Summit to the Health Ministers' Summit. The Health G20 and ASviS's contribution

In signing the Rome Declaration³² on the occasion of the Global Health Summit of 21 May 2021, organised by the Italian G20 Presidency and the European Commission, the G20 leaders set out their commitments in 16 points³³, based on the sharing of lessons learned during the pandemic. Firstly, the need to strengthen cooperation in order to prevent and adequately respond to future pandemics, with reference to achievement of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. The importance of the One Health vision - according to which human health, animal health and ecosystem health are inextricably linked - in tackling the threat of antimicrobial resistance was then highlighted. The first principles of the declaration also include the need to promote “health for everyone in all policies”, by strengthening national policies and promoting accountability at the highest levels of government to improve response to emerging challenges, and the importance of strengthening the multilateral trading system, with particular reference to open, resilient, safe and reliable global supply chains, including raw materials for vaccine production and for the production of and

access to medicines, diagnostics, medical equipment, non-pharmaceutical products and raw materials to deal with public health emergencies. The summit leaders also declared their commitment to support the development of production capacity for goods and services to meet health needs; to strengthen existing prevention structures; and to invest in community health and health systems to achieve inclusive, high-quality services, continuity of care, and local and home-based care in all countries. Finally, the principles of the declaration include combating the social determinants of disease, such as poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, and dialogue with local communities, especially vulnerable groups.

In view of the growing awareness of the importance of health issues for global growth, and taking into account the pandemic crisis and the need to address health challenges at an international level, the Italian G20 Presidency planned a series of preparatory initiatives in 2021 for the Global Health Summit in May and the Final Declaration signed by health ministers³⁴ at the Rome Summit held from 5-6 September 2021. Starting with an analysis of the impact of the pandemic on the SDGs, the ministers aimed to provide specific indications regarding the changes needed to achieve greater resilience and to boost scientific research, international collaboration and public-private

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

After a year-long postponement due to the pandemic, Expo 2020 Dubai, the first universal exhibition in an Arab world country, will start in October. Since last year, ASviS has been the scientific partner of the Italian Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, designed to stage the theme “Beauty unites people” in a creative and innovative way. The project enables the creation of an exhibition space that also represents the best of Italian talent, offering visitors a memorable experience, and enhancing for the eyes of the world multidisciplinary skills and talents that may promote new educational, professional and entrepreneurial opportunities. The Italian Pavilion was created with the contribution of large, medium and small partner companies, who were asked to provide the best construction, plant engineering, technological and set design components, in order to showcase the most innovative skills currently deployed for sustainability, the circular economy and digital architecture. Expo 2020 Dubai will provide an opportunity for Italy to revive and reaffirm all aspects of its talents and expertise regarding sustainability issues. The materials used to cover and set up the Italian Pavilion - the outcome of creativity, advanced research and “made in Italy” innovation - reflect the more general concept of the upcoming global event: “Connecting minds, creating the future”. As part of the activities planned for the week dedicated to sustainability in January 2022, ASviS will organise a forum on the SDGs: a major conference with international guests on the importance of sustainability for worldwide recovery, as well as an international event catering to the academic world, in collaboration with the University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS).

partnerships. The summit provided an opportunity to reinforce the message of cooperation, solidarity and fairness, based on the conviction that no one should be left behind.

With regard to the four meetings of the Health Working Group (HWG)³⁵, which took place in 2021 ahead of the above summits - which were attended by delegates from member countries and international organisations, including ASviS - the ASviS Working Group on Goal 3 and the ASviS Research Department contributed to the activities carried out by the ministry of health for the G20 Health meeting, prearranging the documentation required to organise the meetings and providing feedback to the concept notes drawn up after the meetings, and also presenting **An analysis of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the SDGs in Italy** at the first Health Working Group meeting on 26 February 2021.

1.6 Proposals put forward during HLPF 2021

At the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2021, UN Secretary General António Guterres outlined what will be needed to turn the serious situation around at planetary level, by relying on knowledge, science, technology and the planet's resources. Mr Guterres stressed the urgent need for unity of purpose, effective leadership by all sectors, swift and ambitious action to end the pandemic everywhere, and to put the SDGs back on track. He highlighted four key areas.

First of all, everyone, everywhere, must have access to Covid-19 vaccines, tests, treatments and support. The development and dissemination of vaccines, including via the global equity mechanism, the ACT-Accelerator and its COVAX Facility³⁶, are giving grounds for hope. However, there is no uniform access to these tools, especially vaccines, around the world and within countries. A global vaccination gap threatens everyone because, as the virus mutates, it could become even more transmissible or even more deadly. Promises of doses and funds are welcome, but they do not suffice. At least 11 billion doses are needed to vaccinate 70% of the world's population and put an end to this pandemic. We need a global immunisation plan to at least double vaccine production, ensure equitable distribution through COVAX, coordinate implementation and financing, and support national immunisation programmes. To implement this plan, Mr Guterres called for the setting up of an emergency task force comprising countries that produce and are capable of producing vaccines, the World Health Organisation (WHO), ACT-Accelerator partners and international financial institutions, which can deal with the pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers concerned and other key stakeholders. At this time, it is essential to fully fund the ACT-Accelerator and support the US\$50-billion investment roadmap, which will be led by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB), the WHO and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in order to end the pandemic and ensure a global recovery.

Secondly, urgent and ambitious climate action is needed, including regarding finance. A promising shift towards carbon neutrality is taking shape. By August, countries accounting for over 65% of harmful greenhouse gases and over 70% of the

world economy had committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. But we are still struggling to keep the temperature increase below 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, as established by the Paris Agreement. If the United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow is to be a turning point, all countries must commit to achieving zero emissions by the middle of the century, and submit nationally determined contributions aimed at cutting global emissions by at least 45% by 2030, compared to 2010 levels. Developing countries also need guarantees that their climate ambitions will be met with financial and technical support. This means delivering the US\$100 billion that developed countries have agreed to mobilise annually for mitigation and adaptation by 2020. A clear plan is required to fulfil this commitment and establish an essential level of trust in multilateral climate action. It is also necessary to accelerate the transition from coal, oil and gas to renewable forms of energy by adding green jobs and reducing inequalities. While public finance is vital, large-scale private finance is also essential. And it is also important that financing actors should refrain from engaging in any new international coal financing by the end of 2021.

Thirdly, we need to heed the lessons of this crisis and invest in fairer and more inclusive societies. This requires each country to provide an opportunity base for everyone, by expanding access to universal health coverage, health protection, quality education and digital connectivity. There is an urgent need to focus on the transformative impact of changing power dynamics through ambitious measures to promote gender equality and gender-balanced leadership in all areas, as well as measures to ensure the economic inclusion of women. There must be zero tolerance of any form of violence against women. Every National Recovery and Resilience Plan should include significant investment in the care economy and infrastructure. This will alleviate the burden of unpaid care work, allow women to join the workforce, and at the same time create sustainable green jobs. Attention should be focused on employment and decent work, by increasing the availability of jobs and training for young people, improving working conditions and rights, and supporting people in the informal sector. Investment is needed in life-long learning and vocational retraining to enable a gradual transition to sustainability, and to exploit the potential for job creation.

Fourthly, underpinning progress in the previous three areas, is financing for development. In advanced economies, fiscal stimulus packages have reached almost 28% of GDP. In middle-income countries, this figure drops to 6.5%, and in less developed countries to 1.8%. Many developing countries cannot afford to invest in response or recovery because of crippling interest payments and reduced tax-raising opportunities. By delaying a strong global recovery, this liquidity crisis could end up costing the world trillions of dollars and create new geographical hotspots of poverty and hardship. Solidarity and self-interest require advanced economies to cast out an economic safety net. The steps taken by the International Monetary Fund, the G20 and others, including the new round of Special Drawing Rights, the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments, are to be welcomed. But a stronger commitment is needed. Aid must be extended to all vulnerable middle-income countries and small island developing states that require it. In the long term, a reformed and fairer international debt architecture should also be considered. Taxation is one of the most powerful instruments available to governments to finance sustainable development. The historic G20 agreement on a new international fiscal architecture is positive, but governments should also consider a form of solidarity tax linked to Covid-19, in order to reduce extreme inequalities. Taxation should also be used to support the shift towards sustainable and circular economies.

1.7 Key reports and analysis from international organisations

Over the past year, several important reports and position papers have been published on various issues closely related to sustainable development and recovery from the pandemic. The ones closely linked to the institutional activities of the European Union will be dealt with in Chapter 2. Some of the key reports are discussed below, and a complete list is provided in the footnotes.

The most relevant in terms of impact on the path to sustainable development is undoubtedly the report of Working Group I of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, published on 9 August, which states that many of the observed changes in the climate have been unprecedented for thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already underway, such as the continued rise in sea levels, are irreversible over hundreds or thousands of years³⁷. The Working Group I Report is the first part of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022. Scientists have pointed out that sharp and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. While the benefits to air quality from reduced pollution would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilise.

The report provides new estimates of the chances of exceeding global warming by 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial era in the coming decades, and notes that, unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to around 1.5°C or even 2°C will be unachievable. It points out that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are responsible for around 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900, and notes that, on average over the next 20 years, global temperatures are expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming. This assessment is based on improved observational datasets to evaluate historical warming, as well as advances in the scientific understanding of the climate system's response to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Many characteristics of climate change directly depend on the level of global warming, but what people experience is often very different from the global average. For example, global warming is higher than the global average and more than double in the Arctic re-

gion, which has global political, economic and environmental consequences.

The report predicts that climate change will increase in all regions in the coming decades. 1.5°C of global warming would bring increasing heat waves, longer hot seasons and shorter cold seasons. With 2°C of global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report points out. But it is not just a question of temperature. Climate change is bringing about many changes in various regions, all of which will increase with further warming. These include changes affecting humidity and drought, winds, snow and ice, coastal areas and oceans. For example:

- Climate change is altering the water cycle. This results in more intense rainfall and related flooding, as well as more intense droughts in many regions.
- Climate change is influencing rainfall patterns. At high latitudes, rainfall is likely to increase, while it is expected to decrease over most subtropical areas. Changes in monsoon rainfall are expected to vary by region.
- Coastal areas will see a continuous rise in sea level throughout the 21st century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas and coastal erosion. Extreme sea level events, which previously occurred once every 100 years, could occur every year by the end of this century.
- Further warming will increase the thawing of permafrost and the loss of seasonal snow cover, the melting of glaciers and ice caps, and the loss of summer Arctic sea ice.
- Changes in the condition of the oceans, including their progressive warming, more frequent marine heat waves, ocean acidification and decreasing levels of oxygen, have been clearly linked to human influence and affect both marine ecosystems and the people who rely on them.
- Regarding cities, some aspects of climate change will have amplified effects, including on temperatures (urban areas are generally warmer than the surrounding environment), flooding due to increased heavy rainfall, and rising sea levels in coastal cities.

Equally important and worrying is the **IPBES** report on pandemics and biodiversity. It points out that in the future, pandemics will emerge more

often, spread more rapidly, cause more damage to the world economy and kill more people than Covid-19 unless there is a transformative change in our development model and global approach to the management of infectious diseases. As the underlying causes of pandemics are the same global environmental changes that drive biodiversity loss and climate change, the report points out that the risk of pandemics can be substantially prevented by reducing human activities that cause biodiversity loss, through responsible production and consumption, the preservation of protected areas, and via measures that reduce unsustainable exploitation of regions of high biodiversity, as well as wildlife-livestock-human contact.

The Emission Gap Report, published in December 2020, this year clearly illustrates the widening of the responsibility gap between rich and poor with regard to greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions of the richest 1% are more than double the combined emissions of the poorest 50%, highlighting that the richest elite will need to reduce their footprint by a factor of 30 to stay in line with the Paris Agreement targets. The report assesses the extent to which the unprecedented scale of the Covid-19 economic recovery measures represent an opportunity for a low-carbon transition, by creating the structural changes needed for emission reductions in line with the Paris Agreement targets. The report also includes a chapter on the promotion of low-emission lifestyles.

The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2021, published in January 2021, in particular reiterates the concern regarding the inadequacy of the financial resources earmarked for adaptation to climate change, which for developing countries are estimated at between US\$140-300 billion per year until 2030, possibly increasing to between US\$280-500 billion per year from 2030 to 2050, whilst the US\$100 billion per year covering both mitigation and adaptation action have yet to be secured. There is a strong imbalance between resources for mitigation and those for adaptation, as it is difficult to raise funds to invest in so-called off-market or common goods that benefit various stakeholders.

Another important contribution is made by the **World Social Report 2021**, published by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**, regarding the main social development issues around the world, which proposes new strategies to ensure that the 3.4

billion people living in rural areas are not left behind. A summary of global efforts aimed at promoting socio-economic growth and combating climate change in the midst of the recovery from Covid-19 is also presented. In particular, according to the report, an urgent reconsideration of rural development is needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals. Current rural development strategies and models fail to meet either the socio-economic or the environmental goals of the Agenda. Four out of five people affected by extreme poverty around the world live in rural areas, many of whom are experiencing severe depletion and degradation of natural resources, which contributes to climate change and the recurrence of zoonotic diseases, such as Covid-19. The report calls for an end to the rural-urban divide, and offers new approaches to advancing rural development that would enable rural populations to attain urban living standards without having to migrate to urban areas. These include harnessing new digital technologies, boosting the non-farm economy and increasing investment in public services and rural infrastructure, whilst protecting the health of the planet.

The **International Monetary Fund's July 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO)**, which revised data already published in April 2021, also sounded the alarm regarding economic issues. Access to vaccines emerged as the main fault line along which the global recovery divides into two blocks: countries that can expect further normalisation of activity by the end of the year (almost all advanced economies), and countries that will still face new infections and increased death from Covid-19. However, recovery is not assured even in countries where infection rates are currently very low, due to the fact that the virus is circulating elsewhere. The global economy is forecast to grow by 6% in 2021, and by 4.9% in 2022. The 2021 global forecast is unchanged from the April 2021 WEO, but with offsetting revisions. The outlook for emerging markets and developing economies has been downgraded for 2021, especially for emerging Asia. These revisions reflect developments in the pandemic and changes in political support. The 0.5 percentage point adjustment for 2022 largely stems from the expected revision for advanced economies, especially the United States, reflecting planned legislation for additional fiscal support in the second half of 2021

as well as, more generally, improved health metrics. However, risks are still abundant at global level. A slower than expected roll-out of vaccines would allow the virus to mutate further. Financial conditions could tighten rapidly, for example due to a reassessment of monetary policy projections in advanced economies, with projected inflation rising faster than expected, forcing central banks and governments to implement restrictive policies prematurely. A double blow to emerging markets and developing economies from worsening pandemic trends and external financial conditions would severely delay recovery and drag down global growth below expectations. Multilateral action has a vital role to play in reducing gaps and boosting global outlooks. The immediate priority is to distribute vaccines equitably around the world.

The Financing for Sustainable Development 2021 Report, produced by a task force comprising more than 60 UN agencies, draws some lessons from the pandemic crisis, highlighting how risks that are not directly economic have a strong impact on the economy and society. The segments of the population with the most marked pre-crisis inequalities have turned out to be the most vulnerable. The fundamental lesson to be drawn from the current crisis is that development which does not take into account possible future risks is neither inclusive nor sustainable. Disasters are often the outcome of decades of accumulated social, economic, financial and environmental risks. Risk drivers that have not been sufficiently addressed, such as high debt and excessive leverage, poverty and inequalities, non-resilient infrastructure and climate change, need to be minimised. Managing these risks is vital for achieving the SDGs and improving economic and financial stability. Therefore, governments need to design development policies that are future-proofed and aligned with the SDGs. Given that governments are identified as the “risk bearers of last resort” when a health, economic and/or environmental crisis occurs, private risks often turn into public debt. Public policies should be designed to create the most appropriate prevailing conditions for investors and other stakeholders by ensuring regulatory measures and incentives that are aligned with the SDGs (for example, through carbon pricing measures and mandatory risk assessment disclosures). The **Final Report of the Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity by Patna Das-**

gupta, commissioned by the UK government and published in February 2021, is particularly important. In key messages the report points out how the unsustainability of our relationship with nature is endangering the prosperity of current and future generations, whilst also highlighting a deeply rooted and widespread failure of institutions. The solution must start with the understanding and acceptance of a simple truth: our economies are rooted within nature, not outside it. Therefore, a development model must be ensured in which our demands on nature do not exceed what it can provide. And it is up to us to increase the resources made available by nature from current levels. In conclusion, transformative change is possible: we and our descendants deserve no less. A recent survey of G20 countries, conducted by the Global Common Alliance in cooperation with IPSOS Mori³⁸ and published on 16 August 2021, reported that 73% of respondents (79% of Italians) believe that the planet is reaching tipping points due to human action. 58% (69% of Italians) are extremely or very concerned about the state of nature, and 83% (86% of Italians) would like to do more to protect and regenerate the planet’s resources. It should be noted that in this survey, Italy expresses a higher level of sensitivity regarding these issues than the G20 average, and also compared to other EU countries.

In this context, the crucial change of course by the new US administration in the areas of climate change and combating the pandemic, as well as its openness to dialogue with the EU, despite the problems relating to the situation in Afghanistan, are signs of hope. The step change in planning, political and personal terms between the Trump and Biden administrations could hardly be greater. The White House has put combating climate change at the top of its agenda, making decarbonisation a priority that it intends to address in the first budget of the new administration’s term of office. The US\$3.5 trillion earmarked for just transition expenditure would be an economic package without parallel around the world, although, as is always the case in politics, we will need to see whether words are translated into deeds, which is complicated by the fact that President Biden’s Democratic Party has slim majorities of in the US Congress.

Finally, it is worth noting the importance of this year’s **Food Systems Summit**, convened in New York on 23 September. The summit is aimed at

finding shared solutions to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food. Guided by five Action Tracks, the summit will bring together key actors from science, business, politics, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous peoples, youth organisations, consumer groups, environmental activists and

other stakeholders. Before, during and after the summit, these actors will cooperate to try to bring about tangible and positive changes in world food systems. Between 26 and 28 July, Italy hosted the pre-summit meeting at FAO's Rome headquarters.

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS: AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE PAPAL ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI (ALL BROTHERS) IN THE LIGHT OF GOAL 16

“The capacity to mobilise civil society organisations in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity is vital in persuading states, supranational bodies and businesses to pursue a global vision of human activities centred on sustainability and equity rather than on the pursuit of profit and wealth for its own sake”.

This is one of the interpretations emerging from the ASviS Paper Fratelli Tutti (All Brothers) in the light of Goal 16 of the UN's 2030 Agenda³⁹, published on the occasion of the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, on Saturday 24 April 2021, which was presented to institutional and religious figures at an event organised in Rome by the Alliance together with the **Italian Embassy to the Holy See on Tuesday 22 June**⁴⁰.

The document, created at the instigation of the Prioritalia Foundation, the coordinator of the ASVIS Working Group on Goal 16, was produced thanks to the contributions of several Alliance members and authoritative external experts who, each in their own area of competence, analysed the paragraphs of the encyclical and related them to the Targets and principles of Goal 16, which aims to promote peaceful and more inclusive societies for sustainable development, guarantee access to justice for everyone, and create efficient, responsible and inclusive bodies at all levels.

This vast collective work, defined as a “reasoned interpretation” of the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti, opens with an introduction by Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

In his Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti, which serves as a reference for believers and non-believers alike, Pope Francis sets out a path for strengthening peace, multilateralism and strong institutions, based on an integral human development approach which calls for “**a better kind of politics**” that is able to interpret people's needs, resolve crisis situations and include marginalised areas and people.

The ASviS Paper renders this value proposition by outlining a shared horizon that calls for our utmost commitment in order to respond to the challenges of our time in the name of dialogue and virtuous encounter among all kinds of diversity. But it also clearly provides an impetus for **political and civil action, seen as a vocation to mediate the complexity** of the various prevailing positions in order to achieve the common good.

The need to build a **systemic vision of the common good**, starting from a global vision based on the principles of sustainability and fairness, which thus includes civic-mindedness, through the “kind” actions of individuals in society. As affirmed in paragraph 174 of the encyclical: “Many groups and organisations within civil society help to compensate for the shortcomings of the **international community**, its lack of coordination in complex situations, its lack of attention to fundamental human rights and to the critical needs of certain groups. Here we can see a concrete application of the principle of subsidiarity, which justifies the participation and activity of communities and organisations on lower levels as a means of integrating and complementing the activity of the state. These groups and organisations often carry out commendable efforts in the service of the common good and their members at times show true heroism, revealing something of the grandeur of which our humanity is still capable”.

The Pope's vision - highlighting the essential role of fraternity and welcome as the quintessence of fair and inclusive policies for the common good, which are able to transmit values of solidarity and mutual respect, and curb forms of discrimination and violence - appears to be fully reflected in Goal 16 and its message based on the central importance of peace, justice and strong institutions to ensure fully active and responsible citizenship.

The relationship between the objectives of Goal 16 and the encyclical also reveals the urgent need to harness the potential of science, technology, and the organisational capacity and cultural renewal inherent in human intelligence to address the emergencies and the transition currently taking place. A transition that cannot disregard the consolidation of institutions and global governance and should seek to put into practice the principles set out in the various international declarations - on human rights, justice, peace, democracy, the environment - which unfortunately for a majority of people today are still only valid on paper, given the rootedness of authoritarian and undemocratic regimes, as recent international crises have shown. As Cardinal Turkson points out, quoting the encyclical: "War is not a ghost from the past but a constant threat".

NOTES

- ¹ https://www.corriere.it/politica/21_agosto_02/no-vax-chi-sono-ipsos-abd49852-f2fa-11eb-9e5d-11e1603bb92c.shtml
- ² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGjgqvag9_c&ab_channel=PresidenzadellaRepubblicaItalianaQuirinale
- ³ Doubts remain about the ability to move away from coal use, as the communiqué points out: “But leaders failed to agree on a timetable for ending domestic coal use, resulting merely in a call to ‘accelerate’ the phase-out of coal and leaving the summit without a decisive outcome on a key climate issue”.
- ⁴ <https://www.g7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carbis-Bay-G7-Summit-Communique-PDF-430KB-25-pages-3-1.pdf>
- ⁵ <https://www.g20.org/italian-g20-presidency/engagement-groups.html>
- ⁶ <https://www.b20italy2021.org/>
- ⁷ <https://civil-20.org/>
- ⁸ <https://civil-20.org/2021/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/C20-Policy-Pack-2021-Building-a-sustainable-future-for-all-1.pdf>
- ⁹ <https://www.ituc-csi.org/l20-italy-2021?lang=en>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.t20italy.org/>
- ¹¹ <https://www.urban20.org/>
- ¹² <https://www.urban20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/U20-2021-Communique-Final.pdf>
- ¹³ <https://w20italia.it/>
- ¹⁴ <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/W20-Final-Communique.pdf>
- ¹⁵ <https://www.y20italy.it/>
- ¹⁶ https://www.youngambassadorssociety.it/Y20_2021_Communique.pdf
- ¹⁷ For the Environment communiqué see: <https://www.g20.org/it/i-ministri-dellambiente-del-g20-approvano-un-comunicato-congiunto.html> For the Energy and Climate communiqué see: <https://www.g20.org/it/la-riunione-ministeriale-g20-su-energia-e-clima-si-chiude-con-un-comunicato-congiunto.html>
- ¹⁸ <http://www.fao.org/food-coalition/en/>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Matera-Declaration.pdf>
- ²⁰ <http://www.fao.org/news/story/it/item/1413993/icode/>
- ²¹ <https://www.foundations-20.org/>
- ²² See https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2021-06/20210609_workshop_report_embargo_3pm_CEST_10_june_0.pdf
- ²³ IPBES, 2019, Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>
- ²⁴ See <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/> and also the UNEP report on the subject: <https://www.unep.org/resources/eco-system-restoration-people-nature-climate>
- ²⁵ See <https://undocs.org/A/RES/73/284>
- ²⁶ See Smil V., 2012, *Harvesting the Biosphere: What we have taken from nature*, MIT Press; Bar On Y., Phillips R e Milo R., 2018, *The biomass distribution on Earth*, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.* 115, 15: 6506-6511
- ²⁷ See <https://www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework>
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The 2030 Agenda in Europe



2. The 2030 Agenda in Europe

2.1 The 2030 Agenda guides the EU's response to Covid-19

The EU has confirmed its position as world leader of the sustainable development policies set out in the von der Leyen presidency's plan, by responding to the commitment to tackle "the climate and environmental-related challenges that is this generation's defining task", and developing policies for "an economy that works for people".

The last year has seen consolidation of the EU's measures to recover from the global crisis. The 2030 Agenda has been confirmed as a reference point for EU actions via the European Green Deal programme and implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Another central theme of EU policies is digital transformation, which is instrumental in the pursuit of the same goals. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement are consistently adopted as guidelines for EU external action and multilateralism.

As summarised in the conclusions of the Council of the European Union meeting of 22 June 2021 regarding A comprehensive approach to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development - Building back better from the Covid-19 crisis¹:

"The challenges posed by the Covid-19 crisis make it no longer a choice, but a necessity to accelerate innovative and decisive joint action and align investments towards the achievement of the SDGs, by undertaking urgent structural reforms and building back better and greener, to effectively address the root causes of zoonotic diseases as well as other shocks and future crises".

The Council of the European Union also welcomed the fact that the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs, as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Convention on Biological Diversity, have been established as guidelines for the European Commission's actions in defining all policies within and beyond the Union.

In recognition of the urgent need to accelerate action by all stakeholders at all levels, in order to realise the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda, the Council also highlights the principle of integration and indivisibility of the SDGs.

In this respect, the Council also noted the opportunities provided by the international agenda in 2021 - with particular reference to COP26 in Glasgow on climate change, COP15 in Kunming on biodiversity, the UN Food Systems Summit and G20 commitments including global health aspects - as instruments to improve and accelerate collective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated and coherent manner.

The Council also welcomes the Commission staff working document, Delivering on the UN Sustainable Development Goals: A comprehensive approach², adopted on 18 November 2020, emphasising that it summarises the Commission's commitment to integrate the 2030 Agenda into its various governance instruments - such as the European Semester, the Multiannual Financial Framework and the Next Generation EU recovery instrument - within instruments for improved regulation, in order to ensure policy coherence for EU engagement around the world, and within instruments for regular monitoring and reporting of its internal and external actions.

The Council highlights member states' responsibility in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, urging them to raise the level of ambition of national responses, by accelerating their integration within national planning tools, policies and strategies (including national sustainable development strategies) and budgetary instruments.

The Council also mentions and welcomes the objective of the communication on "Better regulation: joining forces to make better laws"³, which proposes a series of improvements, including an SDGs impact assessment to ensure that all legislative proposals contribute to the 2030 Agenda (a proposal recently relaunched by ASviS in an analysis of the NRRP presented on 27 May 2021), whilst verifying the principle of coherence.

As a further impetus, referring to the SDGs' governance structure at the European Commission level, the Council of the European Union calls for more guarantees for horizontal coherence between the respective responsibilities of Commissioners with respect to the SDGs, and effective coordination between Commission services and the European External Action Service. The Council also encourages the Commission to promote coherent and transformative policies, moving from an **administration-wide** to a **society-wide** approach.

An important aspect for integration of the various governance and monitoring instruments is once again to invite the Commission to:

- ascertain, within the context of the European Semester, how the PNRRs can contribute more effectively to implementation of the relevant SDGs;
- develop a coherent methodology for monitoring expenditure on the SDGs in all the relevant EU programmes of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, and the related shares of green budgeting, bearing in mind the principle of doing no significant harm under the EU Taxonomy Regulation, and the principle of *leaving no one behind*.

Highlighting the alignment of the European Pillar of Social Rights with the 2030 Agenda, the Council welcomes the Porto Social Summit⁴ of 7-8 May 2021 (see the box on page 43) which adopted the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights⁵ of 4 March 2021. In this context, the Council recalls the vital importance of other instruments adopted by the Commission, such as the European Agenda for Skills and the related Pact for Skills⁶.

Furthermore, the Council endorses inclusion of the implementation of the SDGs in the work of the Conference on the Future of Europe⁷ (see the box on page 37).

As part of the EU's multilateralism and external engagement, the Council particularly focuses on financial aspects, and relaunches the Commission's innovative proposal for a **global recovery initiative that links investment and debt relief to the SDGs, as a means for putting sustainable and inclusive recovery from the Covid-19 crisis on a truly transformative course, with a view to achieving the SDGs by 2030.**

In this regard, the Council also welcomes the work in progress within the G20/Paris Club on multilateral actions regarding debt and sustainable financing, such as the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and the new Common Framework for Debt Treatment.

Looking ahead, the Council of the European Union recognises the need for **strong and inclusive global governance and the importance of promoting further development of a global financial system that better preserves financial stability and supports sustainable development in its three dimensions.**

The Council also identifies trade as "a central instrument for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda", and commits to an open and transparent rules-based multilateral trading system in which the WTO has a central role. Indeed, trade agreements should be designed to be conducive to sustainable social and environmental development. The Council draws attention to the Commission's commitment to draw up a global decent work plan.

Finally, the Council invites the Commission to reaffirm the EU's commitment and leading role in the international arena by:

- presenting an integrated, strategic, ambitious and comprehensive approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the UN High-Level Political Forum HLPF 2021;
- preparing, by 2023 at the latest, a comprehensive voluntary review of the EU's internal and external implementation of the SDGs for consideration at the HLPF.

The Council's positions are consistent with those taken by the European Parliament. In particular, the European Parliament recommendation to the Council of 9 June 2021 on the 75th and 76th sessions of the United Nations General Assembly⁸ reiterates the call to maintain the frontline commitment to mobilising every means for effective implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda Goals in all internal and external EU policies, as well as in member states' national strategies and priorities.

The commission staff working paper Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals: A comprehensive approach⁹, adopted on 18 November 2020, and referred to by the Council, highlights the cohesion between the SDGs and the six points of the von der Leyen Commission's 2019-2024 Pro-

gramme, and the systemic approach of the policies that complement the Next Generation EU special pandemic recovery funds¹⁰.

The main regulations of the European Parliament and the Council governing the use of the funds - namely, the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** - Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of 12 February 2021¹¹; the REACT-EU - Regulation (EU) 2020/2221 of 23 December 2020¹²; the **Fair Transition Fund** - Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of 24 June 2021¹³ - still directly refer to the SDGs and the pursuit of European policies framed within them.

In particular, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, created to finance the NRRPs (accounting for the larger €672.5 billion portion of the total €750 billion), emphasises the close link between recovery and resilience measures and the 2030 Agenda framework. This provides grounds for its establishment in the absence of an instrument that provides direct financial support linked to the achievement of results and the implementation of reforms and public investment by member states in response to the challenges identified within the framework of the European Semester, including the European Pillar of Social Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and is also aimed at having a lasting impact on member states' productivity and economic, social and institutional resilience.

By financing reforms and investments to be implemented by 2026, as well as allocating at least 37% of the budget for the green transition, and at least 20% for digital transformation, the Facility lays down a horizontal rule that only measures in compliance with the principle of doing no significant harm to environmental objectives should be financed, referring to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (Taxonomy Regulation for Sustainable Investments)¹⁴. Therefore, member states are requested to verify the consistency of all investments with environmental objectives, following the technical guidance provided by the Commission¹⁵.

The Facility is aimed at introducing reforms based on solidarity, integration, social justice and a fair distribution of wealth, with a view to creating quality employment and sustainable growth, whilst guaranteeing equal opportunities and social protection, including in terms of access, protection of vulnerable groups and raising the standard of living of all Union citizens [...] so that the economies of the member

states recover, *leaving no one behind*. It also contributes to gender equality via a specific mention of Goal 5.

The Regulation refers to the Commission's delegated acts to establish common indicators to be used for progress reports and monitoring and assessment of the Facility, as well as to define a methodology for reporting on social expenditure, including on children and young people, within the scope of the Facility.

The PNRRs should also implement the European Semester's country recommendations, which are the EU's macroeconomic coordination instrument specifically intended to contribute to achievement of the EU Green Deal, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the SDGs, as set out in the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020¹⁶.

Indeed, the EU's own resources that will contribute to funding the budget are financed by European green bonds (30%)¹⁷, and by introducing green taxation (as a percentage on greenhouse gas emissions and plastic packaging)¹⁸, with a digital levy to encourage greater fiscal fairness, thereby promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, which together with Next Generation EU adds up to an unprecedented European budget of €1.8 trillion over seven years, seeks to finance the same EU objectives as those set out for Next Generation EU, within the framework of coherence of the European Semester with the 2030 Agenda.

Regarding the Multiannual Financial Framework and the disbursement of EU funds, a general conditionality regime has been established as of 1 January 2021 to protect the EU budget in the event of violations of the principles of the rule of law in member states, which may entail the suspension or reduction of EU funding in the event of infringement.²⁰

THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

On 9 May 2021, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950, deemed to be the historic event that led to the establishment of the current European Union, the long-awaited Conference on the Future of Europe was launched.

This common initiative of the three leading EU institutions - the European Parliament, the Council of the Union and the European Commission - as set out in the joint declaration shared by the three institutions²¹, aims to develop a “bottom-up”, citizen-centred process for Europeans to express their views on what they expect from the European Union. It will give citizens a stronger role in shaping the future policies and ambitions of the Union.

In particular, the engagement of young people is promoted, with their participation deemed **essential to ensure that the conference will have a lasting impact**.

The conference’s organisation is coordinated by an executive committee, consisting of equal representation of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission.

The plenary session of the conference is called upon to ensure that the recommendations of the citizens’ panels at national and European level are discussed without a predetermined outcome and without limiting the scope to predefined areas of action.

The first plenary session was held on 19 July 2021 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Contributions from all the events will be collected, analysed, monitored, and published throughout the conference via a multilingual digital platform²² in which citizens can share their ideas and submit contributions online.

The platform contains pre-selected key themes: climate change and the environment; health; a stronger and fairer economy; social justice and employment; the EU in the world; values and rights; the rule of law; security; digital transformation; European democracy; migration; education, culture, youth, and sport.

These themes are complemented by an “open box” for other cross-cutting themes (“other ideas”), where citizens are free to raise any issue that interests them.

Citizens and organisations are also invited to organise conferences and debate events on appropriate topics, and to disseminate them via the dedicated internet platform.

The main ideas and recommendations from the platform will be used as input for the European citizens’ committees and plenary sessions, where they will be discussed in order to reach conclusions for the conference, which is scheduled to end in spring 2022.

The 2022 deadline should allow for innovative proposals to be made, which could also concern treaty reform, to be implemented from the next European elections in 2024.

The proposals put forward by the European Parliament include, for example, issues such as the **system of lead candidates and transnational lists**²³, and re-examination of the issue of mandatory unanimity in the Council’s decision-making²⁴.

The success of the conference will depend on the ability to broaden participation as much as possible. As stated in the above-mentioned declaration by the three presidents: “It should be ensured that the conference is not confined to European capitals, but rather reaches every corner of the Union”.

And, as the Committee of the Regions²⁵ pointed out, the “conference should reach out to all parts of Europe, whether urban or rural, reaffirming that member states should actively contribute to shaping the conference at national level and ensuring the engagement of local and regional authorities”.

Therefore, as a representative of European civil society organisations, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)²⁶ intends to play a leading role in the conference proceedings, and strengthen its future role in the light of the outcomes of the conference, by recognising that **civil society is the guardian of the common good and is vital in finding solutions to Europe’s shared problems**.

2.2 Summary of innovations in the development of the 2019-2024 political mandate

Important cross-cutting European policies ahead of 2030 include the proposal adopted last year for an Eighth Environmental Action Programme to 2030²⁷. This has strengthened the role of the Green Deal in a systemic approach to 2030 Agenda policies, and the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights²⁸ adopted in the declaration of commitment at the EU Porto Social Summit (see box page 43), which sets the Union's social agenda to 2030 with the guiding aim of *leaving no one behind*.

With a view to adapting it to meet current and future environmental and social challenges, discussions continued between the EU institutions on the review of the macro-economic legislative framework²⁹, which will be incorporated within the discussions held with citizens and civil society at the Conference on the Future of Europe (see box on page 37).

In the quest to ensure that short-term actions are motivated by long-term objectives and enabling the EU to chart its own course and shape the world around it, the introduction of the annual Strategic Foresight Report³⁰ is an important innovation. Strategic foresight will be at the heart of EU policymaking in the new European legislative programme, as proposed by the European Commission on 29 April 2021³¹, which also incorporates future pursuit of the SDGs.

The European Commission developed the programme in accordance with six priorities defined at the beginning of the mandate by the von der Leyen presidency, regarding which some aspects and content have been supplemented and adapted to meet the challenges and new scenarios determined by the Covid-19 health, social and economic crisis.

In accordance with the programme's priorities, the new aspects are summarised below.

The European Green Deal

Work has continued on all of the Green Deal's eight macro-goals.

1. Making the EU's climate targets more ambitious. The European Climate Law³² has been approved, incorporating some of the calls for

the European Parliament to raise its ambitions by determining - in addition to climate neutrality by 2050 - a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (emissions less natural carbon sinks) of at least 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030. In addition, the introduction of a new target date of 2040 and the establishment of a European scientific advisory committee on climate change have been agreed. The new European climate change adaptation strategy was also adopted by the Commission on 24 February 2021³³.

2. Ensuring the supply of clean, affordable, and safe energy. In line with the objectives of the European Climate Law, a substantial package of measures called Fit for 55 was adopted on 14 July 2021³⁴. This includes new targets for renewable energy (40 % by 2030) and energy efficiency (9% reduction in demand by 2030 compared to 2020 projections), energy taxation, a border carbon tax, integration of the emission trading system, measures to reduce transport emissions (including new zero-emission vehicles from 2035), and natural carbon sinks. In particular, the establishment of a social climate fund financed by green taxation measures strengthens the link between green transition and social justice. In this context, the Commission affirms **solidarity as a principle of the European Green Deal, and transition as a unique opportunity to reduce systemic inequalities**.
3. Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy. On 5 May 2021, a revised version of the EU's industrial strategy to strengthen the industrial system in the light of the Covid-19 experience was adopted, to improve management of the EU's strategic dependence on overseas markets. On 10 February 2020, the Commission presented new regulations regarding batteries³⁵, a key issue for the transition to renewable energy and the deployment of electric mobility. On 13 November 2020, the new consumer agenda³⁶ was presented. In the meantime, on 25 November 2020 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the right to repair³⁷, bringing forward a proposal already envisaged in the Commission's agenda.
4. Building and renovating efficiently. On 14 October 2020, the initiative "A renovation wave



for Europe - Greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives”³⁸ was adopted. This envisages a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from existing building stock of at least 60% by 2030 compared to 2015, with a focus on the key role of the building sector in achieving the 2030 emission reduction targets. At the same time, Level(s), a European platform for sustainable buildings³⁹, and a New European Bauhaus initiative were launched to create a participatory vision of the future of the spaces we live in, including the aesthetic aspects of cities.

5. Accelerating the transition to sustainable and smart mobility. On 9 December 2020, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy - putting European transport on track for the future⁴⁰ was adopted, specifying as one of its preconditions the need to change the current small-changes mindset in favour of a radical transformation, which also sets precise targets for 2030, including:
 - > at least 30 million zero-emission vehicles in the EU;
 - > 100 European cities with zero climate impact;
 - > a doubling of high-speed rail traffic;
 - > carbon-neutrality for collective journeys of less than 500 km.
6. Designing a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system. As a development of the Farm to Fork Strategy, an organic farming action plan was adopted on 25 March 2021, which sets out the actions needed to achieve the target of at least 25% of EU farmland being farmed organically by 2030⁴¹. In the meantime, an agreement was reached on 25 June 2021 between the Council and Parliament regarding the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027⁴².
7. Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity. As a development of the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, a new Forest Strategy for 2030⁴³ was adopted on 16 July 2021, and also integrated into the above-mentioned Fit for 55 package, given the contribution forests make to the absorption of greenhouse gases, as well as to biodiversity and renewable resource production objectives. On 17 May 2021, a blue economy plan for the sea was also presented⁴⁴. Two specific resolu-

tions of the European Parliament are also particularly interesting:

- > the resolution of 9 June 2021 on the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030⁴⁵, which reiterates the policy to restore at least 30% of the EU’s land and sea areas, and includes a governance framework that envisages the introduction of a European Biodiversity Law to be presented in 2022;
 - > the resolution of 28 April 2021 on land protection⁴⁶, which calls for the introduction of a common legal framework at EU level for the protection and sustainable use of land.
8. Achieving zero pollution for an environment free of toxic substances. The related plan⁴⁷, which incorporates various complex and cross-sectoral aspects, including implications for human health, the health of ecosystems, and integration with the circular economy through transformation of production and consumption patterns, was adopted on 12 May 2020.

As a planned cross-cutting initiative within the European Green Deal, the European Climate Pact⁴⁸ was adopted on 9 December 2020. Regarding the participatory involvement of citizens and civil society in the Green Deal, the initiative is aimed at designing solutions in a socially just and equitable way, which is deemed to be an essential prerequisite for its success.

On 6 July 2021, the Strategy for Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Economy⁴⁹, which complements the programme already launched by the Commission in 2018, was also adopted. It was preceded on 21 April of this year by a sustainable finance⁵⁰ package⁵¹, which approved the sub-delegated acts of the sustainable investment taxonomy, and also the proposal to revise the directive on the disclosure of non-financial information⁵².

An economy that works for people

The above-mentioned Action Plan for the European Pillar of Social Rights adopted on 4 March 2021, sets precise targets for 2030. The primary target is that **at least 78 per cent of the population aged between 20 and 64 should have a job by 2030.**

A proposal for a directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union⁵³, which is currently being discussed by the Parliament and the Council, had already been adopted on 28 October 2020.

A proposal for a directive to strengthen the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women⁵⁴ was adopted on 4 March 2021.

Also linked to the above Action Plan is the EU Strategy Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027⁵⁵, which was adopted on 2 June 2021.

A Business Taxation for the 21st Century programme⁵⁶, which is linked to the international agreements under discussion at the G20 on the taxation of multinationals, was adopted on 18 May 2021.

New anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing rules⁵⁷ were presented on 20 July 2021.

The specific resolutions of the European Parliament are also particularly interesting:

- resolution of 21 January 2021 to introduce a directive on the right to disconnect⁵⁸;
- resolution of 17 December 2020 on sustainable corporate governance⁵⁹;
- resolution of 10 March 2021 on the introduction of mandatory due diligence and accountability⁶⁰ for all companies operating in the EU, aimed at ensuring respect for human rights and the pursuit of global environmental objectives in value chains.

A Europe fit for the digital age

Based on the programme outlined in the communication on Shaping Europe's Digital Future adopted prior to the pandemic, on 9 March 2021 the Compass for the Digital Decade 2021-2030⁶¹ was adopted, which complements the previous programme by setting targets ahead of 2030.

The programme is structured around four compass points: training, infrastructure, businesses and public services.

The 2030 goal for infrastructure aims to have all homes reached by a gigabit network, with all populated areas covered by 5G, as well as sustainable EU production of semiconductors and processors accounting for at least 20% of the value of global production.

In addition to the four compass points, definition of the principles of European digital citizenship is proposed, with direct reference to the EU treaties, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The digital age programme also included special innovative measures for market regulation and consumer protection in line with the principle that what is illegal offline is also illegal online, such as the proposed regulations for digital services⁶² and the digital market⁶³ adopted on 15 December 2020.

The EU's Cyber Security Strategy for the Digital Decade was also adopted on 16 December 2020⁶⁴.

A new package on artificial intelligence (AI) was adopted on 21 April 2021⁶⁵, which introduces market regulations to address the need to take advantage of the opportunities and benefits that AI can bring to society, while avoiding the risks it can generate, with the aim of fostering trust without hindering innovation.

On 30 September 2020, the European Research Area (ERA) Innovation Programme was renewed⁶⁶, which is aimed at responding to the challenges of the dual green and digital transition. On 15 March 2021, the Strategic Plan of the Horizon Europe Research Programme was launched⁶⁷.

Promoting the European way of life

Target 2 of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan sets a goal of at least 60 per cent of adults participating in training each year to improve employability, encourage innovation, ensure social equity and prepare the workforce for the green and digital transitions. Adult education actions, as emphasised in various EU documents, are also key for the future preservation of democracy and to guarantee citizenship rights, such as access to welfare and the empowerment of women.

The target effectively complements the European Skills Agenda, which was followed on 30 September 2020 by the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027⁶⁸. In combination with the above target and the 2030 digital compass, this plan con-

Figure 1 - The European Commission's priorities and the SDGs. Source: European Commission



tributes to the goal of achieving at least 80% of people aged between 16 and 74 with basic digital skills, and more than 20 million information and communication technology (ICT) specialists, involving increasingly equal numbers of men and women.

The Council Resolution of 22 February 2021 adapted the European Education Area⁶⁹, by defining common objectives and governance for cooperation between member states.

In the light of experience gained with Covid-19, a key proposal for the education system is the Council recommendation to member states on blended learning to support high quality and inclusive primary and secondary education of 5 August 2021⁷⁰, which includes recommendations on further management of the pandemic phase, and on educational recovery and resilience investment.

On 24 November 2020, the Commission adopted the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027⁷¹, which includes a substantial section on education, as well as on health, employment and the right to housing.

A new Pact on Migration and Asylum⁷² was adopted on 23 September 2020, which launched a comprehensive agenda that was followed on 27 April 2021 by adoption of the EU's Voluntary Return and Reintegration Strategy⁷³.

On 14 April 2021, the EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted⁷⁴.

Regarding health protection, the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan⁷⁵ and a Pharmaceutical Strategy⁷⁶ were adopted and integrated with the response to Covid-19 by the European Union Health Programme⁷⁷.

A stronger Europe in the world

The EU's commitment to multilateralism has been significantly boosted over the past year, within the context of the G7 and the G20, and with regard to bilateral actions with the new Biden presidency in the United States, Canada, Japan and China, and, on conclusion of the Brexit agreement, with the United Kingdom.

The agreements are aimed at “building the world back better” after the pandemic crisis, with a common understanding of the commitments to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and a digital transformation focused on respect for human rights.

With regard to aid to non-EU countries, in particular in the US-EU Summit Statement⁷⁸, a willingness was expressed to explore the possibility of introducing innovative instruments such as “debt swaps”, which are in line with the Commission's proposal, reiterated by the Council in its aforementioned conclusions of 22 June 2021, to consider “a global recovery initiative that links investment and debt relief to the SDGs”.

In particular, the Commission set out its strategic position with the adoption of the communications of 17 March 2021 on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism⁷⁹, and of 18 March 2021 on the Trade Policy Review - An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy⁸⁰ to meet the challenges of the 21st century, including proposals to reform the WTO, establishing as principles a **shared purpose among members focused on sustainable development and guaranteeing a level playing field**.

New impetus for European democracy

On 2 December 2020, the Commission simultaneously adopted the Strategy to Strengthen the Application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union⁸¹ and, on 3 December 2020, the European Democracy Action Plan⁸², which identifies as a core action the promotion of democratic engagement and active participation beyond elections by citizens and civil society.

Since 2020, the Commission has also introduced the publication of an annual report on respect for the rule of law in order to prevent violations and non-respect of EU values. The report's second edition⁸³ was published on 20 July 2021, accompanied by assessments and recommendations by member

states⁸⁴, which complement the country reports included in the European Semester. On 23 July 2021, the EU Compliance Monitoring Report⁸⁵ was also adopted.

Also important is the adoption of the strategic initiatives regarding equal opportunities and anti-discrimination that the Commission has grouped under the heading A Union of Equality, in relation to anti-racism, and Roma, disabled and LGBTIQ people.

In response to violations of LGBTIQ rights in Poland and Hungary, on 11 March 2021 the European Parliament declared “the European Union to be an LGBTIQ freedom zone”⁸⁶.

The above-mentioned European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan set the target of reducing the number of people at risk of social exclusion or poverty by at least 15 million, including 5 million children by 2030.

At the same time, on 4 March 2020, the Commission adopted the European Strategy on the Rights of the Child⁸⁷.

Following on from the Report on the Impact of Demographic Change of 16 June 2020, which was prioritised on the EU policy agenda, the Commission presented the Green Paper on Ageing on 27 January 2021⁸⁸, with the aim of launching a policy debate for future policies, and anticipating challenges and opportunities, with specific reference to the perspectives of the 2030 Agenda.

The Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas: Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040⁸⁹ was adopted on 30 June 2021, once again with the aim of promoting and contributing to achievement of the 2030 Agenda Goals.

THE EU PORTO SOCIAL SUMMIT: SOCIAL POLICIES TO 2030, *LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND*

Announced by Portuguese President António Costa as the central event of his six-month presidency of the Council of the European Union⁹⁰, the Porto Social Summit of the EU institutions was held on 7 and 8 May 2021.

With the aim of defining the European agenda for social policies to 2030, the summit referred to the European Social Rights Action Plan recently adopted by the Commission on 4 March 2021. The outputs of the summit are also extremely important on the global citizenship front, which is given prominence in the documents produced.

The Commission, the Parliament and the Council signed a declaration of commitment to pursue the Action Plan, including a series of initiatives and three main targets to be achieved across Europe by 2030:

- an employment rate of at least 78% in the European Union;
- at least 60% of adults participating in training courses each year;
- a reduction of at least 15 million in the number of people at risk of social exclusion or poverty, including 5 million children.

The foreword of the Declaration recalls the guiding goal of the 2030 Agenda: *Leave no one behind*.

The Covid-19 context, and the need for an urgent and appropriate response, is a special focus of the declaration, which stresses the importance of prioritising action to support activities, communities and people particularly affected by the crisis.

It refers to the recently adopted European Child Guarantee⁹¹ as an implementation instrument for the target of reducing the number of children at risk of poverty to no more than 5 million across the EU.

The declaration then highlights the need to strengthen social and territorial cohesion through multilevel engagement of institutions, from the European to the local level, by focusing on the measures needed to intervene among the social groups and territories that are most deeply and persistently affected by social problems in the EU, via the strengthening of essential services and infrastructure.

The points highlighted include the promotion of social dialogue, gender equality, combating discrimination of all kinds and also ensuring equal opportunities for the most vulnerable social groups.

These priorities confirm that the actions of the plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights will be monitored in the European Semester and its various implementation instruments.

Moreover, they highlight the need to invest in the implementation of the plan by using the extraordinary resources made available to support European recovery. This is an opportunity not to be missed to move towards improving implementation of the necessary reforms at national level.

Finally, they draw attention to the opening of the Conference on the Future of Europe, aimed at fostering debate with citizens and further strengthening Europe's social dimension.

At the press conference⁹², the president of the Parliament, David Sassoli, also added that lessons should be drawn from the pandemic, and made the following remarks:

“In order not to go back and to reduce inequalities, we will also have to work on the debts incurred to protect our citizens in these times of pandemic. We do not want our most vulnerable citizens, women, and young people, to carry the brunt of the crisis tomorrow.

Therefore, we need to start a debate today on the rules after Covid and reform the Stability and Growth Pact. The new European-style policy initiated by President Biden, also invites us not to have taboos.

We do not want to go back. Going back is not an option”.

2.3 European public opinion

In recent months, two specific opinion polls of the EU's population, conducted by Eurobarometer, have been conducted to assess recovery and resilience measures one year after the start of the pandemic, and in preparation for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

European public opinion on recovery and resilience⁹³

The poll was carried out in March and April 2021, one year after the start of the pandemic.

The main findings are that:

- 31% (45% in Italy) of Europeans saw their personal financial situation worsen during the pandemic. A further 26% (31% Italy) expect that this may happen again;
- 58% (49% in Italy) believe that the health benefits of restrictive measures in their country outweigh the economic damage they may have caused;
- citizens are aware of the EU's efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic: eight out of ten Europeans have seen, heard or read about such actions, and almost 48% (40% in Italy) are aware of the extent of the measures;
- the generally positive opinion of the image of the EU is among the highest in the last decade: on average, almost one in two citizens (48%) have a positive view of the EU (41% in Italy; neutral opinions of 37%);
- 74% (76% in Italy) would like the EU to acquire more expertise to deal with crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, with 28% (24% in Italy) totally agreeing;
- 28% (15% in Italy) are in favour of a European Union as it is today, and 47% (49% in Italy) are in favour of the EU, but not in the way it is today;
- when asked about their expectations regarding the European Parliament, citizens said they would like their elected representatives to focus on public health (49% - 75% in Italy), followed by combating poverty and social exclusion (39% - 36% in Italy), measures to support the economy and the creation of new jobs (39% - 53% in Italy), and actions to combat climate change (34% - 24% in Italy).

European public opinion on the Conference on the Future of Europe⁹⁴

In a poll carried out in October and November 2020, in preparation for the Conference on the Future of Europe, the main findings are:

- 76% (75% in Italy) of citizens agree that the conference marks a significant step forward for democracy in the EU, with 25% completely agreeing (26% in Italy), and 51% agreeing to some extent (49% in Italy). 73% (68% in Italy) of the over-55 age group were less confident;
- 51% (35% in Italy) believe that ordinary citizens should be more engaged in the conference, while 47% (39% in Italy) believe that young people should be more engaged. Therefore, the difference of opinion between Italians and the EU average regarding the engagement of citizens and young people is significant;
- a higher 43% proportion of Italians believe national governments should be more engaged (compared to 42% at EU level);
- 51% of respondents were interested in participating, compared to 59% of Italians. In particular, 77% for the 25-29 age group, followed by 72% for the 15-24 age group;
- the greatest challenges in EU citizens' opinion are climate change at 45% (37% in Italy), terrorism at 38% (30% in Italy), health-related risks at 37% (45% in Italy), and migration and forced displacement at 27% (33% in Italy);
- a demand exists for greater decision-making capacity by the EU: in the long term, 42% call for more decisions to be taken at EU level (36% in Italy), while 20% call for fewer decisions to be taken at EU level (same figure for Italy);
- regarding the presentation of transnational lists and lead candidates at EU level, 42% (40% in Italy) think it is a good thing, while 19% (16% in Italy) think it is a bad thing.

THE CITIZENS' CLIMATE CONVENTION IN FRANCE

The Citizens' Climate Convention was an assembly of French citizens held from 2019 to 2021, at which discussion was focused on proposing measures to reduce France's greenhouse gas emissions by 40% compared to 1990 levels. The convention was established in response to the Yellow Vests' protests against a fuel tax, and was modelled on a number of other deliberative democracy experiments. The members of the convention were 150 randomly selected citizens, aimed to be representative of the French public in six demographic dimensions: gender, age, socio-economic background, education level, type of position and province. The convention was assisted by a series of committees, with members divided into working groups on five topics within the climate change macro-theme: food, housing, employment, transport and consumption.

The work of the convention was initially divided into six sessions, with an additional seventh official session and three unofficial sessions: two virtual sessions between the sixth and seventh sessions, and an eighth session to evaluate the Government's climate bill. The sessions were held from the weekend of 5 October 2019, but the seventh session was delayed by the pandemic, and ended on 21 June 2021. In total, the convention approved 149 proposals among the working groups, of which President Emmanuel Macron promised to implement 146.

2.4 The situation of the European Union with regard to the SDGs

For its annual report, ASviS updates the composite indicators used to monitor the performance of the European Union and its member states regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. Following last year's update of national indicators, the list of European indicators has been updated in this report. This has a twofold objective: to improve the quality of the information disseminated, using the new information made available by the EU statistical office (Eurostat), and to standardise, as far as possible, the European and national measurement systems⁹⁶ presented in Chapter 3.

This analysis is based on data published by Eurostat regarding over 80 elementary indicators, aggregated into 16 composite indicators⁹⁷, which enable assessment of progress and critical areas in individual countries in comparison with the EU average. This information must be considered in the definition of EU policies and is useful for monitoring the EU's progress towards achieving the objectives of the Green New Deal⁹⁸. Due to the unavailability of data, it is not possible to assess the performance of the EU and its member states compared to 2020, and therefore the impact of the pandemic on the Agenda's Goals has not been assessed.

For most of the SDGs, these aggregate results are determined by very different situations in the member states. Therefore, two different approaches are adopted:

- an analysis of composite indicators for the European Union as a whole, including with reference to the simple indicators that, for each Goal, present the greatest strengths or weaknesses;
- individual states' performances and differences over time, also with reference to the values of the composite as well as the elementary indicators that define their performance and level. The values for each composite indicator calculated for the EU are determined by the level and performance of the elementary indicators for the individual countries, which are in turn aggregated, thereby producing composite indicators for each Goal at the individual country level. For

each Goal, a bar graph showing the levels of the composite indicators in 2010 and 2019 is also presented.

Based on this analysis, between 2010 and 2019, the European Union, the area of the world that has made most progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, shows signs of improvement for 12 Goals (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16), deterioration for two (Goals 15 and 17) and substantial stability for two (Goals 6 and 10). Between 2018 and 2019, however, positive performances were registered for 10 Goals (Goals 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16), negative performance for one (Goal 15) and unchanged performance for five (Goals 2, 4, 6, 10, 17).

Based on this analysis, Italy is below the European average for 10 of the 16 indicators analysed (Goal 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17), in line for three (Goal 3, 13 and 15) and above average for three (Goal 2, 7 and 12). This fully confirms our report's assessment of a critical situation for Italy about the SDGs.

Taking a medium-term view, between 2010 and 2019 the situation in Europe improves for the following Goals:

GOAL 1 - NO POVERTY

The composite indicator deteriorated between 2010 and 2014, followed by a more significant improvement from 2017 to 2019. In 2019, the indicator is at a better level than in 2010, mainly due to a decrease in the number of people living in dwellings with structural problems (down 3.6 percentage points between 2010 and 2019). The indicators regarding poverty risk, material deprivation and low work intensity also improve. The only indicator that is worse in 2019 than in 2010 is the share of people in work at risk of poverty, which rose from 8.5% in 2010 to 9% in 2019.

GOAL 2 - ZERO HUNGER

The composite indicator is stable between 2010 and 2015, followed by an improvement between 2016 and 2019, primarily due to reduced use of pesticides and an improvement in agricultural profitability (from €13,317 per hectare in 2010 to €16,186 in 2018). However, compared with 2010, the use of fertilisers increased and ammonia emissions were largely stable. Finally, it should be

noted that the share of organic crops increased by 2.6 percentage points between 2012 and 2019, reaching 8.5% of the total, still a long way from the target set by the Farm to Fork Strategy of reaching 25% by 2030.

GOAL 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

With the exception of 2015, the composite indicator improved between 2010 and 2019. Between the first and the last year analysed, road accidents (1.6 fewer deaths per 100,000 inhabitants) and preventable mortality fell, while life expectancy improved (from 79.8 to 81.3 years). It should be noted that in 2019, also in comparison with 2010, the share of the population over 65 vaccinated against influenza (down 6.9 percentage points), as well as the number of hospital beds per capita (41.9 fewer beds per 100,000 inhabitants) decreases, with their indicators standing at 42.4% and 532 beds per 100,000 inhabitants respectively in 2019.

GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

The composite indicator improved throughout the period under review, driven by an increase in the share of university graduates (from 32.2% to 39.5%) and a fall in the share of early school leavers from 13.8% to 10.2%. The share of university graduates, although increasing, is still 11.5 percentage points below the EU target of 50% by 2030, whereas the share of early school leavers (10.2% in 2019) is significantly closer to the target share of 10% set by the European Education Area, to be reached by 2030. Critical issues are highlighted regarding students' reading, mathematics and science skills. The indicator - which is the only one of the analysed indicators that worsened over the period analysed - shows an increase of 3.6 percentage points between 2012 and 2018 in the share of students who do not achieve basic skills; in particular, reading skills deteriorate by 4.5 percentage points, and science skills by 5.5 points.

GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

The composite indicator improved throughout the observed time series, mainly due to increases in the share of women in managerial positions (up 16.6 percentage points between 2010

and 2019), and in the share of female members of national parliaments (up from 24.0% in 2010 to 32.1% in 2019). However, regarding the latter the EU is still a long way from the target share set by the European Pact for Gender Equality (50% by 2030). The share of women who are inactive due to care responsibilities also deteriorates (up 6.1 percentage points between 2010 and 2019), amounting to 32.3% in the last year observed.

GOAL 7 - CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY

The composite indicator consistently improves between 2010 and 2019, due to an improvement in both the elementary indicators used. Energy productivity rises from €6.8 to €8.4 per kilogram of oil equivalent. The share of renewable energy increases by 5.3 points to reach 19.7% of the total, but is still a long way from the 40% target set by the European Renewable Energy Directive, to be achieved by 2030.

GOAL 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The composite indicator is largely stable between 2010 and 2013, followed by an improvement between 2015 and 2019. All of the indicators analysed are at a higher level in 2019 than in 2010, although several of them deteriorated in the early years of the series. Disposable income (up €4,101 per capita between 2010 and 2019), and the number of people killed in accidents at work, which fell from 2.3 to 1.8 deaths per 100,000 workers between 2010 and 2018, performed particularly well. The number of NEETs (down from 15.4% to 12.6%) and the employment rate (up from 67.9% to 73.2%) also improved between 2010 and 2019, although both indicators still fall short of the relative targets set by the European Pillar for Social Rights (9% and 78% respectively), to be achieved by 2030.

GOAL 9 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The indicator improves between 2010 and 2019, driven by increases in the shares of households with a VHCN connection (15.7% in 2013, 49.8% in 2019), employees specialised in science and technology (40.0% in 2010, 46.9% in 2019), and

research and development personnel (1.07% in 2010, 1.41% in 2019). The share of GDP spent on research and development (up from 2.0% in 2010 to 2.2% in 2019) improves slightly, although this is still far from the EU target of 3% by 2030, while industrial sector emissions and the share of passengers using public transport are substantially in line with 2010 levels. Finally, the indicator for the share of freight transported by rail deteriorates, declining from 25.4% in 2010 to 23.7% in 2019, a far cry from the target set in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, which calls for this share to be doubled⁹⁹ by 2050.

GOAL 11 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The composite indicator shows improvement between 2010 and 2014 and substantial stability between 2015 and 2019, albeit with an upturn in the last year. The slight but overall improvement in the composite indicator between 2010 and 2019 is due to a decrease in the population's exposure to air pollution by particulate matter, which fell from 27.2 to 20.5 µg/m³ between the first and last years considered. An improvement was also registered in the overcrowding rate, which has fallen from 19.1% in 2010 to 17.1% in 2019. The share of passengers using a car for travel is unchanged over the decade (82.8% in 2019).

GOAL 12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Except for 2011, the composite indicator shows constant improvement. The most significant improvements between 2010 and 2019 regard the share of electric cars (reaching 264.3 cars per 100,000 in 2019), and the recycling rate of municipal waste, which rose from 38.0% in 2010 to 47.7% in 2019, for which a European target of reaching 55% by 2025 has been set (Circular Economy Package Directive). The only indicator that deteriorates between 2010 and 2018 is waste production, which stands at 1,820 kg per capita in 2018 (up 5.8% compared to 2010).

GOAL 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

Greenhouse gas emissions, the headline indicator used for this Goal, fluctuates during the time se-

ries analysed. Emissions decline between 2010 and 2014, corresponding to the economic crisis, followed by a largely stable period between 2015 and 2017, and a further reduction in emissions in the last two years observed.

GOAL 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The composite indicator fluctuates between 2010 and 2015, and then shows a consistent improvement between 2016 and 2019. The homicide rate and the share of the population reporting occurrences of crime and violence in their area decline in comparison with 2010. The number of people carrying out e-government activities also rises (from 20% in 2010 to 36% in 2019) and prison overcrowding declines (from 105.3 % in 2010 to 98.1 % in 2019). However, the average duration of civil and commercial proceedings, which rose from 265.8 days in 2010 to 311.3 in 2018, marks a deterioration.

The situation regarding two Goals deteriorates:

GOAL 15 - LIFE ON LAND

The composite indicator steadily declines throughout the time series analysed. The critical issues regarding this Goal relate to the continuous increase in land consumption. Soil sealing increased from 1.7% in 2012 to 1.8% in 2018, while the indicator that measures indexed land use in hectares rose from 103.5 points in 2012 to 108.3 points in 2018. The only indicator that improves over the period under review is forest cover, which rose from 42.6% to 43.5% of European land between 2012 and 2018.

GOAL 17 - PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

The index shows an overall deterioration, mainly due to a reduction in imports from developing countries which fell from 5.4% to 3.7% of GDP between 2010 and 2019, and a decrease in the share of environmental taxes (down from 6.2% to 5.9%). The share of official development assistance, albeit variable, is unchanged between the beginning and the end of the observation period (0.41% of GNI), while public debt improves, falling from 80.5% in 2010 to 77.5% in 2019.

Finally, the situation is stable for two Goals:

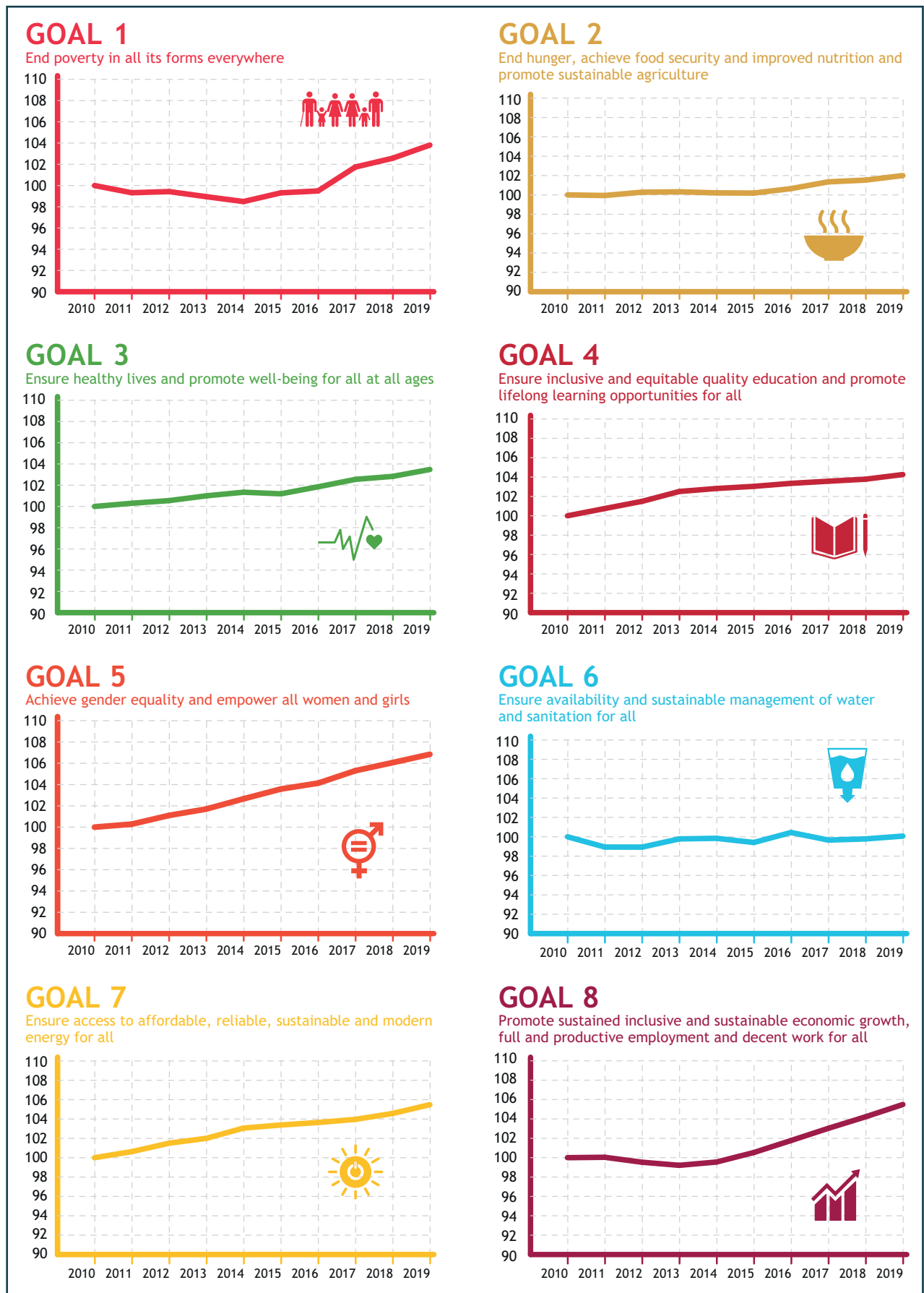
GOAL 6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

The composite indicator fluctuates over the observed period, standing in 2019 at a level broadly similar to the level registered in 2010. The stability of the composite indicator arises from offsetting of opposing trends observed in the elementary indicators: the water exploitation index deteriorates (up from 6.3% in 2010 to 8.4% in 2017), whilst the indicators regarding people without sanitary facilities in their home (down from 2.9% in 2010 to 1.6% in 2019) and wastewater treatment (up from 78.1% in 2010 to 79.7% in 2018) improve slightly.

GOAL 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITIES

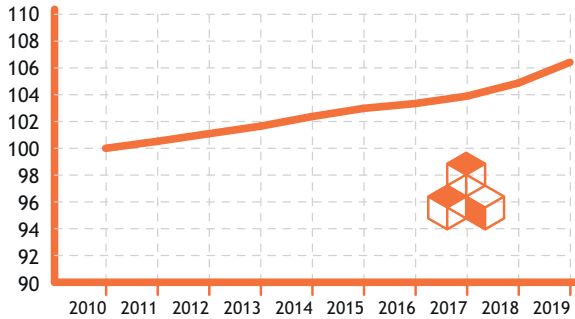
The composite indicator deteriorates between 2010 and 2014, corresponding to the economic crisis, and registers an improvement between 2015 and 2019, when it returns to a level substantially similar to 2010. The most critical issues, compared to 2010, regard the income distribution index: in 2019, the income of the richest 20% of the population is 4.99 times higher than the income of the poorest 20%. Finally, the percentage ratio between the youth employment rate and the total employment rate fell from 72.2 in 2010 to 70.1 in 2019.

Figure 2 - Summary indicators for the European Union



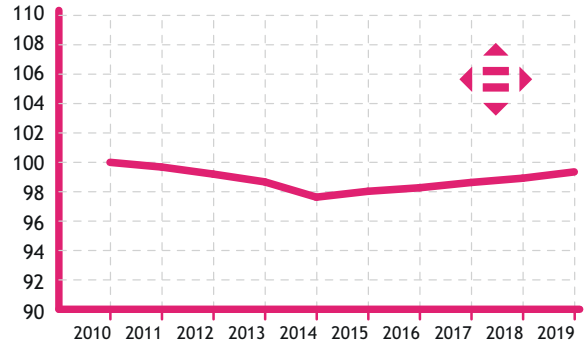
GOAL 9

Build resilient infrastructure, and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



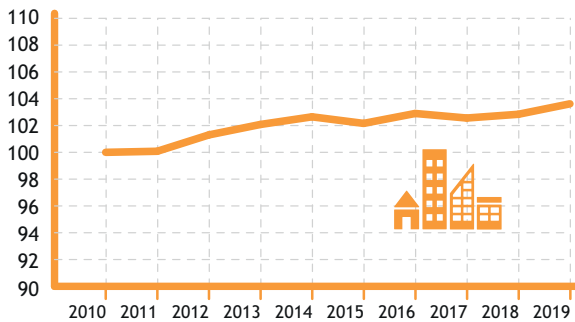
GOAL 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries



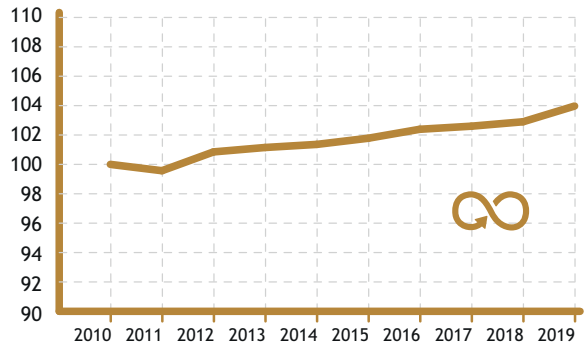
GOAL 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



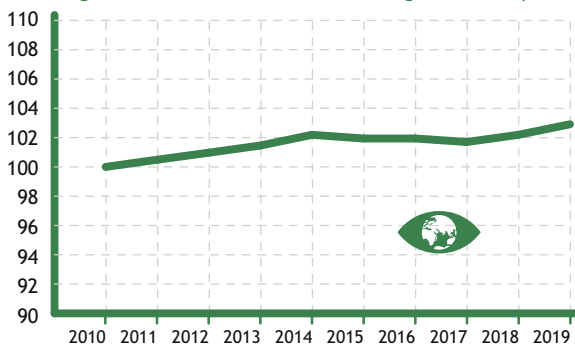
GOAL 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



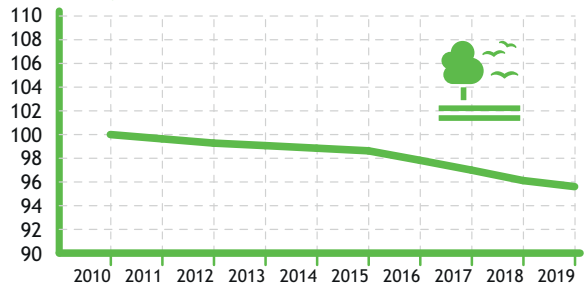
GOAL 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



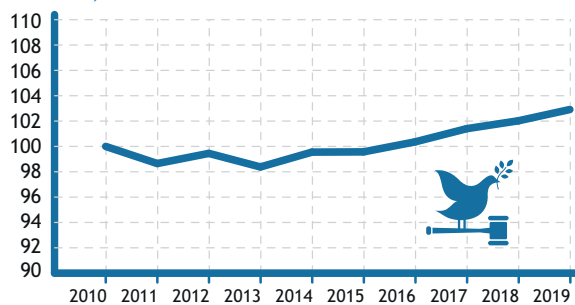
GOAL 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



GOAL 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

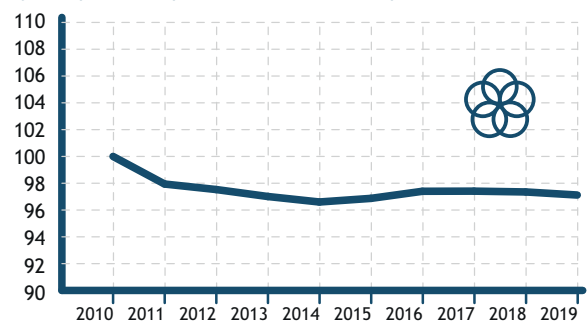
















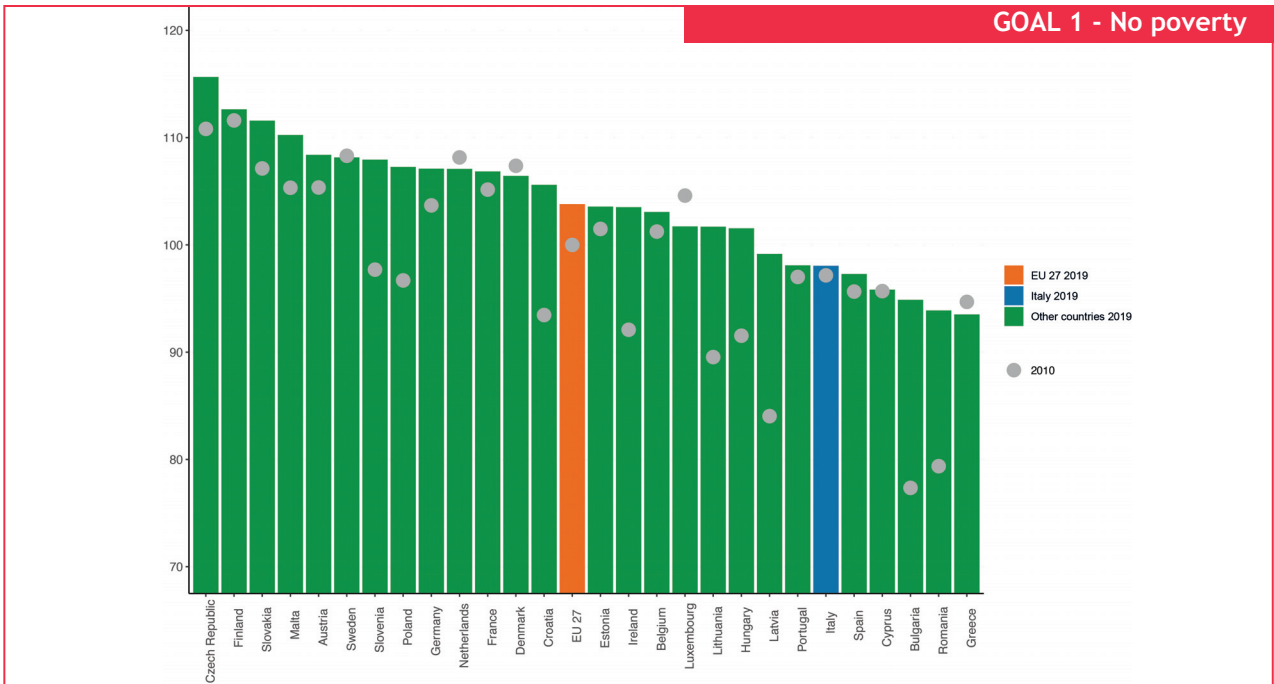


Table 1 - List of elementary indicators used to calculate composite indicators for European countries, and their positive (+) or negative (-) “influence” on the performance of the composite indicators

Indicator	+/-
GOAL 1 	
People at risk of poverty after social transfers	-
Severely materially deprived people	-
People living in households with very low work intensity	-
In work at-risk-of-poverty rate	-
Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames of floor	-
GOAL 2 	
Gross value added of the agricultural industry	+
Agricultural factor income per annual work unit	+
Government support to agricultural research and development	+
Area under organic farming	+
Ammonia emissions from agriculture	-
Harmonised risk indicator for pesticides	-
Consumption of inorganic fertilizers	-
GOAL 3 	
Road traffic deaths	-
Standardised preventable and treatable mortality	-
Life expectancy	+
Infant mortality rate	-
Smoking prevalence	-
Vaccination against influenza	+
Self-reported unmet need for medical care	-
Hospital beds	+
GOAL 4 	
Early leavers from education and training	-
Participation in early childhood education	+
Adult participation in learning	+
Tertiary educational attainment	+
Underachievement in reading, maths and science	-
At most lower secondary educational attainment	-
GOAL 5 	
Seats held by women in national parliaments	+
Female graduates in tertiary education: science, math, computing, engineering, manufacturing, construction	+
Inactive female population due to caring responsibilities	-
Female employment rate	+
Gender pay gap	-
Positions held by women in senior management positions	+
GOAL 6 	
Population having neither a bath, nor a shower, nor indoor flushing toilet in their household	-
Population connected to at least secondary waste water treatment	+
Water exploitation index	-
GOAL 7 	
Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption	+
Energy productivity	+

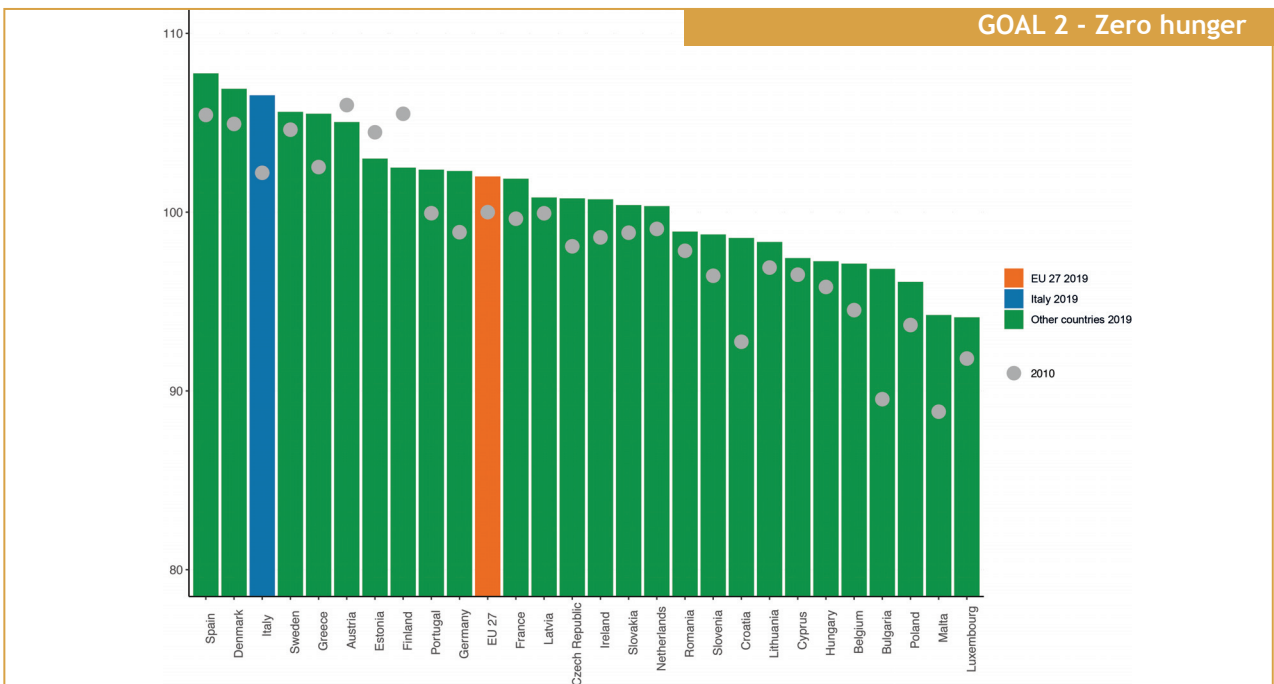
GOAL 8 	
Real GDP per capita	+
Investment share of GDP	+
Adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita	+
Young people neither in employment nor in education and training	-
Employment rate	+
Long-term unemployment rate	-
Share of involuntary part-time employment	-
People killed in accidents at work	-
GOAL 9 	
Share of rail and inland waterways activity in total freight transport	+
Share of busses and trains in total passenger transport	+
High-speed internet coverage	+
Air emissions intensities from industry	-
Enterprises that provided training to develop/upgrade ICT skills of their personnel	+
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D	+
Human resources in science and technology	+
R&D personnel	+
GOAL 10 	
Income distribution	-
Income share of the bottom 40 % of the population	+
Ratio between rural and urban graduation rate	+
Ratio between non EU citizen and EU citizen income poverty rate after social transfers	-
Ratio between youth (15-29) and total (15-64) employment rate	+
GOAL 11 	
Exposure to air pollution PM10	-
Use of cars for passenger transport	-
Overcrowding rate	-
GOAL 12 	
Resource productivity	+
Material consumption	-
Circular material use rate	+
Share of electric cars	+
Generation of waste	-
Recycling rate of municipal waste	+
GOAL 13 	
Greenhouse gas emissions	-
GOAL 15 	
Share of forest area	+
Surface of terrestrial sites designated under Natura 2000	+
Soil sealing	-
Soil sealing index	-
GOAL 16 	
Standardised death rate due to homicide	-
Population reporting occurrence of crime, violence or vandalism in their area	-
Population with confidence in EU institutions	+
Corruption Perceptions Index	+
E-government activities of individuals via websites	+
Civil and commercial litigious cases duration	-
Prisons overcrowding	-
Percentage of pre-trial prisoners over total prisoners	-
GOAL 17 	
Official development assistance as share of gross national income	+
EU imports from developing countries	+
General government gross debt	-
Shares of environmental taxes in total tax revenues	+

Analysis of disparities between European countries with regard to the 2030 Agenda



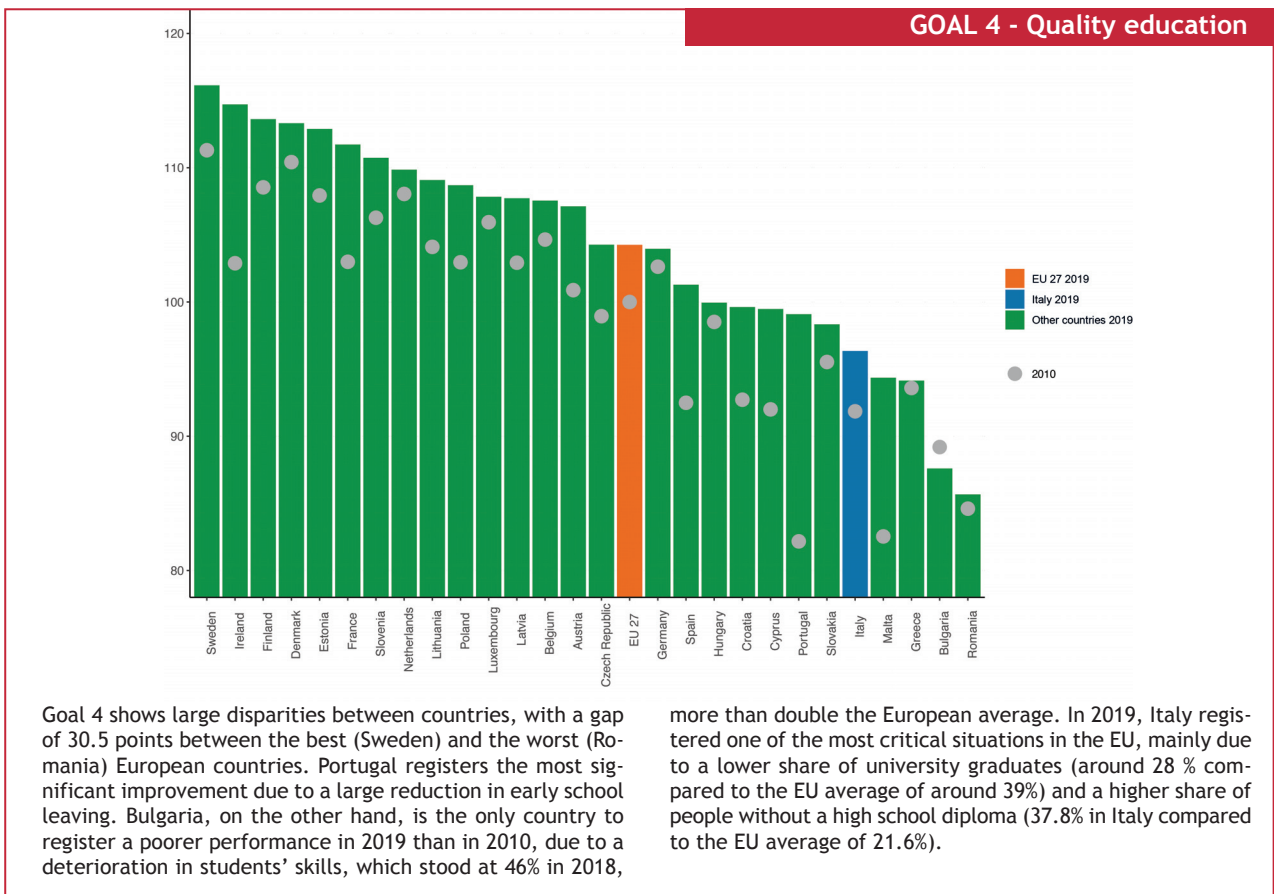
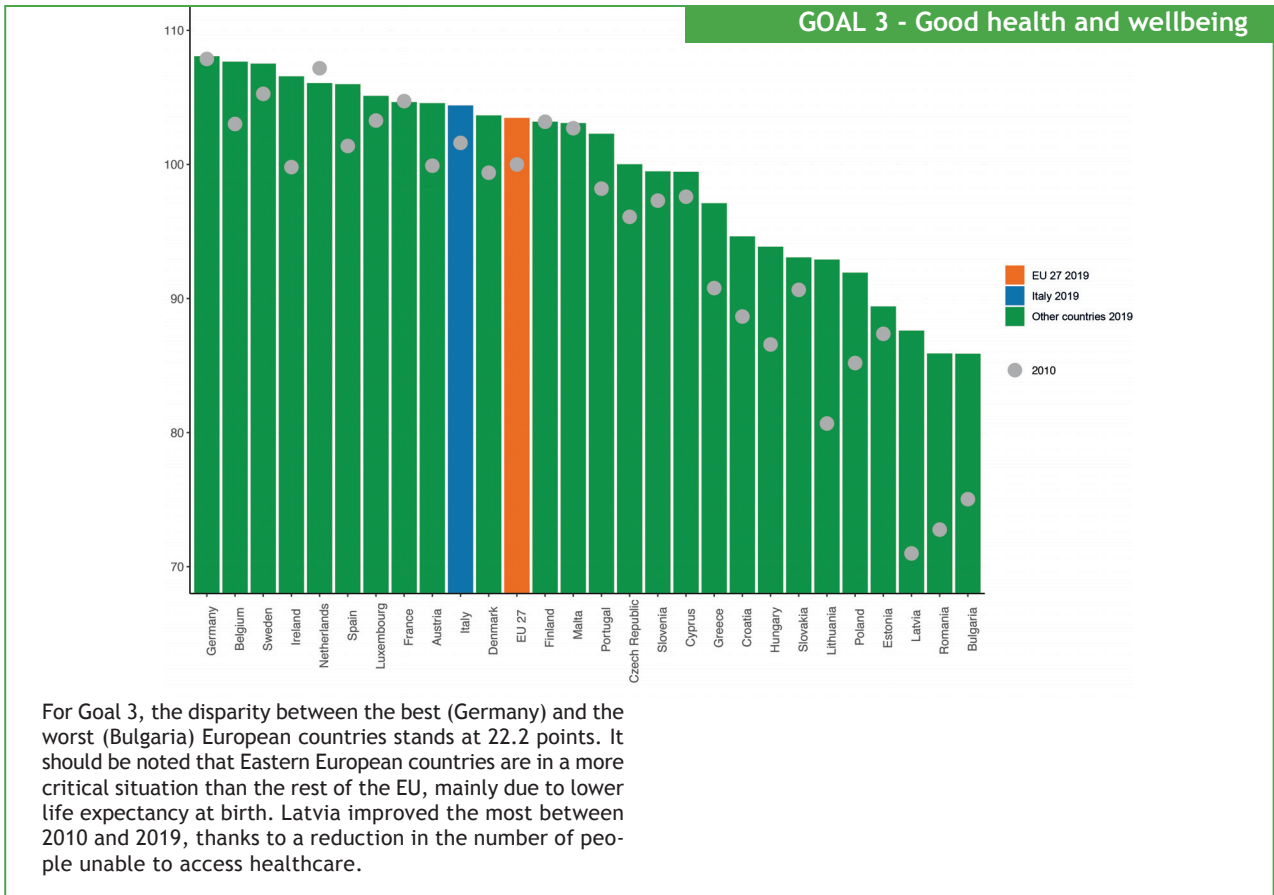
For Goal 1, the disparity between the composite indicator for the best performer, the Czech Republic, and the country at the bottom of the ranking (Greece) was 22.1 points. Bulgaria is the country with the most significant improvement between 2010 and 2019, thanks to sharp declines in the number of people at risk of poverty from 49.2% in 2010 to 39.8% in 2019, and in the number of materially deprived people (down from

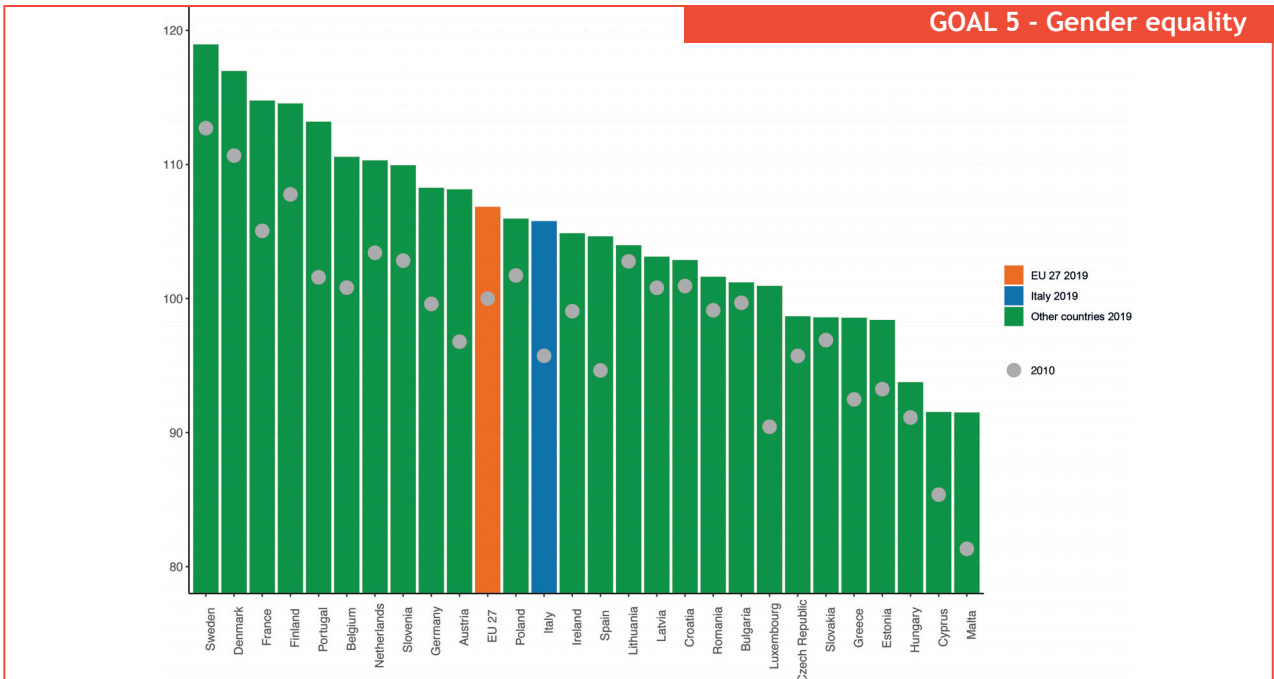
45.7% to 20.9%). Luxembourg registers the greatest deterioration between 2010 and 2019, due to an increased risk of in-work poverty. Between 2010 and 2019 Italy is largely stable, whilst registering one of the most critical situations in the EU in 2019, which primarily reflects a higher share of people affected by poverty or social exclusion (25.6% compared with 20.9% in the EU).



For this Goal, the disparity in the composite indicators between the best and worst performers is 13.6 points, the lowest recorded among the Goals analysed. Croatia registers the greatest improvement due to an increase in the share of land under organic farming (up from 2.4% in 2012 to 7.2% in 2019) and a reduction in the use of pesticides and fertilisers. Finland registers the most significant deterioration due to a reduction

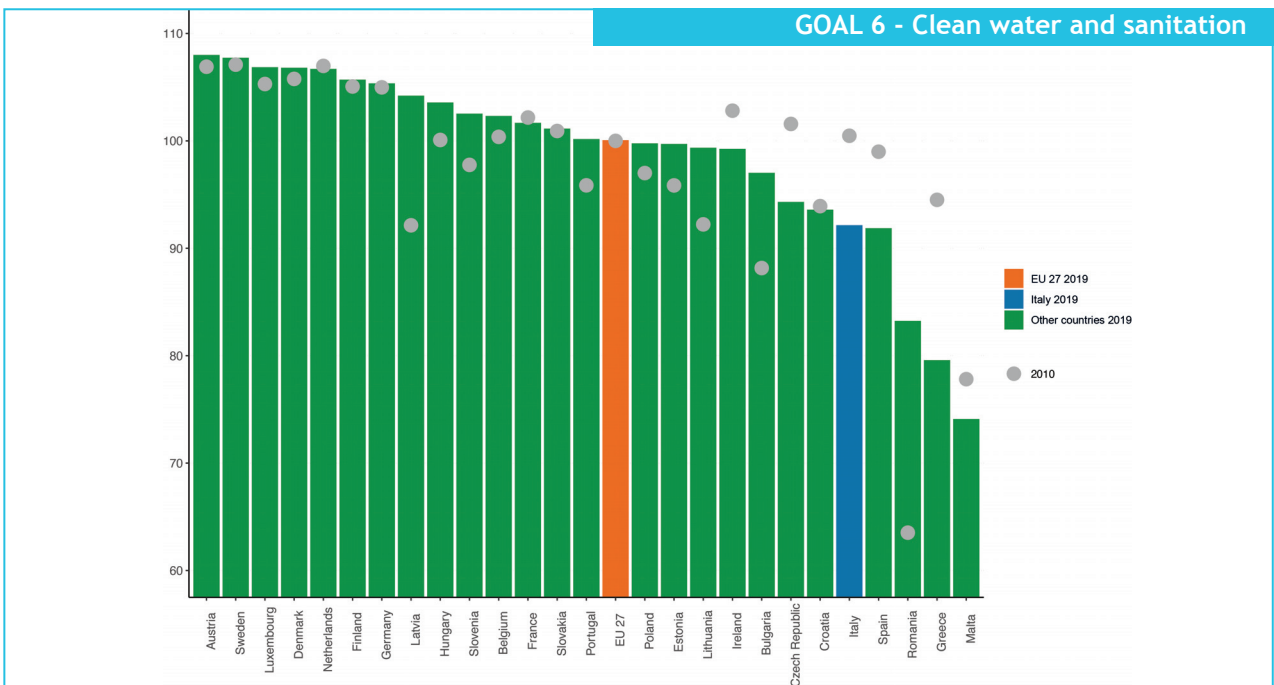
in government support for agriculture (down from €18.6 per inhabitant in 2010 to €10.3 in 2019). Italy is well above the European average, just behind Spain and Denmark, thanks to the higher added value of the agricultural sector and a larger share of crops under organic farming, amounting to over 15% in Italy in 2019 compared to the European average of around 8%.





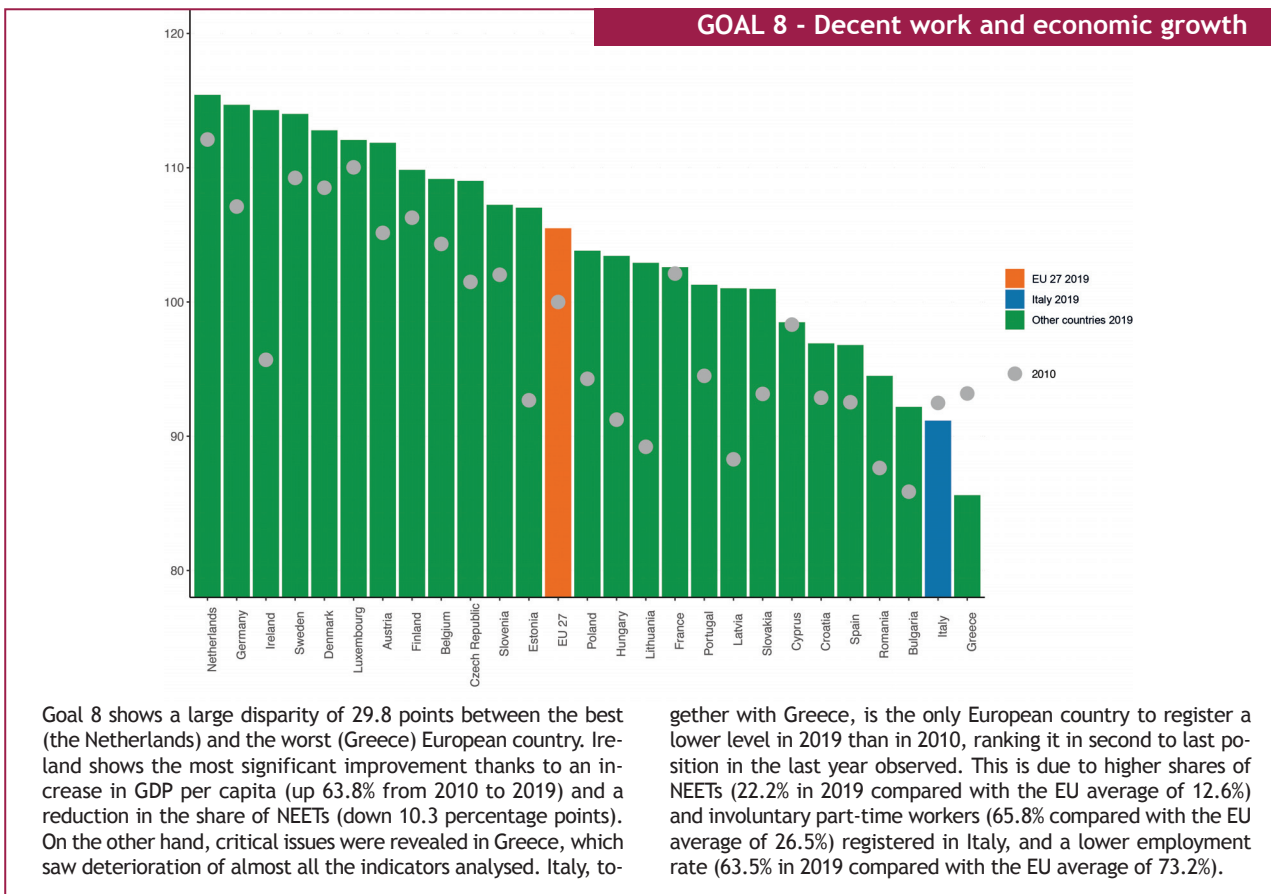
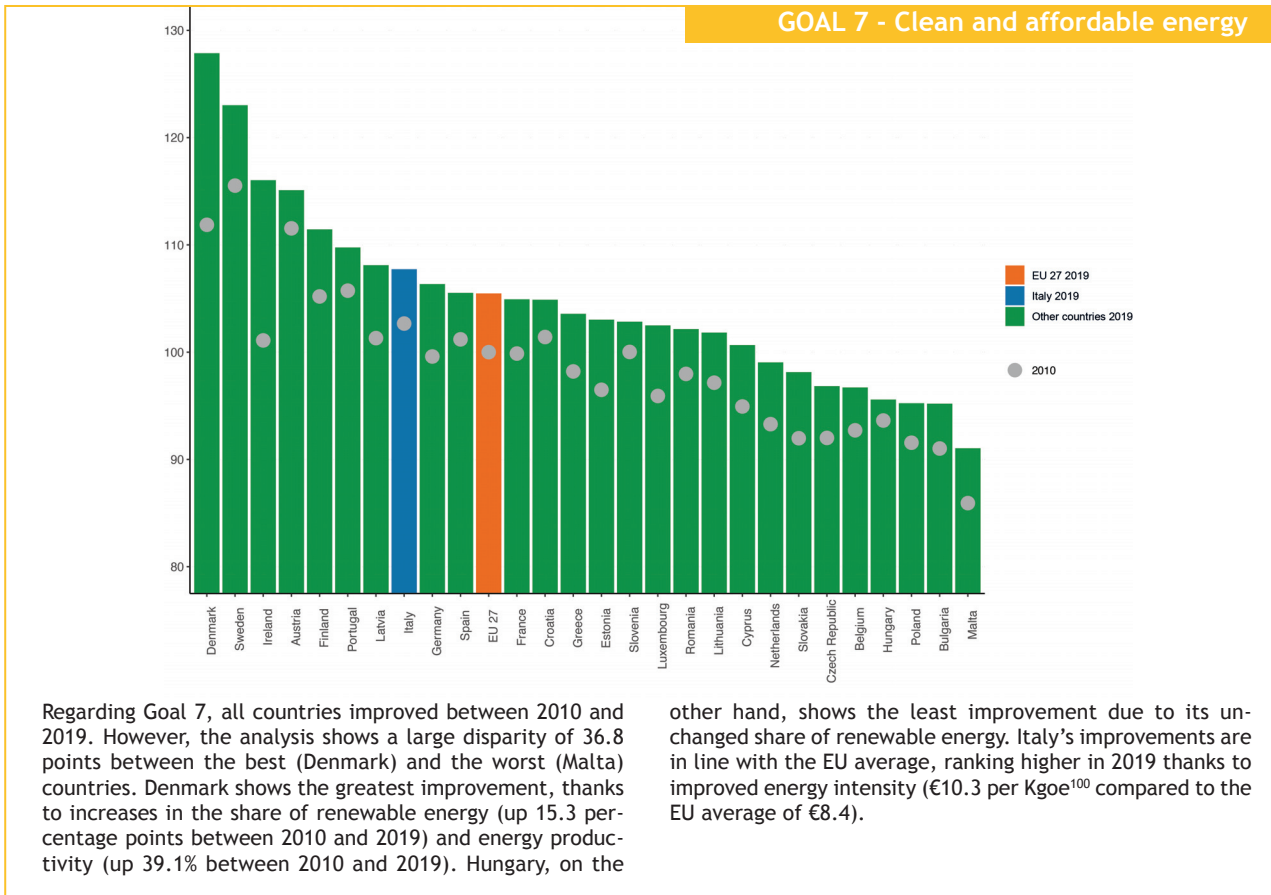
Goal 5 also shows large disparities between member countries, registering a gap of 27.4 points between Sweden and Malta. Portugal reports the greatest improvement, due to increases in the percentages of women holding managerial positions (up from 5.4% to 24%) and parliamentary seats (up from 30.4% to 40.4%), as well as in the female employment rate. On the other hand, Lithuania registered more modest im-

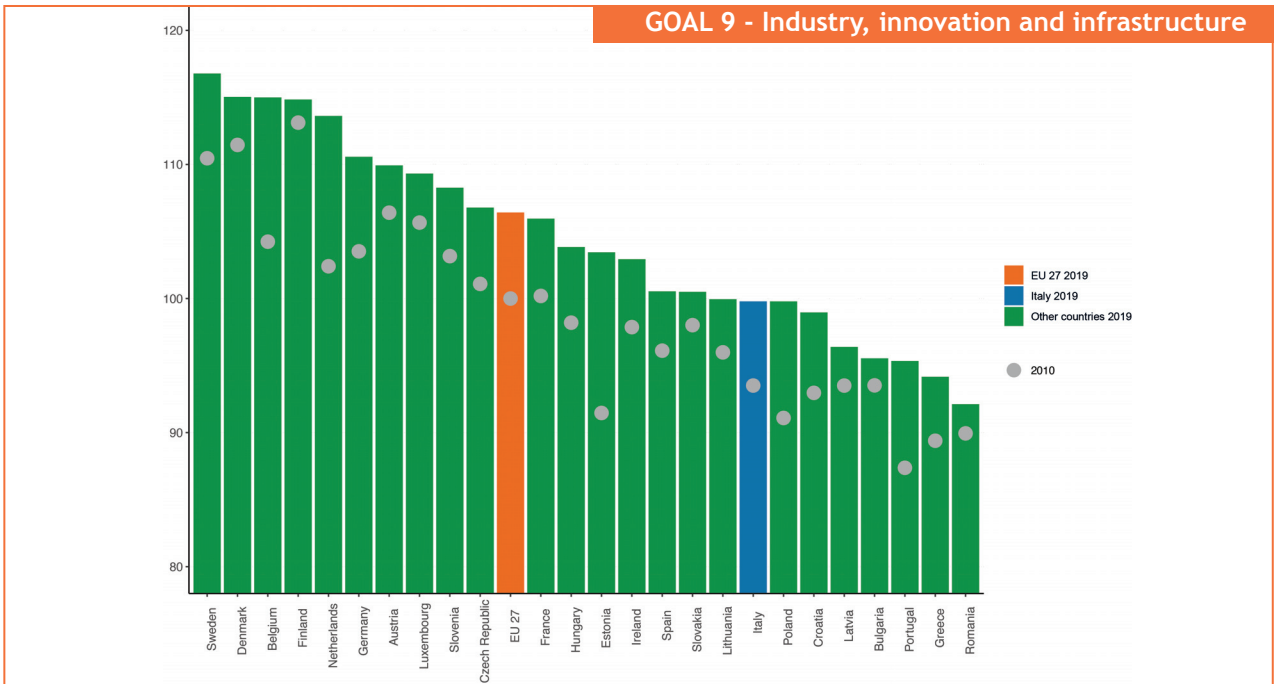
provement, mainly as the result of an increase in the number of women who are inactive due to caring responsibilities (up 10.2 percentage points from 2010 to 2019). Despite the progress made during the period under review, Italy is still below the European average due to a female employment rate that stood at 53.8% in 2019, compared to the EU average of 67.4%.



Goal 6 shows large disparities between the north and the south of the EU, both in terms of performance and levels observed in 2019 (a gap of 33.9 points was registered between Austria and Malta), which underlines the vulnerability of southern European countries to climate change. Romania shows the most significant improvement, mainly due to a decline in the number of people without sanitary facilities.

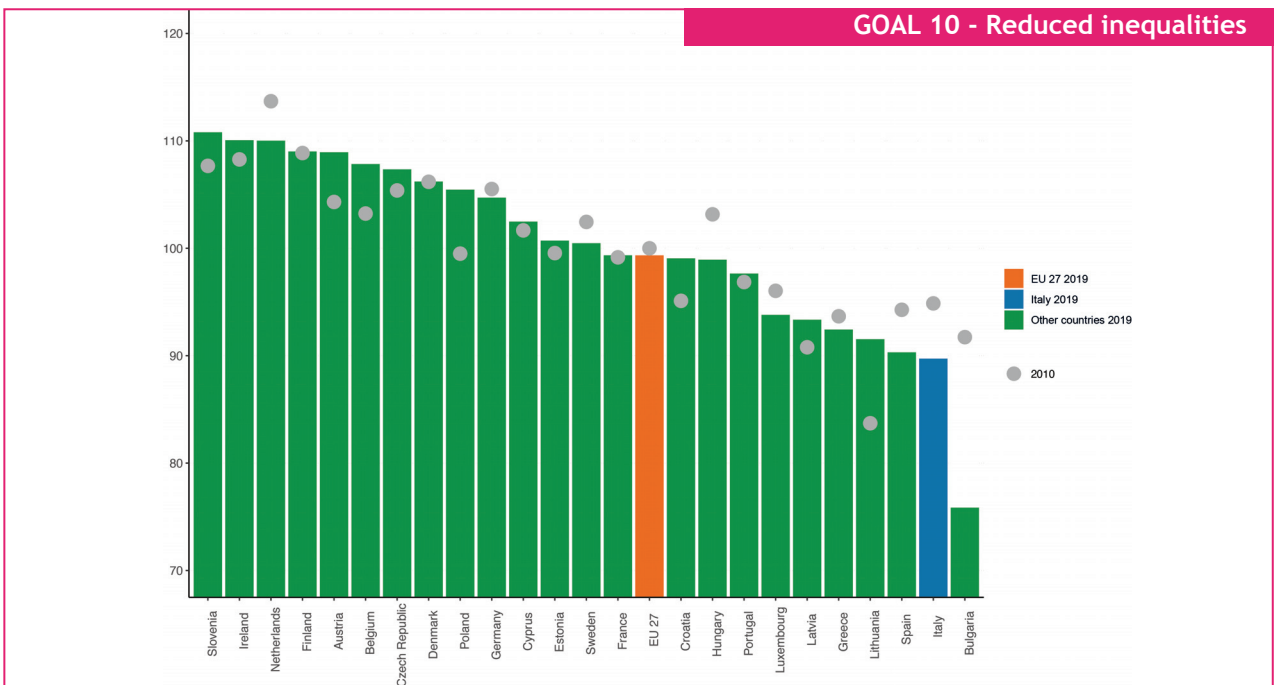
Greece, on the other hand, registers the most serious deterioration due to a sharp rise in the water exploitation index, which stood at 39.4% in 2017, more than four times the EU average. Critical issues are also registered in Italy which, in 2019, was well below the average due to a lower share of treated wastewater and greater water exploitation (15.6% compared to an EU average of 8.4%).





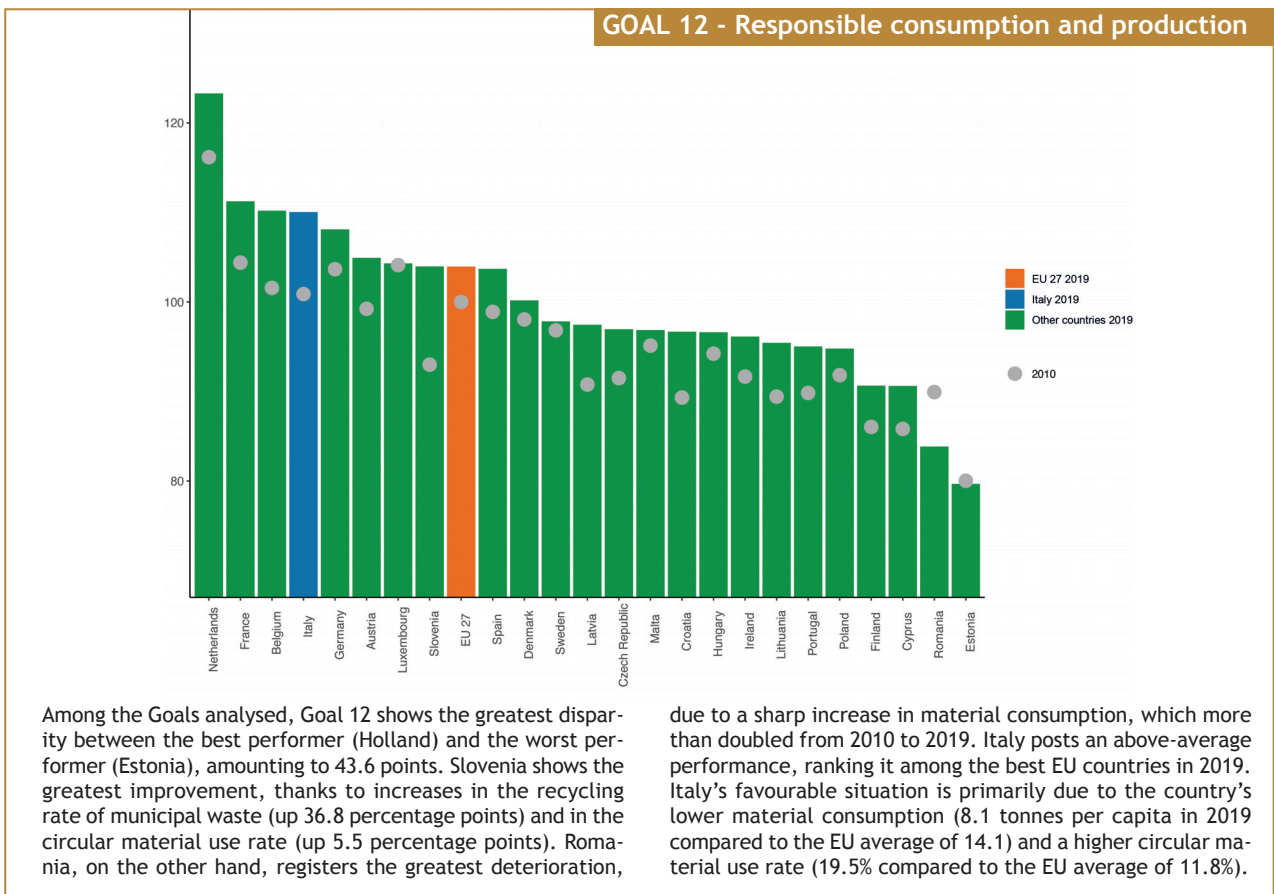
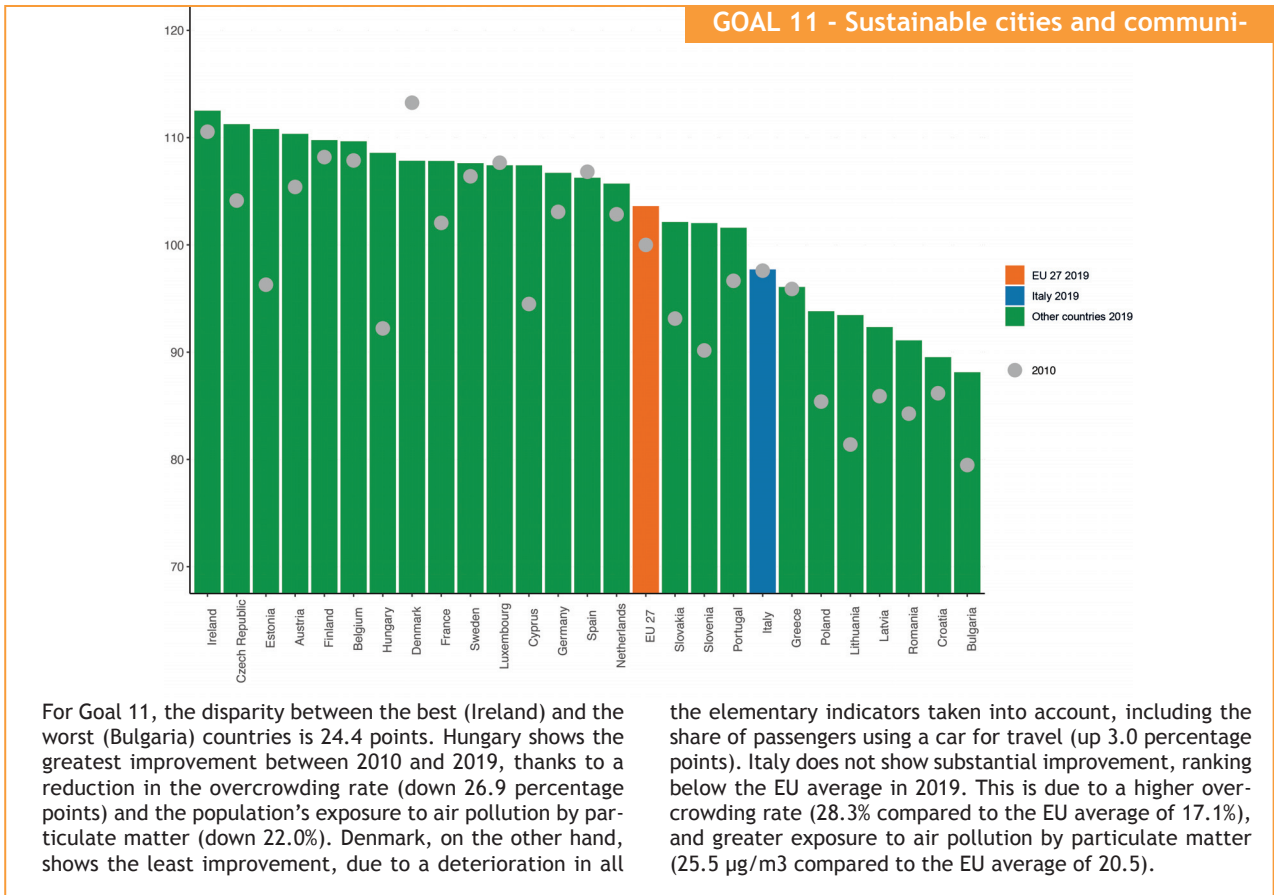
For Goal 9, all the countries analysed show an improvement between 2010 and 2019, and the distance between the best (Sweden) and worst (Romania) countries stands at 24.7 points. Estonia shows the greatest improvement due to a reduction in industrial emissions intensity (down 70% from 2010 to 2018) and, in the last year with available data, is still well above the EU average (440 grams per €1000 compared to the EU average of 80 grams). Finland shows the smallest improvement

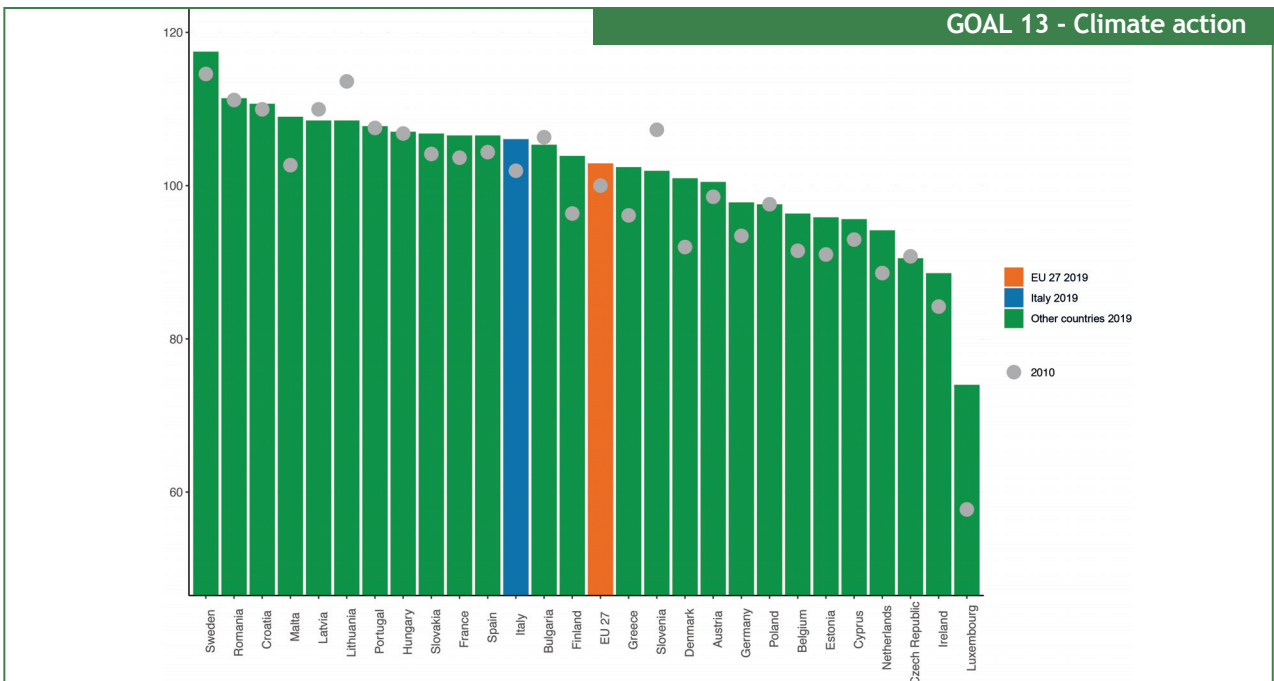
due to a reduction in R&D expenditure (down from 3.7% of GDP in 2010 to 2.8% in 2019). Italy shows improvements in line with the other countries, which is insufficient to close the gap with the EU average in 2019. This unfavourable situation is mainly due to Italy lagging behind in R&D expenditure (1.5% compared with the EU average of 2.2%) and human resources in science and technology (37.3% in Italy compared with the EU average of 46.9%).



Goal 10 shows wide disparities within the EU, as evidenced by the 35-point gap between Slovenia and Bulgaria. Lithuania shows the greatest improvement, thanks to an increase in the ratio between youth and total employment rates (up 10.8 percentage points) and income inequality, which improves by 12.4%. However, in Bulgaria the latter indicator declines by 38.2% from 2010 to 2019, reaching 8.1% in 2019 compared to

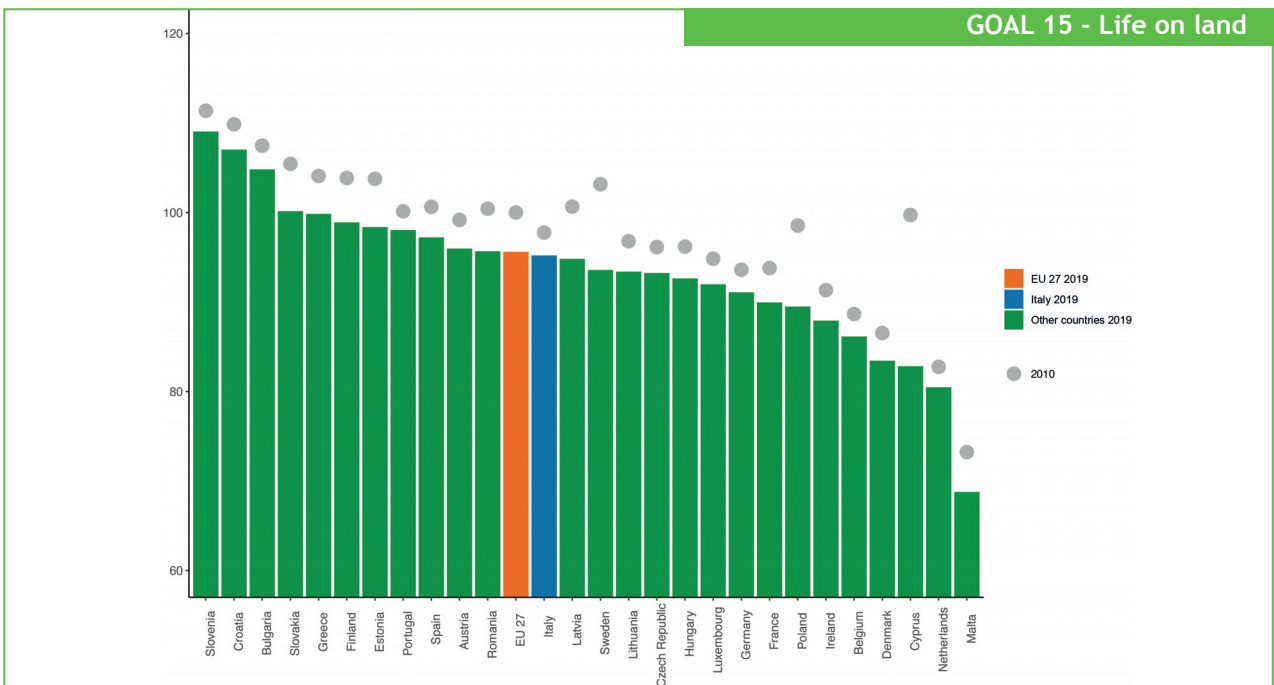
the EU average of 5.0%. The situation in Italy deteriorates, with the country ranking second to last in Europe in 2019. This is due to declines in the ratio between youth and total employment rates (52.0% in 2019 compared to the EU average of 70.1%), and in income inequality of 6.0% in 2019, compared to the EU average of 5.0%.





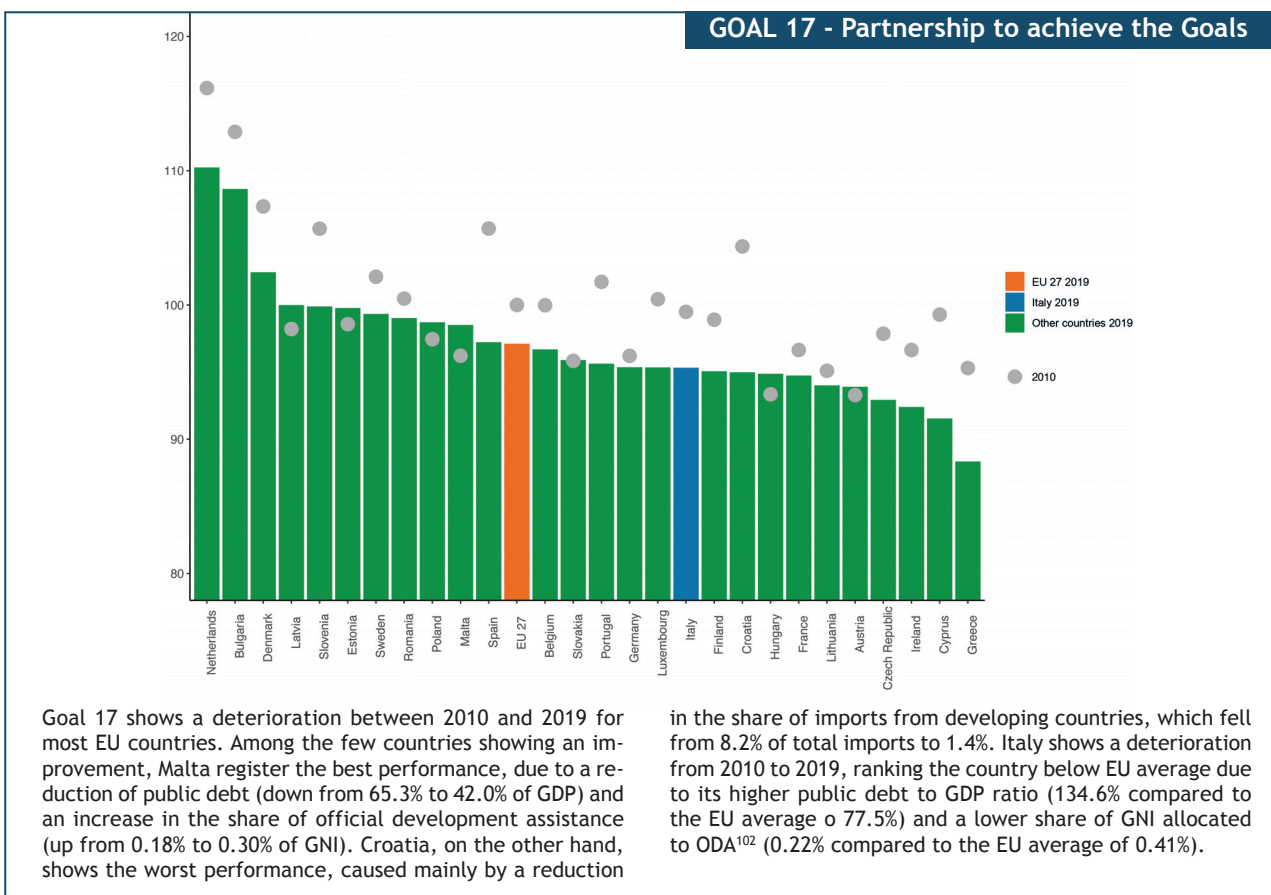
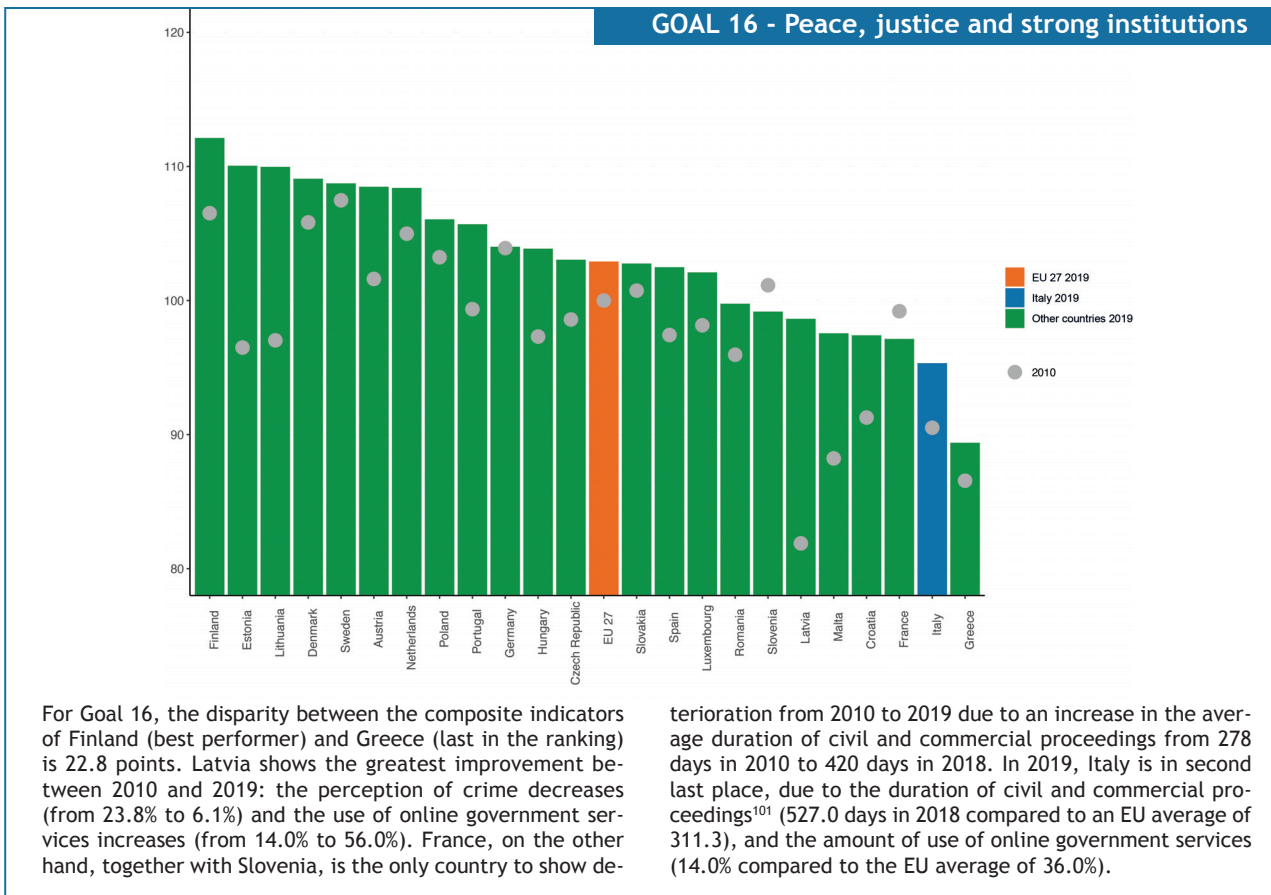
Goal 13 also shows wide disparities between the best performer (Sweden) and the worst performer (Luxembourg), amounting to 43.5 points. Luxembourg, which was last in terms of emissions between 2010 and 2019, nevertheless shows the most significant improvement. Greenhouse gas emissions, the headline indicator used to calculate the Goal 13 composite indicator, fall from 26.4 to 19.7 tonnes per capita, but are still higher

than the EU average (7.8 in 2019). Slovenia deteriorates the most, rising from 6.0 tonnes per capita in 2010 to 8.2 tonnes per capita in 2019. Italy is in line with the EU average (1.7 fewer tonnes per capita compared with the EU average of 1.2 fewer tonnes per capita) and, in 2019, ranks just above the EU average, registering an emission level of 6.5 tonnes per capita compared to the EU average of 7.8 tonnes per capita.



Of all the Goals, Goal 15 shows the most critical situation, as all EU countries register a deterioration between 2010 and 2019. In particular, Cyprus posts the worst performance, due to an increase in land consumption, the largest of any European country (up 22.9% from 2006 to 2018 compared to the EU average of 8.3%). Portugal shows the least deterioration, thanks to an increase in the share of forest area, from 41.9%

in 2012 to 49.9% in 2018. During the same period, Italy's performance in the last year is in line with the average registered in European Union countries.



NOTES

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- 2 ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/delivering_on_uns_sustainable_development_goals_staff_working_document_en.pdf
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- 4 www.2021portugal.eu/en/porto-social-summit/porto-social-commitment/
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- 7 futureu.europa.eu/?locale=it
- 8 www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0278_IT.pdf
- 9 ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/delivering_on_uns_sustainable_development_goals_staff_working_document_en.pdf
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- 12 eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R2221
- 13 eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1056&from=IT
- 14 eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0852&from=IT
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- 19 COUNCIL REGULATION (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the period 2021-2027
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- 22 <https://futureu.europa.eu/?locale=it>
- 23 www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0010_IT.pdf
- 24 Taken from President David Sassoli's speech at the opening of the conference on 9 May 2021
- 25 Committee of the Regions - Resolution of 7 May 2021 webapi2016.cor.europa.eu/v1/documents/cor-2021-01674-00-00-res-tra-it.docx/content
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- ⁴⁹ eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:390:FIN&qid=1625764097401
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- ⁵¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0188&from=EN>
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- ⁵⁸ www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0021_IT.pdf
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- ⁶¹ eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:118:FIN&qid=1615452882549
- ⁶² eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020PC0825&qid=1629300517120&from=EN
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- ⁷⁴ eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0171&from=EN
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- ⁸⁴ Report on Italy: ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/2021_rolr_country_chapter_italy_en.pdf
- ⁸⁵ Regarding Italy, there has been a gradual increase in the number of infringement proceedings opened: from 12 in 2017, to 36 in 2020. In 2020, the areas where the most proceedings were opened concerned mobility and transport (11 cases) and the environment (8 cases). In 2020, 18 new proceedings were also opened for late transposition of directives. A total of 86 procedures are still open against Italy in the five-year period 2016-2020, 53 of which for incorrect transposition or inadequate application of directives. Italy is fourth in the ranking for the highest number of open infringement procedures, or third excluding the UK post-Brexit. The area most affected is the environment (21 cases), followed by mobility and transport (13 cases). eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:432:FIN&qid=1627050609440
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⁹³ www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/it/be-heard/eurobarometer/spring-2021-survey

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⁹⁵ <https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/en/>

⁹⁶ The synthetic indicators created at Italian and European level are not comparable, due to varying availability of data and the different territorial units taken into account.

⁹⁷ It was not possible to measure the performance of Goal 14 due to the scarcity of data on “life below water”.

⁹⁸ As of this report, the United Kingdom is excluded from the analysis, which will therefore focus on the 27 states currently comprising the European Union.

⁹⁹ The Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy envisages doubling the share of freight transported by rail by 2050 compared with the levels observed in 2020.

¹⁰⁰ Kilogram oil equivalent.

¹⁰¹ The EU figure is not comparable with the Italian figure.

¹⁰² Official development assistance.

For further information see:

- www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/it/be-heard/eurobarometer/future-of-europe
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The 2030 Agenda in Italy



3. The 2030 Agenda in Italy

3.1 The situation of Italy with regard to the SDGs

ASviS periodically develops summary indicators that measure the path Italy (and its local areas) has taken to achieve the SDGs. In this year's Report, it has been possible to base our assessment on composite indicators updated to 2020, enabling us to conduct an initial quantitative assessment of the impact of the pandemic on the various Goals.

The composite indicators presented here are based on 108 elementary indicators produced, for the most part, by ISTAT, Italy's National Statistical Office. The summary indicators were developed using the Adjusted Mazziotta-Pareto Index (AMPI) method, also used by ISTAT. It was decided to continue to use a single headline indicator for Goal 13. Between 2010 and 2020, Italy shows signs of improvement for five Goals: health (Goal 3), gender equality (Goal 5), the energy system (Goal 7), innovation (Goal 9) and climate action (Goal 13). The situation has deteriorated, however, in the case of a further five Goals: poverty (Goal 1), water (Goal 6), economic and employment conditions (Goal 8), terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15) and international cooperation (Goal 17). The situation is broadly stable for the remaining five Goals: sustainable food and agriculture (Goal 2), education (Goal 4), inequalities (Goal 10), conditions in cities (Goal 11) and justice and strong institutions (Goal 16).

Recent data reveals that between 2019 and 2020, Italy shows signs of improvement for only three Goals (7, 13 and 16) and substantial stability for another three (2, 6 and 9), whereas the indicators relating to nine Goals deteriorated (1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15 and 17). No figure was computed for Goals 12 and 14 in 2020 as there was a lack of available data, whilst it was decided to render the composite indicator for Goal 17 consistent with the EU figure.

Based on this data, the in-depth analysis of the 32 quantitative targets described in section 3.8, and the comparison with other EU countries described in chapter 2, the situation in Italy ap-

pears to be critical. Unless a decisive step change takes place, Italy will not achieve the 2030 Agenda Goals within the timeframe agreed at the UN. This will entail serious consequences.

GOAL 1 - NO POVERTY

This composite indicator for Goal 1 declined sharply until 2016, due to a deterioration in all the elementary indicators analysed, especially the indicator regarding absolute poverty. From 2016 to 2019, there was an uptrend due to decreases in severe material deprivation and the number of people living in housing with structural problems. In 2020 the composite indicator suffered the effects of the pandemic and deteriorated significantly. There was an increase in poverty, above all in terms of the absolute poverty rate, which rose by 1.7 percentage points to 9.4%, the worst of all the figures in the historical data series. There was also a reduction in relative household poverty in the same year, which declined from 11.4% in 2019 to 10.1% in 2020. As noted in ISTAT's report on poverty, this reflects the marked reduction in the threshold (€1,001.86, down from €1,094.95 in 2019) used to calculate relative household poverty, caused by the sharp fall in average monthly household consumption in 2020 (down 9.0%). This indicates a change in 2020, made possible by a lowering of the relative poverty line. This means that certain households that were in poverty in 2019 are now considered to be no longer in this situation, despite the fact that their standard of living has not changed very much.

GOAL 2 - ZERO HUNGER

The composite indicator for Goal 2 registered a slow improvement between 2010 and 2017, driven primarily by a sharp increase in the agricultural surface area used for organic farming and an improvement in value added by agriculture. The situation remained stable in the following two years, reflecting an improvement in the use of fertilizers and plant health and plant protection products and an increase in the surface area used for organic farming, offset by a worsening in diet qual-

ity, which in 2019 was at its worst level in the historical data series (17.7%).

The situation worsened slightly in 2020 due to the pandemic, with an increase in adults who are obese or overweight (up 1.0 percentage points between 2019 and 2020 to stand at 45.9% in 2020) and a drastic fall in investment in agriculture (down 12.2% between 2019 and 2020). At the same time, however, the percentage of people with adequate nutrition rose from 17.7% in 2019 to 18.8% in 2020.

GOAL 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The composite indicator for Goal 3 registers an overall uptrend from 2010 to 2019, thanks to an improvement in most of the elementary indicators analysed. Risky behaviours such as alcohol consumption and smoking declined, life expectancy rose and the probability of death from the most common non-communicable diseases fell. In contrast, there was a decline in vaccination coverage for the over-65s (down about 8 percentage points from 2010 to stand at 54.6% in 2019), whilst hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants was also down, falling 13.5% over the period under review.

The pandemic had a negative impact on this Goal. Life expectancy has fallen by 0.9 years, reversing the trend registered since 2010 to stand at 82.3. The figures for alcohol consumption and smoking have also worsened, with the indicator for people at risk due to alcohol consumption rising by one percentage point (from 15.8% to 16.8%) and the number of people stating that they smoke rising to 18.9% of the population, after a less significant increase. In contrast, there was a significant increase in the take-up of flu vaccines among the over-65s, reversing the negative trend previously referred to (an increase of 11.9 percentage points to 66.5%, the highest level in the historical series). 2020 also saw a sharp fall in the number of people killed or injured in road traffic accidents, reflecting the restrictions on movement imposed during the various lockdowns. This indicator has been excluded from the analysis this year as the trend in 2020, which is not likely to be repeated in 2021, had a major impact on the composite indicator.

GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

The composite indicator for Goal 4 improved until 2016 thanks to the progress registered by the indicators for lifelong learning, early leavers from school and training and the proportion of university

graduates. From 2016 to 2019, the uptrend came to an end and the composite indicators stabilised, partly due to a reduction in the number of 4- to 5-year-olds who participate in early childhood education and a deterioration in students' skills.

Almost all the elementary indicators worsened between 2019 and 2020. The percentage of people taking part in lifelong learning in the last four weeks fell (from 8.1% to 7.2%), as did the percentage of people taking part in cultural activities (down from 35.1% to 30.8%). In contrast, thanks in part to the lockdowns, the number of people who regularly read books and newspapers rose by 1.2 percentage points to 39.2% of the population.

The most serious effects of the crisis are reflected in students' skills. The latest data from INVALSI for 2021 shows that 44.0% of students completing senior high school do not possess basic literacy skills in Italian (in 2019, the figure was 35.0%), whilst 51.0% lack basic mathematical skills (42.0% in 2019).

GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

The composite indicator for Goal 5 registered a positive performance between 2010 and 2019, reflecting improvements across almost all the elementary indicators analysed. In particular, there was a sharp rise in women elected to regional councils (up from 12.9% to 21.1% between 2012 and 2019) and to the boards of directors of listed companies (up from 4.5% to 36.1% between 2010 and 2019).

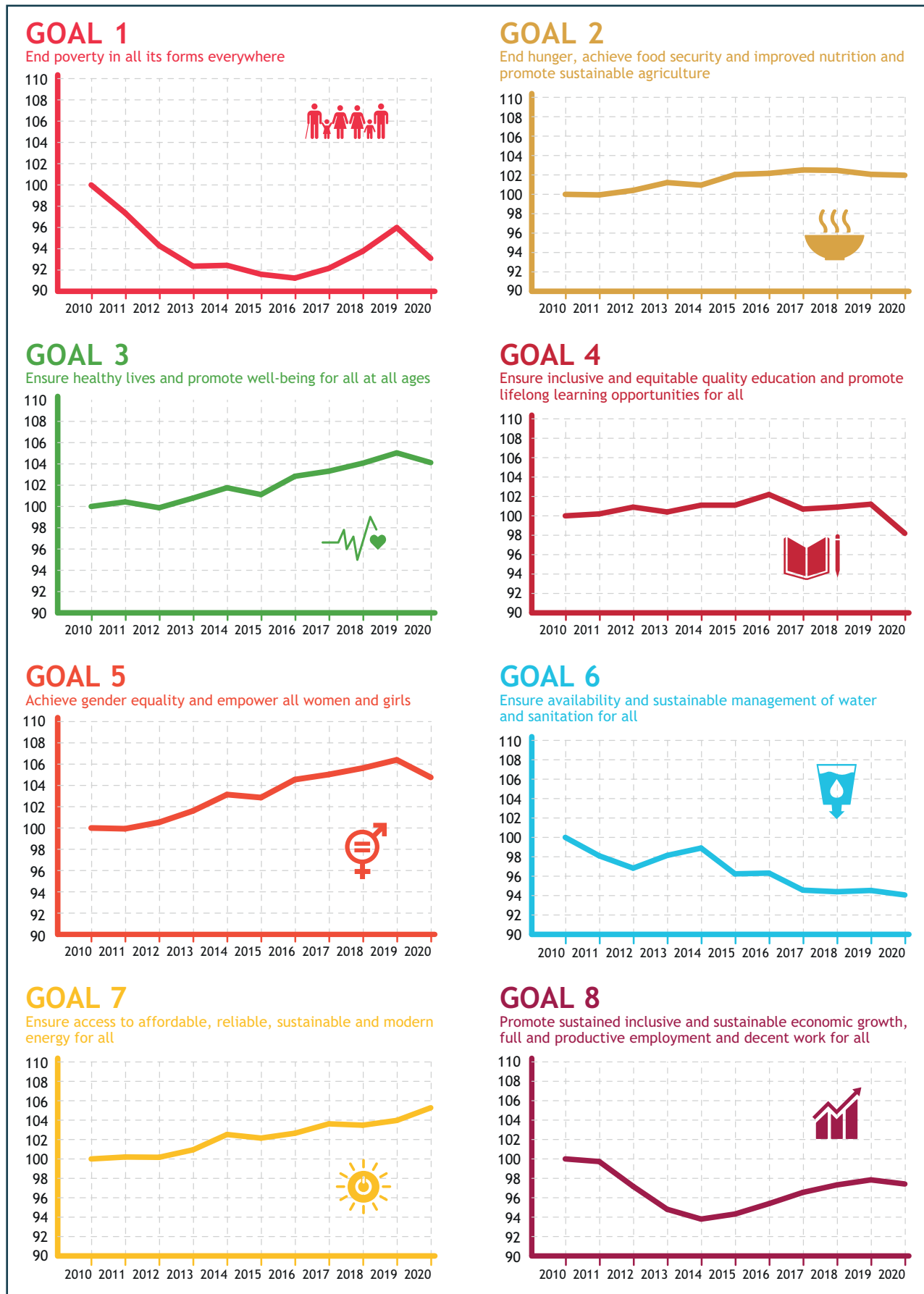
In the last year, instead, the composite indicator worsened significantly due to the impact of the pandemic. The female employment rate fell from 53.8% to 52.7% between 2019 and 2020 (down 1.1 percentage points compared with a 0.8 percentage-point fall in the male employment rate). Moreover, the ratio between employment rates for women with pre-school-age children and women without children fell by 0.9 percentage points to 73.4% in 2020.

Women's life expectancy at birth is sharply down, falling by a year to 84.4, thus reversing the positive trend recorded between 2010 and 2019.

GOAL 6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

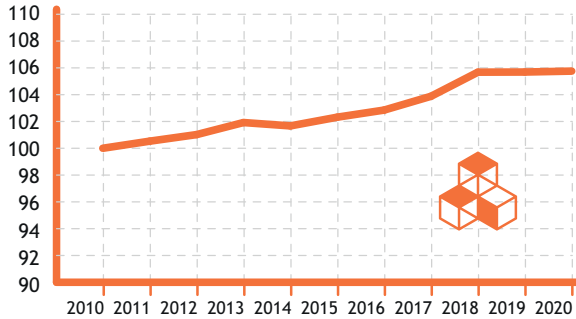
Between 2010 and 2018, the composite indicator for Goal 6 showed a negative trend overall, due to both an increase in the water exploitation Index (which compares water abstractions for all uses with available water resources), which rose from 6.7% in 2010 to 15.7% in 2017, and a reduc-

Figure 3 - Summary indicators for Italy



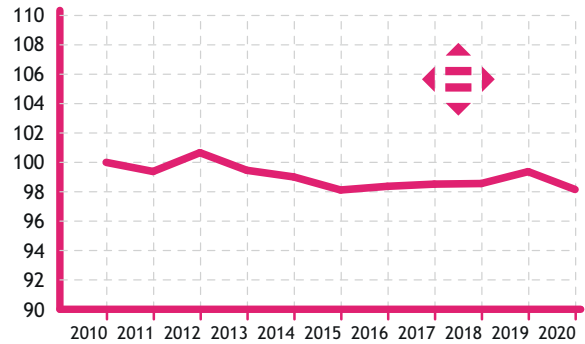
GOAL 9

Build resilient infrastructure, and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



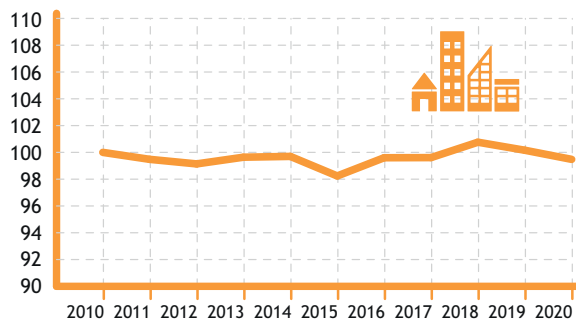
GOAL 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries



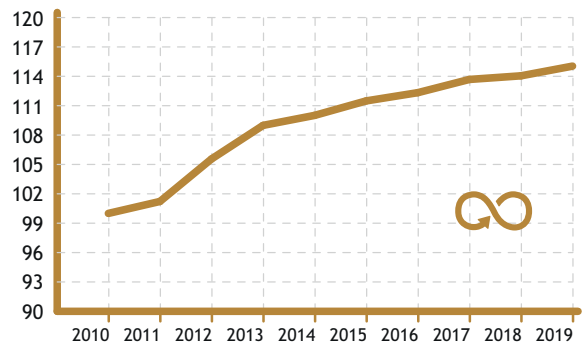
GOAL 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



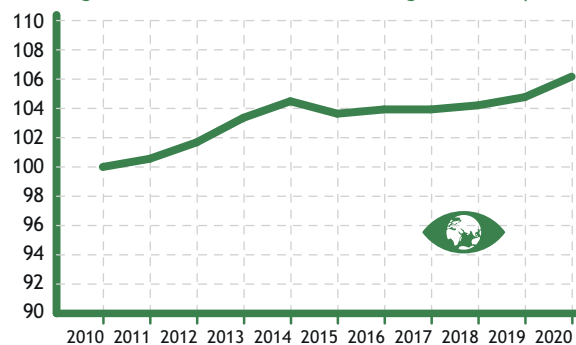
GOAL 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



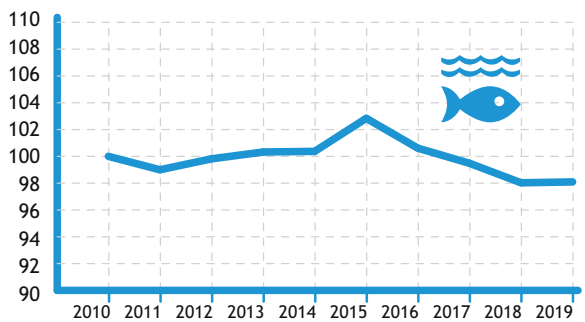
GOAL 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



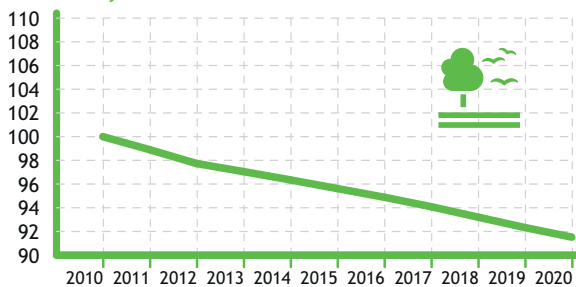
GOAL 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources



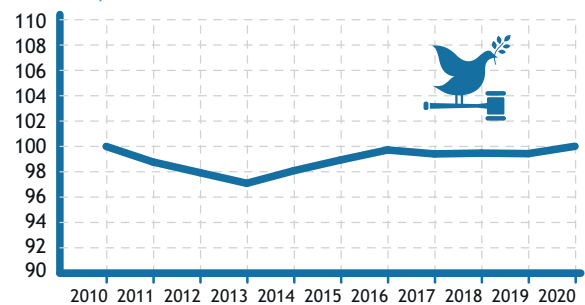
GOAL 15

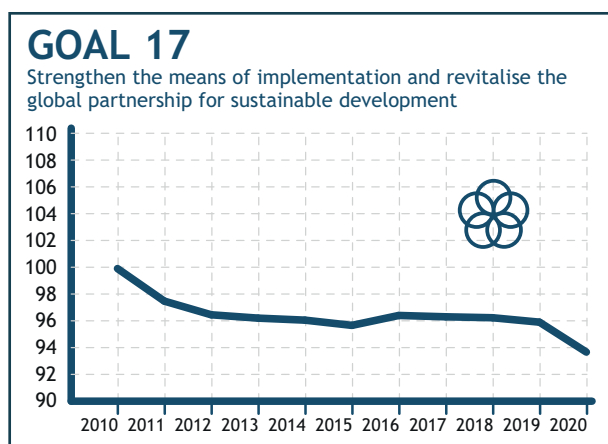
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels





tion in water network efficiency (down 4.6 percentage points between 2012 and 2018). The last two years have registered a broadly stable performance due to a deterioration in water efficiency, offset by an improvement in two indicators regarding the percentages of households wary about drinking tap water and who complain about water supply anomalies. These indicators are down 0.6 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively. The assessment highlights the fact that Italy's water sustainability is at serious risk, above all in the south of the country, which is more vulnerable to the impact of climate change (people complaining about water supply anomalies in the south represented 17.8% of the total in 2020, compared with the national average of 9.0%).

GOAL 7 - AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The composite indicator for Goal 7 shows an overall uptrend throughout the period examined, thanks to improvements in the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption and in energy efficiency, measured as the ratio of gross final energy consumption to value added.

In 2020, the composite indicator registered a further improvement thanks to the pandemic. The indicator that measures the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption rose 1.8 percentage points between 2019 and 2020. This was a marked improvement on the previous two years, due primarily to a reduction in gross final energy consumption (down 10.6%), rather than to real growth in new installed capacity for renewable energy production, which rose by just 784 megawatts (MW) compared with the 1,200 MW of the previous year. This is ten times less than need to meet the European target of producing 40%

of energy from renewables by 2030. The indicator for energy efficiency also improved in 2020, given that the rate of decline in value added in the previous year (8.6%) was lower than the rate of decline in final energy consumption (10.6%).

GOAL 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

After a year when the composite indicator for Goal 8 was broadly stable, there was a significant deterioration between 2011 and 2014, influenced by the economic crisis of that period. This was followed by a period of gradual improvement from 2015 to 2019, although this was not sufficient to return Italy's performance to the level seen before the economic crisis. The figures for 2019 were worse than those recorded in 2010 in terms of the indicators for gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP (down 10.3%), the share of involuntary part-time work (up 4.9 percentage points) and non-participation in the labour market (up 1.4 percentage points).

The composite indicator for Goal 8 was heavily influenced by the pandemic in 2020. There was a sharp fall in per capita GDP (down 8.4%), which declined from €28,893 in 2019 to €26,453 in 2020. The ratio of gross fixed capital formation to GDP also fell, despite the significant decline in the latter.

The labour market also underperformed, with the employment rate (20-64 year olds) falling by almost a percentage point to 62.6%, shifting away from the target of 78% to be achieved by 2030. The share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs) also worsened to register the worst performance in the EU at 23.3%.

GOAL 9 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The composite indicator for Goal 9 rose between 2010 and 2018, thanks to large increases in broadband penetration among households (up 30.3 percentage points), the number of companies introducing innovative product and/or process activities (up 21.9 percentage points) and in the number of researchers employed as full-time equivalents (up 47.4%). The composite indicator was stable between 2018 and 2020.

The indicator relating to the percentage of people who use public transport more than once a week fell sharply in 2020, with the figure down from 15.1% in 2019 to 12.5% in 2020. The negative im-

fact of this indicator was offset by the share of households with access to broadband (up 3.1 percentage points) and growth in loans to productive households and non-financial companies as a percentage of GDP (up 13.3%). However, the improvement in this latter indicator is exaggerated by the fact that GDP fell sharply in 2020.

GOAL 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITY

After an initial period of stability, the composite indicator for Goal 10 recorded a negative trend in the three years from 2012 to 2015, reflecting both a deterioration in net income inequality (S80/S20 and which in 2015 reached the highest level in the historical series of 6.3) and a reduction in youth employment (down 3.7 percentage points). The following four years witnessed a slight improvement in the composite indicator but not sufficient to return to the levels seen prior to the economic crisis. The pandemic also had a negative impact on the level of inequality in the country. All the elementary indicators analysed took a turn for the worse in 2020: after a slight improvement between 2017 and 2019, net income inequality rose from 5.9 to 6.1 in the last year, whilst youth employment (15-29 years old) declined 1.9 percentage points between 2019 and 2020, registering a worse performance than the total employment rate (15-64 years old), which was down 0.9 percentage points. Finally, the share of long-term residence permits issued to non-EU residents also fell (down 1.7 percentage points).

GOAL 11 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The composite indicator for Goal 11 has seesawed in recent years, with the figure for 2020 similar to the one for 2010. This reflects the fact that movements in the various elementary indicators have offset each other. There was an improvement in the number of days on which PM10 limits were exceeded (a 45.7% reduction between 2012 and 2019) and a decline in the difficulties in accessing public services (down 1.1 percentage points from 2010 to 2019), whilst the public transport offering worsened (down 7.2% between 2010 and 2019), as did illegal construction (up 5.4 percentage points between 2010 and 2020) and overcrowded housing (up 4.0 percentage points between 2010 and 2019). The composite indicator declined in 2019 and this continued into 2020 due to the pandemic. This re-

flected an increase in the proportion of people who usually commute only by private transport, which rose to its highest level in the historical series (75.0%). The indicator for PM10 pollution also worsened in 2020, primarily, according to ISPRA, due to lower rainfall in both January and in the period from October to December 2020, compared with the same periods of 2019. The lockdown linked to Covid-19 was not sufficient to make up for the fact that the weather was less successful in dispersing air pollution.

GOAL 12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION









Given the lack of data for 2020, the composite indicator for Goal 12 was calculated up to 2019. The composite indicator recorded a promising trend throughout the historical series examined, thanks to improvements in all the elementary indicators. In particular, domestic material consumption per unit of GDOP fell (down 30.0% between 2010 and 2019), as did the per capita consumption of materials (down 30.4%), showing how Italy is making more efficient use of its resources. At the same time, separate waste collection is up (up 26.0 percentage points), as is the material circularity indicator, which measures the share of overall materials that are recovered and reused in the economy (up 8.0 percentage points). Despite the generally positive performance, the improvement in the composite indicator slowed between 2013 and 2019, due primarily to an increase in the per capita volume of urban waste produced. This, following the recovery after the economic crisis, now amounts to 498.4 kg per inhabitant (up 2.5% between 2013 and 2019).









GOAL 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

The composite indicator for Goal 13 corresponds with a single headline indicator, referring to per capita greenhouse gas emissions. The indicator fell (down 18.2%) from 2010 to 2014, followed by a broadly stable performance in the next five years, linked with the economic recovery.

The indicator saw a significant improvement in 2020, with greenhouse gas emissions falling 7.0% to stand at 6.6 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per capita. This is linked to the pause in industrial activity during the lockdown and not to an effective paradigm shift. Furthermore, despite the marked reduction in 2020, the trend over recent years is

Table 2 - Elementary statistical indicators used to calculate the composite indicators for Italy and their polarity (a “+” sign indicates that an increase in the elementary indicator contributes to the growth and improvement of the composite indicator, and a “-” sign indicates a negative contribution to its performance)

Indicator	Polarity
GOAL 1 	
Absolute poverty	-
Relative household poverty rate	-
Low employment intensity	-
Serious material deprivation	-
Percentage of people living in housing with structural problems or damp	-
GOAL 2 	
Overweight or obese adults	-
Adequate nutrition	+
Value added per work unit on farms	+
Gross operating margin on small enterprises' work units	+
Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture by hectare of agricultural area used	+
Fertilizers distributed in non-organic agriculture	-
Plant protection products distributed in agriculture	-
Share of the utilised agricultural area allocated to organic crops	+
GOAL 3 	
Infant mortality rate	-
Probability of dying between the ages of 30 and 69 from cancer, diabetes or a cardiovascular or respiratory disease	-
Life expectancy at birth	+
Standardised share of people aged 14 and over presenting at least one risky alcohol consumption behaviour	-
Standardised share of people aged 14 and over who say they currently smoke	-
Standardised share of people aged 14 and over who do not engage in any physical activity	-
Influenza vaccination coverage for the over-65s	+
Number of doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 inhabitants	+
Number of inpatient beds in acute-care hospitals per 1,000 inhabitants	+
Number of beds in residential social welfare and social healthcare facilities	+
GOAL 4 	
People aged 25-64 who have participated in education and training activities in the previous four weeks	+
Early leaving from education and training	-
Participation rate in educational activities (kindergarten and first year of primary school) of 4-5 year olds	+
Pupils with disabilities in junior secondary school	+
Cultural participation	+
People aged 25-64 who have completed at least secondary school (high school)	+
People aged 30-34 years who have obtained a university degree	+
15-year-old students who have not attained basic reading skills	+
15-year-old students who have not attained basic mathematical skills	-
15-year-old students who have not attained basic scientific skills	-
	-
GOAL 5 	
Women and political representation at local level	+
Feminisation rate for life expectancy at birth	+
Feminisation rate for STEM university course enrolments	+
Ratio between employment rates (25-49 years) of women with pre-school-age children and women without children	+
Feminisation rate of employees' average annual salaries	+
Female employment rate (20-64)	+
Feminisation rate of involuntary part-time work	-
Women members of boards of directors of listed companies	+
GOAL 6 	
Households wary about drinking tap water	-
Households complaining about water supply anomalies	-
Efficiency of drinking water distribution networks	+
Water Exploitation Index	-
GOAL 7 	
Share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption	+
Gross final energy consumption as a percentage of value added	-
GOAL 8 	
GDP per capita	+
GDP per work unit	+
Disposable income per capita	+
Gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP	+
Employment rate (20-64)	+
NEETs (15-29)	-
Non-participation in the labour market	-
Fatal accident and permanent incapacity rate	-
Share of involuntary part-time work in the total number of employees	-
Share of illegal workers	-

GOAL 9 		
Households with a fixed and/or mobile broadband connection		+
Regular public transport users		+
Share of rail transport in total freight transport		+
Loans to non-financial companies and productive households as a percentage of GDP		+
Intensity of emissions as a percentage of industrial value added		-
Companies with innovative product and/or process activities		+
Research intensity		+
Researchers (full-time equivalents)		+
Production specialisation in high-tech sectors		+
GOAL 10 		
Share of income received by the poorest 40% of the population		+
Net income inequality (S80/S20)		-
Risk of poverty		-
Youth employment rate (15-29)		+
Inter-regional hospital patient mobility		-
Mobility of Italian graduates		+
Residence permits		+
GOAL 11 		
Illegal construction index		-
Urban green spaces as a percentage of total urbanised areas in cities		+
Exceedances of daily PM10 limit value in provincial capitals		-
Available seat kilometres offered by local public transport		+
People who usually commute only by private vehicle		-
People living in overcrowded housing		-
Children who have benefited from municipal childcare services		+
Difficulty in accessing certain services		-
GOAL 12 		
Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP		-
Domestic material consumption per capita		-
Material circularity		+
Recycling rate		+
Separate collection of municipal waste		+
Production of municipal waste per capita		-
GOAL 13 		
Total greenhouse gases according to the National Emissions Inventory (UNFCCC) per capita		-
GOAL 14 		
Overfishing		-
Catch per unit effort (CPUE)		-
Marine protected areas		+
GOAL 15 		
Soil sealing		-
Land cover index		-
Land fragmentation index		-
Forested areas		+
GOAL 16 		
Victims of voluntary homicides committed		-
Predatory crime rate		-
Cybercrime		-
Prisoners awaiting first judgment as a percentage of the total number of inmates		-
Duration of civil proceedings		-
Overcrowding in prisons		-
Social participation		+
Confidence in institutions index		+
GOAL 17 		
Official Development Assistance as a percentage of GDP		+
Imports from developing countries		+
Public debt-to-GDP ratio		-
Share of environmental taxes as a percentage of total tax revenue		+

not in sufficient to meet the European target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. This situation highlights the need for policies that can guide Italy towards the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2050.

GOAL 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER

Given the lack of up-to-date figures for 2020, it was also not possible to compute the composite indicator for Goal 14 for that year.

After an initial four years of relative stability, the composite indicator registered a significant improvement in 2015, thanks to a reduction in overfishing rate to 83.7%, the lowest figure in the historical series. Between 2015 and 2018, the composite indicator deteriorated continuously due to increased fishing activity and overfishing. The latter rate rose to 92.7%, far higher than the figure for Europe (in the north-east Atlantic) of 43.1%. In addition, it should be noted that, from 2013 onwards, the catch per unit effort, measuring the relative abundance of fish, has continually risen (up 44.4%) until in 2018 it registered the worst level in the historical series (equal to 11.7 kg per day). The indicator for marine protected areas remained broadly stable from 2010 to 2019, when the figure was 1.7%. This remains a very long way off the target of 30% by 2030, set in the EU's biodiversity strategy.

GOAL 15 - LIFE ON LAND

The composite indicator shows a downtrend throughout the period examined, caused by a sharp decline in the elementary indicators relating to land fragmentation and land cover. The rate of land cover, above all, rose by 5.1 percentage points between 2006 and 2020.

The pandemic and the resulting lockdowns eased the pressure on terrestrial natural habitats, albeit only temporarily, with a reduction in the number of hectares used in 2020 compared with 2019 (down 13.8%). This is not sufficient to compensate for the negative performance, which continued in 2020, when the rate of land use registered its worst level in the historical series at 7.1%.

GOAL 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The composite indicator for Goal 16 shows a downtrend until 2013, reflecting an increase in

predatory crimes (robbery, theft and pickpocketing) and a reduction in social participation. In the following the three years, the trend was reversed thanks to an improvement in crime indicators, for both predatory crimes and homicides, and a reduction in prison overcrowding. The situation remained stable between 2016 and 2020, with an increase in the composite indicator only in the last year.

The pandemic had a positive effect on this Goal. Above all, the situation regarding criminality improved, with a sharp decline in homicides and predatory crimes during the lockdown to historic lows, after falling 10.4% and 37.8% in just one year. In contrast, fraud and cybercrime rose by 14.4%.

There was also a major improvement in the indicator that measures prison overcrowding, which reached its best level in the historical series. At 105.5%, the indicator was close to the target of 100%. This was achieved thanks to the steps taken to limit infections within the prison population. Finally, 2020 also saw confidence in institutions reach an all-time high.

GOAL 17 - PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The composite indicator for Goal 17 worsened in the first two years of the historical series, with rising public debt to GDP ratio and declining imports from developing countries. In the following years, through to 2019, the composite indicator was broadly stable as two opposing trends offset each other, with the increase in Official Development Assistance (up 0.08 percentage points) offset by a deterioration in other indicators.

The pandemic had a negative effect on the composite indicator. The measures introduced in response to the pandemic put enormous pressure on the public purse, leading to an increase in public debt. Between 2019 and 2020, the ratio of public debt to GDP rose by 21.2 percentage points to 155.8%, reflecting both the rise in debt and the sharp decline in GDP.

3.2 Government initiatives in response to the Covid-19 crisis

Over the last year, ASviS has continuously monitored the legislative interventions that have been implemented via ordinary measures, such as the Budget Law, and extraordinary measures, such as the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). This latter initiative represents a programme of unprecedented size and ambition, involving investment and reforms designed to accelerate the transition to sustainability and achieve greater gender, geographical and generational equality. This will be done through a series of investments funded by Next Generation EU, a package of stimulus measures financed by the European Union for the benefit of member states, with the aim of building back better after the pandemic, transforming economies and make Europe more ecological, digital and resilient. In this context, as well as assessing the Budget Law in the light of the SDGs (something that ASviS does every year, but that in 2021 has taken on even more importance due to the impact of the pandemic) ASviS has produced a series of critical analyses and constructive assessments of the version of the NRRP adopted by the previous executive on 12 January, with the aim of putting forward recommendations and proposals for use by the Government in revising the document, and of the final version of the plan drawn up by the new Government and submitted to the European Commission in 30 April. In connection with the NRRP, representing the cornerstone for all the Government measures introduced during the year, this section consists of a summary, in chronological order, of all the key policies introduced by the Government over the twelve months with an impact on all the dimensions of sustainable development.

Italian presidency of the G20

From 1 December, Italy assumed responsibility for guiding debate and decision-making at one of the most delicate global summits to have been held in recent years. “People, Planet, Prosperity” are the first three pillars on which the 2030 Agenda is based and the basis for the lengthy, wide-ranging programme for the G20 summit. The international community was faced with having to deal not only with the emergency caused by the pandemic - which has brought national health systems to their knees and represents a serious

threat to economic and social stability - but also with a series of urgent matters, from climate change to tackling inequalities, so as to ensure that we do not stray too far from the sustainable development goals and compromise our ability to create a more resilient planet, capable of a better response to future shocks. ASviS took part in the summit, promoting the discussion of topics relating to sustainable development and transformative resilience throughout the event. Various members took part in the official Engagement Groups, which address many areas that are vitally important for the work of the G20. The Alliance was involved in discussion of a range of issues, especially those relating to entrepreneurship, labour, youth, women’s empowerment, urban policies, sustainable development and combating inequality. With regard to the issue of women’s empowerment, we provided support for the W20’s proposal to develop a roadmap for a gender equal world, which was formally presented to the G20 during the W20 summit held in Rome between 13 and 15 July 2021. The roadmap aims to: facilitate the creation of inclusive and innovative economic models; ensure equal representation of women at all levels of decision making in public and private, national and global, political and economic bodies by 2030; monitor policies using gender-sensitive and disaggregated data; develop gender impact assessments to be applied to the different development strategies; Promote education by investing in infrastructure to ensure women and girls have access to and participate in pre-school to tertiary education, including early education and STEM programmes. The groups acted independently from Governments, so that they were in a position to formally present their recommendations to the Presidency prior to the final summit, which took place in Rome from 30 to 31 October, in order to take stock. The Italian Government established the agenda based on a number of priorities, including: the adoption of green technologies and innovative tools, safeguards for persons at risk of greater vulnerability, women, the young, support for entrepreneurship, social protection, food security, digitalisation, efforts to conserve and restore ecosystems, promotion of an efficient, sustainable energy sector to ensure compliance with the Paris Agreement, and a return to multilateralism to build a global pandemic recovery plan.

2021 Budget Law

Although this year's Budget Law assumed a less important role in economic planning, given both the launch of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) and the change in executive and parliamentary majority, it still played a major part in the allocation of resources. A quantitative judgement, as contained in ASviS's assessment of the law, offers an overview of the decisions taken by the Government and Parliament in relation to the 2030 Agenda. This reveals that, within the scope of the Government's overall priorities, the document focuses more on certain specific Goals, including Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and Goal 3 (Good health and wellbeing).

Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Interministerial Committee for the Ecological Transition

At the end of February, the Cabinet approved the *Ministeri* ("Ministries") Law Decree, which has reassigned the responsibilities of and restructured a number of ministries. This has led to the creation of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, which has replaced the former Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection. In addition to all the responsibilities of the former Ministry for the Environment, the new department has assumed responsibility for a number of key aspects of the ecological transition, mainly relating to the energy sector. The Decree has also set up the Interministerial Committee for the Ecological Transition within the cabinet Officer, with the role of coordinating national ecological transition policies and the related planning processes. The Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister or, in his absence, the Minister for the Ecological Transition and its members are the Minister for the South and National Cohesion, the Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Ministers of the Economy and Finance, Economic Development, Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility, Culture and Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility

On the recommendation of the Minister, Enrico Giovannini and with the approval of the Cabinet, the above Law Decree reorganising certain ministries renamed the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility. The change of name matches the vision of development aligned with current EU policies and the principles underlying the Next Generation EU programme. The aim is to drive a strong economic recovery that is sustainable from both social and environmental perspectives.

National Conference on Sustainable Development and revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy

The process of revising the National Sustainable Development Strategy was meant to follow on from the Second National Conference on Sustainable Development, initially scheduled for March 2020 but then unexpectedly delayed and postponed by the arrival of the pandemic. The Conference was thus rescheduled for autumn 2021. In the meantime, during the current year, a number of public meetings and technical seminars were organised as part of the three-yearly process of revising the Strategy. On 3 and 4 March, the preparatory conference was held by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition. The conference gave Government institutions, civil society and youth organisations and businesses the opportunity to discuss the topic of sustainability in three thematic sessions: one focusing on civil society organisations and the Forum for Sustainable Development, a second looking at the role of young people in decision-making processes, and a third focusing on local areas as key to implementation of the sustainable development goals.

In addition, on 20 April, during the first meeting of the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development, the Ministry for the Ecological Transition presented the 2020 Report on Implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Report plays a key role in relation to the National Sustainable Development Strategy, setting out the work carried out to date and indicating the next steps to be taken and the objectives that have been set.

Report on the Fair and Sustainable Well-being (FSW) indicators

The fourth report on Fair and Sustainable Well-being (FSW) indicators within the context of the Budget law, submitted to Parliament in March 2021, highlights the negative impact of the pandemic on Italians' economic wellbeing, inequalities, work and unemployment among women with children. As regards poverty, the measures contained in the 2021 Budget Law will make a major contribution in terms of outcomes, whilst the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) will lead to growth in GDP and employment, thereby improving the potential for economic growth over the medium to long term. Finally, the report stresses how, by focusing additional investment on local health services, digitalisation and research, the measures in the Budget Law and the NRRP should create the basis for an improvement in healthy life expectancy following the estimated decline in 2021.

Vaccination campaign

Following approval by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the anti-Covid-19 vaccination campaign got underway in Italy and Europe. The national vaccination programme to prevent infection from SARS-CoV-2, drawn up by the Ministry of Health, the Special Commissioner for the Emergency, the National Health Institute, the National Agency for Regional Health Services and Italy's own Medicines Agency, was launched by Decree on 12 March 2021. The plan for the nationwide vaccination campaign, drawn up by the Special Commissioner, was circulated on 13 March 2021. Having established operational guidelines designed to guarantee a rapid rollout by age group, the Government's aim was to avoid any slowdown in the pace of vaccination, with the intention of giving two doses to at least 70-80% of the population by the end of September 2021, before schools reopened.

The "Support" (or *Sostegni*) Decree

This legislation, approved on 22 March 2021, has allocated funding of approximately €32 billion, equal to the maximum additional spending authorised by Parliament, in order to boost efforts to halt the spread of Covid-19 and alleviate the

social and economic effects of the preventive measures adopted. The funds are to be used for interventions in five key areas: support for businesses and third sector organisations; labour and efforts to tackle poverty; health and safety; support for local authorities; and additional sectoral interventions.

The "Reopening" (or *Riapertura*) Decree

The text sets out the timetable for the progressive relaxation of the restrictions introduced to limit the spread of Covid-19, based on scientific data on the pandemic and the rollout of the vaccination programme. The Decree requires all the activities previously subject to restrictions must be conducted in accordance with certain rules and guidelines already in place or to be put in place by regional authorities and autonomous provinces on the basis of the criteria defined by the scientific technical committee.

Meetings organised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility to consult on infrastructure and mobility policies

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility initiated a new series of meetings to develop proposals and discuss assessments of the impact of initiatives undertaken by the Ministry, starting from the NRRP. The process focuses on the results of studies and analyses, makes recommendations of a legislative and technical nature, promotes best practices identified from among those used by local authorities or the private sector, helps to ensure the transparency and accountability of the Ministry's policies and actions and their outcomes, and examines the costs of the transition to sustainability, with the aim of supporting the Ministry in choosing the right trade-offs between the various policies and actions, and puts forward offsetting measures to make them coherent and beneficial. Many of the Alliance's members are taking part in the meetings, including environmental and civil society organisations, labour unions and trade associations, business organisations and cooperatives. The first meeting was held on 6 April.

National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)

Italy is the number one beneficiary, in absolute terms, of the two key Next generation EU instruments: the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU). The RRF alone provides €191.5 billion in funding to be used in the period between 2021 and 2026, including €68.9 billion in grants. Italy intends to take full advantage of the funding made available in the form of RRF loans, which are estimated to amount to €122.6 billion. The six Missions included in the Plan are: digitalisation, innovation, competitiveness, culture and tourism; green revolution and the ecological transition; infrastructure for sustainable mobility; education and research; inclusion and cohesion; and health. ASviS welcomes the final version of the NRRP, given final approval by the EU's Ecofin Council in July, in terms of the more focused approach demonstrated through the Missions, the clearly targeted use of funds and the emphasis on directing efforts towards three cross-cutting aspects: women, the south of the country and youth. Obviously, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating, based on the effective outcomes of the various projects and reforms. It is also significant that it has been decided to adopt an inclusive approach, combining the other national and European sources of funding with the funds provided under the NRRP, in keeping with explicit recommendations from the EU over the last two semesters. This additional funding has been integrated into the Plan, with at least 14 reforms and interventions, making a key contribution to ensuring cohesion among the various policies. There is, however, no reference made to the SDGs, which have become a key reference point for European policy-makers as part of a vision that looks to the future of the Next Generation EU programme, aiming to "ensure that short-term actions are motivated by long-term goals". In terms of governance of the Plan, its multi-layered structure, with a steering committee within the Cabinet Office, coordination provided by the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, as the sole point of contact with the European Commission, and the involvement of ministries and regional and city authorities in implementation of the various projects, is certainly a positive aspect. The creation of a tech-

nical secretariat for the Plan is also a positive step. The secretariat acts as a go-between for the steering committee within the Cabinet Office and the permanent roundtable involving social partners and self-governing regions. Together with the special committee set up by the Public Works Commission, the special committee set up to assess the environmental impact of the projects included in the NRRP and PNIEC and the separate department created for this purpose, this is one of the four bodies created ad hoc to speed up Italy's recovery from the pandemic. It is worth noting that it will be important to ensure the utmost transparency both during implementation of the Plan and in reporting the results, with precise periodic reports, including civil society and regional and city authorities, as provided for by the Parliament when converting the Decree on governance of the Plan into law. A critical issue is the frequent absence of any quantitative or qualitative targets, above all in relation to social and environmental aspects. This will potentially make it difficult, if not impossible, to assess the adequacy of investments and the subsequent monitoring. It would be good if these quantitative targets could match the indicators used to assess progress towards achieving the SDGs, or that they could make reference to the Goals, as well to specific targets set at the level of European strategies and/or national plans already implemented or in the process of being so. A further shortcoming of the Plan regards the way in which the Missions have been defined, which does not follow the pillars referred to in the EU guidelines. This makes it sometime difficult to clearly connect the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 and the Plan itself. In addition, there is no coordination with the national Sustainable Development Strategy. To this end, it is extremely important that, when it is next revised, the Strategy is structured in a manner consistent with the NRRP and is linked to the targets and indicators used to monitor the SDGs, including within the wider framework of the European Semester's National Reform Programme.

Overall, all the Government's initiatives during the last year have been influenced by the NRRP, which has the potential to be our country's most important economic policy initiative and reform programme in decades.

In ASviS's view, the Plan does not take sufficient account of current and future environmental

challenges, or of the link between these and the outlook for economic prosperity and social well-being and security, with specific regard to the interests of future generations. Another shortcoming is the Plan's failure to fully embrace the One Health approach, which underscores the close link between health and the vitality of natural systems as being key to human health and wellbeing. Although the document lists the main risks to which Italy is exposed - such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, raised sea levels, drought, desertification, hydrogeological instability, the availability of water resources - the threats are dealt with in a fragmented and unintegrated fashion. This also applies to the financial resources provided, whose allocation would appear not to have been decided on the basis of European and international strategies, programmes or frameworks, nor of the thinking behind their definition. The links between the Plan's various Missions is also weak, leading to the risk that the various policies and projects could be carried out in isolation, without forming part of an overall national vision for sustainable development. In defining and planning the various interventions, it will be necessary to ensure an improvement on what has gone before, setting out objectives and expected outcomes that are verifiable in terms of wellbeing and reductions in socio-economic inequalities. It will also be important to ensure that adequate steps are taken to prevent and mitigate future shocks.

Economic and Financial Planning Document for 2021 and infrastructure annex

This year, the Economic and Financial Planning Document does not contain the usual National Reform Programme as, in accordance with article 18.3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and Council, dated 12 February 2021, only the NRRP was submitted in April. This was done in view of the impact, in terms of reform of the entire economic and social system, of the Next Generation EU funds. For this reason, the macroeconomic forecasts in the Economic and Financial Planning Document for 2021 only partly reflect the ambitious nature of the recovery policies the Government intends to pursue.

The infrastructure annex to the Economic and Financial Planning Document was published on 11

August 2021, setting out how Italy is going to be transformed in the next ten years, using an innovative approach based on guidelines drawn up with reference to the SDGs during the planning and implementation stages for investment projects. The document includes a scenario analysis and describes the works considered priority for the country's development. This anticipates the long-term strategy in the general Transport and Logistics Plan and the Multi-year Planning Document, also in view of the investment and reforms provided for in the NRRP.

Progress towards inclusion of sustainable development in the Italian Constitution

In his policy-making speech before the Senate, following the new Government's swearing-in in February, the Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, made reference to values and ideas in keeping with those promoted by ASviS in recent years, and based on the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda, including insertion of the principle of sustainable development in the Constitution. Based on this approach, in May, the Senate's Committee on Constitutional Affairs approved an amendment introducing sustainable development into the Constitution. The amendment, involving changes to articles 9 and 41 of the Constitution, calls for protection of the environment and also makes mention of the need to protect animals. This is a significant step towards intergenerational justice, even if it could still be improved on. This outcome marks the end of a process involving the combination of eight draft laws on the same topic, presented by members of almost all the different parties, providing proof of increased awareness of the related issues at both Government and party level. The process of amending the Constitution still has a long way to go, as both houses of Parliament must approve the legislation twice by qualified majority, with at least two-thirds of members voting in favour. If the amendment is approved by absolute majorities, the changes will have to be put to a referendum. It is also possible that the text may be further improved on as it passes through Parliament, with a more precise reference to sustainable development as enshrinement of the principle of intergenerational justice.

Law Decree on businesses, work, young people, health and local services

Law Decree 73/2021 has provided approximately €40 billion, to be taken from the additional spending previously authorised by Parliament, in order to boost and extend efforts to halt the spread of Covid-19 and alleviate the social and economic effects of the preventive measures adopted. The initiatives are based around 7 key areas of action: support for businesses and the economy and cuts in fixed costs; access to credit and liquidity for businesses; health protection; labour and social policies; support for local government; youth, education and research; measures of a sectoral nature.

“Simplifications” (or *Semplificazioni*) Decree and the NRRP

This legislation contains provisions regarding how the NRRP is to be managed, defining the roles of the various public bodies involved and the procedures to be followed in monitoring the Plan and engaging with the European authorities. Overall responsibility for governance of the NRRP has been assigned to a steering committee chaired by the Prime Minister and in which the relevant ministers and under-secretaries take part as and when deemed necessary in view of the matters to be dealt with. The second part of the Decree includes measures designed to simplify legislation regarding certain sectors included in the NRRP (the ecological transition, public works and digitalisation) in order to facilitate the Plan’s full implementation. The final text of the Decree contains a number of changes: the *Superbonus* 110%, simplified accounting arrangements for the public administration - to avoid delays in using the funding provide under the Recovery Plan - and the introduction of vaccine certificates.

Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility Decree

On 2 September, the Cabinet approved a Law Decree containing measures designed to improve transport services and facilitate investment in infrastructure. The Decree regulates the creation of dedicated parking places for pregnant mothers and parents with children under the age of two. Municipal authorities will also be granted the

possibility of reserving parking places, on a temporary or permanent basis, for vehicles used to transport disabled people or school children. Fines for the unauthorised use of any of the above reserved spaces have been increased.

In terms of local public transport, in view of what has happened during the pandemic and the re-opening of workplaces and schools, regional authorities may now use a portion of the funding provided in order to finance additional services to increase controls on vehicles.

The Decree has also introduced measures to facilitate investment in the safety of railway infrastructure (the accelerated rollout of the European Rail Traffic Management System - ERTMS) and in dams. The procedure used in allocating funding (€4.6 billion) designed to bridge infrastructure inequalities across different areas of the country has been revised.

The Decree also addresses the need to reduce the infrastructure gap affecting southern Italy, offering support designed to boost the planning capabilities of municipal and regional authorities in the south of the country. The inclusion of the Minister for the South and National Cohesion in the steering committee for school buildings will ensure a fairer allocation of funding for the construction of creches and nursery schools around Italy.

The new provisions regarding local planning, with funding of €120 million, will enable 4.6 thousand Italian towns (all those with less than 30,000 inhabitants in the south and inner areas) to create a pool of projects eligible for funding under the NRRP, the Development and Cohesion Fund and other structural funds. There is also a related bonus mechanism for municipal authorities.

3.3 The pandemic, the just transition and businesses' commitment to sustainability

Recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, in terms of business and the economy, is closely linked to a just transition towards sustainable models of value creation from both a social and environmental standpoint. Due to the pandemic, 2021 was marked by great uncertainty accompanied by increasingly specific guidelines from national and European institutions, all heavily betting on sustainability as a lever for economic and social recovery.

On the international scene, from an institutional standpoint, EU Next Generation, Green Taxonomy and proposed amendments to the EU Non-financial Reporting Directive are some of the most significant drivers impacting on businesses' development-related choices and strategies. Large enterprises are strongly motivated to adopt responsible and sustainable behaviours in order to seize market opportunities made available thanks to the new regulatory framework. The main challenge, however, entails directing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the backbone of the Italian and European manufacturing sector, towards models of sustainable development and the adoption of ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) criteria in their decision-making and business processes. More farsighted companies have already started reorganising accordingly, setting up supply chain networks and protocols designed to involve enterprises of various sizes.

Surveys of Italian companies carried out in 2021 (Deloitte, Rapporto Symbola Ambrosetti) have confirmed that the pandemic has sped up not only digitalisation processes, in order to handle new forms of work, but also sustainability strategies relating to both environmental and social aspects, as well as those pertaining to human capital, territories and local communities. As proof of this, businesses that best managed to overcome the most difficult period are the most resilient and cohesive.

It should also be noted that Italian companies are increasingly aware that, if managed well, the ecological transition also presents enormous opportunities for development and growth to those countries able to use them as drivers towards innovation, the creation of new businesses and

professions and new and more skilled types of work. In order for a transition to be truly just, it is clearly necessary to adopt an approach that is as inclusive and participatory as possible. It must involve citizens, communities, civil society organisations and, in general, all stakeholders, especially those who could be impacted by the negative effects of the measures implemented, in the selection and assessment of implementing measures. Such an approach is needed in order to combine the goals of environmental protection with those of social cohesion and reducing inequalities, and to enhance specific territorial characteristics of the areas where the businesses operate and create value.

Businesses' growing awareness coupled with regulatory pressures on ESG issues has resulted in substantial modifications to corporate governance systems, especially in terms of forms of governance, nomination and remuneration mechanisms for the members of boards of directors and risk monitoring systems. According to recent studies (CSRManager Network and ALTIS), 9 out of 10 companies listed on the Italian Stock Exchange's FTSE-MIB index have entrusted an internal Board committee with the task of overseeing issues related to sustainability. Moreover, 1 out of 4 of these companies has set up a committee exclusively devoted to sustainability, whilst the others have delegated sustainability issues to their audit and risk committees. Compared with boards of directors, these committees interact with sustainability managers on matters regarding ESG risks more frequently in the form of joint meetings (twice instead of once a year). Additionally, more than half of these listed companies have linked the ESG indicators to the variable component of remuneration systems used for Directors and appointed Directors with expertise in sustainability. The acquisition of this expertise has been combined with an approach geared not only towards oversight, but also towards guiding the process of embedding sustainability goals within strategic planning and the management and monitoring of social and environmental risks. Consequently, induction training regarding ESG risks has been stepped up.

At the same time, businesses are fully aware of how important it is to have the right skills and knowledge for use in the field of sustainability: despite the pandemic, there has been an upsurge in the need for digital skills and expertise pertain-

ing to sustainability. In particular, the demand for digital skills is a top requisite for 93% of new positions in 2020 and for green skills the demand stands at 82% (Unioncamere-Anpal 2020 Report). Transformation of the jobs market will itself be key to enhancing companies' staying power and their ability to overcome periods of crisis, with regard to both investment in skills - increasingly green and digital - and organisational processes and models. Indeed, Covid-19 has provided an extraordinary boost to remote and flexible working arrangements. Prior to the health emergency, 13% of companies (around 500,000 employees, based on data from Milan's Polytechnic Observatory) availed of such arrangements, whilst today only 4% choose not to utilise them. According to initial outcomes from national research, even following the emergency, between 3 and 5 million employees will continue to work remotely. This will have positive environmental and social impacts: less travelling can help reduce CO₂ emissions by

around 300 kilograms per capita a year and the chance to work from home is appreciated as it contributes to a better work-life balance and enhances concentration and individual productivity in the reaching of set objectives.

By now the need to adopt a transformative approach to doing business along with a long-term vision, whereby contextual analysis and risk management skills can turn risks into opportunities, is clear to both companies and institutions. In order to handle this change - all the while increasing competitiveness and meeting the expectations and needs of all stakeholders - businesses must address sustainability from a strategic perspective, moving towards a sustainable economic model in both social and environmental terms.

FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The ASviS Finance Working Group for sustainable development highlights how sustainability reforms currently underway in the regulation of financial markets and investment processes implemented by the public administration, in conjunction with the EU Next Generation Programme, are two exceptional opportunities to steer Europe's entire economic and social system in the direction of the Sustainable Development Goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda. To this regard, we should like to offer two considerations.

Implementation of the Action Plan for sustainable development: significant new developments and outstanding issues

On 6 July, the European Commission published its strategy for financing the transition to a sustainable economy¹, therein proposing six lines of action regarding investment with the aim of: introducing minimum sustainability criteria for financial products that promote ESG characteristics, fostering greater participation from the retail sector in sustainable investment, bolstering financial systems' resilience to ESG risks, increasing the financial system's ability to determine when climate neutrality has been reached (also by imposing greater transparency as regards ESG ratings), combating greenwashing and favouring ESG reporting transparency.

The new strategy comes in the wake of intense new regulation moving towards transposition of the following directives:

- **classification of production sectors based on their contribution to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.** Specifically, the Commission continues to implement the Taxonomy Regulation by means of delegated acts linked to technical screening criteria on sustainable activities² for climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives, which will come into effect in January 2022. Additional delegated acts will follow for the European Union's other four environmental objectives. On this front, there are still numerous political tensions, especially concerning the contribution of some sectors to reducing greenhouse gases. Such tensions will have to be resolved in the upcoming months.

- **Information to investors regarding the ESG content of financial products and intermediaries' approaches to Sustainable Development Goals** via developments in the Regulation on the disclosure of ESG³ risks and impacts and a more in-depth look at the matter of information, which is especially central to European initiatives. The Regulation also promotes the diffusion of ever more precise indicators to be adopted by market players, such as, by way of example, the percentage of assets and the proportion of turnover aligned to the taxonomy⁴.
- **Regulation of specialised financial products and approach to Environmental Social Governance (ESG) of regulations impacting on choices made by the final customer.** This is the case of green bonds⁵, for which a proposed regulation was put forward on 6 July 2021. This promotes the allocation of the funds raised towards investment in line with the taxonomy and with the introduction of an assessment of sustainability preferences in the client profile adopted during implementation of the directives regulating markets (banking, insurance and financial)⁶;
- **Extension of non-financial reporting obligations**, via amendment of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive⁷ with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Initiative (CSRD), which proposes extending the obligation to publish a Sustainability Report from the current 11 thousand to more than 50 thousand European companies. This initiative introduces new standards founded on the double materiality concept, on the basis of which information must be included in the Sustainability Report if it impacts on both the company's long-term value and the related social-environmental context;
- **Intensification of the European Banking Authority's initiative** regarding assessment of the risks taken on by banking and financial intermediaries with reference to ESG factors, in order to align business strategies, governance and risk management with the 2021 Report⁸. The Report calls for a significant change in the process of assessing capital adequacy (Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process - SREP), including a more explicit evaluation of the long-term impact of ESG risks. Based on the Report's conclusions and changes to the process currently underway following the Action Plan, the European Banking Association (EBA) is urging the authorities to adapt legislation in line with the indications set forth in the Report.

These current actions must necessarily be joined by a process recently launched via the **Platform on Sustainable Finance** to define recommendations for the introduction of a **taxonomy of social objectives**, to be seen as "fundamental" to achieving the SDGs, also considering the current social crisis sparked by the pandemic. Additionally, consideration is being given to possible regulations that extend the taxonomy to include the classification of economic activities not impacting on the environment and those having a negative impact.

In light of this process and the crucial need to rapidly advance towards achievement of the SDGs, the ASviS Working Group on Sustainable Finance would like to make certain observations:

1. A fundamental element is correct and careful management of the transition process, also through a significant increase in resources for a Just Transition. Balancing rapid achievement of the climate neutrality objectives, adequate progress in the adoption of technologies enhancing the ecological and energy transitions (especially with regard to power producing sectors and to those that consume energy) and maintenance of adequate competitiveness at system and national levels can be reached only through full, balanced and adequate support of resources and fixed time-frames for the rapid and effective achievement of the transition objectives. One possible solution could be a system of incentives for companies commensurate with their achievement of decarbonisation objectives, which could potentially be traded in a market and backed by government guarantees.
2. The process of change now underway is strongly conditioned by a massive utilisation of digital technologies that are changing the habits of savers and consumers in their interactions with traditional intermediaries, as well as with new digitally-driven financial service providers. The risk of a significant financial digital divide goes hand-in hand with the technological digital divide, possibly worsening the financial inclusion of a significant part of the population;

3. Another key element is recognition of the fact that sustainable finance plays a decisive role in steering consumers towards the selection of sustainable goods and services, towards which financial service providers can introduce or follow new ways of developing retail products, also in the light of sustainability preferences arising from the regulation of final customer profiling;
4. Investment choices must be firmly oriented in the direction of so-called impact finance, with methods combining financial and social objectives, in order to achieve the collective sustainability of investment processes. Adoption of these methods has yet to be widespread and speeding up the taxonomy of socially sustainable development goals could provide a significant push in this direction. To this end, it is important that the benchmarks currently proposed by international standards are accompanied by the experience already garnered in the no-profit arena, especially as regards the assessment of investments carried out in this major part of the economy.

Enhancing the transformative capabilities of public finance

In the debate that gradually arose about the procurement of resources and the measures to be adopted in order to relaunch the economy, public finance took on a central role not only because it was expected to repair, guarantee and stimulate, but also because it is able to influence the content and forms of policy determining the actual development of the country and its territories and communities. With specific procedures and conditions, public finance becomes a starter button for the transformative force of the 2030 Agenda, a cross-cutting trigger for the transition to sustainability⁹, pushing for incorporation of the SDGs in development policies, sustaining ecological transitions, energy transitions and digital transformation and promoting policies of equality and social innovation.

For Italy, the new approach to public finance as set out in the Next Generation EU recovery plan and the cohesion policy funds will allow investment to grow by 15.2% in 2021, by 8.7% in 2022, and by 5% in 2023. In the three-year period 2021-2023, gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to post average growth of around 5.1% for 2021, followed by growth of 4.4% in 2022 and 2.3% in 2023. There will be increases in household consumption, estimated at 3.3% in 2021, 5.6% in 2022 and 2.2% in 2023, determined by the relaxation of travel restrictions, a reduction in the fear of infection, a rise in consumer confidence and a gradual reduction in the tendency to save¹⁰.

Growth in domestic demand and the restart of investment will place a heavy burden on natural systems and increase the use of resources (energy consumption, waste production, water consumption, loss of natural capital), also impacting on the social equilibrium (unequal access to opportunities, time differences in the return to pre-crisis levels, skewed distribution of income and earnings, limited availability of services). Moreover, pressure on natural systems and social hardships are not evenly distributed throughout the country and tend to produce more serious consequences in Italy's southern regions, where the new dynamics of the post-pandemic economy must cope with longstanding geographical divides¹¹.

In this macro-economic context and against the backdrop of changes in public finance, it is important to define the technical and procedural conditions governing the use of funds and adopt tools for assessing the level of sustainability of an investment, so as to rapidly mobilise public and private resources for long-term structural recovery and transformation of the economy towards a sustainable development model. As to private finance, there is an urgent need to simplify and standardise the operating models and render them replicable for different projects.

Planning for the use of funds and budget allocations to Missions, components, policy objectives and specific objectives relating to the Objectives and Targets in the 2030 Agenda do not, in and of themselves, constitute an assurance that investment is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Allocating €191.5 billion from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) and €30.6 billion in national resources from the additional fund for sectors and interventions aligned with the SDGs certainly enables programming. Nevertheless, this must be further extended in subsequent phases of the policy cycle with specific technical and procedural measures able to direct investment towards the purposes of sustainable development:

in the start-up phase (commitment of resources and procurement procedures for the acquisition of goods, services and works); during implementation (selection and award criteria); during monitoring (utilisation of SDG indicators) and during evaluation (alignment with the SDGs).

In terms of financing sustainable development, Italy has discovered that it is particularly vulnerable. Consequently, due to excessive macroeconomic imbalances, in the next few years the country will have to face considerable risks in terms of achieving a sustainable budget.

In 2019, the nominal public deficit stood at 1.6% of GDP (a historic low), before rising sharply to 9.5% in 2020 and reaching 11.7% of GDP in 2021. Meanwhile, the debt-to-GDP ratio rose from 134.6% in 2019 to 155.8% in 2020 and it will continue growing to reach 159.8% of GDP in 2021.

One indispensable condition to be met if Italy is to start reducing its debt-to-GDP ratio is to take full advantage of the considerable investment and reforms contained in the NRRP in order to boost Total Factor Productivity (TFP). For far too long Italy's TFP has stagnated at unsatisfactory levels, especially as regards the material conditions of production (education, services, etc.), as clearly indicated by the Governor of the Bank of Italy in his closing remarks for 2020.

From a short-term standpoint, one critical issue concerns the reduced availability of funding for current spending in the budgets of regional and local authorities, due to the necessary measures taken to contain the public deficit and reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio. Future years might see a shortfall in funding for current spending, essential to ensuring the upkeep, smooth operation and routine maintenance of the infrastructure built with the investment provided for in the NRRP.

One solution to reducing the vulnerability of government budgets entails the use of private finance initiatives to fund specific investment programmes and finance schemes, including funding for the operation and management of infrastructure, thereby cutting the need to finance current spending. This approach implies the development of capabilities and competences on the part of the various authorities, which will be called on to prepare and manage forms of funding, in combination with reinforced efforts to attract financing from financial markets, especially investment from ESG funds.

The ability to adequately manage the public finances is essential to ensuring the viability of the objectives set forth in the 2030 Agenda and the efficiency of investment. To that end, it is necessary to identify which of the entities responsible for planning and implementation is able to deliver investment in the quickest and best way possible, so as to achieve the set objectives, reach the target audiences and deliver the projects on schedule.

Article 9 of Legislative Decree 77/2021 provides that the operational implementation of the projects called for in the NRRP be entrusted to central government and to regional and local authorities, on the basis of their specific institutional role or legal title to the works, as defined by the Plan. Despite the fact that the legislation is in place, an effective solution still has to be found regarding whether control of the funds and the management and ownership of projects should be assigned to central government or regional and city authorities.

At this stage in the planning process, there are numerous funds with similar objectives and purposes, to be implemented by a range of entities for the benefit of the same geographical areas. This situation requires central government and regional and local authorities to assess the complementary, synergic and interdependent nature of the funding and the entities responsible for delivery.

The complementary nature of the funds and the demarcation of projects into those financed by the NRRP and those financed by the structural funds for 2021-2027 are capable of adding value during the planning process. In theory, this situation would permit local and regional authorities to determine which of the funds available to them to utilise to finance projects, based on their needs and priorities. In practice, however, current information on the NRRP's governance model and implementation mechanisms would appear not to allow for this.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the complementarity, demarcation and synergic nature of the funds, the ability of the public finances to channel investment towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda would seem to be somewhat weakened.

3.4 The younger generations and sustainable development

On 17 February 2021, Italy's Prime Minister, Mario Draghi, reaffirmed the commitment to insert sustainable development in the Italian constitution, as proposed by ASviS: the Prime Minister's policy-making speech is something of a historical turning point for the future of Italy and its future generations. It is for this reason that, since its inception, ASviS has proposed the inclusion of the principle of justice within and across the generations in Italy's founding document. Commitment to this constitutional amendment has always been one of ASviS's flagship proposals, reaffirmed in every annual report since the Alliance was set up. Specifically, as has already taken place in various other countries, this reform enshrines the **Principle of Intergenerational Justice** in the constitution itself, as a general legal basis on which to direct public policy.

Additionally, in May of this year, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs approved at first reading an amendment to **articles 9 and 41 of the Constitution**, thereby bringing to light the importance of amending this document so that it includes a reference to the concept of sustainable development through the idea of the need to safeguard future generations. This is yet another indication of the need for universally recognised criteria able to definitively commit Parliament to pursuing the wellbeing of future generations.

Unfortunately, the present situation presents some alarming figures: ISTAT's Annual Report for 2021¹², presented in July, states that in 2020 there were 2,100,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 falling into the category of NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training), accounting for 23.3% of individuals in this age group (an increase of 1.2% compared with 2019). It is thus clear that young people are among those hardest hit by the crisis, but also those deemed a priority by Next Generation EU, as well as by the European Green Deal, both assigning them a place of central importance. Policies for the next generation forms one of Next Generation EU's six Chapters, with a Toolkit for Youth Participation in the Just Transition Fund¹³ recently being released and circulated. The first draft of the Italian NRRP¹⁴, broken down into six Missions, barely addressed young people, preferring the heading of education and research, and including them amongst the three cross-cutting

priorities included in the Plan, next to Gender Equality and the South. This characterisation has remained unchanged even in the final version of the Plan, which thus risks neglecting the need for specific programmes targeting new (and current) generations, including, by way of example, initiatives to boost employment, to decrease the percentage of NEETs, and to attract the many talented young people who have emigrated in search of a better life. Meanwhile, the European Commission promised a "strong social dimension" at its meeting of EU leaders in May in Porto, as part of the Portuguese Presidency's strategy to pay special attention to young people, who are facing an especially difficult period due also to the pandemic.

Unequal conditions at the starting line in terms of education and wealth, such as the lack of family protection, which serves as a sort of shock absorber along the rocky road to finding employment, places many deserving youths at a disadvantage. This inequality spawns additional injustices, adding to existing ones already worsened by the pandemic, thereby hindering a more just generational transition.

From greater equality of starting conditions to environmental, economic and social sustainability: the younger generations dream of a more just future and there are many opportunities to hear what they have to say. Forming networks, putting forward proposals, imagining alternative scenarios, believing - as the economist Stefano Zamagni summed up so well at the end of an ASviS event held in collaboration with the Courtyard of the Gentiles entitled "*The Pandemic and Resilience*"¹⁵. He concluded by saying that "*hope rests on the certainty that reality is not a given, but a work in progress. And if it is such, then it can be changed*".

It is with this spirit that the Alliance, on the occasion of celebrating its fifth edition, has chosen to place further attention on dialogue with the youth organisations operating in Italy, many of which have shown great interest in the 2030 Agenda and ASviS itself. For this reason, in **July 2020, ASviS invited its member organisations' youth groups to take part in a working group**¹⁶, today numbering more than thirty youth organisations. Work got underway in November and, near the end of its first year of activity, this wide-ranging group has committed itself to assessing the impact made by measures and laws on intergenerational justice and to spreading and promoting skills pertaining to the issues set in the 2030 Agenda, with specific

focus on entrepreneurial skills linked to sustainable development and to the creation of a new model of production on a global scale.

In order to give voice to, listen to and engage with the younger generations, on 10 February, ASviS consulted with representatives from the Working Group and other youth organisations in an event entitled “**Vogliamo decidere sul nostro futuro!**” (**We want to decide our future!**)¹⁷. Specifically, the young participants were asked to evaluate Italian plans for the Next Generation EU programme, launched by the European Union with the aim of combating repercussions from the Covid-19 health emergency and rendering the EU more sustainable, resilient and just. Representatives of the various associations reiterated - in this context - the importance of the Principle of Intergenerational Justice laid as the foundation of the 2030 Agenda. Youth policies, education and training, work, digitalisation, ecological transition, social equity, human capital: these were the main topics of discussion during what the then Director of ASviS, Enrico Giovannini, termed a **peaceful call to arms for change**.

A few months earlier, in view of the Update to the Economic and Financial Planning Document and the Budget Law, dozens of youth associations and groups forming the 2021 Youth Network sent the then Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte, and the Italian government the **Youth Plan 2021**¹⁸. The plan had already been presented to the public in Turin on 6 October during the Sustainable Development Festival promoted by ASviS, as part of the national event on Goal 4 Education in sustainable development (2030 Generation - È ora di agire (It is time to act))¹⁹. The project has three cornerstones: inclusive society, a culture of innovation and environmental sustainability.

Moreover, in 2020 the Joint Coordinating Committee, set up following the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Education and ASviS²⁰, began consulting with school networks that had been formed to create connections and synergies on topics relating to sustainable development, with the aim of continuing consultations also involving a number of youth organisations.

Sustainability, the environment, food, education and urban and cultural regeneration as essential resources for socio-economic development are some of the topics of the Next Generation You manifesto²¹ issued by Young Italians for Unesco²² (AIGU). Notably, during the third edition of the

Italian Youth Forum in Parma²³, emphasis was placed on how the ecological transition, social transition and generational issue have moved and must move in tandem. As part of the OECD campaign, *I am the Future of work*²⁴ and the OECD Action Plan for Youth²⁵, last April saw the establishment of Youthwise²⁶, an advisory group of young people working towards the two-fold objective of promoting labour policies for the new generations and combating unemployment.

The G20 on Environment likewise advocated involvement on the part of young people as “powerful agents of change”. The EU affirmed the importance of commitment on the part of younger generations to keep the spotlight on climate change policies, via initiatives such as the European Climate Pact, envisaged in the Green Deal but presently overlooked in Italy. Moreover, movements have been planned for the Pre-COP26²⁷ summit along with initiatives scheduled to take place in Milan between September and October with the aim of defining key themes for the COP26 talks²⁸, the UN Conference to be held in Glasgow in November.

Finally, in 2014 the European parliament established the annual European Youth Event (EYE), to be held this year from 4 to 9 October. Thousands of young people from throughout the European Union and beyond will meet at the European Parliament in Strasbourg to formulate and share their ideas on the future of Europe: the EYE provides a unique opportunity for young people between the ages of 16 and 30 to interact both in person and online, to inspire one another and exchange opinions with experts, activists, influencers and decision makers, all in the heart of European democracy. With the slogan “*Il futuro è nostro*” (“The future is ours”), EYE2021 represents a decisive moment in the dialogue between young people and the European Parliament in preparation for the Conference on the future of Europe. Starting from May 2021, in collaboration with pan-European youth organisations, young people’s ideas on the future of Europe are collected together on the youth platform youideas.eu. EYE2021 participants will then examine these ideas in creative workshops held during the event before including them in a report to be presented to members of the Conference so as to enhance the Conference’s political debate. The EYE aims to promote equality, inclusion and sustainability, with a strong commitment to favouring universal access.

SERVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE: THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The crisis wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic has clearly had repercussions on the country's entire educational system. Universities, as well as all educational institutions, had to swiftly rethink their organisations, learning how to adapt to change and putting their own resiliency to the test.

Aware that the process of transformation set in motion was without precedent in all of history, both at university and world level, the Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS), comprising 79 Italian universities (as at July 2021), wanted to keep the spotlight on topics relating to sustainable development, even during the full-blown health crisis, emphasising how the latter was provoked also and above all by a still dominant unsustainable economic model.

In April 2020, the RUS published an "Open Letter"²⁹ in order to draw the attention of politicians and public opinion to the need to rethink current development models, in favour of a sustainable system from a socio-economic, environmental and institutional viewpoint, as called for in the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, the crucial role of universities in this transformation was reiterated. The same period also saw promotion of a set of good practices implemented by member universities in order to face the emergency caused by Covid-19 head on. The intent was to highlight the fact that continuation of educational, research and third mission activities would be assured, and also to emphasise to both the scientific world and to public opinion in general, how universities, each with their own specific characteristics, had all contributed to supporting local areas, citizens and the country, highlighting the role that university research and teaching has in Italy's wellbeing and development.

The situation created by the pandemic provided an opportunity to broaden the offer of online courses, both by offering students and university staff, as well as those outside the university system, the chance to take part in some Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on topics pertaining to sustainability and the SDGs (also via popular science webinars) and by organising online courses providing educational guidance or self-employment training. Considering the actions undertaken in the sector of research and technological transfer, member universities concerned themselves not only with research and initiatives in the medical and health sector. They also analysed how the emergency and resulting lockdown impacted on strategic sectors such as mobility, the circular economy, climate change, inclusion, education, media communication and psychological wellbeing, in some cases proposing concrete actions also from the standpoint of the "third and fourth missions". Universities also responded to the crisis by tapping into their students' energy and creativity via a call for ideas for innovative projects aimed at defining solutions in the service of sustainable development.

At the same time, recognising the growing number of hardships brought about by forced isolation and by difficulties in adapting to the new situation, numerous universities with an online presence stepped up action directed at corporate welfare through initiatives providing psychological support. On the health front, in the face of a more sedentary lifestyle, measures to support physical wellbeing and a healthy diet were put in place.

The initiatives undertaken by RUS universities resulted in a kaleidoscope of actions spanning the various areas of Italy's academia. The set of 121 good practices indicated by the universities has been published on ASviS's website.

The good practices of the working groups

Activities carried out by the RUS working groups were broken down into topics stemming from the Covid-19 crisis through a series of various practices and initiatives. The working group on climate change focused on putting together online meetings and also provided support to the RUS chairperson and secretariat in organising the Climate Expo0, the conference organised from 17 to 21 May 2021, in collaboration with the COP26 Universities Network, with the aim of reaching tangible results at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change - COP26. In addition to bringing together the good prac-

tices and preliminary actions undertaken by the RUS universities in promoting a circular economy, the working group on resources and waste launched an internal dialogue in order to report on performances in terms of the management of resources and waste. The report focused on the management of personal protective equipment, protection devices that are essential for the safe resumption of university activities, but which risk causing a spike in the consumption of resources and the production of waste. The working group on energy created a subgroup to delve more deeply into matters linked to the management of air conditioning and heating systems in university buildings. The working group on mobility organised an internal dialogue, pinpointing shared measures employed to face the pandemic and promote sustainable mobility, also in times of crisis. It also began a survey on changes to the travel habits of the member of university communities. The working group on education reflected on remote learning, highlighting how offering some courses online once the health crisis has ended could provide certain categories of student with the opportunity to access quality education. The working group on food focused on food education, explaining what to eat in order to follow a Mediterranean diet and stay in shape by eating healthily, even in an emergency situation. Finally, the working group on social inclusion and justice reflected on the importance of monitoring the relationship between the pandemic and an increase in inequality as well as that of favouring and backing observation of inclusiveness and sustainability policies, previously launched by the Research Quality Assessment 2015-2019 (ANVUR - Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes), aimed at assessing the results of scientific research and third mission activities.

3.4 The theme of gender equality running through events and planning documents in 2021

For reasons linked to the COVID-19 crisis, 2021 reported particularly worrisome situations as regards the longstanding gap in gender equality in Italy. On a brighter note, 2021 was also the year in which gender rebalancing was the subject of renewed and original attention at both national and international level. The pandemic exacerbated structural lags in Italy, especially as regards the situation of women, who were penalised more than men in terms of job losses - the female employment rate, which had exceeded 53.8% in 2019, fell to 52.7% in 2020. The weight of caregiving grew heavier, often deriving from the closure of schools and the unregulated and uncontracted use of remote working. Acts of domestic violence also rose.

During the health crisis, the work-life balance of female workers worsened. Notably, compared with 2019, there was a drop of 0.9 percentage points in the ratio between the employment rate of women in the 25-49 age group with pre-schoolers and the employment rate of those without children, which reached 73.4% in 2020. The ratio was especially down for younger women between the ages of 25 and 34.

The division of home chores continued to be particularly skewed towards women. In 2020 the estimated asymmetry index of the domestic workload remained essentially unchanged from 2019 at 63%, a figure exceeding that of equitable distribution (50%).

The pandemic also clearly showed the need to rethink healthcare and social care provision. Medical services in local areas are of particular relevance to women. One need only think of the role of counselling clinics. But, above all, 2021 unearthed an urgent need to address the subject of healthcare disparities, particularly that between men and women. The Goal 5 working group chose this as the subject of a national event organised during the 2021 Festival of Sustainable Development.

As regards the policy framework, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), through which Italy is preparing for a profound transformation beginning with the digital and green transitions, was conceived as an opportunity to rebalance the

engagement of women, in line with the guidelines set forth in Next Generation EU.

The NRRP attributes an across-the-board significance to all of the various components comprised in the topic of equality between men and women. Social inclusion is identified as the third strategic cornerstone, in addition to digitalisation/innovation and the ecological transition. For the first time, along with attention to young people and the need to reduce geographical disparities, gender equality is indicated amongst the cross-cutting priorities in reaching social inclusion.

Some of the most innovative proposals put forward in the Plan include:

- a cross-cutting approach: the topic of reducing the gender gap is present in all of the Plan's Missions and components. The aim of reducing discrimination concerns all actions: at the end of every Mission there is a paragraph indicating the specific objectives in terms of reducing gender disparities;
- the conditionality clause concerning female and youth employment for participation in calls for tender for NRRP projects (Legislative Decree 77 of 31 May 2021, converted into Law 108 of 29 July 2021). The clause establishes that women and young people are to account for 30% of the new staff recruited by companies taking part in calls for tender;
- gender procurement, which in NRRP contracts favours companies that do not discriminate against women, and the certification of gender, a new guarantee of quality currently in the experimental stage, but which in future could become a prime requisite not only for public calls for tender, but also in the private sector;
- focus on the impact of gender in achieving digital modernisation of the country's communication infrastructure, both in the public administration and in business, as in the green revolution and the ecological transition;
- interventions designed to address both quantitative and qualitative structural weaknesses in educational services in Italy as regards the entire education cycle, starting from kindergarten. These include actions to favour women's access to expertise in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, as well as linguistic and digital skills.

On the whole, however, the NRRP must also carefully monitor the pursuit of gender rebalancing objectives via detailed planning, a more prompt definition of the measures and the possible integration of European resources with national ones. Above all, attention must be paid to achieving an engaged, inclusive and gender-balanced governance.

A first direct effect of Italy's renewed commitment to this topic is the new 2021-2026 national strategy for gender equality. It is the country's first single programming document that specifically and comprehensively addresses all of the main aspects of gender rebalancing. Amongst other things, this strategy has led to a positive and fruitful dialogue with social parties and civil society and aims, in synergy with the NRRP, to promote female participation in the labour market and correct the imbalances that hinder equal opportunities in every aspect of social life, also in sync with the objectives set forth in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Focusing attention on the 5 strategic priorities of work, money, knowledge, time, power and health - corresponding to the five core domains used by the EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality) to measure the gender gap at European level - the Strategy deals with all of the main areas of discrimination, defining objectives and targets to reach by the end of 2026 and outlining further ones to reach over a ten-year period. The holistic approach is also relevant as, in addition to the targeted actions for each strategic priority, it also identifies 10 cross-cutting measures deemed "enabling" with respect to the entire strategy. These include: the introduction of a gender impact assessment ex ante and ex post for any regulatory intervention, the systematic collection of data broken down by gender, a cultural pact between institutions and civil society for the fight against stereotypes and sexist language and for the promotion of female role models, as well as support for fragile individuals and the promotion of gender-specific medicine.

Another important step forward regarded the discussion of equal opportunities at the G20 and the resulting guidelines.

Women20 asked the G20 for an action plan to combat gender stereotypes in a world plagued by a persistent gender gap hampering leading economies. Indeed, in 18 of the G20 economies,

women earn 15% less than men and the percentage of women working stands at 55%, compared with 78% of men.

Specifically, Women20 asked that the road map for female empowerment be annexed to the G20 Leaders' Declaration, and not only to that issued by the G20 Ministers of Labour, and that it be linked to other strategic issues (gender procurement, health, gender-specific medicine, female entrepreneurship, violence, heat-stable vaccines and so forth).

Of all the international events impacting on gender equality in 2021, that which stands out is the grave situation underway in Afghanistan and the consequent violation of women's rights.

In this regard, mention must be made of the large-scale mobilisation of Italian women's associations and organisations that worked first to open up and now to keep open humanitarian corridors. They have put forward considerable efforts promoting not only welcoming and hosting pathways, but also the social integration and insertion of women and children, as well as respect for their rights.

On the whole, the above comprises a set of events and programmes granting the topic of gender equality a fundamental role in reaching sustainable development at global level. Such development requires adequate economic investments in order to trigger a rapid and solid recovery which, as envisaged by the G20 priorities and as shown by the Afghan example, necessarily centres on the protection of fundamental human rights, starting with women and children, concomitantly promoting the cultural change needed to facilitate and accelerate the path to this goal.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CULTURE

Today, cultural organisations find themselves operating against a backdrop that differs significantly from the pre-pandemic situation. In the variety of institutional forms assumed and the various sectors and fields of operation, in order to actively participate in making the 2030 Agenda a reality, they must pay particularly close attention to the following topics:

- **cultural participation.** Months of inactivity and the ongoing restrictions and limitations make it even more difficult for many organisations to cultivate direct, face-to-face relations with their users, inevitably worsening the problem of inequality in accessing culture. There are three particularly sensitive issues:
 - > **little understanding of what their users want on the part of cultural institutions.** Museum-goers are not all alike and neither are library-users or those who enjoy visiting entertainment venues. Moreover, each citizen has his or her own cultural diet, influenced by socio-economic factors and by the type of offer put forward at local level. Five years of data on the use of App 18 grouped by users' postal codes could constitute, despite the tool's many limitations (imposed by the app itself, real availability of local offer, etc.), an interesting starting point to study the behaviours of young people at local level in terms of their cultural choices (Goal 11), encourage the use of open data (Goal 16) and favour collaboration between cultural operators working in different sectors but in the same local area (Goal 8), so as to create stimulating, attractive and interesting ranges of cultural offerings (Goal 4). Data relating to museum cards or networks (such as museum memberships) or mailing lists, by now widely available to many operators, should regularly be made public so as to gain a better understanding of relations among cultural institutions, starting with the behaviours of their most assiduous visitors at local level. Such disclosure would also bear witness to the importance of these cultural activities for a cross-section and not insignificant part of the population.
 - > **the widening divide between those who take part in cultural activities and those who are excluded or self-excluded.** In Italy there are some broad gaps in cultural participation in terms of income bracket, place of residence, cultural origin, age and level of education. In 2019, 60% of Italians failed to read even one book, slightly less than 70% did not visit an exhibition or museum and more than 80% did not attend the theatre. The situation was aggravated by the pandemic, which bumped up these figures also as regards children and adolescents who have access to cultural experiences thanks only to school outings. Today large slices of society are excluded from taking part in the country's cultural life: first and foremost, citizens over the age of 75 (more than 7 million in 2020, almost 12% of the resident population) and those coming from outside Italy (as at 1 January 2020, the population of foreign residents stood at 5,039,637, representing 8.4% of Italy's total population). Of this latter group, 3,615,826 are non-EU nationals, with obvious consequences, for example, for Goal 10. The pandemic further highlighted the important role of artistic and cultural activities in maintaining good levels of wellbeing and psychophysical health. For this reason, cultural exclusion translates into reduced access to significant opportunities to promote and maintain wellbeing (Goal 3). Some cities (such as Bologna, Milan and Turin) regularly include their cultural infrastructure in their local policies drafted from a polycentric and inclusive viewpoint (Goal 11 and Goal 10). It is necessary to study these experiences and evaluate the government structures that can best cope with this problem on an adequate scale (Goal 17).
 - > **the inclusive use of digital technologies.** The pandemic forced an acceleration in the use of digital technologies on the part of cultural operators in the processes of production, communication and distribution. In some cases, the planned solutions make it possible to reach new segments of the public (Goal 1, Goal 4, Goal 10 and Goal 11) and have been shown to be effective in consolidating and bolstering the objectives of access, inclusion and promotion of wellbeing (Goal 3), in particular for society's more fragile members. If cultural organisations are to be true trailblazers in the development of innovative and genuinely attractive products and solutions then it is nec-

essary to think in terms of a “business strategy”, of social innovation based on cultural heritage, involving public and private partners (Goal 17) utilising the resources made available by the cultural fund.

- **Specific characteristics of local areas.** The pandemic brought attention to the matter of geography, showing that cities are not a single, homogenised entity, but rather a collection of various neighbourhoods, and that the development of a sustainable strategy must take into account the differing sizes of conurbations. At the same time, the pandemic also weakened cultural infrastructure at local level, which was replaced by digital channels. Whether the subject be “15-minute cities” or inner areas, minimum cultural safeguards must be defined at all levels and areas must be empowered in terms of the effectiveness of their offer, so as to combat abandonment and loss of interest on the part of many municipalities. This also entails combating the digital divide, by means of cultural sites and organisations, providing support for digital literacy for anyone who has been left behind.
- **Cultural workers’ statute and the organisation of cultural labour markets.**
 - > **The pandemic has also laid bare the structural characteristic of cultural sectors, i.e., that of basing themselves on a continuous innovation of their offerings, which, at the same time, underlies their fragility.** Draft law AS 2127 (presented on 10 March 2021 and at the committee stage) defines the specific nature of the creative sectors, the role of the artist and the social function of the performing arts, setting up a unified office for the performing arts and the creative sector. This is a positive measure as it deals with the delicate issue of the sustainability of work in the cultural sector, but it gives excessive importance to certain professional categories, mainly within the live performance sector (Goal 8).
 - > Despite the admirable efforts of some operators, **operating conditions in cultural labour markets, the slowness and complexity of the procedures used in selection and career development and the presence of pockets of underpaid professions lead to self-selection mechanisms,** especially in public institutions (Goal 8). Access to cultural professions risks being a privilege reserved to those who can afford to devote years of study before earning little to nothing.
- **Culture from the perspective of equality.** The NRRP recognises the need to create a more equitable society and puts the emphasis on women, young people and geographical divides. We should like to put forward a suggestion, first and foremost to civil society’s various cultural organisations and educational institutions, to promote and foster a decisive cultural change leading to a more correct narrative of the role of women, one shorn of still widespread stereotypes that hamper women in their free expression and realisation (Goal 5). This would benefit all of society (Goal 10), starting from a strong female presence both in organisations and in the public sector.

3.6 ASviS's activities

Organisational structure and cooperation with other stakeholders

The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development's organisational structure underwent some changes during the year with the appointment of ASviS's co-founder, Enrico Giovannini, as the Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility in February 2021. This naturally led to Mr. Giovannini's resignation as Director of the Association, a role taken over by President Pierluigi Stefanini. Moreover, the General Assembly held in July 2021, the member organisations appointed Marcella Mallen as Co-president of ASviS, to join Mr. Stefanini in leading the organisation. In September 2021, ASviS had 306 member organisations (36 more than last year), whilst there were 271 associates (up 70). The latter are partners that, while not falling within the categories qualifying for membership, play an active role in promoting sustainable development and provide examples of good practice, and in this way work with the Alliance.

ASviS's activities, defined by the General Assembly through an annually approved programme, are carried out with the support of 21 working groups (13 focusing on the SDGs, in some cases grouped together by topic area, and 8 on cross-cutting issues), in which more than 800 experts appointed by members participate. Created and opened to member organisations in July 2020, two new working groups focusing on cross-cutting issues were inaugurated in November. The first was set up with the aim of engaging youth groups belonging to ASviS's member organisations, whilst the second brings together the many member foundations. The latter is tasked with identifying and developing potential topics to be discussed during Italy's presidency of the G20 and with boosting the role that Italian foundations play in achieving the SDGs. The Secretariat encourages and coordinates implementation of the programme of activities and contributes to realisation of the various initiatives. The Editorial Board is responsible for managing the website and producing the weekly newsletter, now considered a vital source of information on sustainable development issues.

ASviS engages with numerous government institutions, participating in the following initiatives:

- the "2030 Agenda, policy consistency, effectiveness and assessment" working group set up by the National Council for Development Co-

operation within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);

- the coordinating group at the National Sustainable Development Forum set up by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition (formerly the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection). In addition, ASviS is responsible for coordinating the Forum working group, "Sustainability vectors - Knowledge, communication, education and training";
- Working Group 1 set up by the National Council for Development Cooperation within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to work on the 2030 Agenda, and the Ministry's multi-institution operating committee responsible for coordinating Italy's contribution to the prevention of and global response to Covid-19;
- the programme promoted by Unipol's regional councils to support the development of inner areas (pilot projects in Abruzzo, Molise and Sicily);
- joint discussion groups set up by the Cabinet Office's Policy Cohesion Unit to work on planning for the period 2021-2027;
- the activities of the Commission set up to plan events at Italy's pavilion, focusing on sustainable development issues, at EXPO DUBAI 2020. ASviS has also continued to work with the Italian pavilion at EXPO DUBAI 2020, which was postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic;
- meetings held by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility, with participation on the part of working group coordinators and members of the Secretariat who are experts on the matters dealt with;
- multi-stakeholder committee promoted by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (see page 89).

ASviS also works closely with the Ministry of Education, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding entered into with the aim of disseminating a sustainable development culture as part of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda goals (see page 89) and with the University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS), established by the Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities, committed to the dissemination of culture and good sustainability practices, both internally and outside the universities. During the last year, ASviS granted non onerous patronages to over 100 initiatives, in consideration of

the proven commitment of the organizing subjects in the dissemination of the themes of the 2030 Agenda throughout the national territory.

Among active Partnerships for dissemination purposes of the culture of sustainability there are those with:

- Roma Capitale, for the launch of the “Culture Charter”, its promotion and dissemination at the territorial level together with the main Metropolitan cities on the international level.

At international level, ASviS also belongs to:

- the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN), a network of institutional actors, associations and experts which has been dealing with sustainable development policies and strategies since 2003;
- the SDG Watch Europe association, a European alliance of civil society organisations created to monitor implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in the European Union;
- the Partnership for the SDGs, the multi-stakeholder network, led by the UN’s Sustainability Development Division, that works on achievement of the SDGs;
- Europe Ambition 2030, the coalition of civil society actors set up in March 2017 after the Conference “Europe Ambition 2030, making Europe the world leader in sustainable development: a unique opportunity to build a stronger European Union”, organised by ASviS, which aims to rethink European governance and policies, making achievement of the SDGs the cornerstone of the Union’s future actions;
- Comité 21, a French network counting over 450 members, including businesses, local authorities, NGOs and public institutions, which works to mobilise civil society to take part in the Annual Forum on European Ecological Citizenship.

ASviS has taken on the task of coordinating the working group on sustainable development created as part of the civil society platform for the Conference for the Future of Europe, organised by the Italian chapter of the European Movement. The Conference, which had been postponed due to the pandemic, got underway in April 2021, gathering suggestions and proposals from European society and the continent’s citizens. The Alliance also strengthened its international promotional efforts, participating in the Global Festival of Action organised by the United Nations Secretariat.

ASviS’s events and products in the last year

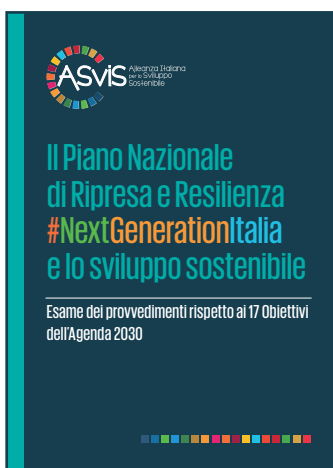
The number of events directly organised by ASviS has risen over the years, as has their level of complexity. The health crisis imposed the use of new tools in order to organise online events, at times in collaboration with third parties, with extraordinarily positive results in terms of impact and quality. Additionally, there has been a notable increase in the volume of documents and analysis produced by the Alliance, bearing witness to the greater level of detail and depth it is able to contribute to the ongoing debate. Since publication of the Report for 2020, the following events have been organised and products published:

- on 6 November, in collaboration with the scientific technical committee, Ecomondo, ASviS organised an online event entitled **Enterprises and the financing of sustainable development. Opportunities and obstacles**³⁰. This event gave participants the chance to listen in on a discussion between representatives from the world of business and finance as they discussed topics related to sustainable development and the resilient recovery from the crisis;
- on 15 December, during an online event, the first edition of the **Report on Local Areas**³¹ was presented. Through the use of individual and composite indicators, this tool measures and analyses the relative performance of regions, provinces and metropolitan cities with respect to the 17 SDGs. Participants included, amongst others, the Minister for the South and National Cohesion, Giuseppe Provenzano, the President of Emilia-Romagna regional authority, Stefano Bonaccini, and the Mayor of Ravenna and Chairman of the Union of Italian Provinces, Michele De Pascale;
- on 10 February, ASviS held the live event *Vogliamo decidere il nostro futuro!*³² (“We want to decide our future!”) during which representatives from various youth organisations assessed Italy’s plans for the Next Generation EU programme;
- on 9 March, the Report on the 2020 Budget Law, the NRRP and sustainable development³³ was presented during the course of an online event. This report contains the Alliance’s usual analysis of the Budget Law, enriched with a more in-depth study of the first draft of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. Participants included, amongst others, Italian Ministers, Elena Bonetti, Roberto Cingolani and Vittorio Colao;

- on 26 March, ASviS organised the workshop, **G20 and the 2030 Agenda: a pathway to sustainable recovery**³⁴, as part of the SDG Global Festival of Action, promoted by the UN’s SDG Action Campaign;
- 30 March saw publication of a **book commemorating the Alliance’s first five years**³⁵, one that retraces key moments on the journey thus far completed by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development.



- on 7 April, the ASviS Live event **“The pandemic and resilience”**³⁶, was held in collaboration with scientific advice from the Courtyard of Gentiles. It centred on an analysis of post-pandemic scenarios and the prevention of future crises;
- as in 2020, in 2021 preparations were made for the Sustainable Development Festival. Three ASviS Live events introduced the most important topics subject to national debate, inviting discussion and analysis from government representatives, keynote speakers and representatives from member organisations. During the first event, on 27 May, the Alliance presented its assessment of the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan**³⁷, submitted by the Italian government to the European Commission, and a panel coordinated by FUTU-



From its very inception to the present day, the Alliance has contributed to raising awareness about sustainable development in Italy and to making the UN’s 2030 Agenda a concrete reality;

RAnetwork was also hosted. Participants included the Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, Italian Ministers Mara Carfagna, Fabiana Dadone and Enrico Giovannini, and Romano Prodi. The second event was held on 17 May in collaboration with the work-

ing group on Goal 5 and involved an examination of the subject of **gender equality**³⁸ as a cross-cutting issue for the country’s recovery. Prominent guests included, amongst others, Italian Ministers Patrizio Bianchi, Elena Bonetti and Andrea Orlando. The third event centred on the presenta-



tion of the **Papal Encyclical, Fratelli Tutti (All Brothers) in the light of Goal 16 in the 2030 Agenda**³⁹, produced by the working group on Goal 16. Hosted by the Italian Embassy to the Holy See on 22 June, it was the first in-person event open to the public since the onset of the pandemic;

- 24 June saw presentation of the Strategic Guide 2.0 for the sustainable development of the metropolitan city of Bologna⁴⁰, drawn up with scientific technical support from ASviS, Urban@it and the University of Bologna under the coordination of the General Directorate for the metropolitan city of Bologna. The document represents the first practical application of a sustainable development model at local level;
- on 16 July, on the occasion of the Festival of Social and Digital Innovation organised in Rimini, saw publication of the **QuadernoSGDital**⁴¹. This document offers a reading of the new European strategies for the digital transition in the light of the 2030 Agenda, with references to Italy’s national framework and the principal decisions included in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan;
- on 20 July, ASviS and the University of Siena’s Santa Chiara Lab published **Agenda 2030. Un viaggio attraverso gli Obiettivi di sviluppo sostenibile** (“2030 Agenda. A journey through the sustainable development goals”)⁴². This large volume is a collection of information and thoughts on Goal 17 and is put forward as an educational tool for universities, advanced training schools and state schools.

Development of the community of member organisations and support for working groups

In the last five years, ASviS has played a key role in spreading a culture of sustainability and in promoting the 2030 Agenda as a shared point of reference for Italian civil society, **thanks mostly to the firm commitment shown by the growing number of member organisations that work together to ensure the project's success.** Their achievements are made possible by means of the time and resources devoted to the various activities, and especially through their joint input regarding the various aspects of sustainable development and efforts to reach a common understanding as to the country's priorities and the policies needed to achieve them.

With its wealth of knowledge and range of viewpoints, the Alliance's network represents a unique asset in Italian society, one that has allowed ASviS to play an unprecedented role, both at home and abroad, in terms of the quantity, scale and quality of our activities concerning sustainable development. Today, more than 300 member organisations contribute to creating a "collective intelligence" that has always animated the Alliance's decisions. It is a network that represents ASviS's founding value and has shown itself to be one of extraordinary energy, exhibiting a growing desire to take an active part in the life of the Alliance. For this reason, in 2021, a new organisational unit was set up to **further engage member organisations in the creation of a "community for cooperation" and to improve the operations of ASviS's working groups**, also with a view to offering the network new opportunities to collaborate, exchange, share and learn.

Already in 2020, in recognition of the strategic importance of full engagement by member organisations, ASviS launched various initiatives leading to: a review of the assessment procedure for applications for membership (subsequently entrusted to a specific committee), the usual monitoring of member organisations' involvement in order to evaluate the best forms for full engagement and the creation of an initial information network (including a "members map", also at local level). Other initiatives involved dialogue with new member organisations upon completion of the membership procedure so as to better steer their participation in the activities of the Alliance, duly noting their expectations and taking advantage of synergies and partnerships. They also included set-

ting up, within the Secretariat, an informal focus group tasked with providing suggestions on how to step up engagement and better listen to members.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting on 12 April 2021, formal approval was given to the creation of a new unit devoted to "development of the community of member organisations and support for working groups". It was tasked with drawing up a real engagement strategy for member organisations, making it possible to identify their priorities for alliance activities, also with the aim of strengthening involvement in the definition of strategies and the two-year activity plan, as well as developing better opportunities to mobilise and collaborate with member organisations.

Specifically, the new unit's strategy revolves around five thematic areas:

- orientation and inclusion in **working groups** and monitoring of their operations;
- greater **sharing of information and involvement in the activity plan**;
- enhancement of ASviS's ability to make a valuable contribution to the public debate on sustainable development, by exploiting member organisations' expertise via the creation of new opportunities for **debate, analysis and research**;
- **in-house training** to provide opportunities for cultural growth and for sharing thoughts on sustainable development topics;
- development of new **shared projects and opportunities for networking**.

Initiatives undertaken early in its activity included:

- a preliminary assessment of the **functioning and vitality of ASviS's working groups**, in order to pinpoint opportunities for standardising the good practices used by some working groups with respect to the organisational setup and operating procedures;
- completion of an ASviS orientation session involving around 30 new member organisations;
- resumption of **the mapping of member organisations** so as to identify further ways to engage the ASviS network in its activities;
- preparations for **the mapping of working groups**, to be implemented by the end of the year. Whilst recognising the strategic importance of the working groups, by means of which member organisations contribute to defining ASviS's position on topics pertaining to sustainable development, this activity will make cer-

tain that all topics pertaining to the SDGs' targets are covered via a mapping of the competencies of member organisations belonging to each group. The objective will be to develop initiatives that ensure ever more effective and thorough handling of 2030 Agenda topics.

- a **first round of in-house training seminars** got underway with the aim of sharing a common language and fundamental concepts produced by the most advanced scientific research in the environmental, social and economic field on the concept of sustainable development. The programme envisages 4 seminars, initially involving the Secretariat and Coordinators, to be completed by the end of December 2021, the results and findings of which will be shared with all member organisations by year-end.

Education in sustainable development and raising awareness among the younger generations

Partnerships between civil society and educational institutions must be at the heart of a shared mission to refocus the educational system around a sustainable development culture, transforming teachers and learners into real “agents of change”. Moreover, thanks to its network of members, the Alliance provides Italian society with a wealth of content, projects and shared expertise that makes it possible to broaden and spread knowledge about sustainable development and raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

With this spirit and in honour of the International Day of Education, 24 January 2021 saw the launch of the process of gathering together member organisations' good practices regarding education in sustainable development⁴³. The purpose of this initiative, which is to be constantly under review, is to gather and illustrate initiatives and reference materials in order to spread knowledge about 2030 Agenda topics in the most multidisciplinary way possible.

Current efforts are aimed at consolidating and continuing projects already undertaken with institutions, especially those in conjunction with the Ministry of Education underway since November 2016 with the drafting of the **memorandum of understanding** (renewed in 2019). The aim of the **partnership between ASviS and the Ministry of Education** is to provide education in sustainable development at both private and state schools of

all types and levels and at adult education institutions, in order to boost awareness, knowledge and adoption of the lifestyles described in the 2030 Agenda. Starting from this school year, the joint committee is called upon to set itself another objective, that of contributing to RiGenerazione Scuola⁴⁴, the plan for the ecological and cultural transition of schools, conceived of during implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The plan was initiated on 4 June, with the participation of ASviS's Co-president, Mr Stefanini. Thanks in part to this collaboration, in October, the Ministry was able to launch RiGenerazione week during the Sustainable Development Festival.

The partnership with the Ministry also covers the start of the new school year, which will see the reintroduction of citizenship education courses in response to Law 92 of 2019: the three topic areas that these wide-ranging courses will focus on are the study of the Constitution, sustainable development and digital citizenship. As the 2030 Agenda will be one of the learning objectives, it is necessary to strengthen the training provided to teachers and senior leaders of schools of all types and levels on this topic, so as to enable them to not only acquire knowledge, but also all the skills needed to meet the challenges posed by sustainable development. As a result, ASviS has bolstered its partnership with the National Institute for Documentation, Innovation and Educational Research (INDIRE), especially in order to expand the “School 2030: education to create value” website, launched in June 2019. This offers all teachers access to self-learning content, resources and materials designed to educate people on the values and the vision behind the 2030 Agenda.

In line with its collaborative efforts, the Alliance also takes part in the **multi-stakeholder committee promoted by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) on Global Citizenship Education**, launched in May of this year. The aim is to help to drive in the process of drafting the National Global Citizenship Action Plan, to be introduced with the participation of all those involved (i.e., ministries, regional authorities and third sector organisations) and to support the drafting of a new call for tenders from providers of global and local citizenship education. The committee was also inspired by the European Commission's most recent steps regarding the European pillar of social

rights, by the Declaration issued in Porto on 7 and 8 May and, of course, by the 2030 Agenda.

Aware of the role that the **younger generations** can and must have in promoting cultural and social change, ASviS wanted to invest in developing collaboration with members' youth organisations and with those with which it already collaborates. The aim is to give new generations a true voice in discussion and preparation of a future in keeping with the 2030 Agenda. This decision, endorsed by member organisations, became a reality in July 2020 with the **creation of a new working group comprising members from youth organisations**, which got underway in November of the same year. The chance to promote opportunities for discussion and to create an observatory to analyse the impact and implications of policies for future generations (via systematic evaluation from an intergenerational viewpoint) were the initial stimuli for the group's first projects and operations. Today the group is on the verge of completing its first year of activity (see point 3.3).

With the aim of supporting and assisting younger generations and schools in terms of education in sustainable development, in 2021 the Alliance created new projects and partnerships. Specifically, mention should be made of:

- the new partnership with the publishing house, DeAgostini Scuola⁴⁵, begun in October 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year and renewed for the following one, with a view to promoting and spreading awareness of the 2030 Agenda and of the interconnection between its 17 Goals and the world of education. The project involved free webinars for teachers of all subjects and at all levels enrolled on the DeAscuola platform, the results of which will be published in middle school and high school textbooks and in articles for the DeAscuola blog;
- partnership with the three-year project, Street Art for RIGHTS⁴⁶, which has set itself the objective of supporting the design and creation of works of street art in some cities, including Rome, by which to stimulate reflections on sustainability. Together with the concrete redevelopment of areas involved in the project, Street Art for RIGHTS promotes the spread of the culture of sustainable development through art: the neighbourhoods selected to host the new works by young street artists will become physical ambassadors for the 2030

Agenda's 17 Goals for sustainable development, each one offering a visualisation of one of the topics of fundamental importance for the future of humanity. Via a series of engagement strategies, therein including meetings with artists, open debates, combined performances and photographic exhibitions of its various phases, the project aims to attract attention and encourage interest in, first and foremost, the places themselves and also sustainability topics relating to the local areas selected. Awakening consciences to a sense of belonging to a shared culture, in the form of care and attention to balanced development in harmony with the ecosystem, means becoming real citizens of the world and building a future together;

- the Alliance is on the advisory board to the new Sustainability Gallery⁴⁷, by virtue of a memorandum of understanding with the Science Museum of Trento, an association member. Scientific partnership with the museum involves consulting on both the design and set-up stages of the new gallery, as well as on initiatives involving education about and the dissemination and promotion of topics linked to sustainability and sustainable development. Both parties undertake to collaborate in order to spread awareness of the gallery and related activities as effectively as possible, at local, national and international level. The partnership officially got underway on 4 October during the 2021 Sustainable Development Festival and the national event devoted to Goal 4, in collaboration with the youth organisations' working group. It has subsequently continued with ongoing common efforts that will see the co-planning of content and initiatives on sustainable development topics. The new gallery addresses the main drivers of global change, from the climate issue to that of biodiversity, from population growth to the fight against social inequality, exploring a range of futures - possible, probable and desirable. It communicates the idea that, as citizens of a global community, culture can help us to understand that our challenges are intricately intertwined. The exhibitions also include some intergenerational interviews along with a selection of actual cases regarding research and development and production and entrepreneurial experiences, which show how the private sector is moving towards more sustainable models;

- the **Today for Tomorrow series**, edited by Alessandro Genitori and Elis Karakaci, was born in collaboration with ASviS as a way to tell real stories about entities that really have adopted one or more of the SDGs. This is accomplished through an array of video clips and interviews featuring Italian flagbearers for sustainable development. The project offers a series of Italian organisations that, in recent years, have taken actions and adopted policies strongly linked to the 17 SDGs. The aim is to portray a “possible future” born out of the present and made possible thanks to daily commitment leading to tangible results in the near future, thereby illustrating that such actions regard not only future generations but also those of today;
- the **memorandum of understanding with the member organisation, *Sulle Regole***, was entered into in order to create a free teaching kit for schools that spreads awareness about topics in the 2030 Agenda. Linked to episodes in the Global Kids’ Show Italia, created by ASviS and launched in 2020, the kit contains a selection of educational materials for both teachers and students founded on a scientific method validated by university research and collaboration amongst key actors in the sustainable development process. The kit will be made available during the Sustainable Development Festival;
- finally, 2021 saw the launch of the **Erasmus + KA2 System of adult education** (Grant Agreement no. 2020-1-IT02-KA204-080082), in which ASviS is an associate partner, designed to integrate use of System Thinking within the context of sustainable development and digital transformation. The project’s objective is to use System Thinking to prepare and train future educators, professionals, policymakers and decision-makers, who will be increasingly needed in public and private organisations throughout Europe.

The year also saw continuation of:

- transmission of the **Global Goal Kids’ Show**, comprising 17 episodes, one for each of the 17 goals, designed for children in the 5 - 10 age group and launched during the Festival in 2020. Aiming to engage, inspire and empower very young children to play their part in reaching the 2030 Agenda’s 17 goals, the show was created by ASviS and the Edoardo Garrone

Foundation, with the support of WindTre and in collaboration with RaiRagazzi, Rai per il Sociale and A future. In addition to being transmitted through ASviS’s and partners’ channels, it was accessible on Rai Gold and the Scuola 2030 website;

- close and fruitful collaboration with the **ASviS member organisation, the University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS)**. Specifically, ASviS took part in working sessions of the network’s Education Group centring on teacher training, ethics, life-long learning and lesson zero on sustainable development. RUS set up a sub-group for each topic and, during these months, each sub-group discussed practical steps to be taken to help universities gain ever more knowledge about topics in the 2030 Agenda;
- participation in UNESCO’s National Committee for Education for Sustainable Development⁴⁸ - 2030 Agenda, comprising representatives from UNESCO Chairs in Italy and other stakeholders such as ASviS. The committee is responsible for planning and putting on the Education for Sustainable Development Week, held each year in November;
- work carried out by Rete EducAzioni⁴⁹, of which the Alliance forms part together with 10 other civil society networks, committed to ensuring recognition of the rights to quality education on the part of children and adolescents in Italy. In addition to helping organise events, ASviS contributes to drawing up information documents and position papers;
- collaboration, renewed also for the current year, with the **national work experience scheme, Start up Your Life**, organised by UniCredit Social Impact Banking: an innovative financial and entrepreneurial training programme that offers advice about work and study to high school students. The aim is to teach them about sustainability topics in a broad sense and to instil younger generations with an entrepreneurial spirit that never loses sight of the goal of sustainable development;
- collaboration, renewed by ASviS also for this year, in the 2021 edition of the WIP-ECOSOP (World in Progress - United Nations Economic and State Council) project, realised by Associazione Diplomatici, an Italian NGO. The WIP-ECOSOP specialised training for young aspiring

diplomats, a group of 20 Italian university students, consists of intensive lessons centring on international relations, cooperation and sustainable development.

ASviS's e-learning courses represent yet another tool for spreading knowledge about sustainable development topics. Users registered on the ASviS platform during the first semester in 2021 for the course on the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals numbered more than 12 thousand and around 2 thousand users have registered for the more recent course “2030 Agenda opportunities for sustainable development”. Moreover, a new, short e-learning course on the digital transition for the sustainable development goals was launched. During the first semester of the year underway, numerous ASviS member organisations and some regional organisations, with which ASviS has signed memorandums of understanding, included the SCORM course package on their own websites for the purposes of staff training. Of these, mention should be made of its acquisition by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Sustainable Mobility, the European Youth Parliament, the CEIO (Italian Bishops' Conference) Policoro Project, more than 30 RUS universities as well as numerous learners in the specialist training schools organised by ASviS. These latter include the Innovability School 2021 (January-May 2021), the first edition of the School for Sustainable Development for Regional Authorities and Self-governing Provinces (January-April 2021), the first edition of the School for Wellbeing and the Future of Local Areas (Emilia-Romagna and Liguria edition, starting from May 2021) and the course entitled “Profession Sustainability” organised by ALTIS (Graduate School of Business and Society).

ASviS collaborated with the National School of Administration, which organises:

- the Sustainability Manager Diploma, designed for senior and middle managers from central government involved, above all, in managing general services (human resources, general affairs, contracts and services, etc.);
- the course entitled “Integrated policies for the UN's 2030 Agenda on sustainable development”, designed for ministry officials involved in policy areas addressed in the 2030 Agenda, with the objective of developing public administrations' ability to define and implement public policies that consistently take account of the interconnections and possible trade-offs between policy choices and sustainable development;
- the course entitled “Europe and sustainable development”, which takes an in-depth look at issues linked to the 2030 Agenda from the viewpoint of relations with the European Union. Additionally, in 2020, short introductory seminars on the 2030 Agenda were organised for senior managers from various ministries and all of the courses regarding the SDGs offered by the National School of Administration were “mapped”.

ASVIS'S ADVANCED TRAINING SCHOOLS

In 2020 and 2021, ASviS launched a series of advanced training initiatives with the aim, on the one hand, of actively supporting the public and private sector in gaining a better understanding of topics pertaining to sustainability and the future and, on the other hand, meeting the ever-growing requests from civil society to have a more in-depth understanding of the science involved and of the topics are evolving and their impacts.

Due to the health emergency, the schools and, more generally, the advanced training initiatives, were rethought and redesigned in terms of both content and delivery method. The mainly face-to-face nature of the previous courses was replaced by a “hybrid” format, alternating individual study with active meetings with experts in the form of webinars, and when possible, group sessions with the help of a tutor. Despite the lack of direct relations between teachers and learners and the resulting limitations, this new approach allowed for a greater number of participants by making it possible for them to better reconcile their work commitments with their training needs. On the whole, this approach proved to be effective.

It was the School in Siena, operating with great success since 2018, that paved the way for all the other schools. Between October 2020 and February 2021, ASviS organised the third edition of the **Siena Advanced School on Sustainable Development** in collaboration with the ENEL foundation, Leonardo, the University Network for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Italia, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mediterraneo and the University of Siena's Santa Chiara Lab. The School's third edition opened with an online lesson given by Jeffrey Sachs, a foretaste of the plan to have international teachers and learners take part in the training initiatives.

In 2020 and 2021, ample room was given to the necessary, if delicate, matter of training civil servants. For some time now, in collaboration with the National School of Administration, the Alliance has been involved in the training of senior and middle managers from central government. In order to continue with implementation of the 2030 Agenda at local level, ASviS has begun providing training activities for all levels of the public administration. For this reason, in December 2020, the first edition of the **School for Sustainable Development for Regional Authorities and Self-governing Provinces** was launched. This new training initiative was organised by ASviS in collaboration with CINSEDO (Italian interregional and documentation centre), the Conference of Regional Authorities and Self-governing Provinces, the University Network for Sustainable Development and the National School of Administration, with contributions from TERNA, the Enrico Mattei Foundation and ENI. The School has involved more than 80 middle managers and representatives from regional governments, with participation on the part of all of Italy's regional authorities and self-governing provinces. The lessons have dealt with the foundations of sustainable development and shared good practices followed throughout Italy. Meanwhile, the School also began mapping regional approaches to topics contained in the 2030 Agenda. With the launch of the **Milan School for Wellbeing and Sustainability of Cities**, in its second edition in 2020, a first step was already taken towards engaging representatives from local authorities and teachers and members of associations working in Italy. The School operates in collaboration with Milano 2046, a laboratory on the near future promoted by the president of Milan's city council, with participation from Milan's local universities (Bicocca, Bocconi, Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Humanitas, ILUM, La Statale, the Polytechnic and San Raffaele) and ENI's Enrico Mattei Foundation, with support also provided by Edison. Its objective is to provide high level training and certification on the issues of wellbeing and sustainability, with special attention being placed on the future of cities.

In 2021, additional local training initiatives were organised to run alongside the Milan School. Specifically, the year saw conclusion of the first edition of the **School for Wellbeing and the Future of Local Areas**, devoted to representatives from local government and middle managers from city and town councils.

The School was organised by ASviS in collaboration with the ENEL Foundation, the University Network for Sustainable Development and local entities such as foundations and associations, with participation from regional authorities, the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI), the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) and the Association of Local Italian Authorities (ALI), with contributions from the ENEL Foundation and local sponsors. The first edition took place from May to September 2021. Open to all of Italy, the School was launched in the Emilia-Romagna and Liguria regions. Though maintaining a systemic approach, the two editions focused on two different topics, the environment in Emilia-Romagna and social issues in Liguria. In both editions, lectures were supplemented with practical and laboratory-based in-presence sessions that enabled participants to deepen their knowledge of issues regarding the future, co-creation and measurement. A second edition is planned for 2021, organised for representatives from local government in Lazio (focusing on environmental topics) and Puglia (focusing on social issues).

Moreover, 2021 saw the inauguration of the **Innovability School**, devoted to innovative start-ups with the aim of linking entrepreneurial challenges with topics relating to sustainability, in particular the circular economy and digital innovation. The objective is to foster new skills and encourage the creation of new start-ups led by young people and geared toward development, production and high-level marketing of innovative, high-tech products. During the training processes, participants had the chance to dive more deeply into topics via lectures and discussions centring on good practices. At the same time, a mentorship programme was provided, with experts and teachers who had supported the start-ups in the drafting of specific business plans and definition of a programme of change with a view to sustainability, meanwhile giving them the chance to create a network of teachers, experts and participants to call on as they progress along their entrepreneurial journey.

Communication and Advocacy Projects

In recent months, communication and advocacy projects have allowed ASviS to further enhance its own visibility despite the pandemic and resulting restrictions.

From the viewpoint of **our social media positioning**:

- in the 2020 edition of the Festival, the #FestivalSviluppoSostenibile hashtag reached more than 30 million people, while in the #ORADIAGIRE call to action the hashtag reached more than 20 million. In 2020, direct streaming of the Festival's events reached 25 million people with the number of views totalling 1.8 million;
- with regard to ASviS Live events, the #ASviSlive hashtag achieved 11 million impressions on social media between January and July 2021. The live streaming of three events were viewed by a total of 170 thousand people via social media. In addition to the ASviS channels, the live events were also transmitted by ANSA.it and radioradicale.it on their homepages and on the Facebook pages of Ansa.it and of the Italian Embassy to the Holy See;

- ASviS's social media followers number more than 47 thousand on Facebook, 17,550 on Twitter, 15,500 on LinkedIn and 10,900 on Instagram.

The already productive relationship with Rai, embarked on in previous years, was consolidated thanks to new initiatives:

- in addition to renewal of the media partnership for the Sustainable Development Festival, this was the case with the new transmission produced with **Isoradio**, called **Green Tour**, focusing on the topic of sustainable mobility, and the time allotted on the television show, **Uno Mattina in Famiglia**, devoted to the **Glossary of Sustainability**. Collaboration also got underway for **Obiettivo Mondo** on the RaiMovie channel, which envisages a round of films and documentaries on topics in the 2030 Agenda. In July 2021, in collaboration with ASviS, the **Festival Rai per il Social** was launched as part of Spoleto's Festival Dei Due Mondi. Finally, ASviS took part in the creation of 5 episodes of the transmission, **Mood**, devoted to topics relating to sustainability.

ASviS also continued collaborating with the Italian news agency, **ANSA**.

- in addition to the **media partnership** for the Festival and the ANSA 2030 website, collaboration is underway to produce 6 episodes of **Voci sul Futuro** (Voices on the Future) to be made available for live streaming. As in the previous year, this programme calls for an online forum where experts can discuss various scenarios for a more sustainable and inclusive society.

Collaboration with the **UN's SDG Action Campaign** was further consolidated with the entry into new partnerships:

- for the second time in a row, ASviS was a finalist in the international **UN SDG Action Awards**, in the category **Mobilise for the 2020 Festival**. The Alliance organised an international panel for the UN's **Global Festival of Action**. Additionally, ASviS took part in launching the sustainable concerts format, **Play:Fair**, promoted by the **UN SDG Action Campaign and Music Innovation hub**, which successfully took place on 17 July in Milan. The already strong relationship was further strengthened in September 2021 thanks to ASviS's partnership with the worldwide campaign, **Global Week of Action #ACT4SDGs**.

Moreover, in August, ASviS took part in the **Meeting in Rimini** with a stand in the Pavilion **devoted to international cooperation**, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and dedicated entirely to highlighting topics in the 2030 Agenda through Goal 17 (partnerships):

- Pavilion B1 dedicated to cooperation, in addition to a stand with a multi-media wall showcasing the network of member organisations and activities carried out by the Alliance and the Festival, ASviS illustrated 4 cooperation stories.

ASviS also took part in **numerous national and international initiatives**:

- from the **Earth Day Italia** marathon on RaiPlay to the International event **IDLO and UNDESA SDG16 Conference** and that of **IDLO Rule of law approach to accelerating climate action** in the occasion of the Pre-COP; from promotion of the **ASviS-Ferpi training cycle** on communication about sustainability to the launch of the song, **Vivo nel mondo**, for Earth Day. More-

over, the Alliance collaborated with the **Heroes concert held at the Arena in Verona** in September to create synergies with artists and performers and spread awareness about sustainability to a larger audience.

Finally, in the field of international initiatives, ASviS, which is already in contact with the international conscience-raising campaigns, **One Campaign and Global Citizen**, will actively participate in the **All4Climate** event organised by the **Ministry for the Ecological Transition in preparation for the COP26**. Notably, the Alliance has already helped to draft a report issued by the **G20 Meeting of Health Ministers** and partnered with the **G20 for the 2021 Festival**. ASviS will also take part in the Conference on the Future of Europe in the form of several Festival events, as well as in the **Expo 2020 Dubai** during the week devoted to the SDGs, with an international event in collaboration with the University Network for Sustainable Development, to be held in January 2022. In preparation for this event, a digital marathon entitled **Challenge UniSustainathon** was held from 3 to 5 October 2020 in collaboration with the University Network and Italy's General Commissariat for Expo 2020 Dubai. Participation in this event included 209 students (of whom 137 were women, 72 were men and 38 were international), 36 groups and 49 universities, 12 of which were from 11 countries (Canada, the United Arab Emirates, France, India, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Senegal, Uganda and the United States).

The Sustainable Development Festival



One of the highlights of ASviS's activities was the Sustainable Development Festival, which over

the years has played a leading role in raising awareness in civil society of the issues surrounding economic, social and environmental sustainability. The Festival aims to bring about the cultural and political change that will enable our country to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The 2020 edition⁵⁰ proved to be a great success despite the pandemic, with more than 800 events planned between 22 September and 8 October. The new organisation favoured events held online or in a "mixed" format.

Specifically:

- on 17 September, the press conference launching the Festival was held;
- on 22 September, the MACRO Auditorium in Rome hosted the Festival's opening event entitled *Dalla crisi alla ripresa: trasformare l'Europa e l'Italia nel segno dello sviluppo sostenibile* ("From crisis to recovery: transforming Europe and Italy through sustainable development");
- on 1 October, the MACRO Auditorium also hosted the conference entitled *I territori come motore dello sviluppo sostenibile* ("Territories as drivers of sustainable development");
- on 8 October, the International Conference Hall at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation hosted the fourth edition's closing event entitled *L'Italia e gli Obiettivi di sviluppo sostenibile* ("Italy and the Sustainable Development Goals") which, for the first time, coincided with presentation of this Report;
- moreover, the Festival offered 16 national events on key issues relating to sustainable development and the various 2030 Agenda Goals, all organised by Alliance members with contributions from ASviS's working groups and external partners.

For the first time, by working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Festival, already recognised by the United Nations as an example of international good practice, opened a window on the world with a series of events organised in embassies and Italian Cultural Institutes around the world. The ANSA agency and ASviS presented *Voci sul futuro* ("Voices on the future"), 10 events featuring discussion of the future and sustainability by leading Italian and international experts, and focusing on the issues determining the current state and future development of the economy, innovation, society, legal systems and the environment. To mark the fifth anniversary of approval of the 2030 Agenda (25 September), ASviS organised a concert by Paolo Fresu and Daniele Di Bonaventura, which was streamed live from the Macro Museum in Rome. Finally, the Festival was enriched with new types of event: animated films explaining the SDGs to young children, an online training course on sustainable economics and finance, an app designed to improve our

lifestyles, floodlit monuments, concerts and a series of events entitled *Libri in Agenda*, in collaboration with the Salone del Libro.

As in past Festivals, the 2021 Festival, organised by ASviS, by its members and by hundreds of civil society organisations, will once again include a wealth of events. More information is available at: festivalsvilupposostenibile.it.

Awareness raising and information

In the last year, in addition to presenting a wealth of new content, efforts have focused on improving the way information is communicated on the ASviS website so as to render the topics dealt with ever more appealing and accessible and to reach an ever-wider audience. Traffic on the Asvis.it website peaked in May 2021 (before the natural summer slowdown), with 148 thousand unique users, representing an increase of 58% compared with the same month in 2020.

The first change made to the website involved a revamp of the section devoted to strategic indicators and monitoring of the SDGs, carried out in collaboration with ASviS's Research Activities and Projects unit. The resulting database and associated tools are more user-friendly, rendering information on performance against the 17 Goals more accessible. The new page, entitled *I numeri della sostenibilità*⁵¹ ("Sustainability in numbers") gives visitors the chance to: consult trends in the SDGs at European, national and regional level; verify the gap between Italy and its local areas in terms of performance and achievement of the quantitative targets set in the 2030 Agenda; visualise and compare national and regional data for the 17 Goals by means of graphs, maps and tables; extract information of interest.

Secondly, a new section, entirely devoted to European policies and entitled **Europe and the 2030 Agenda**⁵² was added to the ASviS website. Thanks to weekly publications coming out every Monday, this column assesses European policies with respect to implementation of the United Nations' Goals. It thus contributes to providing information and fuelling national and local debate on achievement of the 17 SDGs by means of news and information about the incentives offered by European institutions.

The homepage of festivalsvilupposostenibile.it has been completely overhauled in terms of its graphic design so as to make the site more mod-

ern, immediate and engaging. These changes are in line with the enthusiastic spirit and widespread participation characterising the festival.

The WebTV likewise experimented with some new communication styles with a view to disseminating content and messages meant for everyone by using lighter or more emotive formats, making them suitable for circulation on social media. There were also videos that utilised summaries, images and short interviews to talk about the main events organised by ASviS. Similarly, as in past years, daily news offering a chronicle of the Festival's scheduled events was provided in 2020.

The year also saw continuation of the weekly programme on Radio Radicale entitled *Alta Sostenibilità*, featuring discussions by politicians, experts and leaders from the Alliance on topics relating to sustainable development, as well as a new feature making it possible to follow debates not only in audio but also video format.

Publications included the project involving ASviS's Editorial Board and Educational Affairs unit developed with the **DeAgostini publishing house**, and involving the drafting and revision of scientific

texts for middle school and high school students. The texts are designed for use in geography, science and citizenship education classes, with a view to raising young people's awareness of sustainability issues in general, and in particular the 17 SDGs.

DIGITAL NOTEBOOK AND DIGITAL E-LEARNING CAPSULES

Inclusion of the digital transition within the framework envisioned by the UN's 2030 Agenda has now become an urgent priority in order to adequately respond to the unexpected and unprecedented acceleration in the use of digital tools brought about by the pandemic and prepare for the envisaged intensification of investment accompanying implementation of the NRRP and future plans. The potential and possible social benefits offered by this transition could be enormous. Nevertheless, this same transition requires strong guidance and direction in order to ensure that it has a positive and lasting impact on people's quality of life and our future.

To that end, ASviS produced *Guide 4 La transizione digitale per lo sviluppo sostenibile* ("The digital transition for sustainable development"), published in July 2021 and preceded by the e-learning course bearing the same name offered in June. The 2030 Agenda, with its principles of integrity and indivisibility, was used as the basis for an analysis of the current scenario with a view to best defining policies for the digital transition.

European policies designed to guide and implement a human-centred digital transition that is compatible with the European Green Deal's objectives are highlighted as an element of encouragement, reflection and guidance throughout the entire document. The analysis per Goal aids in understanding the diverse and multiple facets of the transition, from technological aspects to those relating to employment and a just transition, as well as those regarding gender, health and psychological wellbeing, digital literacy, equal access to digital technologies, the risks and opportunities for the smooth running of democracy, assurance of respect for ethical aspects and of the fundamental right to privacy, the availability of critical raw materials, possible environmental and geopolitical impacts, implications for fiscal equity and fair competition. The document is supplemented with references to choices made in the NRRP and a breakdown of national statistical data.

FUTURANETWORK: FROM WEBSITE TO INCLUSIVE PROJECT



Created in May 2020, the futuranetwork.eu has contributed to stimulating debate regarding decisions to be taken today with a view to the medium/long-term. It should be remembered that the initiative was the brainchild of ASviS and other organisations interested in promoting a modern approach to designing the future we want.

In little more than a year, Futura Network has hosted numerous blogs and posted dozens of interviews with experts along with hundreds of shorter messages. It has become known for the weekly “focus” publication produced by the editorial board, which deals with a controversial topic, one that is particularly important for constructing future scenarios, in an effort to present a complete overview. Numerous topics have been discussed, from the role of natural gas in the energy transition to the future of nuclear energy, from the evolution of mass media to the transformation of cities following the explosion in remote working.

Given the virtual nature of the debate, Futura Network has also planned online meetings and (when it will be possible) in-person meetings, in order to discuss the most important topics that have been discussed on the site. An initial webinar centring on the “new development mechanism” (i.e., the evolution of capitalism in a sustainable world), and boasting the presence of Romano Prodi, was held on 27 May. The country’s population dynamics and related consequences will be the theme of an upcoming webinar, again organised with a view to stimulating debate around 2030 and beyond, taking into account that the deadlines for achieving many targets (for example, those set for Europe’s decarbonisation) have been put off to 2050, well beyond the deadline for achievement of the UN’s SDGs.

The ambition is to transform Futura Network from a website into a project: a centre of shared initiatives that is concerned with brainstorming possible medium- and long-term scenarios, in a country where, up until now, there has been little discussion of the subject.

Research initiatives

Over this past year, ASviS’s research unit has developed an information system, updated at the time of this Report, with the aim of monitoring the progress made towards achieving the 17 SDGs at national, regional and European level. Working closely with the groups responsible for each of the Goals, the research unit reviewed the indicators used with a view to improving the description of the performances of EU Member States, bringing the European monitoring system into line with that used at national and regional level so as to make the two systems more consistent.

Additionally, to as far as possible access the impact of the health crisis on the various Goals, the elementary and composite indicators for 2020 were also estimated, supplementing existing data with estimates produced using econometric methods. It was thus possible to evaluate the effects of the crisis on Italy’s ability and the ability of its local areas to achieve the sustainable development goals.

ASviS updated its analysis of Italy’s performance in terms of the quantitative targets set for each of the Goals, further developing what had already been done for distribution of the ASviS Report on Local Areas (15 December 2020) and the document assessing the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. To that end, consideration was given to 28 quantitative targets referring to the different Goals, broadening the assessment with new statistical indicators, mostly derived from European and national plans. The quantitative targets are linked to the Agenda’s Goals, thereby improving the assessment and measurement of the impact of national policies on Italy’s ability to achieve key objectives in the 2030 Agenda.

The interactive online database, which is available to everyone and allows users to verify the performances of Italy and its regions against the SDGs, was updated and expanded. The platform presents the historical series of indicators selected from amongst those the UN has included in

the 2030 Agenda, and made available by Italy's statistical office for use by ASviS in computing the composite indicators for each SDG and making the numerous comparisons and comparative analyses.

For the first time an assessment was carried out on the state of sustainable development in the G20 countries. This experimental and innovative study analysed and compared the level of sustainable development in G20 member countries with regard to the 17 Goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda.

ASviS's research unit regularly updated the various information systems. In particular, the following data have been published in the last year:

- December 2020: updated territorial indicators (*Rapporto sui Territori* - "Report on Local Areas");
- February 2021: updated European indicators for 2019 (Assessment of the Budget Law);
- May 2021: updated national indicators for 2019-2020 and initial forecast for 2021;
- September 2021: updated national indicators for 2020.

ASviS's research unit also provides support to regional and local authorities in rating their performances with respect to the SDGs and in drawing up local sustainable development strategies, in accordance with the agreement entered into with the Ministry for the Ecological Transition. The unit also contributes to supporting specialised regional training schools organised by ASviS, in order to encourage measurement of sustainable development by local administrations.

Implementation at local level

Commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda at local level is one of ASviS's primary missions, in that (as set forth in international organisations' guidelines), regional, municipal, provincial and local authorities and governments managing metropolitan cities and local communities play a key role in tackling the challenge presented by sustainable development. Publication of the 2020 Report on Local Areas proved to be an important step in fostering the engagement of these actors, providing them with an original and innovative pool of information designed to stimulate dialogue amongst institutions at local level. Likewise, partnerships with Urban@it, the Association of Local Italian Authorities (ALI), the National Association

of Italian Municipalities (ANCI), the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) and the Conference of Regional Presidents (all members of ASviS) have proven to be extremely important, also in terms of launching projects involving cooperation with individual regions, metropolitan cities, other cities and provinces.

Notably, the last year has witnessed:

- increased collaboration with member organisations active in this field (beginning with those cited above) to raise as much awareness as possible of the 2030 Agenda and the culture of sustainable development at the highest decision-making levels;
- development of ASviS's institutional activities with local authorities. At the moment, memorandums of understanding have been entered into or are being entered into with the:
 - > regional authorities of Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Puglia, Tuscany, Veneto and Valle d'Aosta as well as of the Self-governing Province of Trento;
 - > the cities of Parma and Taranto;
 - > the metropolitan cities of Bari, Bologna, Milan and Rome, in partnership with Urban@it;
 - > the Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce.

ASviS offers these organisations services in line with its institutional role within a systemic perspective. Such support regards: drafting the document on performance with respect the 2030 Agenda on the basis of specific indicators; drawing up local strategies for sustainable development - in line with European policies and the NRRP - and identifying specific targets; definition of suitable training initiatives to support the acquisition and development of competencies in the field of assessment and sustainable development policies; stakeholder engagement; designing an assessment survey to reveal the sustainability profile of local businesses.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING: THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC AND THE CHALLENGES TO BE FACED

From the start of the pandemic up to August 2021, Italy reported 4,366,256 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 127,351 deaths (Italian National Health Institute data as at 4 August 2021) while the total number of confirmed cases worldwide stood at 203,944,144 and the number of deaths had reached 4,312,902 (WHO data as at 11 August 2021). The mortality rate in Italy in 2020 was the highest recorded since the second world war, but lower with respect to Belgium, Spain and Poland and higher with respect to France, Germany, Holland and Portugal. In Italy in 2020, the total number of deaths from all causes was 746,146, with an excess mortality rate of 15.6% compared with the average for 2015-2019 and specifically a rate of 17.5% for men and 13.8% for women and with a geographical breakdown showing 24.6% in northern regions, 7.5% in central regions and 7.7% in southern regions (ISTAT Report on the SDGs for 2021). The increase in the number of deaths primarily regarded individuals aged 80 and above and those between the ages of 65 and 70. To estimate the pandemic's impact, it is necessary to consider the period from March to December 2020, in which there was a 21% rise in the mortality rate, whilst in the period January-February 2020, the number of deaths fell by around 7.6 thousand with respect to the average for the same two-month period from 2015 to 2019. With reference to the same period, social restrictions led to a drop in the mortality rate for people under the age of 50 due to restrictions on movement and the reduction in road accidents.

Regarding health strategies to combat the crisis, considering Italy's shortage of available ICU beds compared with many European countries (5,179 beds), during the second half of 2020 steps were taken to significantly increase this number (up to a planned 10,000) by means of regional plans to reorganise the hospital network. As concerns personnel, according to data published by the *Corte dei Conti* (Italy's Court of Auditors) at November 2020, recruitment in response to the health crisis included 7,650 doctors, 16,570 nurses and 12,115 other healthcare professionals, making a total of 26,335 new staff, well exceeding the planned level of recruitment announced that spring. And as regards the immunisation drive, as at 13 August 2021 the number of people in Italy who had completed their course of vaccination totalled 35,307,652, corresponding to 65.37% of the population over the age of 12, whilst the total number of doses administered stood at 73,286,195. All of this was made possible thanks to the extraordinary effort made and the setting up of 2,818 vaccination hubs throughout the country (data from the Cabinet Office - Special Commissioner - Ministry of Health).

As reported by patients' associations and specialists in all areas, many chronic and severe health conditions were strongly impacted in terms of ongoing care. Cancer diagnosis and treatment was especially hard hit, with scientific societies estimating that early 2020 saw a 50% reduction in new diagnoses, a 57% drop in cancer treatment and a 64% decline in surgical interventions. According to data published by ISTAT in its annual report (July 2021), in 2020 outpatient and specialist services fell by 20.3% compared with the previous year, with the worst figures posted in Basilicata (down 50%) and in the self-governing province of Bolzano (down 42%). The drop in such services regarded men and women equally, whilst there were differences in terms of age: paediatric services were most affected, with a drop of 33%. The intensity of these overall reductions also varied in terms of the type of healthcare service involved. The biggest reductions regarded rehabilitation and medical examinations. Rehabilitation services (physical, diagnostic and functional), already down by 5% in 2019, fell by 31% in 2020 whilst specialist examinations (check-ups or initial examinations) dropped by nearly a third, with the largest reductions reported in Basilicata (-65%), Valle d'Aosta (-53%) and Marche (-50%). Due to the need to concentrate health services on Covid-19 patients, urgent services (CAT and MRI scans, biopsies, dialyses, and radiation therapy) fell by a reported 2 million, or 7%. Consequently, there is an overwhelming need to intervene and shore up services and monitor the situation with a breakdown in data by gender, economic condition, level of education, ethnicity and place of residence.

SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

Reforms must look ahead beyond the pandemic, even if the demand for public intervention also regards the current phase, the outcome of which is unfortunately unclear as the consequences will differ depending on the type of business, employment situation and area involved.

An “extended”, rolling system of protections is needed in order to take account of the differences amongst people on permanent contracts, the self-employed and people with precarious jobs, putting workers in either strong or weak positions. The system must also be pro-active and take advantage of the best experiences offered both in Italy (to some extent, the ordinary, extraordinary and special forms of redundancy and furlough scheme, all essential during a pandemic) and elsewhere (first and foremost Germany). In addition to a well-designed system of social buffers, thought must also be given to a mutualised model of sustainable financing linked to a means-tested guaranteed income financed from general taxation. Achieving such a system is anything but simple, given the current imbalance between taxpayers (few in number and largely with modest incomes) and beneficiaries.

Social safety nets must not be separate from active labour market policies. Unfortunately, there is a lack of clarity on the rules (in relation to so-called reasonable job offers, the role of community service within the context of an exchange in return for the receipt of benefits, the need to verify the adequacy of training offered in order to boost workers’ bargaining power and at the same time meet businesses’ needs). Finally, consideration must be given to the system of governance: the current one based on the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the National Agency for Active Labour Policies, regional authorities, and the Social Security Institute (INPS) does not appear convincing. For more than thirty years we have heard promises of an information system that has yet to become a reality. Suitable investment in public employment services is also needed, as is a clear role for private agencies and temping agencies.

TRAINING FOR THE JUST TRANSITION

Training activities within the framework of the “just transition” can and must help to enable growth. In this stage of the recovery, reskilling and upskilling are both fundamental against the changed backdrop brought about by ecological reconversion, remote working and the overhaul of organisational models. In Italy, there are around 11 million low-skilled workers, 52% men and 47% women. Individuals with low-level skills are concentrated in the highest age group and fall in the next age bracket (source: OECD). E-learning and blended learning are key to an ongoing and self-regulated training process for personnel. The Minister, Vittorio Colao, rightly reaffirmed the value of training as a driving force for true equality in the world of work. “We all know that there is no real innovation without a skilled workforce: without this, investment cannot take off and we can forget modernisation of the public administration”. Investment in training must contribute to creating a “culture of sustainability” in the interest of civil society. The model of development based on a co-evolution of ecological and social systems highlights the intersections existing between environmental sustainability and cultural sustainability: from this standpoint training is fundamental.

3.6 Italian public opinion on sustainable development

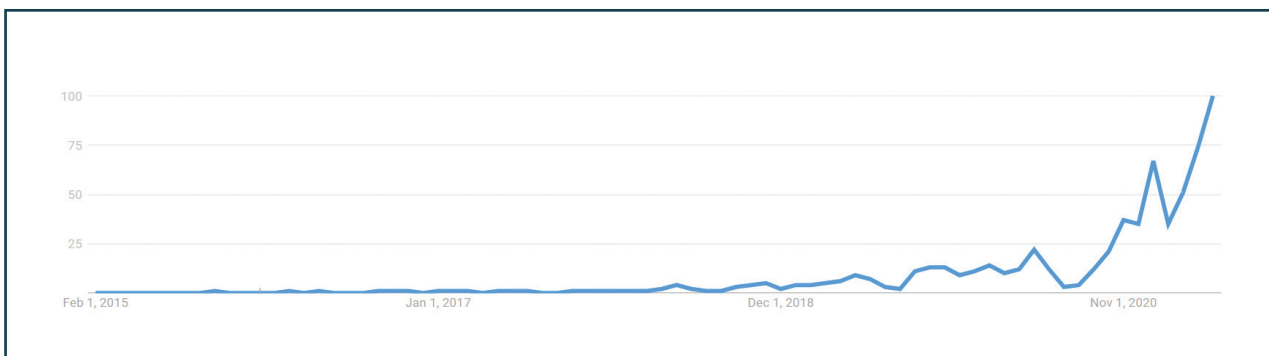
Over recent years, we have witnessed growing awareness among Italians of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development. Whilst the overall concept has entered mainstream public opinion, recent surveys conducted by the Unipolis Foundation reveal that 35.6% of the population has a basic or in-depth understanding of the matters addressed in the Agenda. It is clear, therefore, that there is still work to do in order to ensure that everyone in society has in-depth knowledge of the issues involved. This is what the initiatives carried out by the Alliance and its members are designed to achieve, with some extremely positive results over time. As can be seen from Figure 4 below, the number of searches for the term “2030 Agenda” has grown exponentially over time, with interest peaking in conjunction with major ASviS events (May 2021 saw a series of ASviS Live events and publication of the Alliance’s research on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, or NRRP, and the 2030 Agenda). Whilst it is not a scientific model, it remains a valid measure of public interest in the subject.

The pandemic has obviously had a negative impact on the importance the public gives to sustainability. As previously noted in ASviS’s Report on the Budget Law and the NRRP in March 2021, the latest surveys of the level of understanding of sustainability, conducted by Eumetra, show that, despite an overall increase in people’s acceptance of the importance of the concept of sustainable development, the percentage of the population who believe that it is of great importance is slightly down. The decline is not uniform across all socioeconomic segments, but is more widespread among

the least advantaged, who have been the hardest hit by the crisis caused by the pandemic. Although these groups would, over the long term, benefit most from a transition to a sustainable model, with social benefits and the prevention of environmental and economic risks, they currently view sustainability as a “luxury” that would preclude their ability to meet their immediate needs.

This reaction is understandable, based on fears that the costs of the transition will not be fairly distributed, with those already in difficulty the most affected. A recent example of this was provided by the *gilets jaune* protests in France against the rising price of the most polluting fuels. To avoid arousing opposition to the transition, and a resulting increase in inequality, governments and institutions, including at European level, must act to ensure a just and fair transition that, as stated in the 2030 Agenda, leaves no one behind. These are not simply slogans, but essential conditions that need to be met if our societies are to come through the coming decades unscathed.

Figure 4 - Frequency with which the term “2030 Agenda” was searched for (October 2015 - May 2021)



3.8 Developments in legislation and the specific situation with regard to the various Goals

The following pages provide an assessment of developments in legislation and its implementation during the last year, based on the 169 sustainable development targets, with commentary designed to highlight the concerns raised and the developments more in keeping with the Agenda's Goals. A summary providing an overview of the progress made towards achieving each Goal is also provided. As anticipated in the assessment of the NRRP, this use of tables will become the Alliance's standard approach to describing the results of our assessments, and is again used in Chapter 4 when discussing our proposals.

In this way, ASviS intends to progressively standardise our approach to assessment (the Annual Report, the Report on Local Areas, Assessment of the Budget Law, etc.), based on the same format contained in the following tables for analysing topics and policies. This will also render the data comparable over time.

This work is accompanied by an updated analysis of the ground Italy must make up in order to meet certain **targets** associated with the various goals. For this purpose, 32 targets relating to the various Goals have been taken into account, most of which derived from EU programmes. These targets, which are summarised in Table 3, are associated with the Targets in the 2030 Agenda.

The **targets** are defined on the basis of the following hierarchy:

- A. indicators defined at institutional level (the UN, the European Union, Italian Government, etc.);
- B. in the absence of an indicator defined as in "A", the Target was defined on the basis of the opinions of the experts that make up the ASviS working group (this is the case for Targets 6.1 and 16.3);
- C. in the absence of an indicator defined at institutional level or on the basis of an expert opinion, the Target was defined by comparison with the three European countries most like Italy (France, Germany and Spain), taking the best performer among these countries in the latest available year;

- D. if the indicator does not allow comparison with European countries and no expert opinion is available, the Target was set on the basis of the best performing Italian region with an ordinary constitution;
- E. if none of the above criteria enable a Target to be set, Eurostat's method is used to assess the performance of the indicators without a Target, using an annual 1% increase on the base year 2010 (for example, Target 2030 +/-20% versus 2010).

This process is, it must be recalled, based on the latest available data and does not take into account developments in 2020 or in early 2021. Despite this, the assessment enables an assessment of Italy's performance over time, useful in calibrating the actions required in order to meet the respective Targets. The method adopted by the European Union's office of statistics (Eurostat) was used to assess achievement of the **Targets**. This evaluates the intensity and the direction in which the indicator is moving towards the pre-set target through the use of arrows. This assessment is based on the ratio between the rate of effective progress and the hypothetical rate needed in order to meet the target. There are four possible ratings, with the related arrows having different colours (green or red) and gradients:

- 1) significant progress - the Target will be met. This is shown using a green arrow pointing straight up;
- 2) moderate progress - the Target will not be met, but the indicator is heading in the right direction. This is shown using a green arrow sloping diagonally upwards;
- 3) insufficient progress - the Target will not be met as the trend is only marginally positive. This is shown using a red arrow sloping diagonally downwards;
- 4) movement away from the Target - the indicator is heading in the wrong direction. This is shown using a red arrow pointing straight down.

When the historical data required for a rating using arrows is not available, the ":" sign is used.

The rate of effective progress is computed on the basis of the data for the base year and the latest year examined, whilst the hypothetical

rate represents the rate needed to meet the Target, again with respect to the level of the indicator for the base year. In this case, where possible, two time scales for assessment are provided, one long-term (15-10 years) and one short-term (5-3 years).

The following table summarises the ground Italy needs to make up to meet the 32 quantitative Targets set.

In this regard, Italy has made the following progress towards meeting the 32 quantitative Targets set:

Positive for seven of the Targets, relating to organic farming (Target 2.4), the probability of death from a non-communicable disease (Target 3.4), deaths from road traffic accidents (Target 3.6), early leavers from education and training (Target 4.1), energy consumption (Target 7.3), internet connectivity (Target 9.c) and the waste recycling rate (Target 12.5).

Negative for fifteen of the Targets, relating to the risk of poverty or social exclusion (Target 1.2), participation in early childhood education (Target 4.2), gender equality in ICT-related jobs (Target 5.5), water network efficiency (Target 6.4), the employment rate (Target 8.5), the number of NEETs (Target 8.6), the share of GDP spent on R&D (Target 9.5), income inequality (Target 10.4), the local public transport offer (Target 11.2), air quality (Target 11.6), the exploitation of fish stocks (Target 14.4), marine protected areas (Target 14.5), land use (Target 15.3), the duration of civil proceedings (Target 16.7) and the share of GNI spent on official development assistance (Target 17.2).

A **mismatch** between the short- and long-term ratings for six Targets, relating to the use of fertilisers in agriculture (Target 2.4), feminisation rate of the employment rate (Target 5.5), renewable energy (Target 7.2), freight rail transport (Target 9.1), greenhouse gas emissions (Target 13.2) and prison overcrowding (Target 16.3).

It was not possible to assess performance for four Targets, relating to the basic mathematical and reading skills of students (Target 4.1), the ecology of surface water bodies (Target 6.3) and terrestrial protected areas (Target 15.5), given the lack of historical data series.

Individual charts for the targets are provided below for each Goal. In the analysis tables, these are indicated below the commentary on the relevant individual Targets.

Table 3 - How Italy ranks with respect to the quantitative Targets

SDG	INDICATOR AND TARGET	RATING IN LATEST AVAILABLE YEAR	SHORT-TERM	LONG-TERM	SOURCE	METHOD
Target 1.2	By 2030, reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 20% versus 2019	15,388 thousand people (2019)	:	↓	European pillar of social rights	A
Target 2.4	By 2030, reduce the quantity of fertilisers distributed for agricultural use by 20% versus 2019	2.2 quintals per hectare (2019)	↓	↑	European "From producer to consumer" strategy	A
Target 2.4	By 2030, allocate 25% of agricultural surface area for organic farming	15.8% (2019)	↑	:	European "From producer to consumer" strategy	A
Target 3.4	By 2025, reduce the probability of death from a non-communicable disease by 25% versus 2013	9.0% (2018)	:	↗	World Health Organisation	A
Target 3.6	By 2030, halve mortalities caused by road traffic accidents versus 2019	2,395 deaths (2020)	↑	↑	Sustainable mobility for Europe: safe, connected and clean	A
Target 4.1	By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic mathematical skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds)	51.0% (2021)	:	:	European education area	A
Target 4.1	By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic reading skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds)	43.9% (2021)	:	:	European education area	A
Target 4.1	By 2030, reduce the share of students who are early leavers from education and training to below 9% (18-24 year olds)	13.1% (2020)	↗	↑	European education area	A
Target 4.2	By 2030, achieve a 96% participation rate in early childhood education (4-5 year olds)	94.8% (2019)	↓	:	European education area	A
Target 5.5	By 2030, halve the gender employment gap versus 2020	72.6 women/men (2020)	↘	↗	European pillar of social rights	A
Target 5.5	By 2030, achieve gender equality in ICT-related jobs	18.7 women/men (2020)	↘	↓	2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the digital decade	A
Target 6.3	By 2027, guarantee that all surface water bodies have a high or good level of ecological quality	41.7% (2015)	:	:	Water Framework Directive	A
Target 6.4	By 2030, achieve a 90% efficiency rate for drinking water distribution	58.0% (2018)	↓	↓	Opinion of ASviS experts	B
Target 7.2	By 2030, achieve a 40% share of energy from renewable sources	20.0% (2020)	↘	↑	New European Renewable Energy Directive	A
Target 7.3	By 2030, reduce final energy consumption by 14.4% versus 2019	107.5 million TOE (2020)	↑	:	Revised Energy Efficiency Directive	A
Target 8.5	By 2030, achieve an employment rate of 78% (20-64 year olds)	62.6% (2020)	↘	↘	European pillar of social rights	A
Target 8.6	By 2030, reduce the number of NEETs to below 9% (15-29 year olds)	23.3% (2020)	↘	↓	European pillar of social rights	A
Target 9.1	By 2050, double the share of freight transported by rail versus 2019	11.9% (2019)	↓	↗	Sustainable and intelligent mobility strategy	A
Target 9.5	By 2030, increase the share of GDP spent on R&D to 3%	1.5% (2019)	↘	↘	European research area	A
Target 9.c	By 2026, guarantee all households have access to the internet at speeds of 1 gigabyte	30.0 (2020)	↗	:	Italia a 1 Giga	A
Target 10.4	By 2030, reduce net income inequality (S80/S20) to the levels observed in the best European countries	6.1 S80/S20 (2020)	↘	↓	Comparison with best European countries (France)	C
Target 11.2	By 2030, increase the rate of seat km/person offered by public transport by 26% versus 2004	4,624 seat km/person (2019)	↘	↓	Based on Eurostat method	E
Target 11.6	By 2030, reduce exceedances of PM10 limits to below 3 days a year	83 days (2019)	↘	↘	World Health Organisation	A
Target 12.5	By 2030, increase the share of urban waste recycled to 60%	51.3% (2019)	↑	↑	European Circular Economy package	A
Target 13.2	By 2030, reduce emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases by 55% versus 1990	6.6 tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent per capita (2020)	↘	↗	European climate legislation	A
Target 14.4	By 2030, eliminate overfishing	92.7% (2018)	↘	↓	European biodiversity strategy	A
Target 14.5	By 2030, ensure that marine protected areas account for a 30% share of territorial waters	1.7% (2019)	:	↘	European biodiversity strategy	A
Target 15.3	By 2050, eliminate the increase in annual land use	8.7 hectares per annum consumed per 100,000 people (2020)	↘	:	Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe	A
Target 15.5	By 2030, ensure that terrestrial protected areas account for a 30% share of national territory	10.5% (2019)	:	:	European biodiversity strategy	A
Target 16.3	By 2030, eliminate prison overcrowding	105.5% (2020)	↓	↑	Opinion of ASviS experts	B
Target 16.7	By 2030, reduce the average duration of civil proceedings to the levels observed in the best Italian regions	419 days (2020)	↘	:	Comparison with best regional performer (Piedmont)	D
Target 17.2	By 2030, increase the share of GNI spent on official development assistance to 0.7%	0.2% (2020)	↘	↓	European consensus on development	A

GOAL 1 - NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

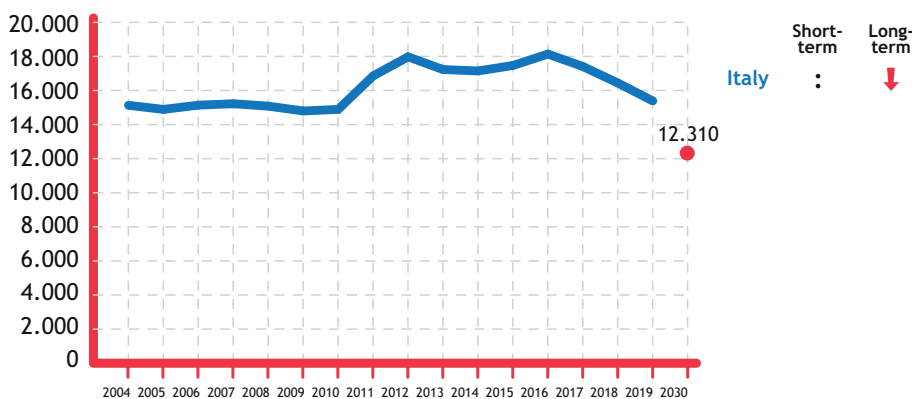
In 2020, the absolute poverty rate reached its highest level since 2005 (9.4% of people resident in Italy are unable to purchase a series of goods and services considered essential for a dignified life, whilst over a million children live in absolute poverty). The Government's extraordinary response during the pandemic played a significant part in mitigating the negative impact the crisis had on poverty risk. ISTAT estimates that the measures introduced to combat poverty reduced poverty risk from 19.1% to 16.2%. Existing measures (Citizens' Basic Income and redundancy schemes) contributed 0.8% of the reduction, with those introduced during the emergency (emergency income and payments to the self-employed) contributed 2.1%.

If income poverty increased less than it would have without these measures, the same cannot however be said for service poverty. Access to re-

mote learning was extremely unequal and influenced by the socio-economic status of households, as well as by pre-existing gaps in digital infrastructure around Italy. Access to health services also reflected the significant gaps that existed prior to the pandemic, in addition to being influenced by the differing degree to which Covid-19 affected the various Italian regions.

For the future, it is necessary therefore to adopt a multidimensional approach to policies designed to combat poverty, so that they take into account both income and service poverty. It is also important to make the most of the Government's decision to use a major share of NRRP funding to finance energy efficiency improvements to buildings, with the aim of driving urban regeneration and reducing housing poverty and suburban decay, whilst also combatting climate change.

Target 1.2 - By 2030, reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 20% versus 2019



Target source: European pillar of social rights | Source: Eurostat | Unit of measurement: thousands of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Italy has registered a negative performance with regard to this Target over the long term. In the last 15 years, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has risen slightly. This reflects different trends in the period in question: stability in the period between 2004 and 2010, followed by an increase and a series of peaks through to 2016, before an improvement through to 2019. It is clear that the situation is due to worsen in 2020. Although data is not available for this indicator, information on absolute poverty (+1.7 in 2020 compared with 2019) clearly shows that the impact of the pandemic will result in a renewed increased in the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Northern Italian regions have seen the biggest increase, as they were hardest hit by the pandemic (up 2.5 percentage points between 2019 and 2020). This trend confirms the negative impact of the pandemic on Italy's ability to achieve the European target.

Goal 1: NO POVERTY		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
1.1	Tackling extreme poverty (with Target 10.1)	The principal measure designed to tackle extreme poverty introduced in 2020 was the emergency income scheme (REM). The REM, introduced by article 82 of Law Decree 34 of 19 May 2020 (the <i>Rilancio</i> or “Restart” Decree), was conceived as an emergency measure designed to make up for the sudden loss of income brought about by the pandemic and compensate for certain shortcomings in Citizens’ Basic Income. Key characteristics of the REM are: 1) a revised approach to the role of property assets when assessing eligibility; 2) extension of the scheme to non-EU citizens; 3) adoption of a more generous equivalence scale compared with that used to assess eligibility for Citizens’ Basic Income for large households; 4) the use of intra-annual earnings in order to determine eligibility requirements, thereby enabling households experiencing a rapid decline in income from one month to the next to qualify for the benefits.
1.2	Tackling relative poverty (with Target 10.1)	It was possible, in 2020, to conduct an initial assessment of the impact of the Citizens’ Basic Income introduced by Law Decree 4 of 28 January 2019 and to identify the main issues relating to the scheme’s implementation. These include: 1) the number of eligible households failing to claim the benefit; 2) claims received from households apparently eligible for the benefit due to tax evasion; 3) the failure to support employment, one of the two stated objectives at the time of introduction.
		Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 20% versus 2019.
1.3	Tackling income poverty (with Target 10.1)	See Target 10.1
1.4	Tackling service poverty (with Target 10.1)	The NRRP contains measures aimed at combatting housing and energy poverty affecting households: 1) it provides funding for improvements to the energy efficiency and seismic performance of private housing, alongside investment in public housing (€21 billion); 2) investment in social housing (€2.8 billion). The NRRP aims to boost local health services and creates Open Data infrastructure as part of the New Health Service Information System, with the aim of guaranteeing basic levels of care. Reference should also be made to policies on support for the disabled, the elderly or the vulnerable (10.2). In terms of education, during the pandemic the Government introduced measures designed to reduce inequalities in households’ access to remote learning, such as: 1) a voucher to enable parents to purchase babysitting services and additional parental leave; 2) grants to help households buy digital equipment. The NRRP contains specific measures that aim to bridge gaps in the quality of education offered in different areas of the country. This above all consisted of financing for courses to prepare students for the switch to university, focusing on underperforming schools (€1.7 billion). The NRRP also aims to reform and investment in modernising the public administration, with the aim of bridging existing gaps in the provision of digital services and in the quality of services between the various areas of Italy (€1.2 billion).

GOAL 2 - ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Next Generation EU and the resulting National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) together represent the reference scenario, or, better still, the new frontier for Italy's food system.

Indeed, future progress towards achieving Goal 2 in the 2030 Agenda and the related Targets also requires Italy to respond to issues around health, cohesion, growth, employment and climate, focusing on: food poverty; malnutrition; productivity; income; work; the environmental sustainability of the food system; the protection of biodiversity and the ability to contribute to improvements in living conditions in developing countries by transferring know-how, helping to grow these countries' exports and stabilising international commodity markets.

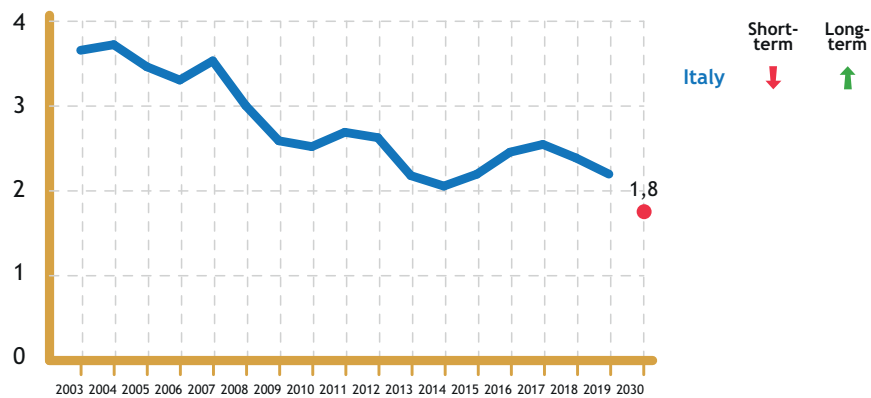
ISTAT figures on poverty, described in Goal 1, confirm the impact of the pandemic on levels of poverty, which is also reflected in data regarding the state of food access. As a logical consequence of this, the pandemic has also led to an increase in people with nutritionally poor or unbalanced diets. For example, the number of people considered overweight rose by 1 percentage point in 2020 compared with 2019. The slowdown in corporate investment during the Covid-19 emergency has had a negative impact on businesses' ability to start up again when the economy began to reopen. In the medium term, this will dampen the positive impact on growth and employment. Moreover, the reduced drive to innovate, caused by the economic crisis linked to the pandemic, also risks have an impact on the sector's ecological transition. The support measures put in place and the NRRP's focus on green initiatives have a key role to play in boosting the resilience of businesses and offsetting the decline in investment.

This also means that our country's ability to provide development aid to less advanced countries has been reduced.

This is the backdrop against which we have analysed the legislation introduced in the last twelve months. We looked at the extent to which this legislation meets the need to strengthen the ability of Italy's food system to

deliver on the Next Generation EU strategy and, more specifically, on the country's NRRP.

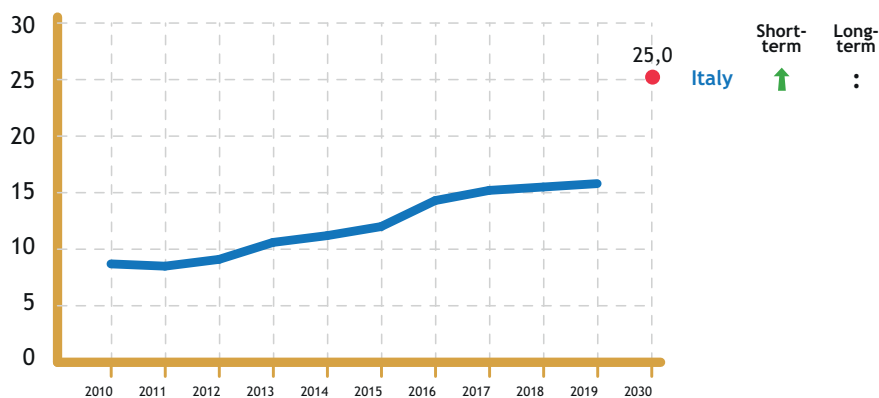
Target 2.4 - By 2030, reduce the quantity of fertilisers distributed for agricultural use by 20% versus 2019



Target source: European “From producer to consumer” strategy | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: quintals per farmed hectare

With regard to the aim of reducing the use of fertilisers in non-organic farming by 20%, there was a significant reduction between 2003 and 2019. If this rate of reduction is maintained through to 2030, Italy will be on track to meet the European target. However, since 2015 the quantity of fertilisers used has begun to rise again. This, despite a fall in usage over the last two years, means that the indicator is more or less back to where it was in 2014, adversely affecting Italy’s ability to meet the objective set out in the European strategy. Fertiliser use is expected to have fallen further in 2020 due to reduced investment and value added in farming.

Target 2.4 - By 2030, allocate 25% of agricultural surface area for organic farming



Target source: European “From producer to consumer” strategy | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

As regards the goal to allocate 25% of agricultural surface area for organic farming, the last 15 years have seen ongoing improvement. If the trend seen in the last five years, which have seen even more marked improvements, by 2030 Italy will have met the European objective. We do, however, expect 2020 to have registered a slowdown in progress compared with the period from 2010 to 2019, reflecting, as above, the overall deterioration in the economics of farming.

Goal 2: ZERO HUNGER		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
2.1	Food aid	Food aid is provided at both European and national level. The period from September 2020 and September 2021 marked the last 12-month period covered by the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) under the EU's planning for the period 2014-2021. The EU has allocated just over €14.5 billion from the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) for the period 2021-2027. This includes an annual average of €62 million to provide material assistance to the deprived, primarily in the form of food aid. Within the context of Next Generation EU, the EU has set up an additional fund called REACT-EU for the period 2021-2022, from which Italy has been allocated approximately €13.5 billion, including €11.3 billion for 2021. Of this sum, €190 million is to be used to provide material assistance to the most deprived, with food aid representing the most important initiative. At national level, the 2021 Stability Law set up a fund totalling €40 million to provide food aid to the most deprived. The Sostegni-bis Law Decree of 26 May 2021 has earmarked €500 million to finance vouchers for the most deprived.
	Access to safe and nutritious food	The adoption of four legislative decrees implementing the norms contained in Regulation (EU) 2017/625, on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, is a positive step. Legislative Decree 27 of 2 February 2021 is of particular significance. This legislation provides for among other things: a lead role (as the single authority with responsibility for coordination) assigned to the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for drawing up the national multi-annual control plan and for programming official controls across the food chain; measures that national authorities may adopt in the event of breaches of food regulations; food hygiene offences (such as, for example, the handling, sale or provision of foodstuffs in a poor state of preservation, that have been tampered with, that have microbial loads that exceed permitted limits or that are dirty or harmful), which remain in force. Law Decree 42 of 22 March 2021 has also been converted into law and contains urgent measures governing the sanctions applicable in the event of breaches of food safety regulations. This has avoided the possibility that the sectors involved in the production and sale of foodstuffs and drinks were not subject to criminal and administrative sanctions, putting consumers' health at risk. Despite this, certain amendments presented at the time of conversion into law have aroused concern.
2.2	Promote greater awareness of healthy eating	Work on the sugar tax introduced by art. 1, paragraph 661 of Law 160 of 27 December 2019 is continuing, with the aim of taking steps to protect health by reducing the consumption of drinks containing additional sweeteners. Despite the fact that the 2021 Budget Law has introduced amendments, including postponement of application of the tax until 1 January 2022 and a general easing of the related sanctions, the implementing decree was published by the Ministry of the Economy and Finance on 12 May 2021.
2.3	Develop a sustainable food chain	In keeping with this objective, the NRRP includes a number of specific investments focusing on logistics for the agri-food, fishing and fish-farming, forestry, flower and plant growing sectors, on the creation of an agrivoltaic farm and, finally, on innovation and mechanisation in the agricultural and food sectors, with total investment due to total €2.8 billion. Additional funding of €1.2 billion is also available for supply chain agreements. Law Decree 41 of 2021 (the Support Decree, converted with amendments into Law 69 of 2021, in force from 22 May 2021) has provided grants for the holders of licences to use publicly owned maritime areas to fund fish farming, fishing and repopulation, and to finance the construction of buildings for use in fish processing, up to a maximum of €1 million for 2021. The decree issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies, within 60 days of the date of entry into force of the law converting the above Law Decree, has, in agreement with the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, established the procedures for disbursing the above grant. Law Decree 89 of 22 June 2021 gives regional authorities the resources to top up the funds available under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for the period 2021-2022, partly in order to provide support for people hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
2.4	Incentives for business to disseminate innovative approaches to sustainable farming	The NRRP has identified a number of measures that can help in the sustainable development of the food chain, including for example investment in the implementation of hybrid forms of agricultural and energy production (€1.1 billion) and in the development of agricultural biogas production (€1.92 billion). Equally positive are expected investments in the resilience of agricultural irrigation systems (included in Measure 4 on the sustainable management of water resources and the improvement of the environmental quality of internal and maritime waters). This is much needed for a sector which, more than any other, make use of this resource.
	Promote efficient use of natural resources, reduce negative externalities and limit the depletion of environmental assets (with Goal 15)	<p>With regard to the increase in the share of agricultural surface area given over to organic farming, on 25 March 2021, the European Commission presented its new action plan for 2021-2027, which aims to develop organic food production. The plan envisages parallel initiatives designed to boost consumption and production and organic farming's contribution to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. The plan has a key role to play in achieving the objectives set out in recent European strategies (From Farm to Fork and Biodiversity), which aim to increase the share of Europe's agricultural surface area used for organic farming from the current 8% to 25% and significantly reduce the use of synthetic fertilisers by 2030. Member states are to adopt matching national plans which will be able to count on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for their primary means of support. Further drivers of the development of organic farming could also be the innovation and consultancy initiatives forming part of AKIS (agricultural knowledge and innovation systems) and research, which will benefit from the increase in support for organic farming provided under the Horizon Europe programme. In addition, Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production and the labelling of organic products will also be applicable from 1 January 2022.</p> <p>In 2021, work began on legislation that will reform Italy's plant protection service and align the country's plant protection laws with the new European plant protection framework introduced by Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625. A series of related legislative decrees were introduced on 2 February 2021: no. 20 regulating the production for sale and the sale of seed products; no. 19 containing norms for the protection of plants from harmful organisms; no. 18 containing norms for the production and sale of propagation materials for fruit and horticultural plants; and no. 16 regarding vine propagation materials.</p> <p>In addition, as provided for in the Farm to Fork strategy, a number of leading Italian companies that make up the food chain, including Coop Italia, Barilla and Ferrero, have signed a code of conduct for responsible marketing and commercial practices. Some of these companies have already given specific undertakings as part of the code, but the involvement of small and medium-sized companies is also needed. Signature of the code is voluntary and not legally binding, but it marks an important step, in that it reflects the private sector's commitment to sustainability and can make a real contribution to the transition to more resilient and sustainable models of food production.</p>
		<p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the quantity of fertilisers distributed for agricultural use by 20% versus 2019. • By 2030, allocate 25% of agricultural surface area for organic farming.
2.5	Preserve genetic resources to protect specific indigenous agricultural products and to promote Italy's competitive advantage	Legislative Decree 153 of 26 October 2020 contains a series of sanctions for breaches of certain specific provisions in Regulation (EU) 511/2014 implementing the Nagoya Protocol. This has introduced a series of compliance measures for the users of genetic resources in order to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits. Adoption of the decree was made urgent by the EU's launch of infraction proceeding 2017/2172 for failure to apply the above Regulation (EU) 511/2014.

GOAL 3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

Another year since the last ASviS Report marked by the pandemic emergency, which has had a major impact on the health sector and influenced the way in which services and interventions were managed, has led to a re-examination of the system's priorities and the strategies to pursue.

The Human Development Report for 2020 shows how the global impact of the pandemic has far outstripped any other serious disease. The pandemic took everyone by surprise: despite evidence that we were faced by a global emergency, requiring a rapid public health response, governments around the world were and continue to be slow to act. What is needed is a global, intersectoral approach, with national and international institutions joining forces to improve coordination in the different countries, as it is hoped will happen following the upcoming G20 summit in Rome (October 2021).

Beyond the response to the emergency, the crisis that arose on a number of fronts (the pandemic, the resulting emergency and urgency, the chronic nature and prevention) led to an awareness of the need to adopt a new approach to managing operations across the sector.

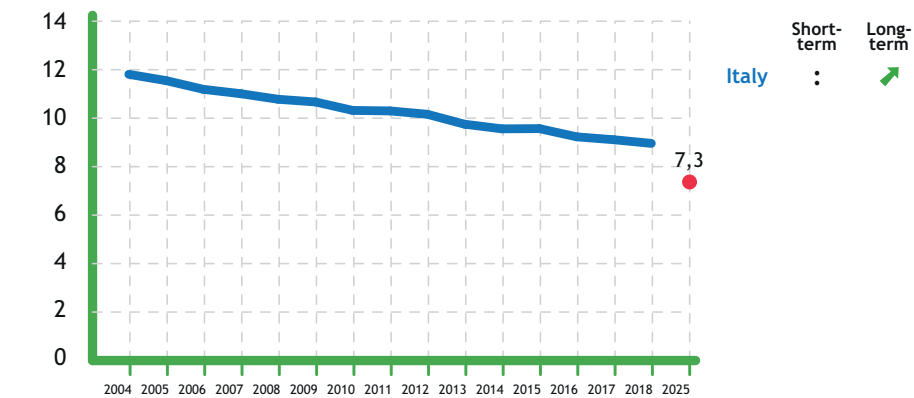
Had greater attention been paid to achieving Goal 3, it is clear that we would not have been so unprepared for the health emergency that has hit us. For example, Target 3.b, which calls for the need for greater commitment to research, including the development of vaccines and medicines for communicable diseases, was largely overlooked, probably due the false belief that such diseases had been eliminated from developed nations. And even now, when research has been able to provide us with effective vaccines in a relatively short space of time, we appear to be unable to efficiently distribute them or procure the necessary personal protective equipment (as provided for in our pandemic preparedness plans which, although present, had not been updated).

The most important factor to consider is equity. The pandemic has exacerbated the issue of health inequalities, something also highlighted over the years by ASviS. The Covid-19 emergency put pressure on the health system, on the workloads of

healthcare workers, on the most fragile categories of patient, on our ability to meet the care needs of the chronically ill and the disabled, on screening programmes and on our psychological wellbeing and our ability to prevent psychosocial problems of a serious nature.

All of the above takes us back to the need for a global approach to the issues surrounding good health and wellbeing. If we are unable to bring about improvements in health and in access to social and health services, and restore environmental and social stability throughout the world, humanity and the planet we live on will suffer growing disruption, sickness, disease and disasters, as we are seeing during the current pandemic. To quote Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organisation (the WHO): "Now is the time to invest in health as a motor of development," Dr Tedros added. "We do not need to choose between improving public health, building sustainable societies, ensuring food security and adequate nutrition, tackling climate change and having thriving local economies. All these vital outcomes go hand in hand".

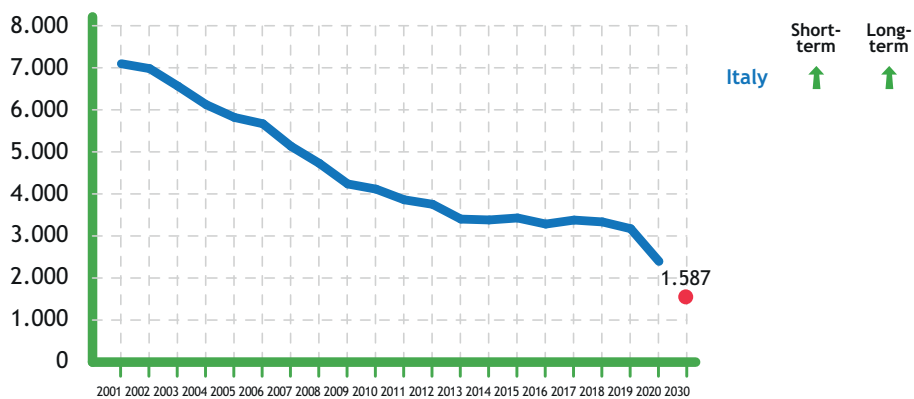
Target 3.4 - By 2025, reduce the probability of death from a non-communicable disease by 25% versus 2013



Target source: World Health Organisation | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

At national level, between 2004 and 2018, there was a continuous decline in the probability of dying from cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and non-communicable respiratory diseases⁵³. The long-term trend would allow Italy to get close to the WHO’s target (a 25% reduction in the probability of death from a non-communicable disease). It is estimated that, due to the pandemic, the probability of death from a non-communicable disease rose significantly in 2020, reflecting the greater number of people who missed out on or delayed treatment.

Target 3.6 - By 2030, halve mortalities caused by road traffic accidents versus 2019



Target source: Sustainable mobility for Europe: safe, connected and clean | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: number of deaths

In terms of the target linked to road safety, between 2001 and 2019, there was a continuous reduction in the number of mortalities caused by road traffic accidents. As a result of restrictions on movement, 2020 saw a significant drop in mortalities to close to the European target. As early data for 2021 shows, the situation is returning to the levels registered in 2019. In any event, if the trend seen in 2021 continues, Italy should achieve the target set.

Goal 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
3.1	Support for reducing the global maternal mortality ratio	Based on anonymous survey data (the ItOSS obstetric surveillance system managed by Italy's National Health Institute), the estimated maternal mortality ratio stands at 9 deaths per 100,000 live births a year, with 45% of deaths considered preventable. The main causes of death due to obstetric complications are haemorrhages, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and thromboembolism, which account for 70% of cases. The main non-obstetric causes of maternal mortality are cardiovascular diseases and sepsis, whilst 42% of late maternal deaths, occurring between 43 and 365 days after the end of pregnancy, are caused by cancer and 16% by violent death, with 13% due to suicide and 3% to homicide. Following the launch of a series of projects and training courses by ItOSS for health organisations and professionals involved in pregnancy and birth care in 5 regions accounting for 40% of births (Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Lazio and Sicily), the specific maternal mortality ratio due to haemorrhages fell from 2.49 per 100,000 live births between 2007 and 2013 to 0.77 per 100,000 live births in the period from 2014 to 2018.
3.2	Care for newborns and infants	Italy is definitely on a positive footing, although there are significant gaps between different areas of the country in terms of the number of birth centres, organisational arrangements, personnel and equipment. This is reflected in differing infant and perinatal mortality rates in the various regions, with the rates in southern Italy tending to be above the national average and those in the north. There is a higher incidence of caesarean births in certain areas. If not necessary, this represents an additional surgical risk factor for both the mother and the newborn. There are also differences in follow-up care for premature infants, even if Italy boasts very high survival rates for preterm infants (over 90% of newborns weighing over 1,500 grams survive). Further gaps exist in newborn screening for 40 hereditary metabolic disorders, which is provided for but not carried out in full in all areas. There are also inequalities relating to ethnic background, with pregnant mothers and infants receiving a lower quality of prenatal care due to a series of social issues linked to lifestyle, type of work, etc. The pandemic has also impacted people's future plans, making it even more unlikely that they will choose to have a family and further reducing the birth-rate in Italy. Among those deciding to have children, there has been an increase in preterm and emergency births, reflecting a reduction in controls and screening.
3.3	Tackle epidemics and communicable diseases	Having been a less important target in the past for a country such as Italy, following the outbreak of Covid-19, the need to tackle epidemics has become a major priority, resulting in a range of initiatives. The Government has issued a series of law decrees, regulations and ministerial circulars regarding efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 (Law Decree 44 of 1 April 2021, Law Decree 41 of 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Health Decree of 17 March and others), the criteria to be used in classifying the seriousness of outbreaks (a traffic-light system for different zones, Law Decree 65 of 18 May 2021 and others), the 9-month validity of green passes, the implementation of an exceptional vaccine programme, funds for the delivery of vaccines by local service providers and for follow-up treatment for cancer patients (Law 69 of 21 May 2021), and funding to cover the 2-year exemption from the payment of charges for specialist outpatient check-ups for people who have recovered from Covid-19 (Law 73 of 25 May 2021). This has required an enormous effort, and is proof of the resilience of the health system, despite the earlier tendency to underestimate the risk of a pandemic. Law Decree 73 of 25 May 2021 also introduced urgent measures relating to Covid-19, covering help for businesses, work, young people, health and local services. The measures cover the development of a military healthcare system and of production capacity for vaccines and antidotes. This will involve the construction of a vial filling unit within the military pharmaceutical production plant in Florence to meet both military and health service needs. Tax relief of up to 30% has been made available to businesses that invest in research and the development of innovative drugs, including vaccines.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
3.4	Prevention and treatment of chronic diseases. Mental health and wellbeing	<p>The pandemic has made it difficult to provide ongoing care for pre-existing diseases, above all those of a chronic nature and disabilities, a factor that will probably have a negative impact on deaths from non-communicable diseases in the coming years. Scientific societies estimate that early 2020 saw a 50% reduction in new diagnoses, a 57% drop in cancer treatment and a 64% decline in surgical interventions. A number of initiatives designed to tackle this situation have been implemented. Law Decree 73 of 25 May 2021 contains measures regarding waiting lists and the flexible use of resources in order to make up for delays in outpatient care caused by the pandemic. Measures in response to the Covid-19 emergency include initiatives designed to boost neuropsychiatry provision for children and adolescents and recruit extra psychologists. As regards mental health, as defined by the WHO, the Ministry of Health Decree of 26 January 2021 set up a technical working group with the aim of drawing up guidelines, guidance and scientific documents designed to assess the appropriateness and quality of treatment and rehabilitation programmes for mental disorders. This was also done with the objective of reducing enforced and voluntary detention and the use of medicines and drugs. There was also an agreement between central government and regional authorities (5 May 2021) setting out the minimum organisational, structural and technological requirements and guidelines for the accreditation of organisations wishing to take part in the hemopoietic stem cell transplantation programme. The Ministry of Health Decree of 18 May 2021 regulates access to the specific funding provided in the Budget Law (Law 178/2020) with the of accelerating, across all regions, reimbursement of the costs incurred by hospitals for genomic testing used in the early diagnosis of hormone-responsive breast cancers.</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2025, reduce the probability of death from a non-communicable disease by 25% versus 2013.
3.5	Public awareness of healthy lifestyles	<p>There has been a deterioration in the situation regarding drug and alcohol abuse as a result of the lockdown and physical and social distancing measures introduced in response to the pandemic. The worsening of economic conditions due to the lockdown increased the risk of drug and alcohol abuse not only among existing abusers but also among people considered previously at risk. Based on data in ISTAT's 2021 SDG Report, drug and alcohol abuse increased in people aged 14 and over in 2020. The increase affected both men (23.6%, up 1.3 percentage points compared with 2019) and women (10.2%, up 0.7 percentage points) and was highest on the north-east and north-west. The strengthening of abuse prevention initiatives, a long-standing commitment reiterated again in the recent Prevention Plan for the period 2020-2025, with targeted actions designed to measure the effectiveness of projects and the criteria used in allocating resources, has so far failed to attract sufficient attention.</p>
3.6	Prevention of personal risk factors by improving road safety behaviours	<p>The most recent legislation governing road traffic injuries (Law 41 of 2016 on Vehicular Homicide and Road Traffic Injuries) dates back to 2016. The legislation imposes specific fines on people caught driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or psychotropic substances.</p> <p>See Target 11.2</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, halve mortalities caused by road traffic accidents versus 2019.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
3.7	Sexual and reproductive health	<p>This is a Target that has not seen any major variations or significant new legislation in the last year with respect to the primarily educational initiatives already planned. Inequalities linked to gender, sexual orientation and disability remain. Although gender reassignment is permitted in Italy under Law 164 of 14 April 1982, concerning the alteration of a person's sex, there are a number of issues surrounding application of the law. The most important regards the fact that the availability of gender reassignment services is not equally distributed around the country and the need for hormone therapy (although provided free of charge) must now be medically certified. LGBT people continue to be discriminated against when accessing health services, with a serious impact on their health and putting them at risk of social exclusion and marginalisation.</p>
3.8	Investment in the health system and local healthcare provision	<p>This is a very important Target for a highly advanced country that, however, suffers from significant inequalities and gaps in terms of fairness and quality, was the subject of a number of legislative measures in the last year. Law Decree 73 of 25 May 2021 provides incentives for the reorganisation of the National Health Service's network of laboratories, whilst Law Decree 59 of 6 May 2021 has introduced urgent measures regarding additional funding with respect to the NRRP for: 1) health, the environment and the climate; 2) safe hospitals; 3) an innovative health ecosystem. Mission 6 in the NRRP aims to improve healthcare around the country, introduce additional human resources into the social and healthcare sectors and use new IT tools to deliver health services and care. The focus on cross-cutting issues (geographical and gender inequalities) is a further key element in the new drive for health fairness, addressing health and social fragilities and adopting a new integrated approach to health and social care in order to promote wellbeing and healthy lifestyles. The measures regarding electronic medical records introduced by Law Decree 34/2020 (the <i>Rilancio</i> Decree) are significant in this regard, as they accelerate activation and use of the records by all patients, including in relation to needs arising as a result of the Covid-19 health emergency. The circular issued by the Ministry of the Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Health on 17 February 2021 provides guidance on removal of the need to obtain consent for patient information to be input into the records on a continuous, immediate basis by public and private healthcare professionals. In February 2021, the members of the National Health Institute's Observatory on gender-based medicine were announced. Creation of the new body follows approval of the "Plan for the country-wide application and rollout of gender-based medicine" in 2019. Although the process is slow, the country is equipping itself with the organisational and operational tools that will enable it to conduct health-related research and training and provide practical health guidance for diagnosis and treatment that takes into account differences linked to gender. This will guarantee the National Health Service's ability to offer a consistent standard of appropriate, quality care across the country. In terms of healthcare funding, the figures show that demand for healthcare following the Covid-19 emergency rose to €119,556 million in 2020, whilst healthcare expenditure (including private provision) reached €123.5 billion, representing 7.5% of GDP compared with 6.5% in 2019. In terms of overall spending on healthcare in Italy (public and private), the final data provided by the OECD for 2018 indicate that expenditure stood at 8.8% of GDP, in line with the average for OECD countries, whilst falling short of the average for the EU28 (over 9.5%) and for major European countries (France and Germany, for example, where the figure is well above 11%). The Cabinet Office Decree of 12 January 2017 established and updated essential standards of care.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
3.8	Implementation of the new system guaranteeing essential standards of care across all regions of Italy	<p>The new system for guaranteeing essential standards of care includes fairness among the guaranteed standards. The National Prevention Plan for the period 2020-2025 is one of the means used to promote, coordinate and guide the implementation of essential standards of care at regional level.</p> <p>A number of health issues requiring attention have been revealed by the data in ISTAT's 2021 SDG Report, which indicates that a growing number of Italians are overweight (45.9%, up 1 percentage point compared with 2019), with an even higher percentage in southern Italy (51.6%, up 1.2 percentage points) and among men (54.9%, up 1 percentage point). The deterioration can be seen throughout the country, with the exception of central Italy, and is more marked among the less educated. In addition, due to the aging population and the increase in people who are overweight or obese, the increase in the number of people suffering from diabetes is continuing (a 7% increase in 2020). This disease is more prevalent among men (6.7%) than women (5.7%) and among the over-75s, with regard to both men and women. As regards hypertension, the figures for 2020 indicate that age-standardised rates are on the rise among men (19.1% in 2010 versus 20.4% in 2020) and falling among women (from 19.5% to 18.5%).</p>
3.9	Implementation of the REACH Regulation	<p>The use of chemical substances forms an integral part of our lives, but if not handled correctly (production cycles, use, recovery and disposal) they can have damaging effects on human health and the environment (amplifying climate change, ecological degradation and biodiversity loss). In compliance with Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 (the REACH Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), the Ministry of Health (in agreement with the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, the Ministry for Economic Development and the Cabinet Office's European Policy unit) issued a Ministerial Decree on 15 January 2021 re-establishing the REACH Technical Coordination Committee. This is tasked with promoting the safe and sustainable use of chemical substances through the definition of international action plans and initiatives designed to implement the REACH Regulation. In line with the Green Deal, the REACH Regulation promotes research and innovation in order to ensure: the safety and sustainability of chemical substances starting from their design; the identification of chemical substances that could arouse concerns relating to health and environmental protection; the progressive cessation of the use of dangerous substances, particularly in consumer goods. As regards official controls on animals (and the related responsibilities of veterinary offices) and on goods from EU member states, further measures have been introduced by Law Decrees 23, 24 and 27 of 2 February 2021.</p>
3.a	Investment in public and private research	<p>The data in ISTAT's 2021 SDG Report reveals a significant increase in the take-up of flu vaccines in the 2020/2021 winter season compared with previous year, with the figure rising from 16.5% of the population to 23.7%. People were strongly encouraged to have the flu vaccine by information and education campaigns, with the aim of avoiding the risk of overwhelming the healthcare system, already struggling under the weight of the pandemic. 66.5% of the population targeted by the flu vaccination strategy (those over 65) was vaccinated, marking a 12 percentage-point increase, with rates exceeding 70% in Sicily, Calabria, Umbria and Emilia-Romagna. The exception was the Province of Bergamo, with 41.5% of people over 65 vaccinated.</p> <p>As regards access to vaccines, Law Decree 73 of 25 May 2021 introduced measures designed to encourage the development of a military healthcare system and of production capacity for vaccines and antidotes. This will involve the construction of a vial filling unit within the military pharmaceutical production plant in Florence to meet both military and health service needs. Tax relief of up to 30% has been made available to businesses that invest in research and the development of innovative drugs, including vaccines.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
3.b	Increase awareness of the health risks linked to smoking	<p>Smoking can be considered in all senses a chronic disease, representing one of the biggest public health issues at global level. The WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) sets out principles and objectives aimed at protecting present and future generations from the consequences of smoking and of the exposure to tobacco smoke. As well as having an impact on health, there are also effects of an economic, social and environmental nature. Italy is one of the EU member states that played an active part in drawing up the Convention, officially signing up to the document on 16 June 2003 (followed by ratification on 2 July 2008 with Law 75/2008). In common with alcohol and drug abuse, the pandemic has also changed Italian's smoking habits. After an initial fall in the number of smokers during the lockdown - January 2020 (23.3%) versus April 2020 (21.9%) - November 2020 registered an increase (24%), after which the number of smokers compared with November 2020 rose even further through to May 2021 (26.2% versus 24% of the population). This makes a total of 11.3 million smokers, including 5.5 million men and 5.8 million women. The number of young smokers using tobacco products remains high (1 in 3 people between the ages of 14 and 17). Of these, almost 42% began by smoking e-cigarettes or heated tobacco products. The use of new tobacco products in Italy has helped to introduce new users to smoking and has led to increased use of traditional cigarettes, making it more difficult for people to stop smoking and, as a result, fuelling the smoking epidemic.</p>
3.c	Strengthen global health systems	<p>The legislation enacted in Italy in response to the pandemic, the implementation of Mission 6 in the NRRP and achievement of the goals set in the national Prevention Plan provide a major incentive for us to improve health and social care services. This is true not only as regards financing, which has come under growing pressure over the years, but also from the point of view of taking an integrated approach as part of a wider vision of healthcare provision.</p> <p>The reorganisation plans set out in the Rilancio Decree aim to improve the way in which hospitals are structured, so as to increase the number of places available in intensive and semi-intensive care units, upgrade and restructure accident and emergency departments and boost the number of vehicles available for patient transport.</p> <p>Based on updated data as of 29 July 2021, made available by the Special Commissioner, 2,228 orders have been placed for electro-medical equipment, there are 474 orders relating to works and technical services, and 53 orders for ambulances and emergency response vehicles.</p> <p>The value of the orders for electro-medical equipment amounts to €111,746,628, with most of this spent in Puglia, Lazio, Sicily and Emilia-Romagna. In terms of type of equipment and the number of items, this primarily relates to monitors and electric beds.</p> <p>Orders regarding upgrade and restructuring work primarily regard engineering services, with 837 jobs to be carried out mainly in Lombardy, Piedmont and Sicily.</p> <p>Finally, there are 53 orders for the purchase of emergency response vehicles and ambulances, amounting to € 13,037,217.74. most of this amount is for emergency ambulances and mobile intensive care units for Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna and Trentino.</p>
3.d	Strengthen global cooperation. Pandemic prevention and response	<p>Law Decree 73 of 25 May 2021 has authorised use of the funds allocated for implementation of EU Commission Recommendation 2021/472 of 17 March 2021, relating to a common approach to establish a systematic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants in wastewaters. Funds have been made available to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance to spend on health and the climate as part of international efforts to finance "global public goods". This above all relates to preventing, preparing for and responding to pandemics and supporting climate action in developing countries, as provided for in the Paris Agreement of 2015. The initiatives highlight the need to consider the collective nature of healthcare and to agree on a common approach to our response to pandemics.</p>

GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The disruption to students' education and social interactions caused by the pandemic and months of on-off schooling, resulting in a widening of social, geographical and gender gaps and inequalities, already present due to the chronic difficulties faced by schools, curtailed progress towards achieving the goal of providing quality education for all in Italy.

Indeed, whilst the dropout rate continues to decline, there are concerns over the significant increase, reported by INVALSI, in the percentage of students who, whilst leaving school with a qualification, are not possess adequate skills.

Two major lines of action will be pursued in the near future.

The first - requiring urgent attention - regards efforts to ensure that the current generation of students can make up the ground lost during the pandemic in terms of cognitive, social and emotional skills.

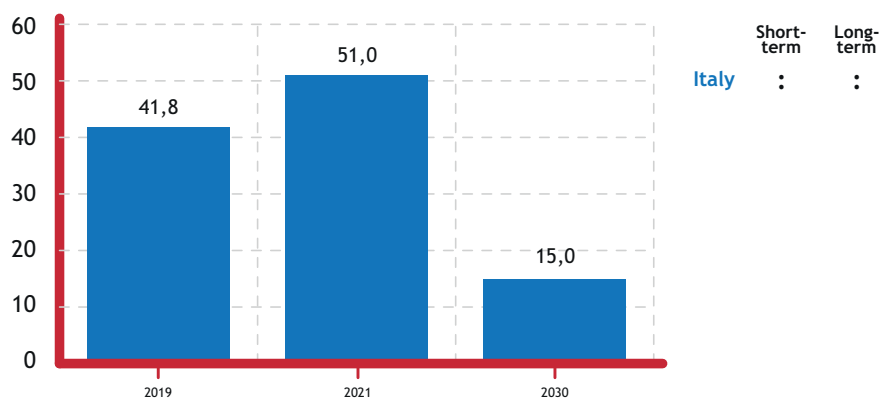
The second must address a number of structural issues that for decades have held back improvements in the quality of education. Many of these are referred to in the NRRP, although not always does the Plan offer a clear vision or provide adequate resources. Among the priorities, the Plan recommends that:

- there should be a progressive expansion of quality school time across the country and at all lev-

els, with schools open throughout the day, above all in the most disadvantaged areas. Particular attention should be paid to extending participation in early childhood education, above all up to the age of 3. To guarantee the extension of full-time education, the resources made available in the NRRP do not appear to be sufficient;

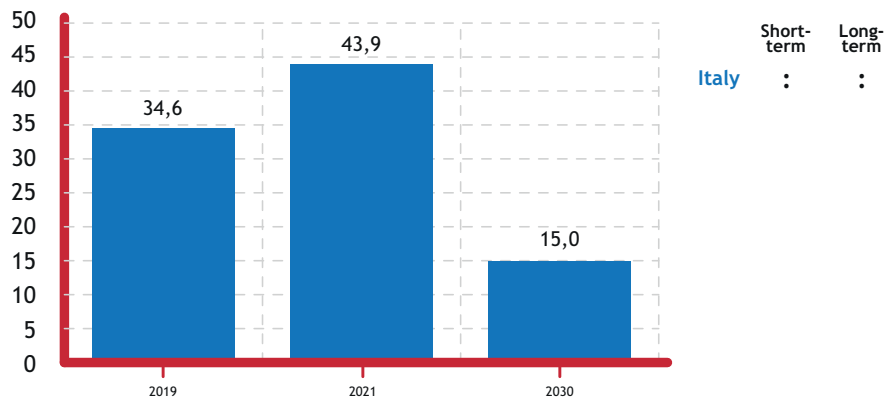
- teacher training be improved to enable them to provide a more up-to-date, varied, personalised and inclusive educational offering. Didactic innovation is, moreover, the way to speed up students' education in sustainable development and global citizenship, giving these topics precedence among the objectives set by Law 92 on civic education;
- strategic and operational planning for new school buildings should combine objectives relating to safety and sustainability with those relating to didactic innovation, in recognition of the importance of learning environments to effective education.

Target 4.1 - By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic mathematical skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds)



Target source: European education area | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

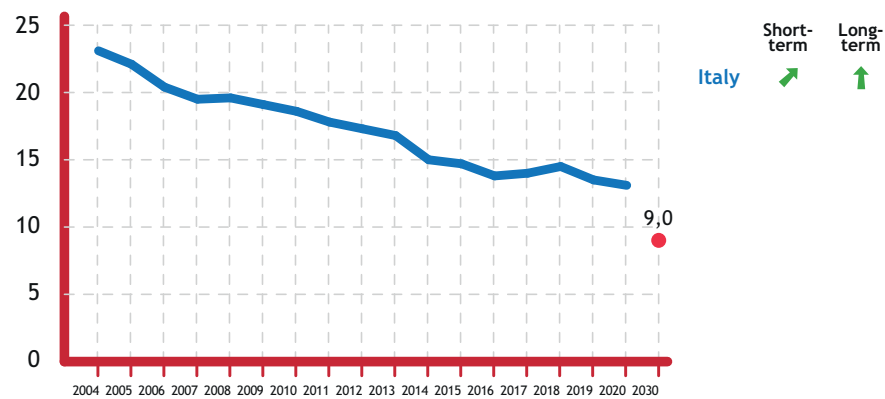
Target 4.1 - By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic reading skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds)



Target source: European education area | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

Between 2019 and 2021, there has been a worrying increase in the proportion of students of 18 and 19 years old who fail to attain basic numeracy and reading skills (up 9.2 percentage points in the case of numeracy skills and 9.3 percentage points in the case of reading skills). This reflects the negative impact of remote learning. Although it is not possible, given the lack of historical data series, to assess Italy's progress towards achieving the European targets, it is clear that, if the increase seen between 2019 and 2021 continues in future years, Italy will not only fail to achieve the targets but will actually head in the opposite direction.

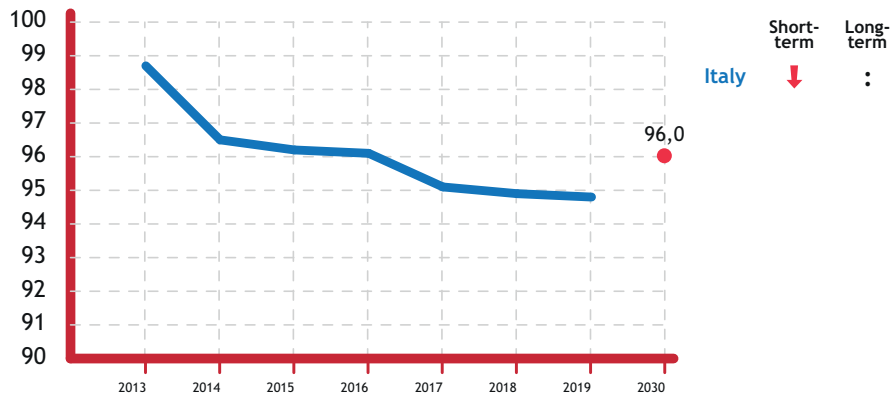
Target 4.1 - By 2030, reduce the share of students who are early leavers from education and training to below 9% (18-24 year olds)



Target source: European education area | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

Another key Target for this Goal regards the aim of reducing the share of students who leave education and training early by 9%, a target set for the first time in the European strategy for 2020 and reconfirmed in the National Reform Programme. Italy has shown continuous improvement in this indicator throughout the period in question. Between 2004 and 2020, early leaver rate is down 10 percentage points and is on track to achieve the Target set. As noted above, the pandemic and the resulting use of remote learning have not had a negative impact on this indicator, but have had a particularly negative impact on students' skills.

Target 4.2 - By 2030, achieve a 96% participation rate in early childhood education (4-5 year olds)



Target source: European education area | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

Italy achieved this Target in 2013. Unfortunately, in the last six years the participation rate for children aged between 4 and 5 has fallen by 3.9 percentage points, moving the country away from the European target. There is, therefore, a clear need to reverse the trend to bring the indicator back to where it was in 2013. It is not expected that 2020 will see very much change to the stable level of participation recorded in 2018 and 2019 (partly in view of the nature of the indicator itself, based on the number of children enrolled in education).

Goal 4: QUALITY EDUCATION		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
4.1	Access to quality education for all: primary, middle and secondary schools	<p>The NRRP sets out to reform the approach to orientation: orientation programmes are given due importance. The Plan recognises the need for orientation modules of 30 hours per year in secondary education at both junior and senior levels to encourage students to stay on at school longer and boost active university orientation. The inclusion of cultural institutions in orientation programmes is also recommended.</p> <p>Compared with the European situation, our system offers initial training that does not invest sufficiently in practice-based training. This impacts professional development and the quality of teaching, as observed in the latest report from the Eurydice network (Teachers in Europe, Careers, Development, Wellbeing, Eurydice report, European Commission, Brussels, March 2021).</p> <p>The latest data from INVALSI show that from primary education on, there are differences in the levels of Italian, English and mathematics between schools and classes in southern Italian regions. This means that primary education in southern Italy is finding it more difficult to guarantee equal opportunities for all, which clearly has a negative impact later in a students' education. The poor quality of learning in all subjects is seen most in students from less advantaged social, economic and cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>In addition, the proportion of these students classed as high achievers is also down. This depresses the equalising effect that the school has on students achieving good and very good results, despite the fact that they come from poorer backgrounds (so-called resilient students).</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic mathematical skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds). • By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic reading skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds). • By 2030, reduce the share of students who are early leavers from education and training to below 9% (18-24 year olds).
4.2	Access to quality education for all: creches and nursery schools	<p>The NRRP includes a plan for creches, early childhood learning and educational and care services, amounting to total investment of €4.60 billion. Investment in the plan to extend opening hours and school canteens, amounting to €0.96 billion, appears to be of little significance.</p> <p>It is necessary to convince public opinion, decision-makers and educators of the educational importance of ensuring that children have access to nursery or pre-primary education, as an opportunity for growth, wellbeing, play and cognitive development, and thereby removing all obstacles to educational success caused by social, geographical and intra-household inequalities.</p> <p>Legislative Decree 65/2017 proposes an integrated, publicly managed system for children between 0 and 6 years of age, designed to coordinate and expand the network of nursery schools (of which approximately 50% are private) and pre-primary schools (60% state-run, 10% run by local councils, 30% private). Annual funding for regional and municipal authorities amounts to approximately €250 million. The availability of facilities for children from 0 to 3 years of age in southern regions of Italy is very poor (above all in Calabria, Campania and Sicily), where provision struggles to meet the needs of no more than 10% of users. In certain regions (Sicily, Campania and Lazio) pre-primary schools often have reduced hours of opening, only covering the morning, and are not equipped to provide food or two teachers per class, as generally occurs. The pandemic and the absence of school attendance has made the aim of reducing the early leaver rate has been made difficult to achieve.</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve a 96% participation rate in early childhood education (4-5 year olds).

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
4.3	Access to quality education for all: universities and life-long learning	<p>The NRRP provides for on-off investment reducing geographical inequalities in the first and second cycles in senior secondary school, amounting to €1.5 billion. The Plan also proposes to invest €0.22 billion in structured social and educational initiatives to combat educational poverty in the south by providing support for the third sector.</p> <p>There is a clear gap between the curricula offered to senior high school students (high schools, technical colleges and professional institutes) and the skills required by the labour market. Over the last ten years, the technical and professional courses offered by senior high schools have seen a decline in students and demand. There is an apparent need to re-direct the attention of parents and students towards multi-disciplinary STEM subjects, with appropriate incentives, including school vouchers. Above all, it is necessary to be able to demonstrate where technical and professional qualifications can lead to afterwards. Specialist technical and professional courses should be made more attractive by forging clear links with the world of research, education and work.</p>
4.4	Continuous training (with Target 8.5)	<p>The NRRP introduces a number of reforms in this area. Reform 1.1 regards technical colleges and professional institutes, Reform 1.2 higher technical colleges and Reform 1.6 the degrees required in preparation to practice certain professions. The Plan is to invest €1.5 billion in developing a professional and third-level training system, with the aim of increasing the number of students at higher technical colleges by at least 100% with respect to current levels (18,750 students and 5,250 graduates a year). It is hoped that this target will be further increased to respond to strong demand for technical expertise from businesses. The reform of degrees required in preparation to practice certain professions will also help to speed up the entry of young people into the world of work.</p>
4.5	Tackle persistent gender stereotypes and inclusive learning	<p>The NRRP provides for modest investment in orientation for the switch from school to university (€0.25 billion), in student housing and the related reform (€0.96 billion) and in university scholarships (€0.5 billion). With regard to pre-primary education and efforts to combat educational poverty and inequalities, as well as to provide support for parents, the funds are insufficient (based on the provision of 152 thousand extra places for children of 0 to 3 years old and 76 thousand for children aged 3 to 6) to achieve the aim of covering 33% of children in each region and offering free access to families.</p> <p>For approximately 50 years (law 117/1971 and Law 517/1977), disabled children have attended all forms of ordinary school. Over 250 thousand students certified on the basis of Law 104/1992 enter the country's classrooms each day, where they are accompanied by over 172 thousand learning support staff (provided by the state) and around 40 thousand assistants to help them with learning, independence and communication (made available by local authorities). This form of integration within schools sets the Italian educational system apart from those of other countries and should be a source of pride for our country. It provides equal opportunities to all students without discrimination, ensures social dignity for their families and sends out a powerful message to ordinary students, with both support and teaching staff rising to the challenge. There are a number of issues requiring close attention: the high level of turnover among support staff (60% are precarious and almost always lacking any specific form of qualification); inconsistent criteria for certifying and assigning personnel; the identification of inclusion with the number of hours of support given to a student; difficulties in transforming classes into truly inclusive places of learning (a survey conducted by the Agnelli Foundation).</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
4.7	Education for global citizenship and sustainability	<p>Mission 4 in the NRRP, which aims to expand the offer of educational services, from nursery schools to universities, provides for investment in: new skills and new languages (€1.1 billion); the introduction of innovative doctorates that meet businesses' need for innovation and the creation of an innovation ecosystem (€0.43 billion). Positive changes have been made in terms of curricula, know-how and the organisation of schools. This includes a school regeneration plan (with investment of €1 billion), with assistance to be provided to schools in order to implement the plan. The national global citizenship education plan (in application of the Strategy) is being drawn up, alongside a review of the sustainable development strategy. Law 92 of 2019 reintroduced citizenship education courses into our schools. Its introduction is based on three key pillars: 1) an interdisciplinary approach; 2) the use of innovative teaching and organisational approaches; 3) digital and global citizenship.</p> <p>Data gathered as part of the PISA survey in 2018 shows that Italy has fallen behind the OECD average with regard to the introduction of global issues into the formal curricula followed by fifteen-year-olds, such as climate change, migration, activism, gender inequalities and so on. Italy also ranks below other OECD countries in terms of the interest shown by students in knowing about other cultures, in having a positive approach to migrants and in activism regarding issues of global importance.</p>
4.a	Education facilities and learning environments	<p>The largest amounts earmarked for investment by the NRRP regard: innovative schools, new classrooms and laboratories (€2.1 billion); safety improvements and the upgrade of school buildings (€3.9 billion); superfast networks using ultrabroadband and 5G (€6.31 billion). The NRRP also provides for investment of over €8 billion in school buildings.</p> <p>Italy's school buildings, from early childhood education through to high schools (approximately 41 thousand properties) are "dated" (42% were built before 1971), are not always considered safe (60% do not possess a fire prevention certificate) and are overall not up to the job of meeting the requirements for effective learning (spacious classrooms, laboratories, shared services and spaces and green areas).</p>

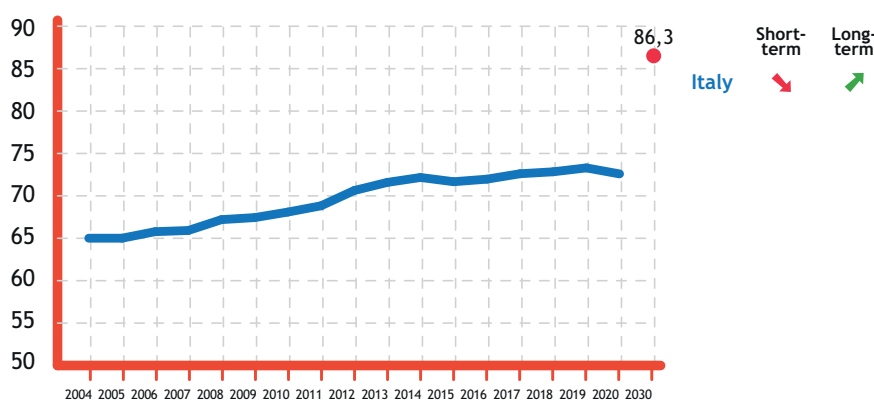
GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The NRRP contains recommendations on action to be taken to reduce the gap between men and women in the country’s social, political and economic life, starting from the objective of achieving gender equality. This cuts across all the Missions included in the Plan, in line with the targets in the UN’s 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. A number of recommendations have already resulted in legislation, even though of modest import (see the conditions regarding female and youth employment applicable to participants in tenders for contracts relating to NRRP projects - Law Decree 77 of 31 May 2021, converted into Law 101/2021).

Future commitments to introduce policies and legislation of greater significance are, however, needed, starting from a tighter definition of the quota of new jobs for women (currently 30% shared between women and young people).

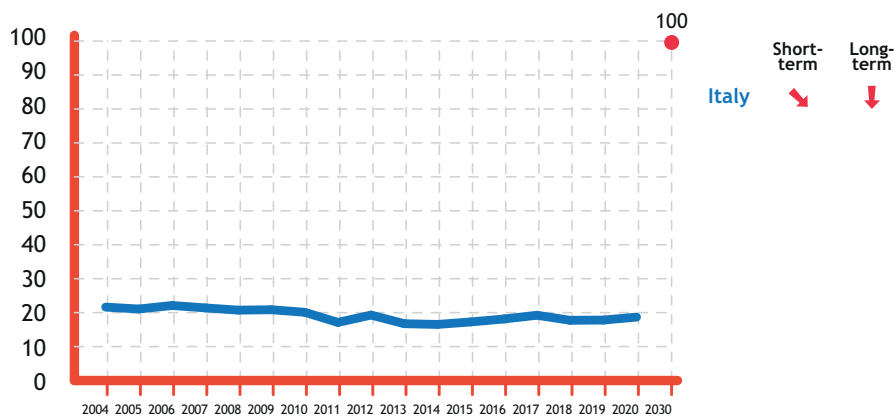
Target 5.5 - By 2030, halve the gender employment gap versus 2020



Target source: European pillar of social rights | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: women/men

There was an improvement in the gender employment gap throughout the first ten years covered by the chart, before progress slowed from 2014 on. 2020 saw a downturn due to the pandemic, providing evidence of how women suffered the effect on Italy’s labour market more than men. An analysis of both long-term and short-term trends shows that, if the trend of the last 15 years continues, Italy should be able to get close to the European target, without actually achieving it. It remains to be seen, however, if the short-term trend, influenced by Covid-19, will be reversed or will have a permanent effect.

Target 5.5 - By 2030, achieve gender equality in ICT - related jobs



Target source: 2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the digital decade | Source: Eurostat | Unit of measurement: women/men

With regard to the ratio of women to men in ICT-related jobs, Italy has registered a stable trend over the period in question, with the figure for 2020 remaining well below the European target. It is obvious, therefore, that the above trend will not permit the country to achieve the European target.

Goal 5: GENDER EQUALITY		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
5.1	Integrate the gender dimension in all EU policy areas	<p>European Parliament resolution of 17 December 2020 on the need for a dedicated Council configuration on gender equality (2020/2896, RSP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emphasises the importance of gathering ministers and secretaries of state in charge of gender equality in one dedicated, formal forum in order to deliver common and concrete measures and legislation to address the challenges in the field of women's rights and gender equality and ensure that gender equality issues are discussed at the highest political level; • calls on the European Council to establish a training programme dedicated to gender equality to facilitate the integration of the gender dimension across all EU policies and legislation. <p>European Parliament resolution of 9 June 2021 on the gender dimension in cohesion policy.</p>
5.2	Prevent and combat violence against women	<p>Law 4 of 15 January 2021, ratifying and implementing International Labour Organisation Convention no. 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work (adopted in Geneva on 21 June 2019 during the 108th session of the general ILO conference.</p>
5.3	Eliminate practices harmful to gender equality	<p>EU resolution on the strategy for gender equality, approved by the European Parliament on 21 January 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports the need for an EU directive to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence, addressing among other issues, female genital mutilation (FGM). The need for such a directive was also reiterated in the resolution approved by the plenary session of the Parliament; • regrets the lack of a reference to the gender dimension in the trafficking of human beings, with regard to slavery and sexual exploitation, issues that primarily affect women and girls.
5.4	Policies to boost the birth rate. Promote shared responsibility for household chores and a better work-life balance (with Target 8.1)	<p>Law 46 of 1 April 2021 governs the delegation to the Government of responsibility for reorganising, simplifying and strengthening measures to support dependent children through a single universal allowance.</p> <p>Law 61 of 6 May 2021, converting into law, with amendments, law Decree 30 of 13 March 2021, containing urgent measures to respond to the spread of Covid-19 and provide support for workers with minor children studying from home or in quarantine.</p>
5.5	Equal opportunities	<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, halve the gender employment gap versus 2020. • By 2030, achieve gender equality in ICT-related jobs.
5.6	The right to reproductive health	<p>European Parliament resolution of 24 June 2021 on sexual and reproductive health. This affirms that health rights - specifically sexual and reproductive health rights - are fundamental women's rights and for gender equality. It calls on EU member states to remove all the barriers that impede full access to these services and urges governments to ensure safe and legal access to abortion and to high-quality methods of contraception and to remove all legal, policy, financial and other barriers impeding full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all persons. A part of the document regrets the situation in Italy, where abortion is guaranteed by Law 194 but where, due to the presence of a large number of objectors in public facilities, it is not available or is difficult to access.</p>

	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
5.b	Promote women's access to scientific training. Reduce the digital gender gap	<p>See Target 4.5</p> <p>Resolution approved by the European Parliament on 21 January 2021 on closing of the digital gender gap and the participation of women in the digital economy (2019/2168, INI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calls on the Commission and the Member States to align the measures fostering the digital transition with the Union's goals on gender equality; • underlines the importance of ensuring gender mainstreaming in digital education at all levels; • acknowledges with great concern the rise in digital crimes and acts of intimidation, bullying, doxing, harassment and violence against women in the digital world. <p>European Parliament resolution of 10 June 2021 on promoting gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers.</p>
5.c	Gender equality in work	<p>European Parliament resolution of 21 January 2021 on the gender perspective in the COVID-19 crisis and post-crisis period (2020/2121, INI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stresses that the Commission and Member States should conduct gender impact assessments as a matter of course, including for measures that form part of the recovery plan. <p>European Parliament resolution of 11 February 2021 on the challenges ahead for women's rights in Europe: more than 25 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.</p> <p>European Parliament resolution of 10 March 2021 on the implementation of Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation in light of the UNCRPD.</p> <p>Legislative Decree 36 of 28 February 2021, implementing article 5 of Law 86 of 8 August 2019, containing the reorganisation and reform of measures relating to professional and amateur sporting bodies and sports employment.</p> <p>Law Decree 77 of 31 May 2021 on Governance of the NRRP, art. 47, Equal opportunities across the generations and genders in public contracts awarded under the NRRP and the Supplementary National Plan, and art. 47-bis on the obligation to respect the principle of gender equality in the composition of the public bodies established by Law Decree 77, and provision of the related administrative support. The obligation does not apply for bodies consisting solely of members of the Government and the holders of posts in other institutions.</p>

GOAL 6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Policies and new legislation in the last year, including the investment and reforms contained in the NRRP, do not take full account of the need to address the failure to meet target 6.6, relating to the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, by 2020. Recent legislation does not contain systemic action (this is also the case with Goal 13 and Goal 15) with regard to the deadline of 2015 for the achievement of the good chemical and biological status required by Directive 2000/60/EC and the upgrade of water treatment systems, or the latest deadline of 31 December 2005 for the correct treatment of waste water, as required by Directive 91/271/EEC. There is also a lack of investment or measures relating to the Drinking Water Directive, universal access to the water network in public spaces and new criteria for combatting water pollution involving substances such as Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

The action planned for the integrated water service are designed to support the resolution of issues relating to network leaks and the lack of treatment, but are detached from approval of the legislative framework expected to follow on from the outcome of the referendum held in 2011 on public water services. In this regard, it should be noted that the NRRP does not exclude the possibility of involving private operators in the management of services, in contrast with the result of the referendum.

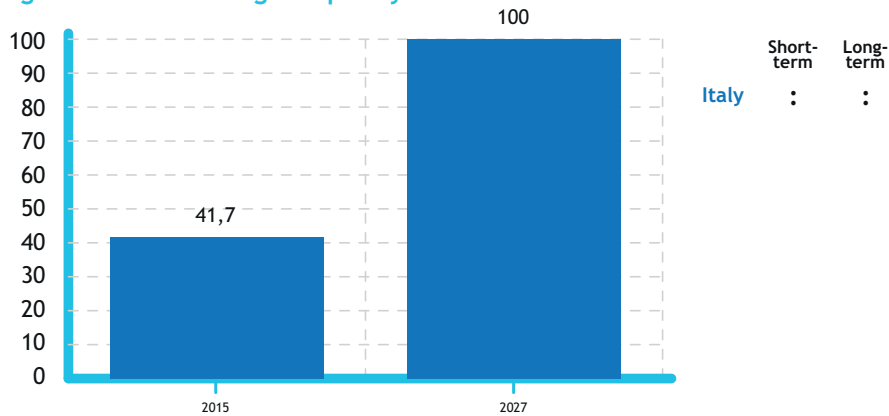
Given the lack of a long-term vision in keeping with a stable legislative framework and the absence of a reform of the national water governance system, it is clear that we have yet to see a response to the need to ensure access to water and that there is no coordination of investment for this purpose.

There is no mention of the WHO/UNECE Water and Health Protocol, which Italy has yet to ratify.

The resources allocated are in any event insufficient to deal with the current emergency, also in light of the problems that will be caused by climate change. There is no additional investment in the protection of water assessments and water sources (other than the rewilding of the Po) or in

improvements to the metering of water consumption or in efforts to limit the consumption of water sold in plastic bottles. The Fourth Report on the state of Italy's natural capital (Law 221/2015) presents initial data on the red list of terrestrial ecosystems in Italy (that is, ecosystems under threat), which follows the guidelines provided by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The data shows that the ecosystems most at risk actually include fresh water sources (rivers and lakes). Our peninsula's environmental arteries require close attention in order to protect and restore them, whilst large-scale damage is still being done to environmental assets that have a key role to play in the water cycle.

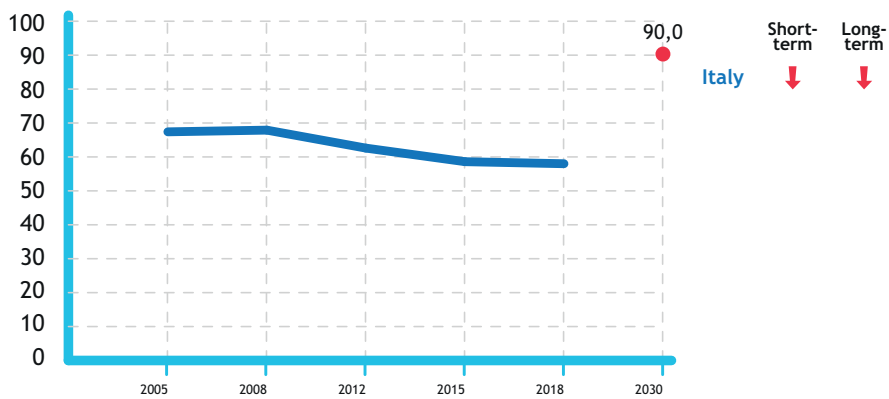
Target 6.3 - By 2027, guarantee that all surface water bodies have a high or good level of ecological quality



Target source: Water Framework Directive | Source: ISPRA | Unit of measurement: %

As regards water bodies, due to the lack of historical data series, it is not possible to assess the performance of the indicator in relation to achievement of the European target. In spite of this, it is clear that the national average falls short of the European target, underlining the need to implement new policies capable of putting Italy on track to meet with the obligations set in the Water Framework Directive 2020/60/C. In addition, it is very important to ensure the timely monitoring of water bodies so as to reduce the number of bodies for which there has been no ecological assessment (to date, 16.5% of rivers and 41.2% of lakes). In 2020, it is estimated that the halt to productive activities has had a positive impact on this target, improving the ecological state of surface bodies. In all likelihood, this improvement came to an end once economic activity picked up again.

Target 6.4 - By 2030, achieve a 90% efficiency rate for drinking water distribution



Target source: Opinion of ASviS experts | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

The efficiency of water distribution networks is one of the areas raising most concerns. In addition to being short of the target, the indicator has declined constantly throughout the period analysed. After a period of stability between 2005 and 2008, Italy lost 9.4 percentage points between 2009 and 2018, confirming the particularly critical situation in which the country finds itself, and thus worsening what was already a state of inadequacy.

Goal 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
6.1	Social use of the water resource	The following is a summary of the content of ASviS's Report on the 2021 Budget Law: in paragraphs 753-754, the focus on the issue of water supplies for the smaller islands is viewed positively, although this is an emergency response rather than a systemic approach to the problem. Paragraph 752 has introduced a fund for the mindful use of the water resource, which is considered a positive development but for which there is no evidence of actual implementation.
	Implementation of the outcome of the referendum of 2011 on public water services.	The law implementing the result of the referendum of 2011 on public water services has been held up. Ten years on from the referendum, this highlights the gap between what politicians and government institutions are capable of and the democratic will of the people. Furthermore, the NRRP does not exclude the possibility of involving private operators in the management of services.
6.3	Prevention of water pollution	Once again, we note the serious lack of specific legislation, whilst it is necessary to ensure close links with agricultural policies and reducing the use of pesticides and fertilisers (see Goal 2), as well as with industrial policies (see Goals 8, 9 and 12).
	Waste water treatment	In the NRRP, Mission M2C4 provides for investment of €0.6 billion to be sufficient to cut the number of inhabitants in areas that do not comply with the directive to zero, and likewise in areas with the possibility of recovering energy and sludge and use treated waste water for irrigation and industrial purposes. The good ecological and chemical status of waters was provided for in Directive 2000/60/EC back in 2015, whilst Directive 91/271/EEC set a deadline of 31 December 2005 for the correct treatment of waste water. In Decree 123 of 28 January 2020, the Minister of Health adopted the Regulation containing rules governing the issue of permits for the transport of water for human consumption by tanker ships.
		Target: • By 2027, guarantee that all surface water bodies have a high or good level of ecological quality.
6.4	Efficiency improvements to civil water networks	In examining the NRRP, ASviS was pleased to see the range of measures included in the Plan, despite the absence of a systemic vision and of any reference to progress towards approving draft legislation implementing the outcome of the referendum (see Target 6.1), of specific objectives or of estimates of the cost of making the entire network fully efficient in all areas of the country.
	Efficiency in the end use of water	The 2021 Budget Law has allocated €20 million as a water bonus. ASviS views the measure positively, despite its symbolic nature set against the size of the problem. The measures add, however, to the series of actions already taken and which have yet to be assessed in terms of their ability to respond to the needs.
		Target: • By 2030, achieve a 90% efficiency rate for drinking water distribution.
6.6	Management of water basin plans and the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity (with Goal 15)	In examining the NRRP, ASviS was pleased to see the initiative involving rewilding of the Po, even if this is of limited scope. The allocated sum of €0.36 billion is modest and the initiative is not underway. It is not connected with strategies for bringing about the necessary systemic change if we are to make up for earlier delays and ensure the protection and restoration of the ecosystems linked to water, considering the dynamic nature of the process and the issues caused by climate change and the resulting serious economic and social effects.

GOAL 7 - AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Italy is, for now, not on track to meet the country's obligations under the European Green Deal or the Fit for 55 package, which is designed to implement Europe's climate legislation. The situation regarding renewable sources, development of which has halted, is dramatic, in total contrast with other European countries. In the last year, Italy installed 784 megawatts (MW) of renewables compared with 1.2 Gigawatts (GW) in the previous year. This is ten times less than need to meet the European target of producing 40% of energy from renewables by 2030. To meet the decarbonisation target for 2050, we need to have installed 250 GW. The latest auction for renewable energy saw supply fall to 25% of the allotted quota, which is in itself insufficient.

The wind sector is in crisis, with capacity falling 79% to 85 MW in 2020. This has happened at a time when the levelized cost of wind and photovoltaic energy has fallen to below the cost of fossil fuels. Insufficient effort has been made to electrify transportation and the civil and industrial sectors, whilst Europe has included them in its emissions trading scheme (ETS) and has banned vehicles powered by fossil fuels from 2035.

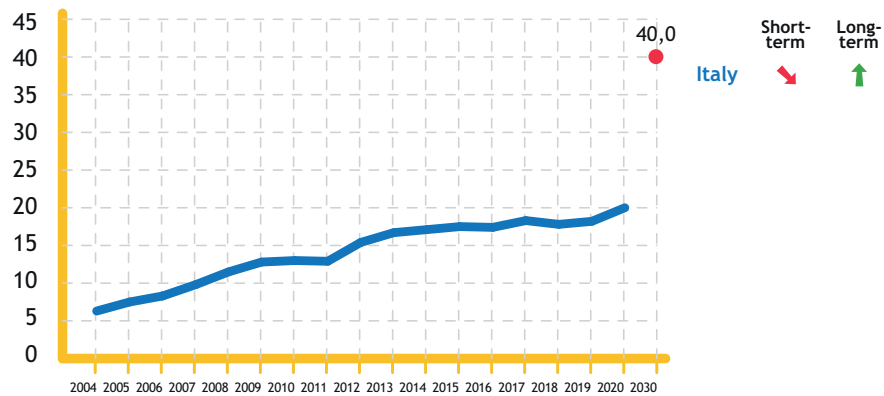
In reality, the issue is not at the centre of political debate and to get the public onside will require political action. The scepticism expressed by a number of leading ministers with responsibility for the transition, in relation to the possibility to achieve the necessary results, may on the contrary serve to confuse the public.

Given the possibility that consumers' energy bills are going to rise, it is necessary to beef up policies designed to ease fuel poverty. We also need to urgently launch initiatives promoting international cooperation and for the transfer of technologies to developing countries.

The 110% Ecobonus tax relief scheme, supporting Italy's energy efficiency drive, has instead proved very popular. Europe as a whole is also strongly committed in this direction. It is the initiative that has received the most public funding. The NRRP has allocated €13.8 for the construction sector, in addition to the funds already made available in the Budget Law, also including the Sismabonus

earthquake tax relief scheme. This measure is designed to fill the hole left by the failure to draw up a long-term renovation strategy provided for in Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings. There are doubts about the effectiveness of the scheme and its ability to deliver the desired results, as the bonus does not set targets in terms of reductions in final energy demand, nor does it include social fairness criteria.

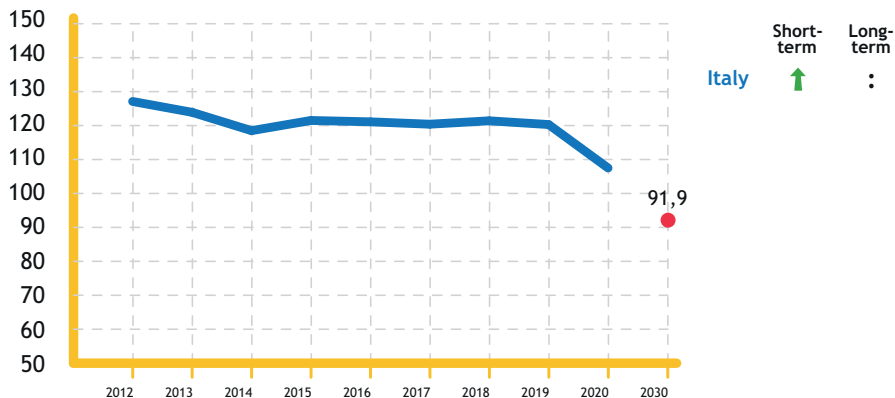
Target 7.2 - By 2030, achieve a 40% share of energy from renewable sources



Target source: New European Renewable Energy Directive | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

There has been a significant increase in the share of energy produced from renewables over the long term (an increase of 13.7 percentage points between 2004 and 2020), in line with achievement of the European target. Despite this, the last five years have witnessed a slowdown in the growth of renewable sources which, if it continues through to 2030, will hamper Italy’s efforts to achieve the European target. The ratio registered a major improvement in 2020 (up 1.8 percentage points compared with 2019). However, this reflects the reduction in final energy consumption recorded in 2020 as a result of the partial shutdown of the economy, rather than growth in renewable installed capacity which, as noted above, increased less in 2020 than in 2019.

Target 7.3 - By 2030, reduce final energy consumption by 14.4% versus 2019



Target source: Revised Energy Efficiency Directive | Source: GSE | Unit of measurement: millions of TOE

Compared with the targeted reduction in final energy consumption, computed since enactment of the European Energy Efficiency Directive, the chart shows that there was a decrease between 2012 and 2014, followed by stability through to 2019. The promising result for 2020 should be interpreted within the context of the decline in consumption (down 10.6% between 2019 and 2020) resulting from the partial shutdown of the economy in response to the pandemic. This improvement is not expected to be repeated in 2021, when energy consumption is predicted to return to 2019 levels.

Goal 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
7.1	Combat energy poverty	There have been no new laws enacted in Italy. The issue of energy poverty is merely referred to in the NRRP, without any objectives or targets, but only as a side-effect of the incentives designed to boost the energy efficiency of buildings. There is, however, no explanation of how this policy can have even just an indirect impact on energy poverty. In the meantime, the European Commission, in its Fit for 55 package dated 14 July 2021, intends to devise measures based around the principle of social fairness and the need to tackle inequalities and energy poverty. This will provide a unique opportunity to reduce systemic inequalities by introducing a social climate fund, financed from a new tax on energy and the ETS.
7.2	Support the renewable energy offering	The NRRP focuses investment on this target with: in the agricultural sector, Mission M2C1 making available €1.5 billion for the agrisolar sector and Mission M2C2 €1.1 billion for agrivoltaics; €2.2 billion in funding for energy communities; €0.68 billion for innovative production (including offshore); €1.92 billion for the development of biogas; €3.61 billion for smart grids; €2.5 billion for hydrogen (without clearly stating that this must be hydrogen produced from renewable sources). Taken together, the measures, in addition to those contain in the Budget Law, are extremely fragmented and it is not explained our and to what extent they will contribute to meeting the renewables target for 2030, now set at 40% at EU level.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve a 40% share of energy from renewable sources.
7.3	Cut demand for energy	Neither the Budget Law nor the NRRP have established a systematic approach to cutting demand for energy by 2030.
	Energy efficient buildings (with Target 11.1)	The largest investment in energy efficiency provided for in the NRRP targets buildings, with €13.81 billion allocated for this purpose, in addition to the measure introduced in the Budget Law relating to tax relief of 110%, including the Sismabonus. As mentioned with regard to the NRRP, Italy has not drawn up the long-term renovation strategy provided for in Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings, within which the above investment could have been inserted in order to ensure greater effectiveness and a better guarantee of the outcome. With regard to achieving decarbonisation by 2050 and the intermediate objective of cutting greenhouse gas emissions from buildings by 60% by 2030, all the measures should aim to achieve nearly zero energy buildings or implement modular initiatives technically and economically compatible with future achievement of the same outcome. The form of the tax relief does not ensure an effective cost/benefit ratio in terms of cutting final energy demand, not does it include social fairness criteria.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce final energy consumption by 14.4% versus 2019.

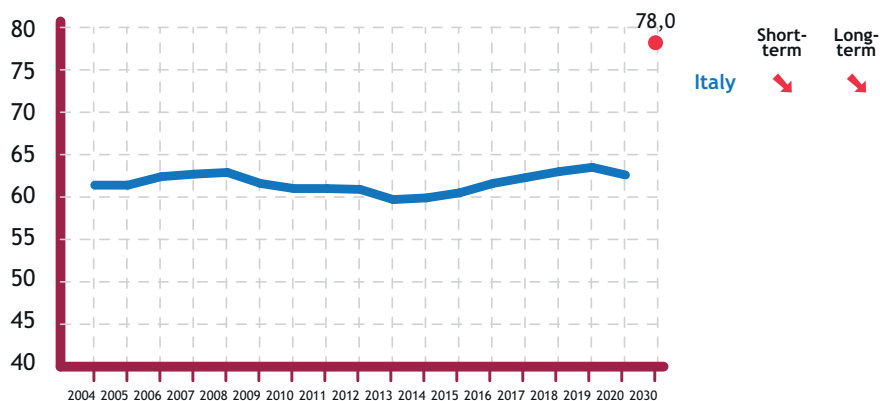
GOAL 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Over the last year, which has seen the country hard hit by the social and economic effects of the pandemic, a number of measures have been introduced that have had an impact on economic growth and employment. Despite this, it has not been possible to achieve the sort of impact or policy planning recommended in previous ASviS reports. Only recently, the easing of restrictions, the start of a global rebound and the effects of European economic and monetary stimulus packages have begun to have a positive impact on the economy. The impact of these factors is, however, not sufficient to make up for ground lost due to the pandemic or for the lack of progress made since the Great Recession. This also applies to employment figures, which reveal significant gaps with respect to the objectives set in Europe’s new pillar of social

rights, which targets a 78% employment rate by 2030, above all among women and the young, and a reduction in geographical inequalities.

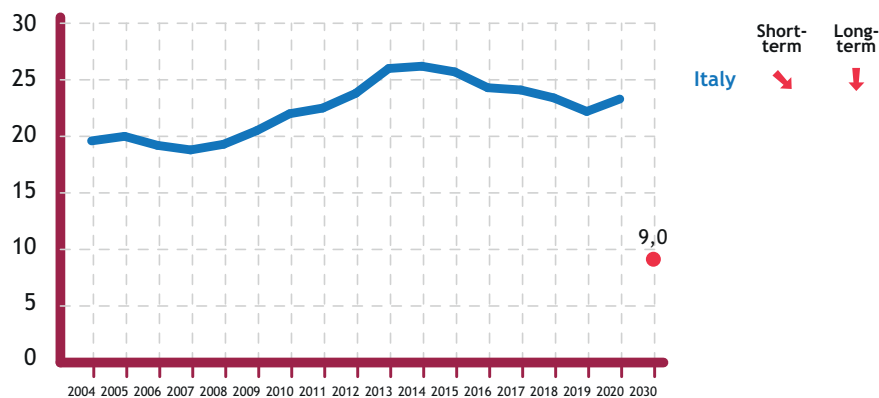
Target 8.5 - By 2030, achieve an employment rate of 78% (20-64 year olds)



Target source: European pillar of social rights | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

The employment rate has remaining broadly stable. From 2004 to 2019, the rate has risen by 2.1 percentage points, but this trend is not in keeping with achievement of the European target. The pandemic resulted in a decline in the rate in 2020 (down 0.9 percentage points compared with 2019), confirming a negative short-term performance that is not in keeping with the objectives set in Europe’s new pillar of social rights. It should be remembered that the fall in the employment rate in 2020 was softened by the Government’s imposition of a ban on redundancies. As a result, we will only see the real impact of the pandemic on the labour market once the ban has been lifted.

Target 8.6 - By 2030, reduce the number of NEETs to below 9% (15-29 year olds)



Target source: European pillar of social rights | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

The share of young people between the ages of 15 and 29 who are not in education or in employment has risen over time. Between 2004 and 2020, the ratio worsened by 3.7 percentage points, moving Italy away from the European target. From 2014 to 2019, there was a trend reversal that reduced the ratio by 4 percentage points. It remains to be seen if the increase in the ratio (up 1.1 percentage points) in 2020, due to the negative impact of the pandemic, will be reversed by the economic recovery in progress in 2021. This will determine whether or not the short-term assessment will be positive or negative.

Goal 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
8.1	New growth models that uncouple growth from increased consumption	The Government's economic planning appears to view the NRRP as the main driver of growth. The full effect of the NRRP, it should be remembered, will not be seen until completion of the various projects in 2026, which the impact on GDP is expected to be 3.6% per year. Whilst this marks positive progress with respect to the performances of previous years, there continues to be a considerable gap with pre-crisis per capita GDP, which had itself been anaemic for many years before.
	Support birth rates (with Target 5.4)	As regards the birth rate, which continues to fall in Italy, the Bonus Bebè (Baby Bonus), known also as the Childbirth Allowance, payable when the child reaches its first birthday (or one year after entry into the household following adoption or pre-adoptive placement), is to be replaced by the <i>Bonus Figli</i> (a Child Bonus), a sort of family allowance that will become the sole form of support offered to families. Under the Government's plans, the new payments were to come into effect in July 2021, but the start of the scheme has been delayed until January 2022. The related payment will cover the period up to the dependent child's twenty-first birthday (see Target 5.4).
8.2	Support for the production and spread of innovation, for the digitisation of businesses and the development of digital skills. Training and upskilling for female and male workers	Numerous parts of the NRRP (above all Mission 1) allocate funding and propose actions aimed at closing the digital gap. Of particular interest is the attention (albeit modest) given to developing the space economy, a sector that could potentially provide highly skilled jobs.
8.3	Support for male and female entrepreneurship and job creation. Work-life balance and agile working	See Goal 5.
8.4	Ecological and industrial transition for businesses. Circular economy	See Goal 7 and Goal 12.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
8.5	Active labour policies, support for people switching to jobs in growth sectors and for the employment of disadvantaged people and those with disabilities	<p>On this front, Italy has fallen behind other similar countries within Europe and beyond, with employment growth rates that have made it impossible to achieve the target rate of 78% by 2030, set at European level in the pillar on social rights. Also, with regard to the quality of employment, despite many efforts and excellent examples within both the private and public sectors, the country's overall situation remains problematic. The apparent gender pay gap masks an even more serious problem linked to the low level of female employment, and many sectors (public ones above all) are devoid of criteria on which to base the inclusion of disabled people. As regards the minimum wage, the European Commission's proposed Directive on a minimum wage within the EU was adopted on 28 October 2020 with the COM (2020) 682 final. The Commission has underlined the fact that the proposal is in line with the 2030 Agenda commitments and with several points in the pillar on social rights. It is the Commission's stated view that the impact of the economic crisis brought about by Covid-19 has hit the more precarious sectors of the economy and low-paid workers particularly hard and is having a major impact on the most disadvantaged. Art. 5 of the proposed Directive requires member states to define national criteria for setting adequate minimum wage levels and for their review, including an assessment of purchasing power, the general average levels of pay and their distribution, average wage growth and productivity trends. Member states will also be required to establish their own consultative bodies. Mission 5 in the NRRP proposes to beef up active labour market policies and job centres in order to boost the labour market and professional training and contribute to driving growth in employment rates. Gender equality is one of the cross-cutting priorities in the Plan (see Goal 5).</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve an employment rate of 78% (20-64 year olds).
8.6	Youth employment and preparation for study and work	<p>Italy continues to be the lowest ranked country in Europe in terms of the percentage of young people classified as NEETs. With the introduction of the target of 9% by 2030 in the action plan for the pillar on social rights, it is increasingly urgent to take steps to meet the ambition set out in the 2030 Agenda six years ago. Young people, above all young women and those who live in southern Italy, have suffered disproportionately from the effects of the pandemic. Despite a number of positive measures over the last year, there is no concrete action plan capable of meeting the ambition of the Next Generation EU programme (see Goal 4).</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the number of NEETs to below 9% (15-29 year olds).
8.7	Tackle the issue of early leavers from education	See Goals 4 and 5.
8.8	Combat illegal forms of employment and promote safety at work	See Goal 5.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
8.9	Sustainable tourism, support for green jobs and those related to culture (with Target 12.b)	On this issue, the European Parliament resolution of 25 March 2021 focused on the definition of a European strategy for sustainable tourism. On the back of this, the EU Council adopted its conclusions on tourism in Europe in the next decade: sustainable, resilient, digital, global and social. The Council invited member states and the Commission to present a European Agenda for Tourism 2030/2050, to be drawn up jointly with key stakeholders, with the aim of supporting the green and digital transition of Europe’s tourism ecosystem and strengthening its competitiveness. The deadline for submission of an initial draft Agenda is the end of 2021. Mission 5 in the NRRP provides for numerous actions to support the development of sustainable tourism. For example, funds have been allocated to boost the competitiveness of hotel businesses, for a national plan for historic towns and villages and for a digital tourism platform.
8.10		See Goal 5.
8.a		See Goal 17.
8.b	Youth employment policies and support for young people during the transition between different levels of employment, above all by promoting professional and technical training	See Targets 8.5 and 8.6.

GOAL 9 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

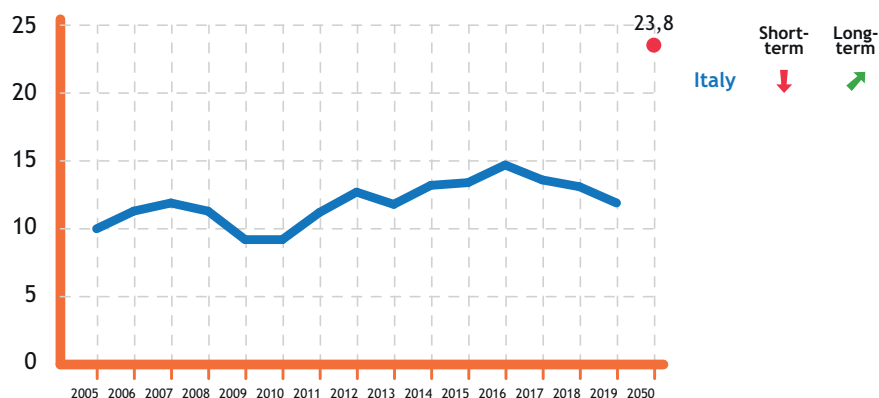
The pandemic has profoundly altered people's lifestyles, above all influencing the way they work and study. As a result, infrastructure has taken on renewed importance, with availability now as important as speed. Italy has focused significant attention on digital infrastructure, investing large amounts of money in its development, above all in the NRRP. The country has set itself more ambitious goals than those set by the EU in its Digital Compass, in an effort to achieve full coverage for its very high-capacity networks (VHCN, meaning fibre or 5G) by 2026. This goal can only be reached if the country's rural areas are mapped in order to ensure that they do not get left behind more urbanised areas. The inadequate coverage provided by ultrafast fixed and mobile broadband, across all parts of the country, will lead to a worsening of the digital divide. In addition, incentives for industrial connectivity have never been on offer. We are lacking a policy that would encour-

age the purchase of VHCN connectivity within businesses, thus enabling their digitalisation.

The country needs to build a rail and intermodal network extending to all parts of Italy to boost the use of rail to transport goods and people and take traffic of the roads. However, investment in the maintenance of existing road infrastructure is of equal importance, given the poor state of upkeep and the fact that this form of investment is a driver of economic activity.

Tax relief incentivising research and innovation should be retained and increased, above all in the country's most disadvantaged and backward areas and to benefit micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

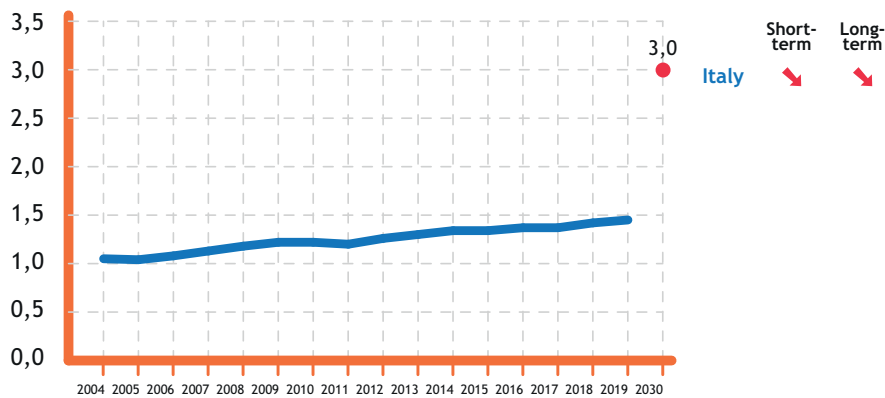
Target 9.1 - By 2050, double the share of freight transported by rail versus 2019



Target source: Sustainable and intelligent mobility strategy | Source: Eurostat | Unit of measurement: %

In terms of the share of freight transported by rail, between 2005 and 2019 Italy saw a slight improvement (up 1.9 percentage points), though this is insufficient to achieve the European target. Moreover, the situation has deteriorated in the last five years (down 1.3 percentage points between 2014 and 2019), moving away from the identified target. The assessment does not yet take into account the impact of the events of 2020 on this ratio, although it is not expected that the pandemic has had a major impact on the relevant indicator.

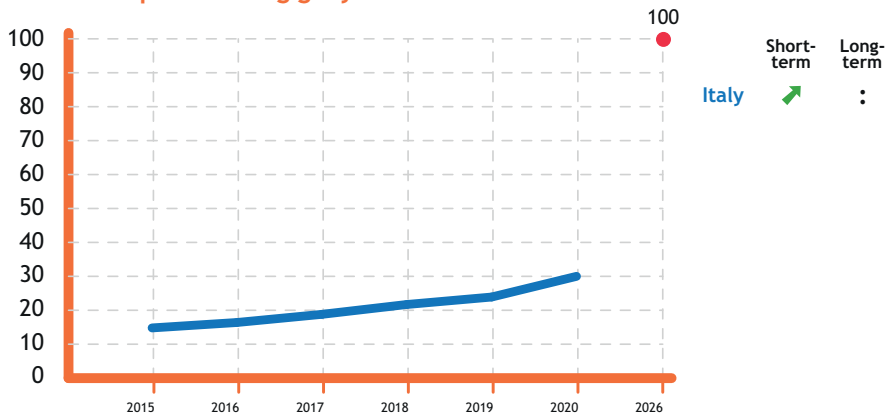
Target 9.5 - By 2030, increase the share of GDP spent on R&D to 3%



Target source: European research area | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

Italy continues to invest a growing share of GDP in research and development. Despite this, the increase recorded (0.4 percentage points between 2004 and 2019) is not sufficient to achieve the European target. Given the stable trend during the period examined, it is not expected that the pandemic has had a major impact.

Target 9.c - By 2026, guarantee all households have access to the internet at speeds of 1 gigabyte



Target source: Italia a 1 Giga | Source: Eurostat | Unit of measurement: %

This challenging objective was set for the first time by the Digital Compass in March 2020 and was copied by the current Government in its Italia a 1 Giga Plan, which has set a target of bringing VHCN to every household by 2026. Between 2015 and 2020, the indicator rose continuously (up 15.2 percentage points). If this trend continues through to 2016, Italy would be able to get close to the quantitative target set but not achieve it by 2026. Italy's situation is well below the European average (30% in Italy compared with an average of 44% for the EU 27 in 2020), ranking the country as the seventh worst in Europe in terms of connectivity.

Goal 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
9.1	Rail network	The money set aside in the form of aid for urgent work on school buildings and the transport sector are minimal. Despite the efforts made, planned investment in rail transport still appears to be insufficient, above all in the most disadvantaged areas, apart from the hubs served by high-speed services.
	Road network and other transport infrastructure (ports, airports, etc.)	We are pleased to note that motorway operators now have an obligation to instal high power charging points along their networks. Law Decree 77/2021 has created the base for implementation of the measures included in the Recovery Plan. The requirements regarding monitoring, transparency and speed imposed by Europe call for a totally new form of administrative infrastructure.
		Target: • By 2050, double the share of freight transported by rail versus 2019.
9.4	Incentives for the adoption of sustainable practices by businesses	The new “Simplifications” (or <i>Semplificazioni</i>) Decree has introduced measures aimed at accelerating and streamlining procedures and, at the same time, boosting the public sector’s administrative capabilities in different sectors, both specifically in relation to implementation of the NRRP and in general (e.g., public tenders, environmental impact assessments, etc.). Legislation regarding the modernisation of infrastructure, the establishment of a fund for the protection of water resources, extension of tax relief on energy upgrades and building renovations (the <i>Superbonus</i> and <i>Bonus Verde</i>) is very welcome. Legislation providing incentives to purchase low-emission vehicles and introducing a tax on those which emit high amounts of CO ₂ (the <i>Ecotassa</i>) mark an excellent step forward, but are not enough to cut the number of vehicles powered by fossil fuels. It is necessary to discourage the purchase of polluting vehicles by applying the ecotax to those that produce lower levels of pollution. The rules introduced appear in line with the Government’s commitments, above all with regard to the infrastructure equalisation fund and public-private partnerships, which encourage the participation of SMEs.
9.5	Support for production, the spread of innovation and digitalisation of businesses. Public research	With regard to scientific research, there is a tendency to waste resources by spreading them too wide, with the risk that this will not have any appreciable effect. Moreover, in many cases the results obtained are not linked to funding, which is granted in advance and not following an assessment of the results achieved. Tax relief on new investment in capital goods is good news for businesses. However, above all to benefit MSMEs, it is necessary to return tax relief on R&D, even if commissioned from abroad, to 50%. The reconfirmation and update of the Ministry for Economic Development’s National Transition Plan 4.0 represents good progress. The Plan provides for tax relief on expenditure on purchases, training and research in relation to Industry 4.0. The updated text of the law has raised the caps and the rates of relief and reduced the period in which the relief can be claimed. The Plan tends to exclude other sectors other than manufacturing.
		Target: • By 2030, increase the share of GDP spent on R&D to 3%.
9.c	Digital infrastructure	Access to ICT is also dependent on intangible digital infrastructure and advanced telecommunications networks. Under this aspect, by 2026 Italy expects to achieve connection speeds on the country’s fixed line networks of at least 1 GB per second throughout the country (4 years ahead of the deadline of 2030 set in the EU Commission’s Digital Compass 2030 dated 9 March 2021). Incentives for industrial connectivity have never been on offer. We are lacking a policy that would encourage the purchase of VHCN connectivity (5G and fibre) by businesses, thus enabling their digitalisation.
		Target: • By 2026, guarantee all households have access to the internet at speeds of 1 gigabyte.

GOAL 10 - REDUCED INEQUALITY

Reduce inequality within and among countries

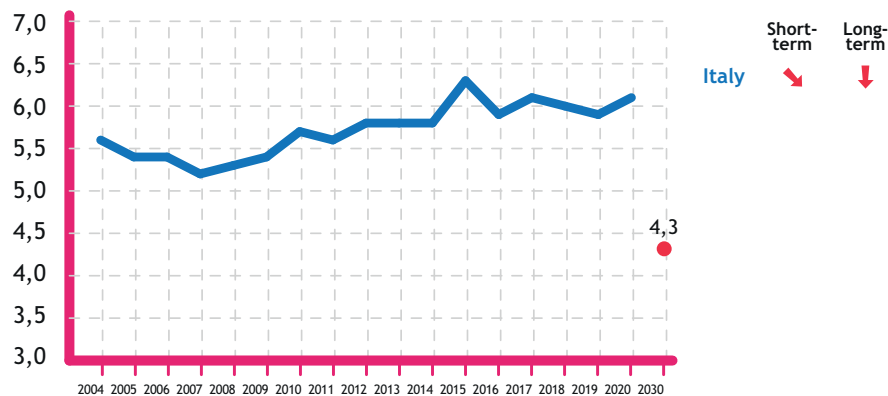
The economic crisis caused by the pandemic has had a major impact on the gender, generational and geographical inequalities that have for so long characterised our country. The extraordinary measures introduced by the Government have contributed to softening the impact on income inequality. ISTAT estimates that without any action the Gini index would have been 31.8 in 2020, whilst the measures adopted by the Government helped to keep it at 30.2 (a reduction of 1.6 percentage points). Based on ISTAT estimates, the biggest contribution came from the expansion of existing measures (Citizens' Basic Income and redundancy schemes), accounting for a 1.2 percentage point difference. In terms of those introduced during the emergency (emergency income and payments to the self-employed), these contributed 0.4 percentage points to the difference. Despite this redistributive actions, disposable income inequality remains far higher in the south of the country.

The NRRP contains a number of important measures that, depending on how they are implemented, could have a significant impact on reducing inequalities. These include: the family allowance for people with dependent children, with more people qualifying for the payments than before; additional places at creches, which aims to satisfy the constitutional guarantee of basic levels of service to all citizens regardless of where they live; the resources made available to support for the elderly with care needs, the first step towards achieving the current Government's aim of reforming policies for the provision of support for disabled, elderly and vulnerable people, the latter using an approach based on providing integrated forms of care and care in the community. For this purpose, the process of assessing the success of the individual measures in reducing inequalities - from the point of view of women, young people, southern Italy and marginalised areas - needs to be strengthened. This will include an accessible monitoring system, open to and usable by all citizens and citizens' groups, labour organisations and businesses.

Finally, the announced tax reform will play a key role with regard to inequalities. It is necessary to look beyond the rather conservative, fragmented

proposals put before Parliament last June, by seeking to arrive at a reform that will truly address the shortcomings that undermine the fairness of our tax system. This will mean dealing with the various forms of substitute tax on unearned income or the more or less unused form of redistribution based on the taxation of wealth.

Target 10.4 - By 2030, reduce net income inequality (S80/S20) to the levels observed in the best European countries



Target source: Comparison with best European countries (France) | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: last quintile/first quintile

Given the lack of an officially set quantitative target, we have used the indicator that measures net income inequality (the ratio of the total equivalent income received by 20% of the population on the highest incomes and that received by the 20% on the lowest incomes). On this basis, the target to reach by 2030 is based on the level in the best European country similar to Italy, which is the 4.3% registered in France in the latest year for which data is available. Between 2007 and 2015, the gap between the first and last quintiles has widened, rising by 21.2% and contributing to the poor long-term performance that has shifted Italy away from achieving the target. From 2015 on, the indicator has remained fairly stable, although this will not be sufficient to bring Italy closer to the best EU country (France) by 2030. The indicator worsened in 2020 due to the impact of the pandemic, which has increased inequalities by 3.4%.

Goal 10: REDUCED INEQUALITY		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
10.1	Combat income poverty (with Targets 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3)	The NRRP provides that 40% of the amount to be invested will be directed towards the south of Italy (approximately €82 billion). Of this, €35 billion has been geographically allocated to the south, whilst the remaining amount will be allocated following calls for tenders. The measures most capable of having a significant positive impact on incomes in the south in the short term are: 1) the upgrade of superfast broadband, enabling the digitalisation of local authorities and businesses, and authorisation for access to the tax relief provided by the Transition Plan 4.0; 2) the strengthening of Special Economic Zones. In the medium term, the south is expected to benefit most from the upgrade of network infrastructure. As regards active employment policies, the NRRP has allocated €0.6 billion to improving the services offered by job centres, including the training of personnel.
	Combat service poverty (with Target 1.4)	See Target 1.4.
10.2	Support for the disabled, the elderly and the vulnerable	The pandemic has accelerated the process of reforming home care for the elderly in need, an issue destined to assume growing importance given the aging of the population. This process began with the allocation of additional funding in the Rilancio Decree (Law Decree of 19 May 2020) and in the NRRP. There are four key aspects of the reform, designed to provide support for the elderly with care needs: 1) a system that aims to give priority to providing care in the home and, more generally, to care in the community; 2) an increase in the services offered; 3) expanded provision of integrated care, bringing together healthcare and social care, taking into account the specific and differing needs of the elderly and their families; 4) improvements to multi-level coordination and simplification of the process for accessing services.
10.3	Equal opportunities and anti-discrimination policies (with Targets 5.4 and 8.1)	In the Law Decree of 8 June 2021, the Government introduced a single family allowance (at the same time, abolishing tax deductions for dependent children). This will increase the number of families who will potentially benefit by 1.8 million compared with the existing system. Under this legislation, the benefits: 1) will be available to families with an Equivalent Economic Status Indicator of below €50 thousand; 2) will decrease as household income rises; 3) will rise if the number of children increases; 4) is payable to both the self-employed and employees. The NRRP has earmarked €4.6 billion to add places in creches and boost early childhood provision, targeting an increase of 230 thousand in available places, on top of the 355 thousand currently provided.
10.4	Make the tax system more progressive (including efforts to tackle tax evasion)	The main changes introduced in the draft delegated law on tax reform presented to Parliament last June are: 1) a lowering of the average effective rate for taxpayers with incomes between €28 thousand and €55 thousand; 2) the abolition of IRAP (a business tax); 3) a reduction in the rate applied to investment income and its alignment with the base rate for IRPEF (personal income tax); 4) a reduction in the ordinary rate of VAT; 5) extension of the flat tax to the self-employed.
		Target: • By 2030, reduce net income inequality (S80/S20) to the levels observed in the best European countries.
10.5	Improve competitiveness and the institutions	The NRRP has applied many of the recommendations made by the Antitrust Authority regarding improvements to competitiveness in various sectors, ranging from the development of infrastructure to tenders for contracts to provide public services or manage public assets (for example, closer monitoring of the inhouse award of contracts to manage local public transport, greater transparency within the system for certifying private healthcare facilities and improvements to the rules governing the award of motorway concessions) and the removal of barriers to entry in energy markets.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
10.7	Immigration	<p>Law 173 of 18 December 2020, converting Law Decree 130/2020 with amendments, regards immigration and security. The legislation has introduced a number of major changes with regard to immigration, including the effective reintroduction of the leave to stay for humanitarian reasons, with the new redefinition of special protection permits for people who have serious humanitarian reasons to be given asylum. This has re-established the principle of justice and inclusion in line with the indications in the Target.</p> <p>See Target 16.b.</p>

GOAL 11 - SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

As well as having an impact on several other SDGs, the Goal 11 Targets also have a key role to play in achieving the objectives set in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), which the European Semester has closely linked to each other. The following data have been taken from the SWD Commission’s working document on services (no. 165 of 22 June 2021), which accompanies the proposal for approval of the Italian Plan.

As previously noted, housing and urban regeneration (Target 11.1) have an impact on the issues of both poverty and social cohesion, and of the construction sector’s contribution to achieving energy efficiency objectives, with the commitment assumed in the NRRP to carry out major renovations of 2.9% of non-residential buildings a year, excluding hospitals, and to increase renovations in the residential sector by 0.7%. This Target also affects land use, which the ISPRA report for 2021 notes is on the increase.

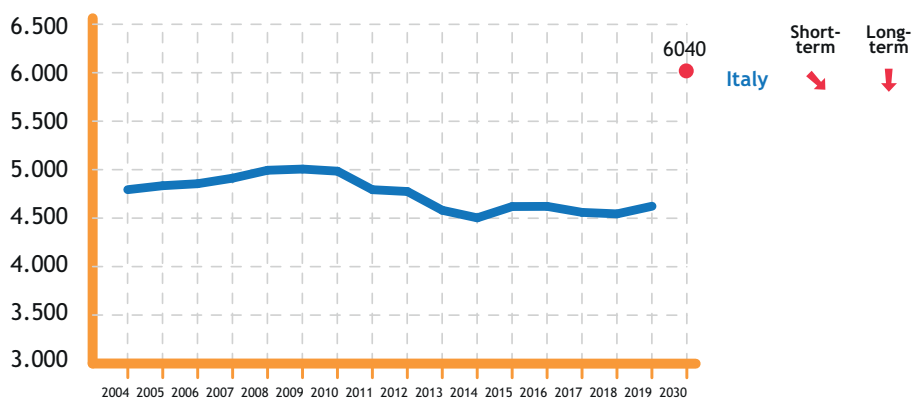
Mobility (Target 11.2) is key to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Italy has fallen behind with regard to the introduction of zero-emission vehicles (0.1% of the total vehicle stock in 2019) and the related infrastructure, whilst obsolete, highly polluting vehicles make up 59% of the public transport fleet, above all in the south.

Geographical inequalities (Target 11.3) have widened, above all the gap between north and south, which was expanding before the crisis caused by Covid-19 and is at risk of continuing during the recovery.

Air quality (Target 11.6) has resulted in no less than three infraction proceedings against Italy, above all in the Po Valley.

Green infrastructure (Target 11.7) contributes to achievement of the objectives regarding health, emissions and the restoration of biodiversity, and is key to our ability to mitigate the effects of climate changes and protect ecosystems. Provincial capitals had 33 square metres of public green space per capita in 2019 and, although up by 3.1% compared with the previous year based on ISTAT data, this is totally insufficient, as is accessibility to green space, which ranks among the lowest in Europe.

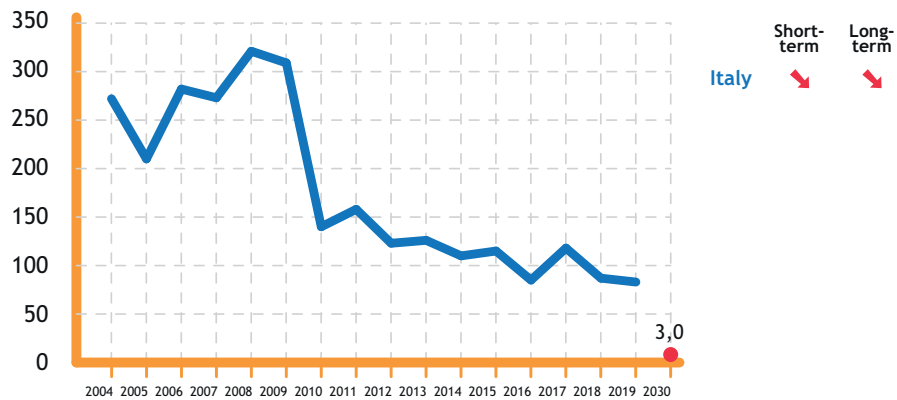
Target 11.2 -- By 2030, increase the rate of seat km/person offered by public transport by 26% versus 2004



Target source: Based on Eurostat method | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: seat km/ person

Between 2004 and 2019, the availability of public transport has fallen by 3.5%, distancing the national average from the objective set and highlighting the need for appropriate policies able to reverse this trend. It is estimated that 2020 saw a further reduction due to the partial restriction on movements in the last year. However, this decline is not expected to become permanent, given that the restrictions were gradually eased in the second half of 2020.

Target 11.6 - By 2030, reduce exceedances of PM10 limits to below 3 days a year



Target source: World Health Organisation | Source: ISPRA | Unit of measurement: maximum number of days on which PM10 limits are exceeded, as measured by stations located in provincial capitals

With respect to the air quality goal set by the World Health Organisation, between 2004 and 2019, Italy recorded a 69% reduction in the number of days on which PM10 limits were exceeded. This is, however, not sufficient to reach the quantitative target, highlighting the need to go further. According to initial estimates from ISPRA, the indicator worsened in 2020, primarily due to lower rainfall in both January and in the period from October to December 2020, compared with the same periods of 2019. The lockdown linked to Covid-19 was not sufficient to make up for the fact that the weather was less successful in dispersing air pollution. This was because it took place in a period of the year in which concentrations of PM10 are already fairly low, and because its impact on PM10 pollution is relatively modest compared, on the other hand, with nitrogen dioxide.

Goal 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
11.1	Urban regeneration programmes	<p>The Special Programme for Peripheral Areas (Law 208 of 2015, with investment of €2.1 billion in mountain communities and provincial capitals) has restarted and is being augmented. The aim of completing the programme by 31 December 2024 appears feasible.</p> <p>Bids for funding under the Innovative National Quality Housing Programme (Law 160 of 2019, with €854 million for regions, mountain communities and provincial capital or towns with over 60 thousand inhabitants) have been submitted. Further funding of €2.8 billion has been provided by the NRRP, meaning that around 60% of the bids can be satisfied. The list of winning bids for €3.2 billion in financing was published on 22 July 2021.</p> <p>A series of urban regeneration projects managed by the Ministry of the Interior (Law 160 of 2019, with €89.5 billion for provincial capitals or towns with over 15 thousand inhabitants) has also been launched. These funds are to be distributed in respond to binds from towns not connected with particular objectives.</p> <p>Additional funding with respect to the NRRP (Law 101 of 2021) includes €210 million for integrated urban plans for metropolitan cities, managed by the Ministry of the Interior, and €285 million for towns with between 50 thousand and 250 thousand inhabitants and provincial capitals with less than 50 thousand inhabitants.</p> <p>The consolidated law on urban regeneration and land use received harsh criticism from key Italian stakeholders and is on hold at the Senate's 8th Committee.</p> <p>See Target 7.3.</p>
	Public and social housing	<p>The provision of public housing is the main response to housing deprivation, but the lack of public funding means that Italy has fallen behind other European countries. Over 1.1 million families are suffering from acute or serious housing deprivation. Of the stock managed by housing associations (725 thousand dwellings), 58.1 thousand are unoccupied, with 8.6 thousand either unfit or currently unavailable.</p> <p>The Innovative National Quality Housing Programme, launched in 2019, does not contain quantitative targets and it is necessary to monitor the number of public or social housing projects that make up the bids for funding.</p> <p>Additional funding with respect to the NRRP (Law 101 of 2021) includes €2 billion in investment in improvements in energy efficiency, resilience and earthquake proofing, and in the social condition of public housing.</p> <p>Finally, after many delays, €217 million has been allocated to 17 regions for social housing projects (Law Decree 193 of 2021). By March 2022, regional authorities must inform the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility the how the related projects are to be carried out and the related timing.</p>
	Housing policies	<p>The crisis caused by Covid-19 has worsened the already serious situation regarding housing deprivation, intensifying inequalities and making housing even more unaffordable as a result of the fall in real wages.</p> <p>To support the most vulnerable members of the population, mortgage holidays were granted on main homes (Law Decree 18 of 2020, confirmed by the Sostegni-bis Law Decree, expiring on 31 December 2021), additional funding for rent subsidies was provided (Law decree 34 of 2020; laws 160 of 2019 and 178 of 2020) and support was provided for people in rent arrears without fault (the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport Decree of 23 June 2020, Law 178 of 2020) and a number of grants introduced in response to Covid-19.</p> <p>The housing emergency will also be affected by the decision to proceed with evictions, even if these are to be spread out over three stages (Law 69 of 2021).</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
11.2	Local public transport and rapid mass transit systems	<p>Steps have been taken to mitigate the effects of the pandemic: the fund set up in 2020 to compensate local public transport providers for lost revenue from ticket sales has been topped up and the 2021 Budget Law (Law 178 of 2020) has provided new funding for additional local public transport services.</p> <p>The budget for the period 2021-2023 has allocated €2,752.16 million for investment in underground railways in the three-year period. In addition, the 2021 Budget Law has provided funding of €10 million for the underground in Brescia.</p> <p>Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport Decree 215 of 2021 has provided €115 million to fund the design of priority works for towns, metropolitan cities and port authorities.</p> <p>The national supplementary investment plan linked to the NRRP (Law 101 of 2021) has allocated €550 million for the renewal of bus fleets (50% in the south) and €1,550 million for regional railways (80% in the south).</p>
	Sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMPs)	<p>It is obligatory for metropolitan cities and towns with more than 100 thousand inhabitants to draw up these plans in order to access funding for new rapid mass transit system projects (Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport Decree 233 of 2017, amended by Ministerial decree 255 of 2019).</p> <p>The SUMP Observatory reports the following data (July 2021): 46 SUMPs have been approved, including 3 for metropolitan cities, 46 adopted and 97 being drawn up, making a total of 189.</p>
	Sustainable mobility policies	<p>The role of mobility manager has been made compulsory (the Ministry for the Ecological Transition Decree of 12 May 2021) - having been first provided for in 1998 - for firms with over 100 employees and for towns with over 50 thousand inhabitants. In this regard, the Sostegni-bis Law Decree has provided funding of €50 million managed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility to back this measure.</p> <p>Law 2 of 2018 provides for the preparation of a general cycling mobility plan, which has yet to be acted on. This is to form an integral part of the general transport and logistics plan. It also envisages that cycling plans will function as sectoral plans in SUMPs.</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, increase the rate of seat km/person offered by public transport by 26% versus 2004.
11.3	Combat geographical inequalities. Inner and mountain areas	<p>The National Strategy for Inner Areas, forming part of the EU's cohesion policies, and introduced in 2013 with the aim of reducing geographical inequalities, regards 60% of the country and a quarter of the population. It identifies towns in need of attention on the basis of their distance from essential services (healthcare, education and transport). It includes intermediate, peripheral and ultra-peripheral areas, largely located in mountainous or other areas on high ground. The Strategy is the responsibility of the Cabinet Office's Cohesion Unit, whilst responsibility for policies for mountain communities has been assigned to the Department for Regional Affairs.</p> <p>The NRRP has provided funding of €827 million over six years for inner areas, with priority to be given to social and community services and infrastructure (healthcare, pharmacies, cultural and sports centres, immigrant reception centres), in addition to €140 million for green communities, in addition to €300 million provided from the additional funding made available under the NRRP and to be spent on improving access to inner areas. The 2020 Budget Law allocated funding of €300 million for the Strategy and Law Decrees providing financial support have provided funding of €750 million for mountain areas.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
11.4	Promote and protect cultural heritage and activities	<p>During 2021, support for the various areas of the arts and cultural sector was renewed or introduced. Legislation governing the issue of vouchers to pay for shows and entry to museums closed as a result of the health emergency was issued.</p> <p>Law Decree 34/2020 set up a cultural fund, allocating €50 million for 2020 and 2021, with the aim of encouraging investment and other initiatives designed to protect, conserve, make use of, enhance and digitalise our heritage. The Legislative Decree of 19 May 2020 providing financing for a cultural fund to be managed separately by the country's Institute for Sports Credit. The aim is to provide guarantees and interest subsidies for projects designed to safeguard and develop Italy's cultural heritage.</p> <p>Law Decree 103/2021 has declared the urban streets of Venice to be a national monument, banning the use of certain types of craft (for example, large cruise ships) and has appointed a special commissioner to create alternative berths. The Decree has also increased the number of independent institutes formally established under the Franceschini Reform of 2014 to 43.</p> <p>Law Decree 77/2021 (Governance of the NRRP and simplifications) has set up a coordinating body within each Ministry with responsibility for allocating the funding provided to them by the NRRP. In the case of the Ministry of Culture, this has taken the form of a separate department. In addition, the Law Decree (articles 64 and 64-bis) has provided funding of €12 million in 2021 for art, music and dance colleges to create new centres in urban areas being regenerated and to build accommodation and facilities for students.</p> <p>Draft law AS 2127 (presented on 10 March 2021 and at the committee stage) defines the specific nature of the creative sectors, the role of the artist and the social function of the performing arts, setting up a unified office for the performing arts and the creative sector. This is a positive measure as it deals with the delicate issue of the sustainability of work in the cultural sector, but it gives excessive importance to certain professional categories, mainly within the live performance sector. On 5 August 2021, the Cabinet Office approved the preliminary draft of the Legislative Decree implementing Directive (EU) 2019/790 on copyright and other rights in the Digital Single Market.</p>
11.5	Natural disasters	See Target 13.1.
11.6	Air quality	<p>The national supplementary investment plan linked to the NRRP (Law 101 of 2021) has allocated €150 million for the period between 2022 and 2024 to fund improvements in air quality, "[...] in consideration of the ongoing exceedance of the limits for PM10 and nitrogen dioxide, resulting in the EU infraction proceeding". This will only partially make up for the serious shortcomings in the NRRP, which has only provided for the reform, albeit much needed, of monitoring systems. This solution continues to only partially address the issue, if we consider that the national plan for climate action and improvements to air quality (Law 141 of 2019) has not yet been adopted. In the meantime, the European Commission has approved the "Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil" action plan (12 May 2021), marking a cultural step change that will also lead to the alignment of the EU's air quality standards with the tighter approach recommended by the WHO.</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce exceedances of PM10 limits to below 3 days a year.
11.7	Urban reforestation and green infrastructure	<p>Art. 4 of Law 141 of 2019 (the Climate Decree) has provided financing for an experimental tree planting and replanting and forestry scheme, and for the creation of urban and out-of-town woodland in metropolitan cities, authorising expenditure of €15 million for 2020 and 2021. This was increased by €18 million by the 2021 Budget Law (Law 178 of 2020). All Italy's metropolitan cities responded to the call for bids, with a total of 49 projects presented. 34 of these have received financing amounting to €14.8 million (for 2020) and it expected that this will result in the planting of approximately 207 thousand trees.</p> <p>The projects qualifying for funding for efforts to adapt to climate change by towns with over 60 thousand inhabitants (Ministry for the Ecological Transition Directorial Decree of 15 April 2021, €79.4 million for 2021-2023) include the creation of urban green space and peri-urban forestation.</p> <p>Mission M2C4 in the NRRP includes Investment 3.1 in protecting and enhancing urban and suburban green space (€330 million) with investment focusing primarily on the development of urban and peri-urban woodland in 14 metropolitan cities (the planting of at least 6.6 million trees, equal to 6.6 thousand hectares of urban forest).</p>

GOAL 12 - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Guarantee sustainable models of production and consumption

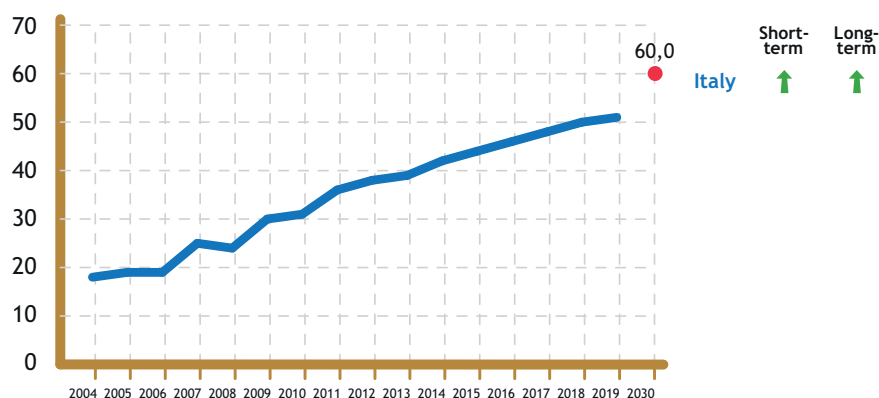
According to the Global Footprint Network, a research centre that calculates humanity's ecological footprint, in 2021 Italy reached Overshoot Day on 13 May (at global level, the date was 29 July), consuming more resources than the Earth can regenerate. To meet its demand for resources, Italy would need the resources produced by an area five times the country's size.

However, from the point of view of the strategies and measures introduced, the year has seen the creation of the right conditions for promoting responsible models of production and consumption and accelerating the shift to a circular economy. On the institutional front, **European legislation has provided a strong driving force and a framework for national policies**: the Next Generation EU programme rewards swift decarbonisation of the productive system; Europe's climate law imposes challenges and restrictions; the Fit for 55 package introduces specific policies requiring a commitment from businesses; European policies aim to stop and reverse the EU's contribution to global deforestation, promoting efforts to protect and restore the planet's forests. Together with

these environmental initiatives, and to make them feasible by limiting resistance, the EU has proposed major social and inclusion initiatives. Italy's lawmakers have applied the EU objectives for transforming the productive system in the country's National Recovery and Resilience Plan and the "Simplifications" (or *Semplificazioni*) Decree.

According to a number of reports published in Italy⁵⁴, Italy is the European leader for waste recovery and recycling and the circular economy, even if this position appears to be under threat. We need to do more: incentives and support for sustainable forms of consumption and saving appear to be wanting, for example.

Target 12.5 - By 2030, increase the share of urban waste recycled to 60%



Target source: European Circular Economy package | Source: Eurostat | Unit of measurement: %

The EU's circular economy package has set a target of recycling 60% of urban waste by 2030. Italy's historical performance, if maintained through to 2030, should ensure that the quantitative target is achieved.

Goal 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
12.1	Support for sustainable consumption patterns	<p>European legislation has provided a strong driving force and a framework for planning action designed to promote responsible consumption and production: the Next Generation EU programme rewards swift decarbonisation of the productive system; Europe's climate law imposes challenges and restrictions; the Fit for 55 package introduces specific policies requiring a commitment from businesses.</p> <p>The European Parliament resolution of 16 September 2020 deals with the EU's role in protecting and restoring the planet's forests, whilst the resolution of 22 October 2020 makes recommendations to the Commission concerning a legal framework for halting and reversing global deforestation caused by the EU.</p> <p>Italy's lawmakers have applied the EU objectives for transforming the productive system in the country's National Recovery and Resilience Plan and the "Simplifications" (or <i>Semplificazioni</i>) Decree. These Government interventions are not accompanied by an equal commitment from consumers and economic operators, who could on the other hand drive and accelerate transformational processes, combatting resistance: there is a lack of policies offering incentives and support for sustainable consumption patterns.</p>
12.2	Support for sustainable production patterns	<p>The EU framework consist of the interventions referred to with regard to Target 12.1. The aim is to transform the existing linear economy into a circular economy that recovers and recycles all resources, avoiding the production of waste. Specific initiatives launched at national level consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Decree 13 of 2 February 2021, which has introduced obligations regarding supply chain diligence for EU-based importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, the related minerals and gold from conflict or high-risk zones; • Law 134 of 8 October 2020 has ratified and implemented the Minamata Convention on Mercury; • the Regulation of 9 February 2021, governing the halt to the classification of paper and cardboard as waste under art. 184-ter, paragraph 2 of Legislative Decree 152 of 3 April 2006. <p>With regard to these measures, it should be clear that the circular economy is more than just the process of recycling waste in order to produce secondary raw materials, but also consists of extending the useful lives of industrial products, maintenance and repair and shared use.</p>
12.3	Combat food waste	<p>No specific legislation has appeared in the last year. However, to implement policies designed to tackle food waste in accordance with the EU's farm to Fork strategy, Italy has simplified and standardised both the tax and health/sanitary regulations governing the handling of surpluses so as to cut waste and losses throughout the chain.</p> <p>The Gadda law, introduced in Italy in 2016, reorganised the legislative framework with regulations designed to combat food waste and guarantee the right to food. Social solidarity is the cornerstone of the law, with priority given to human consumption of surpluses, followed by use as animal feed and to produce compost, in keeping with the food and drink hierarchy. Italian law does not envisage a closed list of products, but allows the inclusion of any type of food. On conversion of the <i>Cura Italia</i> Decree into Law 27/2020, letter <i>d-bis</i> was inserted into paragraph 1 of art. 16 of Law 166 of 2016, extending tax relief on food surpluses to the sale of textile products, clothing and furniture, toys, building materials and white goods, as well as personal computers, tablets, e-readers and other electronic reading devices, no longer saleable or fit for sale due to imperfections, faults, damage or defects that do not prevent them from being used.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
12.4	Environmentally sound waste management and support for the circular economy	<p>There is no legislation concerning the environmentally sound management of chemical substances.</p> <p>A number of very specific measures have been introduced regarding waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Decree 121 of 3 September 2020, amending Directive 1999/31/EC on landfill waste; • Legislative Decree 119 of 3 September 2020 concerning vehicles for scrap; • Legislative Decree 118 of 3 September 2020 concerning batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators and Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment; • Legislative Decree 116 of 3 September 2020 on packaging and packaging waste. <p>With regard to the circular economy, paragraphs 1084-1085 of the Budget Law (no. 178 of 30 December 2020) provide for a plastic tax to encourage consumers to reduce their use of plastic and packaging. The entry into force has been delayed until 1 January 2022, but it is necessary to cut packaging waste by promoting recycling and the circular economy. In addition, the revenue raised by the tax should be reinvested in mitigating the social effects and the creation of new plastic recycling plants.</p>
12.5	Reduce, recover and reuse waste	<p>The EU's circular economy package (Directive (EU) 2018/851 on waste and packaging) opened the door to a new approach to environmental policy. The package was implemented by Legislative Decree 116 of 3 September 2020, which provides for Ministry for the Ecological Transition decrees focusing on putting an end to waste. This is to be done by extending producers' responsibility to include the recovery of waste, its reuse and its preparation for reuse. The legislation targets the reuse and recycling of 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The measures with an important role to play in delivering this result include initiatives designed to reinforce and broaden the extended responsibility of producers, which will include measures aimed at encouraging the production of more hard-wearing, recyclable and reusable products, and the inclusion of preparations for reuse in waste recovery operations.</p> <p>The circular economy action plan, approved by the European Parliament on 9 February 2021, pushes for a reorganisation of production processes based on a circular approach and sets clearer targets for reducing waste sent to landfill or for incineration.</p> <p>Paragraphs 767-769 of the Budget Law (no. 178 of 30 December 2020) provides support for towns adopting accurate metering systems for domestic waste, whilst paragraphs 770-771 promote community-based composting.</p> <p>The NRRP (and the <i>Semplificazioni</i> Decree) includes Mission M2C1 (circular economy and sustainable agriculture) which, in promoting an intelligent and sustainable food production chain, improves waste management.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, increase the share of urban waste recycled to 60%.
12.6	Transparent sustainability reporting by businesses	<p>The proposed European Directive of 21 April 2021 looks to extend the non-financial reporting obligations introduced by Directive 2014/95/EU to all large businesses. The requirement would apply to approximately 49 thousand European companies (including listed SMEs, with the exception of micro businesses), compared with the current 11.6 thousand. Businesses would be required to comply with specific reporting standards, with simplified basis applicable to smaller businesses. The resulting reports would be subject to an independent assurance. This would have a major impact for markets, investors, businesses in the supply chain and corporate stakeholders. By improving the behaviour of businesses, there would be positive effects on respect for human rights and for the environment.</p> <p>The EU delegated law of 22 April 2021 grants the Government the power to implement the Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) Directive (no. 633 of 2019), which should have been implemented by 1 May in time for its application by 1 November. So far, only the delegated law has come into force. Whilst double discounting on online auctions has been banned, among other aspects, those regarding the bodies tasked with oversight have yet to be clarified.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
12.7	Green public procurement	In the second half of 2021, the Ministry for the Ecological Transition will present the new National Action Plan for Green Public Procurement. Green public procurement is the tool that the European Commission believes will enable “public authorities to embed environmental criteria within all stages of the procurement process, encouraging the use of green technologies, through the search for and selection of outcomes and solutions that have the least possible impact on the environment throughout the lifecycle”. By promoting green public procurement, the National Action Plan is the link between production and consumption, given that it applies to all sectors and is an effective way of achieving all the environmental protection targets. It is a strategic tool for implementing the sustainable development strategy and the 2030 Agenda. It is essential that the minimum environmental criteria (MEC) are combined with minimum social criteria.
12.8	Widespread education and promotion of a sustainability culture and good practices	Paragraph 661 of the Budget Law (no. 178 of 30 December 2020) increases citizens’ awareness of their impact on the environment through their choice of public or private transport, promoting the upgrade of local and regional public transport. Paragraph 752 of the Law promotes the conscious use of water and increases citizens’ awareness of the importance of water as a public resource. Paragraphs 760-766 incentivise, in Green Economic Zones, the use of returnable containers for liquid foods, with the aim of preventing the production of packaging waste and encourage its reuse, raising awareness among citizens of the importance of recycling. Concrete initiatives are required to boost awareness of sustainable social and environmental development, promoting lifestyles that are in harmony with nature.
12.b	Sustainable tourism (with Target 8.9)	The NRRP specifically targets culture and tourism for investment, allocating funds to finance digitalisation. Despite this, the approach remains heavily based on physical assets and is designed to attract visitors. Paragraphs 84-86 in the Budget Law (no. 178 of 30 December 2020) provide support for the tourist sector through development contracts, which have a key role to play in focusing on inner areas of the country, facilitating the recovery and reuse of abandoned buildings as part of a sustainable relaunch of the sector. Paragraphs 91-94 has set up a fund for the protection and development of areas of particular geological and speleological interest, with the aim of providing support for sustainable tourism.
12.c	Subsidies damaging to the environment	Paragraphs 651-659 in the Budget Law (no. 178 of 30 December 2020) provide incentives for the purchase of low-emission vehicles, setting subsidies and taxation in such a way as to support electric mobility (the so-called ecotax on polluting vehicles).

GOAL 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

In spite of the pandemic, concern about climate change has taken centre stage globally, on the back of the floods in Germany and China, a series of heatwaves and wildfires affecting many parts of the world. Despite our country's participation in various international forums at which highly ambitious commitments are made, within Italy, efforts to combat climate change are not seen as having the potential to drive the economic recovery. Even the NRRP fails to make serious headway in terms of the allocation of resources or of the reforms needed to transform key sectors.

Italy's greenhouse gas emissions have been stable for years, despite the Paris Agreement calling for an average annual reduction in emissions of 7.6% between now and 2030. In the case of Europe and Italy, this means cutting emissions by 65% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, thus going beyond the current target of 55%.

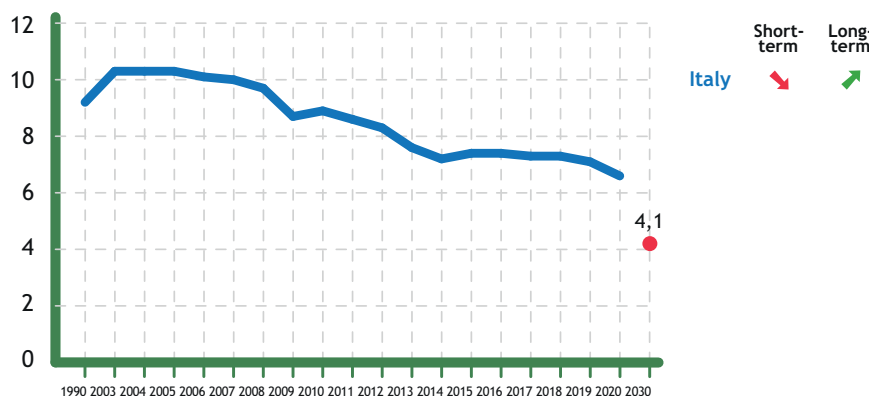
In this regard, it should be noted that Italy is the country that derives most of its energy from natural gas. It is not, therefore, possible to expect gas, rather than renewable sources or green hy-

drogen, to be the key to decarbonisation. This is clearly a contradiction in terms, which the country would ideally resolve by resorting to carbon capture and storage. Moreover, there has been no financing provided for research into such solutions and no attempt to inform public opinion, as one might expect would have been the case.

As regards adapting to climate change, neither the NRRP nor the other strategic and legislative tools adopted make reference to the national plan that is still awaiting approval, when it is already in need of being revised in line with the EU's new adaptation strategy.

No less worrying is the absence of a proposed reform of taxation that would eliminate subsidies for environmentally damaging fossil fuels, whilst making environmental taxes and carbon pricing the cornerstones of the tax reform provided for in the NRRP. There is no reference to the phase-out of coal, which the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan ("PNIEC") stipulates should take place by 2025. Nor is there any mention of a ban on the sale of vehicles with internal combustion engines, or to the social problems that will result from these unavoidable measures.

Target 13.2 - By 2030, reduce emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases by 55% versus 1990



Target source: European climate legislation | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per capita

After the period from 1990 to 2003, which saw emission rise by 12.0%, there was an improvement with regard to per capita emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. This proceeded until 2014, registering an overall drop of 30.1%. In the next five years, the indicator remained stable, due in part to the recovery after the economic crisis. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a major improvement caused by the lockdown imposed in response to the health emergency (a drop of 7.0%). Despite this short-term trend (over the last 5 years), the improvement is still not sufficient to achieve the target set by the EU or the objectives set in the Paris Agreement.

Goal 13: CLIMATE ACTION		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
13.1	Support environmental risk prevention measures	There is no legislation regarding this Target. The NRRP provides for a number of measures, but effectively there is no reference to a systemic policy framework that should have followed on from the action plan for adapting to climate change published in 2017 but never adopted. The NRRP provides for investment of €2.49 billion in the prevention of hydrogeological instability. However, it is not made clear to what extent the funds made available combine with those allocated under other plans, given that the most recent reports published by ISPRA indicate that the total amount needed is approximately €26.5 billion. A further €6 billion has been allocated for investment in resilience, local redevelopment projects and energy efficiency. The highly fragmented nature of the above measure does not allow us to provide an assessment.
13.2	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (with Targets 2.4, 7.2, 7.3, 9.4, 11.2, 11.5 and 12.4)	There is no legislation describing a systemic framework in response to the Target, aside from a number of fragmentary measures (see Targets 7.2, 7.3 and 13.1), which are in any event far short of what is needed to meet the climate challenges we face.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases by 55% versus 1990.
13.3	Education in sustainable development (with Targets 4.8 and 12.8)	As noted in our examination of the NRRP and the 2021 Budget Law, it is very disappointing to note the total absence of measures designed to promote and support public information and debate around the issues relating to climate change contained in EU climate laws (and in any event already in force with article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, regarding multilevel climate and energy dialogue) and in the Climate Pact, which has a key role to play in involving citizens as called for in the European Green Deal. There is also a lack of other measures providing support for initiatives such as the Mayors' Climate and Energy Pact, which in Italy attracted a large number of signatures, but has seen little involvement of civil society at local level.

GOAL 14 - LIFE BELOW WATER
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

New legislation this year, including the investment provided for in the NRRP, pay little attention, for Italy, to the country’s marine resources and achievement of Target 14.

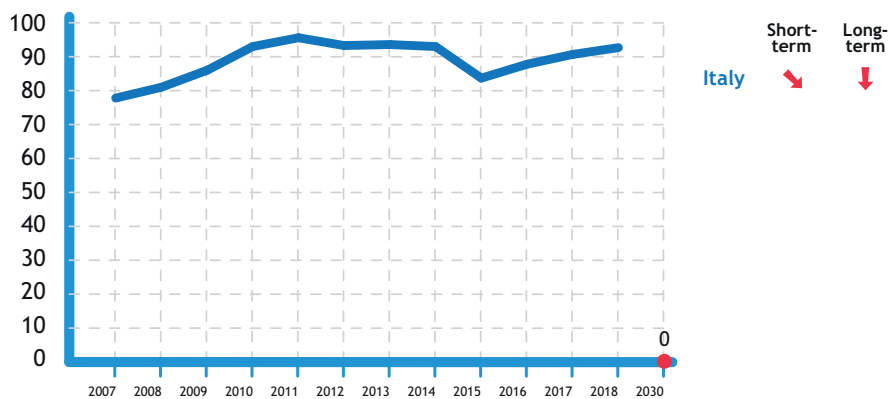
Given the recent marine strategies adopted by the European Commission and the Council, it is even more paradoxical that Italian policy is continuing to ignore the sea in view of its role as an irreplaceable store of natural, historical, cultural and economic wealth.

We do note, however, that the NRRP provides for investment of €400 million that could help to make up for the lack monitoring capabilities called for in the marine strategy.

Having said this, there continues to be no effective link between policy and scientific opinion. The Fourth Report on the State of Natural Capital in Italy in 2021 recommends a major effort to restore our marine ecosystems. This includes the

restoration of 30% of the seagrass meadows along the Italian coastline by 2030; the restoration of 50% of white coral reefs damaged by trawl fishing by 2030; a doubling of the surface area of algae forests along the Italian coastline by 2030; a 5-year moratorium on red coral harvesting, in combination with the creation of coral farms to make the process sustainable; and an assessment of the benefits lost due to the retreat of coastal ecosystems, evaluating, for example, the impact on tourism and fishing, something that the NRRP and other strategic and legislative tools ignore. There has also been no attempt to put in place initiatives designed to deliver on the objectives set in the EU’s biodiversity strategy, such as the improved protection of at least 30% of coastal areas and the elimination of overfishing by 2030. Italian legislation does not allocate funds or resources to combat plastic pollution of the sea.

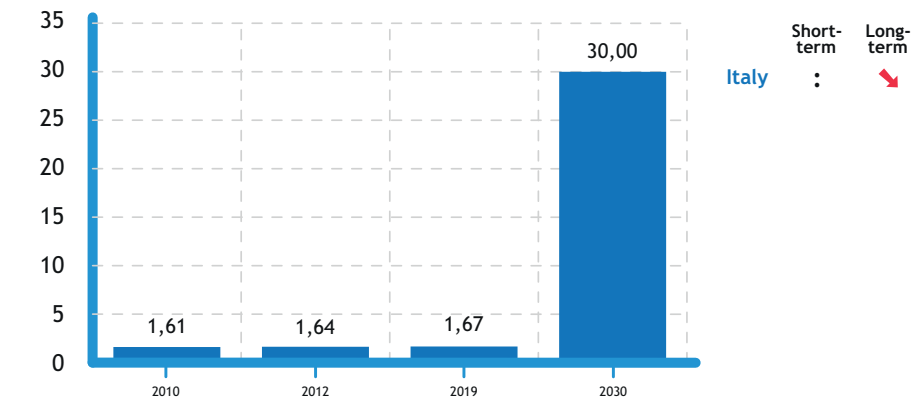
Target 14.4 - By 2030, eliminate overfishing



Target source: European biodiversity strategy | Source: ISPRA | Unit of measurement: %

The indicator shows a deterioration between 2007 and 2011, reaching the worrying level of 95.6% of fish caught from overexploited stocks. In the subsequent years, the indicator remained broadly stable, marking a negative performance over both the short and long term. The assessment shows that Italy will not manage to achieve Target 14.4 in the 2030 Agenda, which aims to end overfishing by 2020. The situation of vulnerability revealed underlines the need for appropriate policies designed to reverse this trend. This is even more evident in view of the fact that the Sustainable Development Solutions Network considers Italy to be worst of all European countries and G20 member states (with the exception of Japan) in terms of the share of fish caught from overexploited or collapsed stocks.

Target 14.5 - By 2030, ensure that marine protected areas account for a 30% share of territorial waters



Target source: European biodiversity strategy | Source: ISPRA | Unit of measurement: %

Between 2010 and 2019, there was practically no change in Italy’s marine protected areas, which increased by just 0.06 percentage points. Obviously, this trend is far from sufficient to achieve the European target of protecting 30% of the country’s marine areas. Italy’s performance is even worse if we take into account the fact that five regions (Basilicata, Emilia-Romagna, Marche, Molise and Veneto) had yet to designate any protected areas in 2019.

Goal 14: LIFE BELOW WATER		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
14.1	Implement the marine strategy, efforts to prevent pollution of water bodies (with Goals 2 and 6) and the pollution of land and policies to cut the use of single-use plastic (with Goal 12)	The NRRP provides funding of €0.4 billion. The objective is to implement a plan to have 90% of marine and coastal areas mapped and monitored and 20% restored. The initiatives in the NRRP are adequately defined, if lacking in detail. There is no guidance on how to assess to what extent the measures will make up for delays in implementing the marine strategy. The 2021 Budget Law includes a number of specific measures (paragraphs 748 and 751) to improve monitoring and establish a fund to finance the removal of abandoned ships from ports (paragraphs 728-732).
14.2	Protect ecosystems and biodiversity (with Goal 15)	Law 90 of 1 June 2021 has been ratified, paving the way for implementation of the agreement for the conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the contiguous Atlantic area, with its Appendices and Final Act, signed in Monaco on 24 November 1996 and adopted in Monaco on 12 November 2010.
14.4	Sustainable fishing	See Target 14.1.
		Target: • By 2030, eliminate overfishing.
14.5	Extend marine protected areas	Paragraph 737 of the 2021 Budget Law provides for an increase of €3 million in the expenditure provided for in art.8, paragraph 10 of Law 93/2001, in order to guarantee the functioning and management of marine protected areas and underwater parks. In addition, the Cheradi islands and the Mar Piccolo have been added to the list of marine retrieval areas in which it is possible to set up underwater parks or marine reserves (paragraph 740), with funding of €500 thousand allocated to finance their establishment in 2021 (paragraph 741).
		Target: • By 2030, ensure that marine protected areas account for a 30% share of territorial waters.
14.c	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Law 91 of 14 June 2021 setting up an exclusive economic zone beyond territorial waters, in accordance with the UNCLOS, has delayed its establishment until the issue of a subsequent Presidential Decree, which will extend the zone to include all waters surrounding territorial waters or part thereof. The external boundaries are to be agreed with neighbouring states. Art. 3 specifies that the rights to overflight and to the laying of undersea pipes and cables and the other rights provided for under existing international laws will continue to be granted.

GOAL 15 - LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

As indicated by ASviS in our assessment of the NRRP, new legislation and strategies introduced in the last year show a complete lack of any real understanding of how maintaining rich biodiversity and healthy ecosystems is of fundamental importance in safeguarding our economic prosperity, wellbeing and social safety, above all with regard to the rights of future generations.

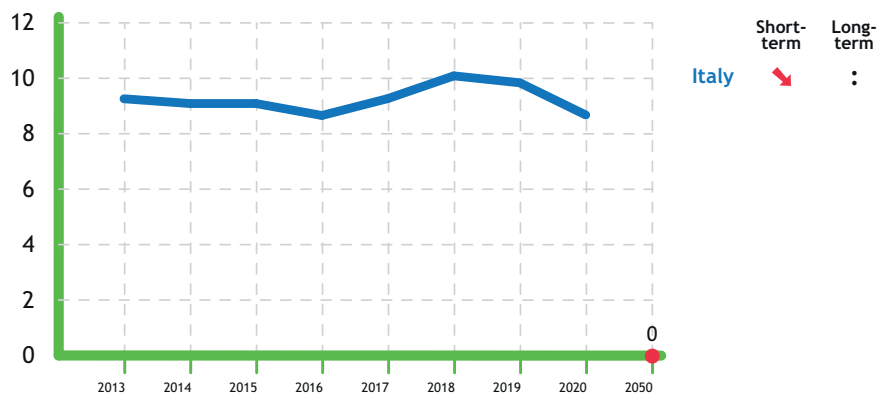
The NRRP and legislation introduced in the last year do not look forward to 2030 and do not take into account the recommendations included in the new European biodiversity strategy. As a result, no account is taken of the objective of protecting 30% of our national territory and do not aim to achieve the goal of restoring degraded ecosystems. In our Annual Report for 2020, ASviS, in tune with the international debate and the European strategy, re-launched the target of restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. This was again proposed by the European Parliament in 2020 to make progress towards “a regenerative growth model that gives back to the planet more than it takes”. This was then taken up by the European Commission in its eighth Framework Programme for the Environment.

The policies lack the sort of systemic vision recommended in the 2030 Agenda and reiterated in the European Green Deal, capable of linking the various initiatives, ranging from the From Farm to Fork strategy (see Goal 2) to the new strategy on adaptation to climate change (see Goal 13) and the zero-pollution action plan (see Goal 12).

We must unfortunately again note that the recommendations in the Fourth Report on the State of Natural Capital in 2021 have been ignored, above all in terms of the vision on which it is based: “ours must be the first generation capable of leaving Italy’s natural and biodiversity systems in a better state than we found them in”, and the need to launch a major “public effort to

protect and restore our terrestrial and marine environments and reduce the use of polluting substances in agriculture and land use, which form the cornerstones of the wellbeing and health of all of us”.

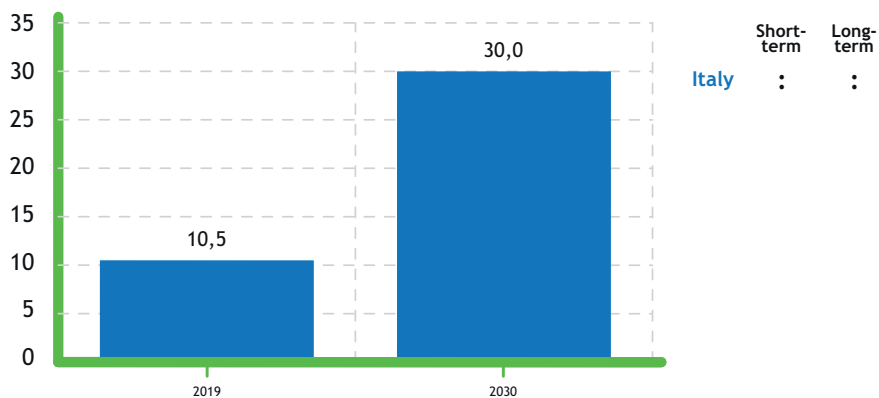
Target 15.3 - By 2050, eliminate the increase in annual land use



Target source: Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe | Source: ISPRA | Unit of measurement: annual increase in hectares consumed per 100,000 people

With regard to annual land use, Italy's performance was broadly stable over the period examined. If this trend continues through to 2050, Italy will not be able to meet the European target. The increase in hectares consumed in 2020 fell 11.8% with respect to 2019, although this is not sufficient to achieve the quantitative target. This is not particularly ambitious, leading the European Parliament, in 2021, to express the wish for an intermediate target to be set for 2030.

Target 15.5 - By 2030, ensure that terrestrial protected areas account for a 30% share of national territory



Target source: European biodiversity strategy | Source: ISPRA | Unit of measurement: %

With regard to the share of national territory represented by terrestrial protected areas, in 2019, the figure stood at 10.5%. This level is far short of the European target set by the European biodiversity strategy.

Goal 15: LIFE ON LAND		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
15.1	Strategy for sustainable biodiversity, agriculture (with Goal 2) and industry (with Goals 8, 9 and 12) and mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change (with Goal 13)	Reference should be made to the assessment of the 2021 Budget Law contained in the ASviS Report presented in March 2021, for an examination of this topic. In the Report, we acknowledge that greater attention has been paid to the related issues, but note the fragmented and inadequate approach adopted with respect to the urgent nature of the problems and the size of the challenge. The subsequently approved NRRP merely allocates investment funding of €0.33 billion to protect and develop urban and suburban green space, and a further €0.1 billion for the digitalisation of parks. This is in addition to €0.5 billion to be invested in “cleaning up of orphan sites”, indicating the desire to “ready the sites for new use, promoting their return to the property market”, whilst not giving priority to the aim of protecting the health of citizens or of the environment. The NRRP delays the adoption of policies designed to protect and reduce the use of public land until the related reforms are introduced, but without setting any deadlines.
15.2	Forestry strategy	a) reference should be made to target 15.1; b) paragraph 570 of the 2021 Budget Law merely allocates €3 million for the reforestation of cities. Whilst positive, this is no more than symbolic in view of the size of the funding and the absence of any systemic vision or strategic objectives for forestry, afforestation and reforestation (see Target 15.1).
15.3	Land degradation and use	Target: • By 2050, eliminate the increase in annual land use.
15.5	Terrestrial protected areas	Target: • By 2030, ensure that terrestrial protected areas account for a 30% share of national territory.
15.6	Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	Legislative Decree 20 of 2 February 2021 introduced legislation governing the production for sale and the sale of seed products. In parallel, Legislative Decree 19 of 2 February 2021 contains legislation protecting plants from harmful organisms, aligning Italian law with the requirements in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625. The later Legislative Decree 153 of 26 October 2021 introduces sanctions for breaching Regulation (EU) 511/2014 of 16 April 2014, containing compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol. The legislation introduced have met the need to align Italian law with the European regulations introduced in order to implement the above protocol.
15.7	Implementation of the CITES convention	Paragraphs 755-756 of the 2021 Budget Law provide for the establishment of a home for animals confiscated by the Carabinieri police force's Forestry Environmental and Agri-food Protection unit, whilst paragraphs 757-758 set up a €1 million fund to finance wildlife restoration. Whilst positive, there are no elements (a description of the issue, an estimate of the financing needed) that would allow us to evaluate whether or not these initiatives meet the effective structural needs that would enable Italy to meet the Target.
15.9	Public non-financial reporting	The NRRP pays very little attention to the need to offer structural indications for monitoring application of the “do no harm” principle established in the European Green Deal and the EU Regulation governing funding for the NRRP. It is lamentable that Law Decree 77 of 31 May 2021, establishing governance for and simplifying the procedures in the NRRP, makes no mention of this matter and fails to identify the bodies and procedures required to guarantee adequate monitoring of compliance with the “do no harm” principle. Indeed, the reduction in a number of the assessment deadlines and in public participation in the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment processes may in fact prevent the conduct of an in-depth evaluation of the environmental aspects with a view to including the consideration of issues relating to ecosystems and biodiversity in national and local planning. This is even more disappointing given that the Commission's guidelines judge the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures to be inadequate in demonstrating compliance with the “do no harm” principle.
15.a	Sustainable finance	Referring back to Target 15.9 above, we note that the NRRP for the most part represents a missed opportunity to better direct funding towards the conservation and long-term use of biodiversity and ecosystems. We can only hope for an improvement when the above “do no harm” principle comes to be implemented.

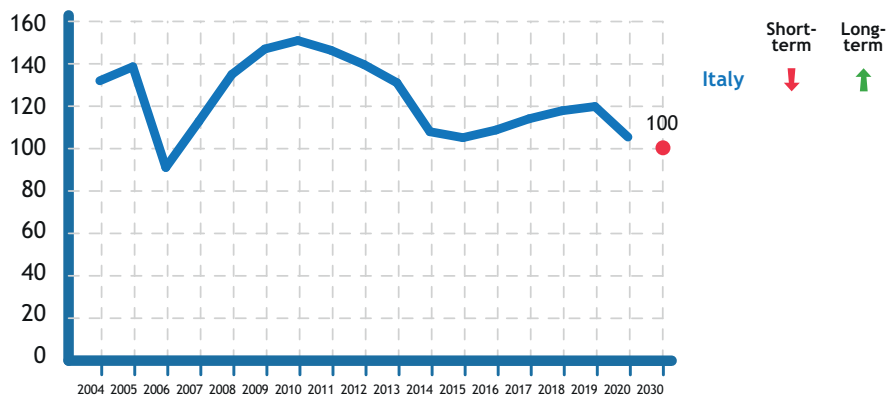
GOAL 16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and more inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all and create efficient, accountable and inclusive organisations at all levels

Major reforms of the **public administration and the justice system** have been introduced, with a series of measures designed to ensure the reasonable duration of trials, in line with the length of proceedings in other EU countries, and simplify laws and administrative procedures, with particular regard to delegated acts for the repeal and reform of rules that fuel corruption. These involve large-scale reforms bring together a wide range of objectives of historical importance. The transformational impetus driving the reforms, with the aim of revamping and modernising the public administration and the justice system, is again provided by **investment in digital innovation, which the Government will be able to carry out in accordance with Mission 1** in the NRRP. This will result in a reorganisation of the services offered to the public, in terms of access, ease of use, simplification and efficiency, with the ultimate goal of making the country more competitive. A positive step in this direction is the establishment of the Digital Civil Service, which will involve the recruitment of several thousand young people who will help around a million people to acquire basic digital skills. In addition, the following are of great importance with regard to their impact on many Goal 16 Targets (16.6 and 16.7), above all with reference to the relationship between the efficiency, transparency and accountability of institutions and the processes involved in civic representation and participation: the procedures for implementation and monitoring linked to setting up the Italia Domani portal, for communication and access to the measures designed to implement the NRRP and its benefits for the country, improving transparency, simplicity, immediacy and personalisation; the provision of a sole platform for transparency, developed by Italy's Anticorruption Authority and the Recovery Procurement Platform, providing a simplified procedure for purchasing IT goods and services required in order to realise the NRRP and for e-procurement procedures; the progressive digitalisation and strengthening of the administrative capabilities of commissioning bodies,

a reform that aims to modernise the country's public tenders system to support development policies by harnessing digitalisation and strengthening the administrative capabilities of commissioning bodies. Finally, in relation to Target 16.b, Law 173 of 18 December 2020 is of great significance. This has converted Law Decree 130/2020 on immigration and security into law, with amendments, introducing special protection permits for people who have serious humanitarian reasons to be given asylum. This has re-established the principle of justice and inclusion in line with the indications in the Target.

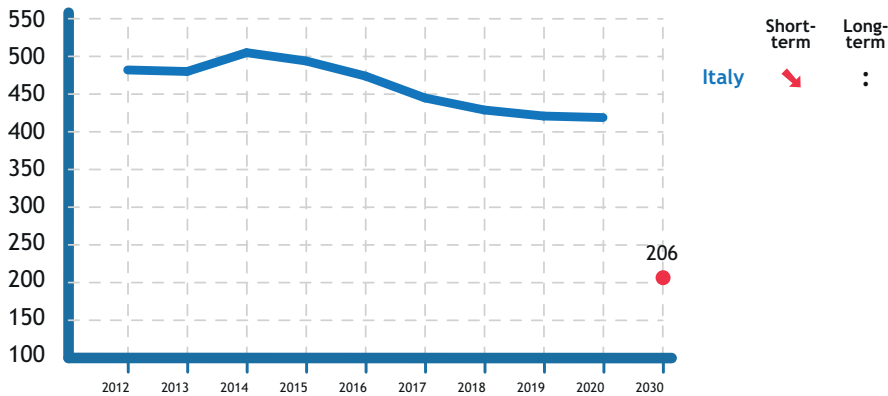
Target 16.3 - By 2030, eliminate prison overcrowding



Target source: Opinion of ASviS experts | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

The indicator has registered an uneven performance over the period in question, resulting in an overall improvement (-26.5 percentage points from 2004 to 2020) and bringing Italy close to achieving the Target in the last year for which data is available. Despite the significant drop in the indicator in 2020 (-14.4 percentage points) due to the introduction of alternatives to prison, made necessary by the pandemic, the short-term trend shows the country moving away from the Target.

Target 16.7 - By 2030, reduce the average duration of civil proceedings to the levels observed in the best Italian regions



Target source: Comparison with best regional performer (Piedmont) | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: number of days

In the absence of an indicator defined at institutional level, the Target aims to achieve, by 2030, the level registered in the best performing Italian region with an ordinary constitution (Piedmont). After a deterioration between 2012 and 2014, the indicator improved throughout the historical series. This trend slowed in 2020, resulting in a negative short-term assessment. Italy's situation is even more critical when compared with other European countries, given that it is the worst of all EU member states (with the exception of Greece) in terms of the average duration of civil and commercial actions⁵⁵.

Goal 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS		
Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
16.3	Reform the justice system	On 3 August, the Chamber of Deputies approved the draft law delegating the Government authority to implement the reform of the criminal court system currently being discussed by the Senate. The aim of the reform is to guarantee the reasonable duration of trials, partly in order to meet the objective of the NRRP of reducing the time needed to complete a criminal trial by 25% by: a) streamlining preliminary investigations and trials; b) introducing new rules governing the statute of limitations, alternative proceedings and appeals; c) digitalising court documents and conducting remote trials; d) increasing the use of rehabilitation and alternative punishments and improving prison conditions; e) expanding the use of restorative justice and protecting the victims of crime; f) confiscating and seizing the proceeds of crime. As regards the reform of civil justice, on 21 September 2021, the draft law delegating authority to the Government passed its first reading in the Senate. The aim of the NRRP is to cut the time needed to hear civil cases by 40% in 5 years. There are two key aspects of the reform: “ensure rapid, reliable court processes and, last but not least, encourage litigants to seek amicable settlements, tackling the issue of excessive litigiousness”.
		Target: • By 2030, eliminate prison overcrowding.
16.4	Combat organised crime	Law 108/2021 has introduced a number of measures regarding the seizure and confiscation of assets, amending art. 48 of the Antimafia Law (legislative Decree 159 of 6 September 2011), designed to speed up the process of distributing assets seized from organised criminals, partly to ensure that the procedures necessary in order to develop the assets, as provided for in the NRRP, are carried out promptly. On this matter, the report drawn up by the European Parliament’s Committee, “Asset recovery and confiscation: Ensuring that crime does not pay”, looks at implementation of the analyses the implementation of the Directive on freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime, and assesses the feasibility and benefits of introducing further common rules at EU level. It reflects on the need for stronger provisions to enhance the identification, tracing, freezing, management and confiscation of illegally obtained assets and recommends international cooperation as an additional means of combatting crime and recovering the proceeds. Finally, to strengthen efforts to recover and repurpose assets confiscated from mafia organisations, an auction was held on 31 July 2020 to directly distribute assets seized by ANBSC, the agency responsible for managing assets confiscated from organised crime, to third sector organisations. The latter are considered to have a key role in the process of recovering and repurposing the assets seized, returning to the approach already used in the Libera legislation in Law 109 of 1996.
16.5	Anticorruption policies	Article 7 of Law 108 of 29 July 2021, on “governance of the national recovery and resilience plan and measures to strengthen administrative facilities and accelerate and streamline procedures”, includes measures relating to “Control, audit, anticorruption and transparency”. In particular, to strengthen controls, including those designed to prevent and combat corruption and fraud, and avoid conflicts of interest and the risk of the duplicate financing of projects with public money, without affecting the role of the national anticorruption authority, central government agencies with responsibility for implementing measures in the NRRP may enter into specific agreements with the <i>Guardia di Finanza</i> (Finance Police). In addition, the purposes of the section on works, tender procedures and public contracts (articles 47-56) include stronger criteria governing legality and transparency, whilst continuing to value the benefits of appointing certain types of special commissioners in terms of speed and efficiency. The draft delegated law on public contracts, dated 29 June 2021, also contains measures relating to public contracts and construction, paving the way for greater procedural transparency and innovation in the management of tenders. This will take the form of closer links between Italian legislation and European directives in order to guarantee legality and fairness at all stages of project delivery. The draft law reinforces the database of public contracts held by ANAC, Italy’s anticorruption authority, which must include the data provided by economic operators. Exploiting the procedures used by digital, interoperable platforms, the database aims to ensure the integrity and legality of the process of awarding contract for public works. Finally, the draft delegated law repealing and reforming rules that fuel corruption, as expressly provided for in the NRRP, has yet to be presented to Parliament. This should have taken place by June 2021, with the related delegated decrees to be adopted within nine months of approval.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
16.6	Reform of the public administration	<p>Legislation regarding the Covid-19 emergency (Law 126 of 16 September 2021) contains urgent measures in response to the emergency and designed to ensure that social and economic activities can take place safely. The law extends the state of emergency until 31 December 2021, lists the activities and places that may only be accessed if in possession of a vaccine certificate (a so-called “green pass”). In addition, Law Decree 111 of 6 August 2021 contains “Urgent measures regarding safety in schools and universities and of social activities and transportation”.</p> <p>The following legislation regards efficiency, simplification and governance. Law 113 of 6 August 2021 “contains urgent measures to strengthen the administrative capabilities of public organisations for the purposes of implementing the national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) and improving the efficiency of the justice system”. The text is divided into two parts: the first relates to competitive examinations and the process of recruiting civil servants; the second covers the recruitment of fixed-term staff linked to delivery of the NRRP.</p> <p>Law 108 of 29 July 2021, containing “governance of the national recovery and resilience plan and measures to strengthen administrative facilities and accelerate and streamline procedures”, provides for the “simplification of the processes involved in procuring the IT goods and services required in order to realise the NRRP and e-procurement procedures and the procurement of IT goods and services”. The package of measures regarding the digital transition (articles 38-41) is of major significance. This makes amendments to the Digital Administration Code with the aim of improving the use of and access to public information for official purposes, ensuring the widespread implementation and systematic provision of support for digitalisation and network access through enabling platforms. It also aims to close the digital divide through initiatives designed to increase the use of digital identities, digital domiciles and electronic signatures, including the regard to referendums. This will involve wide-ranging changes, given the large number of articles in the Digital Administration Code to be amended, with the aim of reshaping the digital public administration by enabling citizens to access online public services by using their digital identity. This process of developing digital infrastructure and literacy is necessary in order to ensure that everyone can exercise their universal citizens’ rights, especially people who live in isolated areas or on the margins of society.</p> <p>With regard to Target 16.6, it should also be noted that, on 27 July 2021, the Chamber of Deputies adopted the consolidated draft law on lobbying, a much-awaited piece of legislation among civil society in order to provide stricter, complete rules governing lobbying activities and the exertion of pressure on public decision-makers, with regard to potential conflicts of interest and the principles of transparency and accountability in policymaking. The measures include a register of lobbyists to promote greater transparency and the establishment of an Oversight Committee within the Antitrust Authority.</p> <p>Finally, with regard to the relevant targets, and above all to the tools capable of ensuring that the relationship between government institutions and citizens is based on transparency and accountability (Target 16.6), the Government has activated the portal, www.italiadomani.gov.it, with the aim of presenting the content of the NRRP relating to Italia Domani (“The Italy of tomorrow”) and the state of progress in implementing each of the related measures. The website will include information on how investment and reforms are progressing, ongoing activities and the deadlines set, the costs incurred and the expected benefits for the public. The above Law 108/2021 also includes a further package of measures designed to simplify the procedures relating to infrastructure, public contracts and tenders (articles 47-56), with the aim of encouraging investment, accelerating the delivery of new infrastructure, streamlining procedures and strengthening the administrative capabilities of the public administration across a range of areas with an impact on sectors covered by the NRRP and on delivery of the projects included in the Plan.</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the average duration of civil proceedings to the levels observed in the best Italian regions.

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
16.7	Representative and participatory democracy	Constitutional Law 1 of 19 October 2020, containing “Amendments to articles 56, 57 and 59 of the Constitution concerning a reduction in the number of members of Parliament”, provides for reductions in the number of deputies from 630 to 400 and in elected senators from 315 to 200. The objective is to simplify legislative procedures and deliver an overall improvement in the decision-making process at the Chamber of Deputies, with the aim of better responding to the needs of citizens.
16.10	Strengthen application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights	Law 10 of 4 August 2021, containing “Urgent measures concerning cybersecurity, definition of Italy’s cybersecurity architecture and the establishment of a National Cybersecurity Agency”. The aim is to put in place a series of initiatives designed to protect against cyber threats to networks, information systems, IT services and electronic communications, so as to guarantee their availability, confidentiality, integrity and resilience. This extends to protecting national security and the nation’s cyberspace interests. As the national authority for public security, the Minister of the Interior is responsible for ensuring coordination between the various public bodies involved in guaranteeing cybersecurity at national level. The minister is also responsible for promoting the implementation of joint initiatives aimed at ensuring cybersecurity and cyber resilience is taken into due account during the digitalisation of the country and its productive systems and public organisations, and in the process of achieving national and European autonomy in relation to strategic IT products and processes with a view to protecting national interests in this sector.
16.a	International cooperation	
16.b	Non-discriminatory policies	<p>The draft “Zan” bill, containing “Measures to prevent and combat discrimination and incitement to violence for reasons based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability”, aims to outlaw all forms of violence and discrimination linked to a person’s sex or gender. The text of the bill was initially approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 4 November 2020 and is now under discussion at the Senate, where it is subject to amendment prior to its final approval. Whilst the draft legislation represents a valid approach to achieving the intended aims, it is necessary to take into account the risks, in terms of individual liberty, of applying repressive and coercive measures in response to mere expressions of “opinion”, even when such opinions are abhorrent and liable to give rise to acts of discrimination and violence. For this reason, from the point of view of sustainability, it is necessary to aim for cultural empowerment and other forms of prevention and protection.</p> <p>With regard to the above Law 108/2021, we welcome the measures designed to promote the strategic use of public contracts in order to promote fair and inclusive development. This includes measures aimed at, on the one hand, job creation and youth entrepreneurship and, on the other, gender equality and the inclusion of disabled people in the workforce. The legislation requires commissioning bodies to ensure that calls for tenders and invitations to tender include criteria designed to promote youth entrepreneurship, gender equality and the employment of young people, up to thirty-six years of age, of women and of the disabled. Meeting such criteria should be a basic requirement and a reason for awarding bids a higher score.</p>

GOAL 17 - PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

The international role of the Italian Government in 2021 consisted, on the one hand, of the country's presidency of the G20 and its co-presidency of COP26 and, on the other, its commitment to and delivery of official development assistance (ODA).

In the former instance, Italy is playing a leading role in promoting ambitious targets. In terms of ODA, on the other hand, for the third year running, Italy has retreated from the scene in contrast with its international commitments. This has seen the country shift away from achieving the Agenda 2030 target of spending 0.70% of gross national income (GNI) on ODA. The preliminary figure for 2020 is 0.22% of GNI, published by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee in April 2021. Above all, this fall in ODA is in contrast with the need to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, which risks leading to a lost decade in our efforts to meet the sustainable development goals.

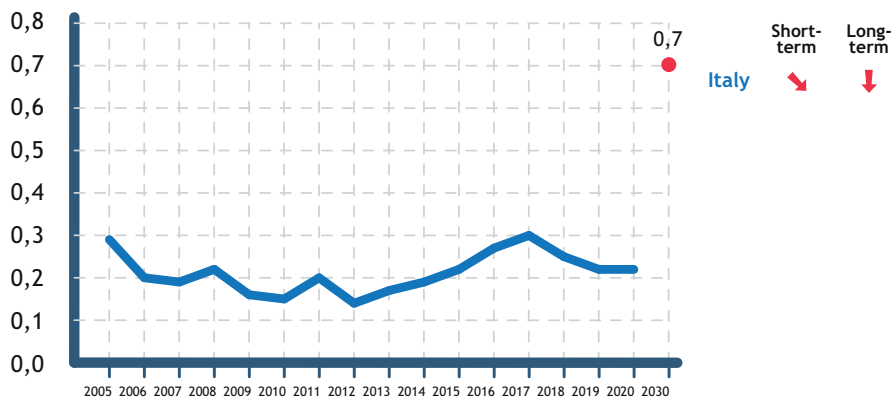
As regards support for partnerships, a key element of Goal 17, there is an objective concern regarding the amount of ODA funding provided for bilateral initiatives undertaken by the entities referred to in section VI of Law 125/2014 in relation to development cooperation, consisting of local authorities, universities, civil society organisations and private profit-making organisations: in total 16%. This fact has adversely affected the ability of these organisations to participate in the country's international cooperation, given that they have been cut out from ODA funding, whilst the legislation is based on a strategy that depends on the involvement of all parties. Planning for development cooperation, involving the National Council (multistakeholder) and the Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation, is slow and lacks an integrated, systemic approach. Instead, the process should provide a framework for all the cooperation initiatives undertaken by the various institutions, from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation to Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, from the multilateral cooperation backed by the Ministry of the Economy and Finance to initiatives

launched by the Ministry of the Interior, which receives almost a third of ODA funding.

Whilst the Italian Government is to be congratulated on its efforts to raise a number of key issues relating to the three chosen priorities (People, Planet, Prosperity) with the G20, when it came to drawing up the related document, the G20 failed to make real progress in adopting truly innovative and transformative approaches.

The National Council for Development Cooperation needs to be given sufficient time and space to play a fuller role, instead of merely representing an occasion to present earlier decisions and documents to be acknowledged. What is needed is participatory discussion and real debate, ensuring the Council's contribution to preparation of the Three-year Planning and Policy Guidelines for 2021-2023, which represents the official document setting out Italy's international development cooperation strategy.

In general, from an editorial viewpoint and in terms of an integrated, systemic approach, the document should make the cross-cutting nature of sustainable development principles, based on respect for human rights, more prominent as the framework for all cooperation initiatives undertaken by the various institutions, from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation to Cassa Depositi e Prestiti through to the multilateral cooperation backed by the Ministry of the Economy and Finance. This means setting out the principles more clearly, highlighting the key choices made in terms of priorities.

Target 17.2 - By 2030, increase the share of GNI spent on official development assistance to 0.7%

Target source: European consensus on development | Source: ISTAT | Unit of measurement: %

From 2005 to 2012, the indicator has worsened (-0.15 percentage points) before improving through to 2017, when it returned to the level seen in 2005. As noted above, in the last three years the indicator has declined, with Italy moving further away from achieving the quantitative target set at European level.

Goal 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Target	Topics and policies	Comment and Targets
17.2	Development cooperation and official development assistance	<p>Preliminary data for Italy's ODA expenditure in 2020, published by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee in April 2021, is 0.22% of GNI, marking a reduction for the third year running.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, increase the share of GNI spent on official development assistance to 0.7%.
17.3	Financing for global common goods in preparation for and response to pandemics	<p>A High-Level Independent Panel (HLIP) on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response was established in January 2021 during Italy's presidency of the G20. The panel published its report in July. The experts on the panel have called for an increase in international financing of at least US\$75 billion over the next five years to close gaps in pandemic prevention and preparedness. This funding should be in addition to ODA and not accounted for as such, given that it regards global commons that will also benefit donor countries. Italy must establish which instruments to use and in what measure to respond to this request.</p>
17.4	Multilateral commitment to debt sustainability for developing countries	<p>The G20 has signalled its support for the issue of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) worth US\$ 650 billion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The SDRs are distributed in proportion to IMF quota shares, meaning that 67% of the issue will be allocated to high-income countries, whilst low-income countries (LICs) and middle-income countries (MICs) will continue to have limited access to low-cost financing and unconditional liquidity. The value of SDRs to which indebted countries have access remains far from sufficient to meet these countries' needs. For this reason, civil society organisations have requested a much larger allocation. It is crucial that we can find a way for advanced economies to direct their current and recently received allocations of SDRs towards support for low- and middle-income countries who are in greater need. The identified solution should not add to the beneficiary countries' debt and be unconditional. The Italian Government has not expressed a view on this issue, despite backing the issue of SDRs during the G20 summit.</p>
17.6	Policies to promote the transfer of knowledge to developing countries	<p>The fight against Covid-19 has led to a range of global commitments to exchange health knowledge and technologies. The Italian Government has backed the Access to Covid-19 Tool (ACT) Accelerator, a worldwide partnership to speed up the development, production and equitable distribution of tests, treatments and anti-Covid vaccines. Italy has contributed to the COVAX programme, which distributes vaccines to low-income countries, allocating funding of €116 million. However, Italy has not, in common with other EU countries, signed up to the Covid-19 technology Access Pool (C-TAP), an appeal to the international community to share know-how developed in response to the pandemic, by voluntarily sharing data, technical expertise, intellectual property and licences relating to the development and production of diagnostic tests, medicines and Covid-19 vaccines. Italy, alongside other EU countries, has not accepted the World Health Organisation's request for a temporary suspension of intellectual property rights relating to products and technologies needed to combat Covid-19.</p>
17.7	Cooperation and policy consistency at internal and transnational level	<p>In a conference on policy consistency held on 10 June 2021, the then Undersecretary for International Cooperation committed to improving the way Interministerial Coordination of Development Cooperation works. This body is indispensable to ensuring the consistency of cooperation policy with foreign policy, trade and overseas investment policies, immigration policy and the overseas aspects of defence policy. In terms of overall policy coordination, the <i>Benessere Italia</i> ("Wellness Italy") steering committee, established in 2019, has fulfilled its purpose, whilst the new Interministerial Committee for the Ecological Transition will be responsible validating Italy's new sustainable development strategy. The current situation has been complicated by the presence of a series of interministerial committees: the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development, the Interministerial Committee for the Ecological Transition and Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation.</p>

NOTES

- ¹ COM 2021/390, Strategy for financing the transition to a sustainable economy
- ² Regulation (EU) 2020/852 concerning “the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment” and the subsequent COM (2021) 188, “Taxonomy, Corporate Sustainability Reporting, Sustainability Preferences and Fiduciary Duties: Directing finance towards the European Green Deal”
- ³ EU Regulation on sustainability reporting in the financial services sector (Sustainable Financial Disclosure Regulation, SFDR) 2019/2088
- ⁴ Delegated acts in accordance with art. 8 of the Taxonomy Regulation
- ⁵ European Green Bond Regulation (COM 2021/391)
- ⁶ MiFID II, IDD, UCITS, AIFM and Solvency II directives.
- ⁷ DIRECTIVE 2014/95/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL of 22 October 2014, amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups
- ⁸ EBA Report on Management and Supervision of ESG risks for credit institutions and investment firms, EBA/REP/2021/18 9
- ⁹ European Commission, Reflection paper towards a sustainable Europe by 2030, COM (2019) 22
- ¹⁰ Bank of Italy, Economic Bulletin 3/2021
- ¹¹ SVIMEZ, Preview of the SVIMEZ Report 2021, July 2021
- ¹² www.istat.it/it/archivio/258983
- ¹³ asvis.it/notizie/2-9040/come-garantire-la-partecipazione-dei-giovani-al-fondo-per-una-transizione-giusta
- ¹⁴ documenti.camera.it/leg18/dossier/pdf/DFP25_parte_I.pdf?_1613082959311
- ¹⁵ asvis.it/notizie-sull-alleanza/19-9452/pandemia-e-resilienza-un-momento-di-riflessione-su-crisi-e-ripresa-sostenibile
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⁴⁶ www.streetartforrights.it/

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⁵⁰ festivalsvilupposostenibile.it/2020

⁵¹ www.asvis.it/I-numeri-della-sostenibilita

⁵² asvis.it/rubrica-europa-e-agenda-2030/

⁵³ The target set by the WHO does not take into account deaths from Covid-19 as it only relates to non-communicable diseases.

⁵⁴ Including the “Report on the circular economy in Italy in 2021” and the Circular Economy Network and the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (Enea) and the dossier on “The circular economy in Italy for the EU Next Generation” published by the Symbola Foundation and the National Consortium for the Recovery and Recycling of paper Packaging (CO-MIECO).

⁵⁵ According to the Council of Europe Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, in 2018 the average duration of civil and commercial actions in Italy was 527 days compared with a European average of 311 days.



ASviS's proposals



4. ASviS's proposals

4.1 ASviS's cross-cutting and systemic proposals

As mentioned in the previous chapters, Europe and Italy have launched several initiatives over the past year to accelerate the transition to a fully sustainable model. At European level, in particular, we have seen a real step change with the new Commission led by Ursula von der Leyen. Briefly reviewing the main changes in Europe, the first commitment of the new president was to assign the completion of the SDGs to each member of the College of Commissioners. The Commission's first legislative initiative was the Green Deal, aimed at creating a just transition for both the environment and people. In parallel, integration of the 2030 Agenda into the various governance instruments, including the Semester and the Multiannual Financial Framework, has begun. In response to the pandemic, the EU has obtained a large allocation of resources, and a reallocation to help the most affected countries. The Porto Social Summit strongly reaffirmed the EU's socio-economic objectives. Europe seems to be on its way to becoming the "world champion of sustainable development".

In Italy, the pandemic crisis has absorbed a great deal of institutional attention. However, despite the mixed political forces behind it, the change of government has led to a new impetus in the commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, in his inaugural speech, Prime Minister Mario Draghi already argued the importance of attributing constitutional dignity to sustainable development. The reorganisation and creation of ministries, as described in detail in Chapter 3, highlighted the interest in pursuing a structural transition. Similarly, within the framework of the G20 presidency, the Government has promoted strong multilateral action on several key issues, including on environmental issues in tandem with the United Kingdom in the run-up to COP26. Although the doubts and critical issues outlined in the previous chapter remain, this new impetus is undoubtedly a positive development.

However, in our opinion, some important elements, which would guarantee the completion of the transition, are missing. The approach ASviS has taken since its foundation has produced a series of recommendations for reforms and planning strategies that are able to accelerate a policy centred on sustainable development, as the 2030 Agenda has effectively outlined and offered to the entire planet. The commitment needs to be boosted decisively and more effectively at all levels, starting with the Government, and engagement of the social partners, civil society, local authorities, and educational and cultural institutions, in order to identify targets and appropriate content to respond to the major issues of greater social justice, a balanced ecosystem, and effective and sustainable operation of production systems. Having managed the most acute phase of the pandemic with substantial results in terms of mitigation and response to the social, health and economic emergency, and having responded well to Europe with the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), Italy must now react strongly by implementing a clean break from the past. The Government must rapidly and effectively raise the overall level of response in order to mobilise all efforts for change and give a decisive boost to sustainable development. This requires a systemic vision, an integrated approach, and the ability to innovate and look to the future. The transformation that Italy's situation calls for warrants a strong, unprecedented, courageous and far-sighted impetus. An intelligent combination of the factors that make up the multifaceted sustainable dimension - economic, environmental, social and institutional - must be the constant, permanent and guiding yardstick for every choice, programme, investment and reform. As the 2030 Agenda emphasises, no one should be left behind. Young people, women and all citizens are the actual beneficiaries of any intervention or response. The Alliance will make every effort to act as spur, as we believe in the universal value of democracy and reaffirm our existential purpose to promote and support the only possible way forward,

namely full achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This section includes cross-cutting recommendations that we believe meet this challenge.

In addition to these recommendations, we should not neglect the importance of achieving the 21 Targets in the 2030 Agenda, which Italy had committed to achieving by 2020. This was made a priority by all the political forces and for the country as a whole, in order to give substance to the actions of public institutions. A comprehensive and integrated plan is thus urgently needed, including the adoption of a set timetable of actions to make up for lost time.

Systemic, institutional and policy proposals

- **Include the principle of sustainable development in the Constitution**, based on the principle of intergenerational justice, to grant constitutional dignity to the principle of justice within and between generations, as has already been done in several countries, so that it becomes the general legal basis for guiding public policies for new and future generations. A change to this effect, with amendments to Articles 9 and 41, is currently under consideration in Parliament: its approval within the current legislative period would be a step in the right direction.
- **Prepare an annual sustainable development law that coincides with the National Reform Programme**, designed to contain regulations, to be approved by June each year, which should contribute to implementation of the policies set out in the April Economic and Financial Planning Document (DEF), the NRRP and the specific recommendations made within the previous annual cycle of the European Semester, including reference to the long-term strategic forecast drawn up by the European Commission. This should also consider revisions of the Fair and Sustainable Wellbeing (FSW) plan.
- **Clarify the definition of institutional roles in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**, as is done in the European Commission. **The 17 Goals in the Agenda involve all Government action, and their coordination should be entrusted to a member of the Cabinet.** After the dismantling of the “Wellbeing Italy” steering committee, which failed to establish effective coordination, this task has been partially entrusted to the new Interministerial Committee for the Ecological Transition, which, however, like the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection before it, risks not having an overall vision of the actions needed to implement the Agenda, given its focus on environmental issues. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly redefine responsibilities at the highest level of government. The Alliance recommends giving the **Department for Economic Policy Planning and Coordination** the lead role within the Government in delivering on the 2030 Agenda. The Department would coordinate the activities of ministerial structures, such as the above Interministerial Committee for the Ecological Transition and similar committees focused on specific issues, whilst maintaining the holistic view required by the 2030 Agenda.
- **Ensure that the Department for Economic Policy Planning and Coordination’s policy coordination operates in coherence with the activities of the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development**, to ensure that decisions on infrastructure and public investment are in line with the SDGs. It is necessary to define the new procedures that the committee - in operation from 1 January 2021 - will adopt to assess investment projects, including those to be accepted under the NRRP. To this end, an instrument should be introduced that enables “sustainability checks” to be carried out on individual projects with respect to the SDGs and their related Targets. A kind of SDG fast check would enable a project’s “sustainability content” to be recorded as soon as the initiative is taken over by the public system. It would provide basic information on public financing for sustainable development - to be used in the subsequent activation and monitoring phases of the investment - and would also facilitate the tracking and classification of sustainable development expenditure.
- **Introduce more legal reporting requirements for the Public Administration**, including environmental, social and governance (ESG) impact assessments, to ensure that the state complies with more stringent transparency requirements, and thereby also responds to Target

15.9 of the 2030 Agenda (*By 2020, integration of biodiversity and ecosystem values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts*). A culture of reporting and impact assessment should also be promoted in all sectors of the economy, in order to increase transparency towards all stakeholders.

- **Revise the National Sustainable Development Strategy (SNSvS)** in order to provide a sound and coherent vision of Italy to 2030 in line with the recommendations adopted by the European Union. The strategy should highlight consistencies with the recommendations made in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) and the National Reform Programme, with a view to ensuring coherence between policies, and also taking into account the long-term strategic forecast drawn up annually by the European Commission. It is also important to strengthen the role that the National Conference on Sustainable Development will play, by involving the various institutional and civil society stakeholders in the revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, which will be presented in 2022 at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
- **Create a multilevel system of strategies (national, regional) and territorial sustainable development agendas**, which reach municipalities and their associations and are embedded in their annual planning cycle (economic and financial planning documents), using the same set of quantitative objectives and recent data, and making them publicly available on authorities' websites.
- **Prepare a National Urban Agenda for Sustainable Development**, as a part of the SNSvS, with a strong coordinating role to be played by the reformed Interministerial Committee for Urban Policies.
- **Include in the explanatory report of all government-backed bills and ministerial and regional actions an *ex-ante* assessment, which is also qualitative, of the expected impact on the 17 SDGs and individual Targets**, to ensure that informed decisions are taken in the light of the sustainable development challenge, and also improve the coherence of public policies. Similarly, the Parliamentary Budget Office (UPB) could be tasked with **carrying out quantitative assessments of the impact** of the main planning and budgetary documents (the Economic and Financial Planning Document, the Budget Law, etc.) on the SDGs, in line with the European Semester's approach to the SDGs. The work carried out by the Court of Auditors' 2020 General Government Accounts Report¹, which provided a thorough analysis of the 2030 Agenda Goals and their importance for the national budget, is particularly important.
- **Adapt the legislation providing for reporting on FSW (Fair and Sustainable Wellbeing) indicators** within the budget cycle, including at local level, in order to bring it into line with the SDGs used within the European Semester. See the above paragraph on the 2020 General Government Accounts Report.
- **Revise the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC)** to align it with the European objectives of cutting emissions by at least 55% by 2030, on the path to climate neutrality by 2050, and **approve the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNACC)** adapted to meet the new EU guidelines, with a view to adopting a national nature restoration plan and combating hydrogeological instability in synergy with it.
- **In support of industrial competitiveness, draw up a strategic forecast on raw material and product requirements for the green and digital transitions**, taking into account the related environmental, economic and social impacts, and boosting research and testing of new products and processes, within a circular economy and sustainable bio-economy framework, through continuous, structured collaboration between institutions, industry and SMEs, trade unions, universities and research centres, including within the regional and local context.
- **Amend the Legislative Decree on non-financial reporting (Legislative Decree 254/2016)**. The current text provides for mandatory non-financial reporting for just over 200 very large enterprises. Today, almost five years after the publication of the decree, the business world has also fully realised that non-financial reporting is a vital tool for enabling individual companies to access the most dynamic component of finance, namely responsible and sustainable finance, and that the adoption of management practices geared towards sus-

tainability allows for significant cost reductions and productivity gains. ASviS recommends making non-financial reporting immediately compulsory for all large companies (over 500 employees), and gradually extending the obligation (as has been done in Spain) to medium-sized companies (over 250 employees), whilst keeping it voluntary for small companies and requiring information on a proportional basis. Companies should also report on the expected impact of their activities on the communities in which they operate. In addition to promoting non-financial reporting among their members, business associations should also prepare their own sustainability reports, in accordance with existing good practices. This is in line with the proposed new European Non-Financial Reporting Directive.

- **Introduce into Italian law** the content of the new European Directive expected by the end of the year, which will require all European companies (and others) to carry out **due diligence on the environmental and human rights impacts of their products and services** - in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) - throughout their value chain, and also to remedy negative impacts. Initially, it will be applied to companies employing below a certain number of personnel. In France there has been a similar law since 2017 (*Droit de Vigilance*), which is applied to companies with more than 5,000 employees. In Germany, a new law was introduced in June 2021 with very strict penalties for companies with more than 3,000 employees, which will apply to companies with more than 1,000 employees by 2024. The results of the due diligence should be made public, including to investors, with civil and criminal liabilities in the event of non-compliance. Italian companies will also have to be prepared to fulfil these obligations, in order to remain competitive and sustainable.
- **Include a report on the responsibilities and planning of all ministries regarding the “Health in All Policies” objective**, the declaration of understanding signed in 2007 by the health ministries of the 27 EU countries, whereby a necessary condition for the approval of any type of intervention or policy is a joint analysis of health, sustainability, and fairness

issues, namely consideration of the impact of economic, environmental, and social choices on health and wellbeing.

- In the 2022 Budget Law, **establish a public research body for future studies and strategic planning** (the strategic foresight suggested by the OECD and already put into practice by the European Commission), overseen by the Cabinet, tasked with carrying out research on the future developments of social, environmental, and economic matters and their implications for the design and implementation of public policies, including at local level. The research body's first action would be to **prepare a strategic foresight report to 2050, by the end of 2022**, to be revised annually in accordance with the model adopted by the European Commission, as has already been implemented by some member states such as Spain, as an element of reflection and reference for the definition of policies, in support of and in correlation with the SNSvS.
- **Review the structure of the parliamentary committees**, to facilitate a more integrated analysis of legislative measures regarding the various dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, in light of the reduction in the number of parliamentarians that will take effect from the next parliamentary term.

It is also recommended that the Government should seek the greater involvement of:

- **ministries**, within their respective areas of competence, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in order to include actions aimed at achieving the SDGs in their operational planning;
- **regional, provincial and municipal authorities** in the design and implementation of policies to achieve the SDGs, in order to ensure full coherence between national public policies and those implemented at different local levels, especially in metropolitan cities. It is important to encourage the development of strategies that, area by area, see municipalities build robust participatory processes with citizens and with the world of work and business.

Key environmental proposals

- Starting with the 2022 Budget Law, **draw up a plan with a defined timeframe for eliminating environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies**, in line with the gradual introduction of green taxation and carbon pricing measures, as also decided at EU level, including activation of the just transition offsetting mechanisms for the economic activities affected and combating energy poverty, within the framework of the Climate Social Plan to be integrated into the PNIEC.
- **Meet the commitments made for the Green Climate Fund**, and in all international fora support the introduction of additional financial support measures for developing countries, including within the framework of the EU Council proposal for a global recovery initiative combining debt relief with investment for the SDGs.
- **Undertake international commitments on combating climate change and biodiversity loss as guidelines for national policies**, and gear the objectives of transforming the productive system to enhance social welfare and serve the interests of future generations towards this purpose. The level of ambition should be aligned with the recommendations of the best available science, as represented by the IPCC and IPBES reports, while systematically assessing across-the-board the political choices needed to tackle and overcome the systemic inertia - economic, social and cultural - that hinders its pursuit.
- **Enhance and supplement the Annual Report on the State of Natural Capital** with qualitative and quantitative elements, which should be used as an essential tool for guiding reform policies, and highlight how use of the funding provided by the NRRP and the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) can support its implementation.

Key social proposals

- **Ensure access to vaccines for the entire population to prevent Covid-19 infection**, and to any treatments recognised as effective by the medical and scientific community, considering the needs of the groups most exposed

and vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic. In cooperation with the EU and the main producing countries, ensure that the entire world population has access to vaccines and possible treatments at affordable and sustainable prices to eradicate the pandemic worldwide.

- **Set up a permanent institutional roundtable with civil society on gender policies**, for a broader evaluation of policies to combat gender inequalities, to bring Italy into line with the most advanced European countries. The roundtable should interact with the Government in discussions on the implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2025. This is necessary to ensure that gender equality, a key, cross-cutting element of the 2030 Agenda, is effectively mainstreamed in all policies, with the aim of closing gaps quickly and firmly, and in line with the recent Women 20 recommendations to the G20. The bi-annual audits the European Commission will conduct on the implementation of the NRRP could also be an opportunity to address this evaluation.
- **Ensure that the issue of youth**, which is referred to in the **Italian NRRP** as a cross-cutting theme, is actually considered in the design of all policies. In this regard, in line with the **European Pillar of Social Rights**, **the impact on young people of various measures should be assessed ex ante**, with a particular focus on the issue of employment. All legislation should be designed with the interests of future generations in mind, thereby meeting the ambition of Next Generation EU. Moreover, the National Youth Council should become more important, acting as a catalyst for recommendations on the issue.
- **The current welfare system should be comprehensively overhauled**, in order to give it a universal perspective, by simplifying procedures and access to services and guaranteeing coverage for the population groups that are currently excluded, in line with the objectives set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights, and as reiterated at the recent EU Summit in Porto. In this regard, the Alliance's recommendation to extend the number of people who can access the Emergency Income scheme should be borne in mind. The scheme should become a permanent instrument for

making financial contributions to the most vulnerable segments of the population, thereby integrating the poverty reduction objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

- **Implement effective and well-structured policies regarding the reception of foreigners and their social and employment integration**, together with policies to combat illegal employment, labour exploitation and modern slavery. Information about migration based on real data should be promoted via the media, and all forms of manipulation and political exploitation should be opposed, in line with the positions expressed by the European Council meeting of 24 June 2021.
- **Introduce an annual government report on social capital**, which will match the report on natural capital established in 2017 and be linked to the comprehensive picture of economic, social and environmental issues emerging from analysis of indicators in the 12 domains of Fair and Sustainable Wellbeing (FSW). The introduction of such a report would be a further step towards effecting the cultural change needed to implement the transition to a society and economy based on respect for human capital.

Key economic proposals

- **Create** a working group by the end of this year to draw up a **National Employment Plan** by the end of 2022, with a priority focus on youth employment, women's employment, and employment in southern Italy, involving key stakeholders from the public and private sectors. The plan should ultimately be inspired by the targets outlined at European level: an employment rate among the adult population of at least 78%, and a number of young NEETs amounting to less than 9%, backed up by the objectives and skills development measures set out below.
- **Propose to the EU that public investment to achieve the SDGs be excluded from the rules of the Stability Pact**, as part of the ongoing debate on the review of the macroeconomic legislative framework. This intervention would be aimed at safeguarding the implementation of the National Reform Programmes, with a vision of interdependence between environmental, social and financial sustainability, in line with the most recent assessments of the European Advisory Committee on Public Finance. In this context, the investments to be considered as aimed at achieving the SDGs should be defined.
- **Define a future-oriented national industrial policy** that integrates the objectives of the European Green Deal with the 2030 Agenda. This should be consistent with the EU position of "open strategic autonomy", taking into account the need to replace fossil-based materials with renewable and recyclable biomaterials. In particular, access to critical raw materials for the ecological and digital transitions, such as battery components, microprocessors and semiconductors, should be guaranteed for the entire supply chain.
- **Establish guidelines to achieve the ambitious quantitative targets for skills development** (improvement of existing skills) and retraining (training to acquire new skills), defined at European level as the participation of at least 60% of adults in training courses each year. The aim would be to: guide young people into the world of work by promoting learning programmes during and after compulsory schooling, improving the training offered by universities and working closely with the private sector to ensure that training pathways meet labour market needs and are geared to the green, digital and demographic transitions; introduce lifelong learning services to ensure that all age groups have the opportunity to receive the tools they need to re-enter the labour market, thereby reducing the number of so-called "disheartened" people who are unemployed and not looking for work; train and inform citizens about sustainable development issues and basic digital skills.
- **Activate impact finance programmes** to mobilise companies operating in the so-called "social economy", which can promote socially oriented transformation of local economic systems, by supporting and relaunching local banks.

Participatory and democratic development policies

- **Create effective civil society participation mechanisms**, with a special focus on young people, by promoting and coordinating the various civil society participation and consultation bodies already in place, such as the SNSvS review, the Conference on the Future of Europe, and the participatory measures provided for by the European Climate Law, the European Climate Pact and the European Skills Pact. In particular, Parliament has provided for ministries to consult on the NRRP. This innovation should be taken on board and extended to include, among others, the areas mentioned above.
- **Establish**, by the end of the first half of 2022, **a permanent civil society consultation platform** for “cross-cutting” assessment of the impact of legislative measures on the 2030 Agenda, linked to the request for an ex-ante assessment (including qualitative elements) of the expected impact on the 17 SDGs and the individual Targets. The platform could also cover assessment of progress made regarding the NRRP.
- **Ensure people’s engagement and awareness**, with a special focus on young people, by conducting **public information and communication initiatives on the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**, to be carried out in collaboration with universities, cultural and scientific institutions, associations and private entities involved, in order to accelerate Italy’s cultural shift towards sustainable development, to be implemented nationwide, as part of the European Skills Agenda.

International cooperation policies

- **Undertake international commitments on combating climate change and biodiversity loss as guidelines for national policies**, and gear the objectives of transforming the productive system to enhance social welfare and serve the interests of future generations towards this purpose. The level of ambition should be aligned with the recommendations of the best available science, as represented by the IPCC and IPBES reports, while system-

atically assessing across-the-board the political choices needed to tackle and overcome the systemic inertia - economic, social and cultural - that hinders its pursuit.

- **Ensure that Italy will reach the 0.7% share of gross national income for official development assistance by 2025**, five years ahead of the deadline set in the 2030 Agenda, and also propose that this deadline be met at European level, in order to give substance to the commitment to make the European Union the “world champion” of sustainable development.
- **Respect at European level the human rights guaranteed by international treaties with regard to refugees and migrants**, including: prohibition of individual and collective refoulement, recognition of international protection for those who are entitled to it, and establishment of legal and safe access channels. Again within the EU framework, call for effective implementation of the fair sharing of responsibilities and obligations (Article 78 *et seq.* TFEU), taking on board the critical views expressed by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 27 January 2021 on the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. **Reopen international dialogue on the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants** in order to address the migration flows exacerbated by conflict and climate change.
- **Promote a reform process to make the European Union a key player in the international arena**, in line with the recent wishes of the President of Italy². To this end, the prerogatives of common foreign and defence policy guidelines and instruments should be progressively increased, including on an emergency basis and via extraordinary procedures. In particular, the powers of the High Representative should be given substance, and the often-shelved plans for European defence policy coordination, which until now has been “left” to NATO, should be made implemented.

4.2 Proposals for the various Goals

All the proposals from the Alliance's Working Groups, in accordance with the 169 Sustainable Development Targets, and classified according to the topics and policies described in Chapter 3, are set out below.

The proposals are accompanied by references to the 32 quantitative targets relating to the various Goals, as presented in Chapter 3.

Goal 1: NO POVERTY		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
1.1	Tackling extreme poverty (with Target 10.1)	See Target 1.2
1.2	Tackling relative poverty (with Target 10.1)	<p>Even though the emergency income scheme (REM) enabled more effective support than the basic income scheme could have provided during the pandemic, it has some shortcomings. Its greater generosity compared to the latter, and its partial overlap with it, have led to potentially unfair situations, with some people on the same income receiving more generous benefits than others. Secondly, take-up of the measure has been quite low (41% as of December 2020), due to an inadequate information campaign together with overly complicated application procedures. In the post-pandemic period, it will be necessary to merge the two measures, integrating the improved aspects of the REM (e.g., lowering of housing requirements and removal of the EU citizenship criterion) within the framework of the basic income scheme.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 20% versus 2019.
1.3	Tackling income poverty (with Target 10.1)	See Target 10.1
1.4	Tackling service poverty (with Target 10.1)	<p>The main measure introduced by the NRRP regarding energy efficiency in private homes (the <i>Superbonus</i>) is highly regressive, since 1) the measure is not linked to income; and 2) the bureaucratic hurdles entailed in applying for it heavily penalise apartment blocks, in which there is a higher concentration of low-income households. This measure (which is funded until 2023) needs to be revised in a more redistributive way, thereby making it progressive and further simplifying the procedures for co-owners.</p> <p>The results of this year's INVALSI (National Institute for the Evaluation of the Education and Training System) tests confirm the need to invest in the "quality of education", as well as in university orientation. Investments in physical capital (modernisation of facilities) and human capital (teacher training) are complementary in this respect. The breakdown of the investments provided for by the NRRP appears to be strongly tilted in favour the first category of investment: around €6 billion (in the April document), shared between building renovation (€3.9 billion) and Schools 4.0 (€2.1 billion), compared with only €0.8 billion allocated for teacher training. Moreover, these investments should first and foremost target southern Italy, where a lower quality of education is provided. Investment 1.4 of the M4C1 component moves in this direction, allocating €1.5 billion for the training of teachers, school leaders and mentoring in schools. However, there is no strategy for evaluating the results achieved (e.g., in terms of improving the INVALSI scores). Finally, the willingness to strengthen the tertiary vocational training system via an expenditure item and a dedicated reform is positive.</p>

Goal 2: ZERO HUNGER		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
2.1	Food aid	<p>ISTAT data for June 2021 show a worsening of economic poverty, which has an impact on food insecurity. To alleviate this situation, it is vital to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> define a food insecurity information system that enables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > increasing the relevance of food insecurity information via ISTAT by including the FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) module in the SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions) survey; > preparing accurate monitoring of the phenomenon and promoting a shared measurement metric at European level, which can be applied at national and local level; > promoting national coordination of food aid initiatives at institutional level, and voluntary and donation circuits and hubs at local level in order to plan a real solidarity chain. strengthen or create social protection systems, by promoting support and food aid policies for the most vulnerable groups, most affected by Covid-19, with a special focus on ensuring access to products such as meat, fruit and vegetables, especially at urban level.
	Access to safe and nutritious food	<p>Regarding the right to food in the context of schools, access to school canteens is extremely unequal. Only 51% of primary school pupils in Italy had access to a canteen in 2017 (Save The Children, <i>(Non) tutti a Mensa</i>, 2018), with the worst situations reported in southern Italy and among children from foreign families. Therefore, it is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide free school meals; increase monitoring and awareness of the issue, including by providing specific teacher training courses and introducing the study of the right to food, in the “Citizenship and Constitution” teaching programme, with the support of a specialist in the treatment of eating disorders; allocate funds for the creation of large school vegetable gardens at municipal level, from which schools can obtain supplies, to encourage the setting up of agri-food consortia for the production of local products, fair pay for farmers, and the creation of new supply management jobs.
2.2	Promote greater awareness of healthy eating	<p>In order to eliminate malnutrition, defined as either an excessive or deficient intake of nutrients and energy in relation to needs, it is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitor the impacts of Covid-19 on nutrition in all its forms, especially regarding the groups most affected by the pandemic; maintain compliance with the commitments made at the World Health Assembly in 2012 to combat malnutrition by increasing funding at national and multinational level to promote healthier and more sustainable lifestyles; disseminate the principles of a balanced and sustainable diet, as embodied in the Mediterranean diet, a model that is also accepted at international level and differs from positions that tend to oversimplify nutritional information and reduce complex foods by favouring individual ingredients and assigning them nutritional labelling (so-called nutri-score); invest in education and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as in more comprehensive forms of labelling, thus enabling citizens to make economically, environmentally and socially sustainable food choices; improve the quality of school canteens (in terms of nutritional aspects and the quality of raw materials), make food accessible to all minors from low-income or socially disadvantaged families (and, if possible, extend this right to their families), and provide special funds to school canteens that are part of the localised model, which envisages a kitchen for each school. In this case, the school kitchen would not only enable access to food during the school term, but also during periods when teaching activities are suspended due to the pandemic. This policy is in synergy with the food education policy, which should start in schools and then be extended to families.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
2.3	Develop a sustainable food chain	<p>Italy will have to draw up a strategic plan for alignment with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027 that improves the economic position of farmers in the production chain. Therefore, the development and adoption at national level of sustainable agricultural practices that are already tried and tested and working at local level should be promoted, including through specific dissemination programmes (such as joining digital platforms that present the benefits of such practices), up-scaling schemes and targeted public and private investment.</p> <p>It might be appropriate to conduct information campaigns on the benefits of farmers adopting sustainable and sustainable practices in line with the eco-schemes of the new CAP.</p> <p>It is also necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote land access policies that are not only reserved for already active and capitalised farms but also extend this possibility to other categories (small farmers, women, youth cooperatives, etc.), through adequate financial support and, where necessary, training; • encourage production aimed at local markets and short supply chains; • promote policies and incentives to reduce the levels of food loss in the field; • oppose sales that are below average production costs, which are harmful to both producers and consumers; • take up the opportunities provided by the national plan to reduce the digital divide in the public sector, by investing in the promotion of Agriculture 4.0, and in modernisation of the IT system of the State Aid Register and, more generally, in modernisation of the IT systems of the public bodies that support the agricultural sector; • promote initiatives to improve the living conditions of farm workers, starting with contractual instruments that are suitable for resolving job insecurity issues. Structural shortcomings in terms of housing and adequate services, especially transport, should be resolved, as well as child and family services that would encourage the presence of women in the labour market [Source: CREA (2021), Agricultural Yearbook 2019]. <p>In particular, in order to facilitate the achievement of gender equality and to enhance the contribution of women, it is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set up and finance agri-nurseries and agri-kindergartens, especially in inner and rural areas; • provide adequate means of transport to reach them; • reward companies that implement concrete measures to promote gender equality and work-life balance; • review the compulsory maternity and paternity leave scheme; • provide efficient and targeted gender-neutral training, and include compliance with contractual provisions and involvement of the social partners in the governance phase among the requirements of the gender equality certification system; • consider whether, as part of the review of the CAP, the granting of European subsidies should be made conditional not only on compliance with crop specifications and cultivation areas, but also on social conditionality leading to compliance with standards and collective labour agreements throughout the EU; • promote agricultural, food and forestry research that is: multidisciplinary; supported by public intervention to safeguard collective interests, alongside private investment and in line with strategic planning guidelines; applied or characterised by “simpler” experimentation; able to provide immediate responses with readily adoptable innovations; able to support a fragmented sector, in order to facilitate relations with widely dispersed operators, and respond to broader emergencies, as well as requirements affecting a smaller number of users.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
2.4	Incentives for business to disseminate innovative approaches to sustainable farming	<p>Agriculture needs to be transformed from one of the sectors most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions into an ally in combating climate change by promoting more sustainable use of land and water resources and reducing GHG emissions. It is, therefore, necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage diversification of agricultural production and promote better crop management; • promote policies that support agro-ecological, circular and regenerative approaches. For example, by shifting from policies based on short-term subsidies to medium - and long-term structural strategies inspired by the principles of circular economy, including through the enhancement of local knowledge and traditions; • provide additional incentives, where necessary at local level, for organic farming, not least in order to meet the target set out in the EU's From to Farm to Fork Strategy of achieving 25% of agricultural surface area for organic farming by 2030. The intensification of sustainable production should be linked to sustainable diets by encouraging a shift in both diets and production towards more plant-based diets; • safeguard biodiversity and promote nature-based solutions to increase resilience to natural disasters and climate change; • encourage the production of bio-based fertilisers with a circular approach: the nutrients contained in agricultural residual biomass can be recovered and used, thereby replacing synthetic fertilisers and reducing nutrient imports. To this end, it is necessary to resolve legislative ambiguities and implement an appropriate control system. Information and training initiatives are also needed to ensure the correct use of bioproducts by farmers, as well as adequate communication with consumers; • promote local development and invest in inner areas and parks with tangible and intangible infrastructure projects; • accelerate the ecological transition of the fisheries sector with a view to achieving socio-economic and environmental sustainability; • combat desertification and drought, especially in the southern regions of Italy, including through investment in infrastructure works relating to the conservation and rational use of water; • conduct a comprehensive review of the rules governing protection against natural disasters and destructive epidemic events; • encourage agri-food companies to ensure sustainable production, and also, via environmental, social and economic sustainability certifications and due diligence obligations, to guarantee the sustainability of their own raw material supply chains; • ensure a standardised and scientifically based framework for the labelling of sustainable food, and any form of environmental and sustainability claims, in order to ensure that consumers are properly informed, and enabling them to make more informed and responsible choices.
		<p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the quantity of fertilisers distributed for agricultural use by 20% versus 2019. • By 2030, allocate 25% of agricultural surface area for organic farming.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
2.5	Preserve genetic resources to protect specific indigenous agricultural products and to promote Italy's competitive advantage	<p>It is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise the preservation and recovery of biodiversity and ecological services, by promoting nature-based solutions to increase resilience to natural disasters and climate change; • encourage the adaptation of natural and semi-natural species and ecosystems to climate change, and provide mitigation measures to reduce the impact of climate change on biodiversity and human wellbeing; • integrate biodiversity conservation into economic and sectoral policies, and raise awareness of the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services and of the costs of their loss; • acknowledge the connection between biodiversity and diversity in diets by promoting food education initiatives that highlight the benefits of varied diets and the consumption of non-standardised foods, including local production; • promote programmes exploring, cataloguing and designed to conserve plant and animal genetic resources at local level. The abandonment of inner areas also leads to the disappearance of knowledge about the use and characteristics of local varieties. Together with agro-biodiversity, information on how native plants can be used should also be collected from local people.
2.a	Agricultural performance in developing countries (transfer of know-how and improvement of technical assistance)	<p>Despite the fact that the problems of hunger and food security are mainly concentrated in developing countries, all states on the planet must be involved in efforts to improve nutrition - in terms of both quantity and quality - and to promote sustainable agriculture. Several factors should contribute to the implementation of such a strategy, which are deemed essential to ensure food security for a rapidly growing world population and the environmental sustainability of food production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support for regional and multilateral cooperation mechanisms to keep regional and global food supply chains operational, even in the face of future external shocks;
2.b	Agricultural performance in developing countries (support policies)	
2.c	Agricultural performance in developing countries (market rules decided at WTO level)	

Goal 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
3.1	Support for reducing the global maternal mortality ratio	Step up the systematic collection of accident cases and their critical review, and the training of health professionals.
3.2	Care for newborns and infants	Promote the standardisation of regional child healthcare interventions: support for childbirth and promotion of dedicated activities in the first thousand days of life. Promote measures to reduce children's exposure to environmental risks. In addition to implementing structural measures to reduce harmful environmental emissions (measures for the whole population), promote education and training campaigns at national, regional and local level to enable families, teachers and paediatricians to recognise incorrect behaviour that is often considered harmless but may unintentionally expose children to environmental pollutants.
3.3	Tackle epidemics and communicable diseases	Structurally strengthen prevention departments and promote the preparation of regional and local pandemic plans; upgrade the national epidemiological network and tracking systems, and accelerate full implementation of prevention standard healthcare provision; introduce flexibility into the service system in terms of low-maintenance, ready-to-use facilities, back-up staff and personal protective equipment; review training programmes for health workers, broadening the range of skills to encompass management, epidemiological surveillance and the integration of social and health interventions, and also introducing subjects such as health statistics, epidemiology, health sociology, psychology and organisational management.
3.4	Prevention and treatment of chronic diseases. Mental health and wellbeing	Reorganise the complex long-term care system for disabled and dependent people; introduce binding standards, indicators and requirements for local care and for residential and semi-residential facilities operating in the area of social and health integration; expand the number of public local facilities, such as nursing homes and community centres; ensure that people are taken care of and the continuity of care provided by hospital and local authorities, for example by strengthening intermediate facilities such as community hospitals; redesign the roles and tasks of GPs; boost assistance to needy and disabled people, primarily in their own living environment, including social and health care at home and in semi-residential facilities; strengthen the role of caregivers and provide relief and support measures for their families; upgrade and strengthen mental health departments, in order to fill structural gaps in many areas of the country and to strengthen neuropsychiatric centres for children, adolescents and young adults; revise and fully implement the national waiting list management plan; rapidly implement the joint information system for social and health services.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2025, reduce the probability of death from a non-communicable disease by 25% versus 2013.
3.5	Public awareness of healthy lifestyles	Upgrade and quantitatively and qualitatively adapt family counselling centres throughout the country (approximately 1,000 are lacking); strengthen school medicine to provide young people with health education, and promote healthy lifestyles and health monitoring in schools; upgrade school and extra-curricular facilities, game centres and school and extra-curricular activity centres; enhance the quality of living spaces in cities and out-of-town areas (green spaces, private mobility, transport); promote urban and out-of-town physical activities (footpaths, pedestrian routes, cycle paths, open-air gyms, slow tourism); promote sustainable and local agriculture (city allotments, farming cooperatives).

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
3.6	Prevention of personal risk factors by improving road safety behaviours	Reduce the causes of road accidents, both individual (health, age, drug consumption and lifestyle) and social (economic and socio-cultural conditions). Promote information and education on factors that alter the psychophysical state of drivers, such as alcohol and drug use, medication and sleep deprivation; promote awareness-raising campaigns, and step up enforcement of legislation and checks and sanctions. See Target 11.2
	Traffic reduction and improvement of road safety	Target: • By 2030, halve mortalities caused by road traffic accidents versus 2019.
3.7	Sexual and reproductive health	Promote national, regional and local activities that ensure adequate and accessible healthcare for all, with regard to sexual and reproductive rights (maternal, prenatal and neonatal healthcare; safe abortion services and elimination of discrimination in access to health services for LGBTB people).
3.8	Investment in the health system and local healthcare provision. Implementation of the new system guaranteeing essential standards of care across all regions of Italy	Make use of all the resources made available by Next Generation EU and the European Stability Mechanism, by increasing the resources allocated to social protection and social and health services by Italy's draft plan; aligning the available resources of Italy's National Health Fund (FSN) with those of other major European countries, by making the resources set aside in the emergency phase structural; promoting a plan for extraordinary, stable recruitment of health and social care professionals and administrative staff; increasing resources for staff training and reorganising them to meet new requirements; implementing the new system for guaranteeing essential standards of care.
3.9	Implementation of the REACH Regulation	Promote the safety and sustainability of chemicals through the definition of international actions and interventions to implement the REACH Regulation and by promoting research and innovation in accordance with the Green Deal, in order to ensure the reduction of disease and deaths caused by pollution and contamination of air, water and soil by hazardous chemicals.
3.a	Investment in public and private research	Promote data sharing, technology and skills development in the health sector; encourage national and international collaboration on research and innovation.
3.b	Increase awareness of the health risks linked to smoking	Strengthen national and international policies and synergies to implement multi-sectoral measures and coordinated actions that include the participation of civil society.
3.c	Strengthen global health systems	Promote policies to strengthen health systems in economically less developed countries, in order to promote global healthcare and access to quality health services for all.
3.d	Strengthen global cooperation. Pandemic prevention and response	Promote policies and interventions that prioritise the collective dimension of healthcare and global strategies to combat possible pandemics. Decree 73 of 25 May 2021 authorises the use of funds for the implementation of Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/472 of 17 March 2021 on a common approach to establish systematic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants in wastewater. Funds are provided for the European Stability Mechanism regarding health and climate as part of international initiatives to finance "global public goods", especially pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and to support climate action in developing countries, as envisaged in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Goal 4: QUALITY EDUCATION		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
4.1	Access to quality education for all: primary, middle and secondary schools	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> invest in overcoming the gaps in minimum skills and learning loss exacerbated by the pandemic crisis, and reverse the worrying trend whereby students from socio-economically disadvantaged families or those who live in southern regions of Italy are more likely to fail to reach the minimum level of competence in mathematics and reading; invest in combating early school leaving - whether explicit or implicit - by ensuring resources are committed, in addition to those already invested in the National Reform Programme, to guarantee the provision of full-time schooling and to ensure a gradual extension of in-school presence throughout the country; promote open and integrated education, by keeping schools open throughout the day, especially in the most deprived areas, providing educational and extracurricular activities, with a view to implementing Community Education Pacts; improve the disciplinary and, above all, educational training of new and serving teachers, including constant checking of the skills acquired. In particular, permanent teaching posts should be granted after initial training following a compulsory and structured procedure that verifies graduates' professional skills and confirms their ability to teach satisfactorily.
		<p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic mathematical skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds). By 2030, reduce the share of students who have not attained basic reading skills to below 15% (18-19 year olds). By 2030, reduce the share of students who are early leavers from education and training to below 9% (18-24 year olds).
4.2	Access to quality education for all: creches and nursery schools	We recommend that, within a decade, creche and nursery school attendance should be promoted by exempting the most vulnerable social groups from paying fees.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2030, achieve a 96% participation rate in early childhood education (4-5 year olds).
4.3	Access to quality education for all: universities and life-long learning	Access to quality education should be guaranteed, by financing schools as the engine of Italy's recovery, and increasing regular investment in public education, with the aim of raising it from the current 3.9% of GDP to 5%, thereby reaching the European average.
4.4	Continuous training (with Target 8.5)	An interdepartmental structure should be established between the relevant ministries and regions, which is open to the most representative business associations. It is also important to enhance cross-cutting and digital skills training in curricula and the new forms of onlife expression and participation, by promoting the acquisition and assessment of students' digital skills through innovative and inclusive teaching, which also has an impact on learning environments, digital skills, soft skills and media education.
4.5	Tackle persistent gender stereotypes and inclusive learning	It is recommended to combat gender stereotypes in everyday teaching, to adapt and customise teaching methods to different learning styles, and to reduce the learning gap in science subjects through innovations in curricula and the content of teaching materials.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
4.7	Education for global citizenship and sustainability	It is recommended to strengthen the preparation of specific curricula for teaching civic education in schools of all levels and in all regions, based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the United Nations.
4.a	Education facilities and learning environments	It is recommended that, together with the objectives of securing school facilities and energy sustainability, objectives related to educational innovation should be integrated, in recognition of the role of learning environments.

Goal 5: GENDER EQUALITY		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
5.1	Integrate the gender dimension in all EU policy areas	<p>Senate Draft Law 170: Amendments to the Civil Code regarding the surnames of spouses and children. On 13 January 2021, given the inertia of the legislature, which in four years has still not approved the comprehensive reform of surnames, defined as “not deferrable” in the previous ruling 286 of 2016, the Constitutional Court decided to send an “ultimatum” to the legislature, to avoid the risk that a clearly unconstitutional regulation of surnames would remain in force indefinitely. This time, the Constitutional Court intends to go beyond a partial declaration of constitutional illegality and issue a new urgent warning to the legislature. Other draft laws also include amendments to the provisions regarding spouses’ surnames.</p> <p>Senate Draft Law 270: <i>Measures regarding the protection of minors and safeguarding the dignity of women in advertising and the media.</i> The draft law aims to prohibit the dissemination of messages that discriminate against the image of women or undermine the dignity and rights of women and minors in advertising and in news and communication media via the use of photographs, films, and audio and video messages that offend the dignity of men and women.</p>
5.2	Prevent and combat violence against women	Senate Draft Laws 655, 1597 and 1628: Provisions to combat sexual harassment and harassment in the workplace. This legislation stems from the need to create appropriate instruments for women who undergo sexual harassment by colleagues or employers in the workplace, while also supporting the amendments already implemented and the commitments undertaken regarding this issue.
5.5	Equal opportunities	<p>Senate Draft Law 1785: Regulations regarding the promotion of gender balance in constitutional bodies, independent authorities, bodies of publicly controlled companies and government advisory committees. The objective is to address the issue of women’s access to senior positions by promoting - in implementation of art. 51, paragraph 1 of the Constitution - gender balance in constitutional bodies, independent authorities and bodies of listed and unlisted companies controlled by public administrations.</p> <p>Senate Draft Law 265, amending Articles 6 and 47 of the Consolidated Laws on the organisation of local authorities, pursuant to Legislative Decree 267 of 18 August 2000, with a view to ensuring adequate gender representation in municipal and district councils and boards.</p> <p>The draft law is aimed at ensuring that non-compliance with current legislation regarding gender representation in municipal and district councils is immediately sanctioned by automatically rendering the acts appointing the councils null and void, by amending articles 6 and 47 of the Consolidated Law on Local Authorities. In addition, for municipalities with a population of more than 5,000 inhabitants and up to 15,000 inhabitants - based on the assumption that it may be more difficult to comply with the representation thresholds laid down in the new legislation - the possibility of proceeding with the formation of municipal councils has been provided for, entailing justification of their specific composition on the grounds of the proven impossibility of complying with the representation thresholds laid down in the new legislation.</p>
		<p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, halve the gender employment gap versus 2020. • By 2030, achieve gender equality in ICT-related jobs.
5.a	Development of female entrepreneurship	Senate Draft Laws 2930, 2049 and 2992, regarding the promotion of women’s employment and entrepreneurship in agriculture, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, and delegation to the Government of the implementation of Directive 2010/41/EU. A ministerial decree should be urgently issued to establish a National Committee for Women’s Entrepreneurship, with the involvement of social partners and social actors, to assess applications for access to the Women’s Entrepreneurship Fund.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
5.c	Gender equality at work	<p>EU Council Conclusions (2/12/2020), Tackling the Gender Pay Gap: Valuation and Distribution of Paid Work and Unpaid Care Workers.</p> <p>In accordance with their competences, and taking into account national situations and respecting the role of social partners, member states are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • launch actions to pursue equal personal and professional opportunities for men and women, and to fairly distribute paid and unpaid parental and domestic care duties; • allocate public funds to ensure access to quality care services for children, including through appropriate infrastructure; • define indicators to measure the gender care gap using the standardised EU time use survey. <p>National legislation to overcome the gender pay gap is urgently needed, together with monitoring and verification so that the European Directive may be rapidly approved.</p> <p>Senate Draft Law 522: Provisions to overcome the pay gap between women and men and to facilitate women's access to employment, unanimously approved by the Labour Commission on 6 July 2021, and pending consideration in the Assembly. Interventions are needed to promote policies and behaviours aimed at removing the obstacles that still affect the quality and career progression of women and, consequently, growth in their earnings. The definition of guidelines for the application of the Conditionality Clause, as provided for by Law Decree 77 of 31 May 2021, converted into Law 108 of 29 July 2021, is deemed urgent, as requested by the National Confederation of Local Authorities (ANCI), among others, with a view to improving on the current figure (30% overall including the young and women) via a tighter definition for both categories.</p>

Goal 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
6.1	Social use of water resources. Implementation of the outcome of the 2011 referendum on public water services	The law on public water services in response to the outcome of the 2011 referendum still urgently needs to be approved, as already pointed out in the first 2016 report and continuously reiterated by ASviS. This is also vital in order to eliminate uncertainties about the future management framework for the integrated water system, and to define the investments needed to pursue the Targets of Goal 6 and to meet the deadlines of the European directives that have already expired. Among the new measures to be introduced, reference should also be made to the new Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, and the relative synergies and alignments should be assessed. Ratification of the WHO-UNECE Protocol on Water and Health, and recognition of water as a universal right, are also necessary.
6.2	Implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive	<i>By 2030, achieving adequate and equitable access to sanitation and hygiene for all and eliminating open defecation</i> is a marginal issue in the context of Italy, but one that needs to be addressed where it exists, in conjunction with the right to adequate housing and basic services (see Target 11.1).
6.3	Prevention of water pollution	Water pollution prevention policies require an integrated vision and design as set out in the framework of the European Zero Pollution Strategy included in the European Green Deal, in close correlation with agricultural policies to reduce pesticide use and excessive nutrient inputs, pursuing as far as possible all the objectives of the European From Farm to Fork Strategy (Goal 2), as well as the depollution of industrial production processes (see Goals 8, 9 and 12), and in particular the release of non-biodegradable waste such as plastics into the environment.
	Waste water treatment	For wastewater treatment and purification, the NRRP estimates that the planned allocation of €0.6 billion will be sufficient to bring the number of inhabitants areas that do not comply with the directive down to zero, and enable the recovery, where possible, of energy and sludge, and the re-use of purified wastewater for irrigation and industrial purposes. The effectiveness of the measure in achieving results, and its compatibility with public management in accordance with the implementation of the 2011 referendum outcome (see Target 6.1) will be monitored.
		Target: • By 2027, guarantee that all surface water bodies have a high or good level of ecological quality.
6.4	Efficiency improvements to civil water networks	Industrial plans are needed to bring the efficiency of civil water networks up to standard, taking into account a stable regulatory framework for public management in accordance with the 2011 referendum outcome (see Target 6.1). The necessary provisions must be quantified and considered as urgent and imperative measures, including in the context of climate change adaptation actions, making use of all possible waivers of the budgetary rules regarding public spending, where necessary. The European Commission's recommendation in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (see Goal 13) to integrate adaptation into macro-fiscal policies by assessing the main economic impacts of climate risks and considering their cost in future public budget planning processes should be taken into account.
	Efficiency in the end use of water	Awareness-raising campaigns on the efficient use of and confidence in water by end consumers should be developed, as is partly foreseen in the measure provided for in the 2021 Budget Law - paragraph 752.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
6.4	Efficiency of the agricultural irrigation system	<p>It is also essential to achieve efficiency in the agricultural irrigation system, albeit integrated with priority adoption of nature-based agronomic practices (as also recommended in the NRRP in the general description of M2C4) that reduce the need for irrigation, taking into account the environmental co-benefits produced by such measures (protection and restoration of biodiversity, carbon capture, reduced use of chemical fertilisers and protection from groundwater pollution, food quality). The action should clearly be integrated with Goal 2. Irrigation infrastructure should also be designed with climate change in mind, in pursuit of food resilience objectives (greater self-sufficiency).</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve a 90% efficiency rate for drinking water distribution.
6.6	Management of water basin plans and the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity (with Goal 15)	<p>This Target complements Goal 15, in particular but not exclusively Target 15.1, to which reference should be made. Indeed, the entire planet is an ecosystem linked to water, but it is precisely by focusing on the water resources of ecosystems that the restoration process should be implemented, within the framework of the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration declared by the UN.</p>
6.a	Development cooperation	<p>In the context of international cooperation, Italy should commit to promoting the implementation of the Goal's Targets, starting with the protection of water-related ecosystems, an assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts on the related solutions and investments, and a coherence analysis of the various parameters defined by the 2030 Agenda. To this end, Italy should also promote the possibility of introducing innovative financing measures in developing countries that enable public debt to be swapped for investment in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as already agreed at the EU Council meeting of 22 June 2021.</p>

Goal 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
7.1	Combat energy poverty; climate social fund of the Fit for 55 package	<p>Bring the issue of energy poverty, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic, before Parliament as part of the review of instruments such as basic income and emergency income. Regarding water, electricity and gas, it is recommended to exempt the poorest sectors of the population from paying grid charges and consumption up to an amount of social consumption calculated on the basis of the composition of households. Once standard consumption has been exceeded, payment of the exempt portion and grid charges will be reintroduced on a proportional basis. This recommendation implies that low and renewable energy prices, as prescribed by the Target, will not be on a per-consumption basis nor the same for everyone. New energy poverty policies should also be formulated by transposing the principles and instruments of the Fit for 55 package adopted by the European Commission on 14 July 2021, such as the Social Climate Plan, which should complement the PNIEC. These policies should be in line with the forecasts of the revised PNIEC, taking into account revenues from carbon pricing (new energy taxation and expansion of the Emissions Trading System). The support measures should come into force as early as 2022 and, in any event, at least one year before application of the above carbon pricing instruments, including assessment of a possible gradual timeframe that is compatible with the 2030 decarbonisation targets. A multilevel energy poverty governance system should be established, involving the regions and municipalities, which in addition to welfare solutions such as energy expenditure bonuses, also promotes subsidies aimed at aggregating demand for investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy production.</p>
7.2	Support the renewable energy offering	<p>As with the other Targets, ASviS recommends full implementation of the EU Fit for 55 package and the Green Deal. The Next Generation EU funds, the cohesion funds and the ordinary budget should also be strictly aligned to the Fit for 55 package and aimed at the relevant transition. Therefore, in addition to realignment of all national planning, the PNIEC etc., we are calling for Italy's most serious problems to be addressed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transparent planning with the regions of the uses of land and urban spaces in order to enable installation of renewable energy sources to the extent required; • in Parliament, the media and civil society, address the issue of consents for new RES installations, including via participatory consultation methods; • implement and set milestones by 2030 for the general electrification of industry, transport and civil works, and systematically construct electricity grids and supply and charging points. Carry out the same operations for green hydrogen, from production with electrolyzers through to distribution. For example, the supply of electricity and H2 should be designed to replace current fossil fuel supplies in the form of gas networks, fuel distributors and any other supply sources in all sectors; • all results should be posted on the web once a year and published annually with the Budget Law. In order to effectively exploit new renewables, the PNIEC should include appropriate transposition of the European Strategy for an integrated and flexible energy system across different energy carriers and consumption sectors. Hydrogen will be produced exclusively for the transformation of energy from these intermittent renewables and reused in sectors that are hard to electrify and hard to abate.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve a 40% share of energy from renewable sources.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
7.3	Cut demand for energy	The revision of the PNIEC should fully take on board the well-established EU principle of prioritising energy efficiency. Therefore, energy efficiency should be treated as an energy source in its own right, taking into account the greater benefits it can bring - once fully operational - including lower overall resource consumption, minimisation of energy system costs, and balancing demand with the availability of intermittent renewables. The European 9% consumption reduction target set in the proposed revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive of the Fit for 55 package should be adopted as a minimum benchmark. As the method used for white certificates and the Ecobonus has proven to be efficient and has been explicitly recognised in Europe, we recommend that the effectiveness of these measures be monitored via annual, transparent public audits, using shared methods. Every objective should be checked, but in this case it is necessary to dispel doubts about the real effects of increasing efficiency, and to ensure in particular that the substantial Next Generation EU funds are as effective as they need to be. The reports on the results achieved should be accessible online and published every year with the Budget Law.
	Energy efficient buildings (with Target 11.1)	The EU has already made the greatest commitment to energy efficiency in buildings, complemented with renewables, in order to cut emissions by 60% by 2030 compared to 2015. Definition of a plan for the long-term decarbonisation of the building sector, which is already required by Directive 2010/31/EU, and its integration within the framework of the revised PNIEC, is urgently needed. Compared to the EU average, Italy can raise the level of its ambition, given the greater technical ease and lower costs for achieving decarbonisation of the sector, the lower winter requirements, and the potential to use peak production from renewables for daytime cooling during the summer.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce final energy consumption by 14.4% versus 2019.
7.a	International cooperation	As part of international cooperation, Italy should commit to develop renewable and off-grid energy systems in developing countries that are in line with the level of ambition of the Paris Agreement, including assessment of the related economic, social and environmental impacts, and taking into account all the various parameters set out in the 2030 Agenda. To this end, Italy should also commit to promoting the possibility of introducing innovative financing measures in developing countries, which would enable public debt to be swapped for investment in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as already agreed at the EU Council meeting of 22 June 2021.

Goal 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
8.1	New growth models that uncouple growth from increased consumption	As emphasised in the European Semester Spring Package recommendations, the possibilities made available by Next Generation EU, and given substance in the reforms and investments listed in the NRRP, represent Italy's best chance to stimulate economic growth after years of underperformance, whilst decoupling the country from activities that are harmful for the environment, ecosystems and society. In particular, promises of greater simplification and transparency in administrative procedures (including judicial proceedings, taxation, administrative procedures, etc.) should be lived up to. Public incentives for the private sector should be reorganised in order to avoid encouraging harmful practices, and to act in harmony with Europe in the enforcement of sustainable environmental and social standards in other parts of the world.
	Support birth rates (with Target 5.4)	As regards the birth rate, the reorganisation of bonuses is a promising step, although its implementation needs to be monitored to ensure that its effects guarantee that everyone is fully included. Contribution benefits for workers on maternity leave should be extended to companies with up to 250 employees.
8.2	Support for the production and spread of innovation, for the digitisation of businesses and the development of digital skills. Training and upskilling for female and male workers	Technological innovation, Industry 4.0, and the like, are increasingly linked to participatory work organisation methods, which strengthen the engagement of employees, thereby increasing productivity, and also increasing the extent to which employees are involved in achieving the company's objectives. This requires efforts at national level to ensure reskilling and continuous learning, and giving everyone the necessary tools to adapt to a changing world of work. The adoption and promotion of new tools in keeping with new models in the field of innovation should be evaluated.
8.3	Support for male and female entrepreneurship and job creation. Work-life balance and agile working	See Goal 5.
8.4	Ecological and industrial transition for businesses. Circular economy policies	The circular economy should be a central theme for economic development and job creation, with a focus on a national strategy that encourages redevelopment of industrial areas and employment in sectors with low consumption of raw materials. It is important to reflect on training models for young people from the perspective of environmental, social and economic sustainability. Sustainable development will bring about many transformations in the world of work, of which one of the most important is not so much the emergence of new professions and skills as the emergence of "constellations of new professions and skills". As sustainability is a multidimensional process, it follows that the related tasks, activities and skills do not evolve separately but rather together in a single process. In the management of a complex process, such as a city, the application of geo-localisation processes and de-centralised technologies, and the use of big data and artificial intelligence can facilitate the creation of sustainable and circular living environments based on the efficient use of resources, and smart management of water, public lighting, waste and transport.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
8.5	Active labour policies, support for people switching to jobs in growth sectors and for the employment of disadvantaged people and those with disabilities	<p>The Government should prepare a national employment strategy to meet the ambition outlined at European level. In particular, priority should be given to training and retraining activities, support activities for the most disadvantaged groups (young people and women) and incentives for the private sector, in order to ensure stable, decent employment that is less susceptible to shocks.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve an employment rate of 78% (20-64 year olds).
8.6	Youth employment and preparation for study and work	<p>As previously highlighted, a national youth employment plan is indispensable. With the current levels of unemployment, it is impossible to imagine a sustainable future for our country. We need to start with the education system - including schools, technical colleges and universities - by offering quality training adapted to current circumstances. The mismatch between labour supply and demand highlights a lack of communication between the training and labour systems, but also a lack of policies and initiatives for young people to help them make choices that reflect their abilities. It should also be ensured that employment can be lifelong, by offering reskilling and learning pathways at all ages, so that new skills can be acquired over time. The participation of key stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society and trade unions, will be crucial in building a cohesive national pathway that takes into account the vulnerabilities exacerbated by the pandemic, especially among women and young people in southern Italy.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the number of NEETs to below 9% (15-29 year olds).
8.7	Tackle the issue of early leavers from education	See Goal 4.
8.9	Sustainable tourism, support for green jobs and those related to culture (with Target 12.b)	The importance of tourism, both as an element of economic growth and as a source of employment, is vital for a country like Italy, which is otherwise lacking in natural resources. The care and protection of the landscape, ecosystems and our unique artistic and cultural heritage must go hand in hand with their enhancement in a process that overcomes the current fragmentation, makes use of new technologies, including by developing partnerships with the private sector, and draws on the best international experiences.
8.a	Assistance for trade support to developing countries	<p>Attention should be paid to the international trade treaties implemented by the EU. The treaties are essential to regulate trade in favour of more vulnerable parties and consumers, using European soft power. The presence of worker and consumer protection clauses in treaties can be a powerful incentive to boost respect for their rights worldwide.</p> <p>See also Goal 16.</p>
8.b	Youth employment policies and support for young people during the transition between different levels of employment	See Targets 8.5 and 8.6.

Goal 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
9.1	Rail network Road network and other transport infrastructure (ports, airports, etc.)	Freight hubs should publish their own sustainability reports so that they also invest in activities that reduce their environmental and social impact. In addition to bringing high-speed rail passenger services to routes currently without, intermodal high-speed freight transport should be promoted via the digitalisation of logistics services. Procedures for the transformation and use of port and surrounding areas should be simplified, and intermodal infrastructure and services should be improved. It is right to press ahead with major infrastructure projects, but we should also support smaller-scale projects and the revamping of existing infrastructure. The current public works system has proven to be slow and inadequate. Measures should be taken to reform the processes across the board: planning, procurement and project management. The procurement of electric and hybrid motor vehicles should be increasingly incentivised. In addition to these subsidies, the average power of the charging units needs to be stepped up to enable long range use of electric cars.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2050, double the share of freight transported by rail versus 2019.
9.4	Incentives for the adoption of sustainable practices by businesses	<p>It is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend tax relief on energy upgrades and building renovations (the <i>Bonus Idrico</i>, <i>Superbonus</i> and <i>Bonus Verde</i>). However, the standards for reducing polluting vehicles should be tightened by bringing down the thresholds, and aiming to phase out combustion-engine vehicles completely; • strengthen the Transition 4.0 programme aimed at accompanying business through the technological transition and environmental sustainability process. In order to relaunch the investment cycle, which has been penalised by the pandemic emergency, the tax credit rules on investment in new capital goods should be extended beyond 2022, by boosting tax relief, increasing eligible expenditure and broadening the scope of application; • encourage the transition to the green energy carrier H (hydrogen), and promote the construction of local production facilities; • promote the construction of new irrigation infrastructure and/or the upgrade of existing facilities in order to improve water resource management.
9.5	Support for production, the spread of innovation and digitalisation of businesses. Public research	<p>It is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restore the tax relief on research and innovation expenditure that existed prior to the 2020 Budget Law, which lowered it from 50% to 4% per year, especially in the most disadvantaged areas and for SMEs; • develop innovation ecosystems in southern Italy, as well as the national research programme and fund to support the establishment or strengthening of research centres, technology transfer and university training; • facilitate the career progression of university researchers by providing scholarships for interdisciplinary master's degrees and research projects on career guidance in the Public Administration; • support, involving all stakeholders, the transposition of the strategic recommendations of the NRRP into implementing decrees, in order to have clear and unambiguous guidelines; • involve a standardisation body, such as the Italian Standardisation Organisation (UNI), for the rapid creation of multidisciplinary process standards; • mainstream the Transition 4.0 Plan, which has a purely "manufacturing" vocation, to enable its more effective use in various industrial sectors, such as construction and agriculture.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, increase the share of GDP spent on R&D to 3%.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
9.c	Digital infrastructure	<p>Italy aims to go even further with the new targets set by the EU as part of the Digital Compass project for the digital sector, by focusing less on the inadequate Fibre-to-the-Curb (FTTC) connections and concentrating on Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) and Fibre-to-Business (FTTB). 20 million FTTH connections are expected by 2023, which will cover two thirds of the country. Appropriate mapping of grey areas would enable Italy to be fully FTTH cabled by 2026, four years ahead of the Digital Compass 2030 target. This requires vigilance, and we should not let this advantage slip from our grasp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy needs to strengthen its position within Gaia-X, a project it only recently joined. Currently, most of the data in the EU cloud are housed on servers outside the EU, and this is (partly) the reason for the substantial limitation of “open”, high-quality, up-to-date, easily searchable and automatically processable data. • We need to encourage the use of geo-spatial technologies for cities and local areas, and also build digital twins for the development of smart city and smart community experiences.
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2026, guarantee all households have access to the internet at speeds of 1 gigabyte.

Goal 10: REDUCED INEQUALITY		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
10.1	Combat income poverty (with Targets 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3)	<p>Although the NRRP specifies that 40% of resources (around €82 billion) should be earmarked for southern Italy, the actual expenditure allocation is only €35 billion. Part of the investment will be reallocated through calls for tenders, for which the planning and organisational capacities of the southern Italian authorities will be called upon.</p> <p>On the basis of Decree Law 77, art. 2, paragraph 6-bis, of 31 May 2021, the authorities shall ensure that, “when defining the procedures for implementing NRRP interventions, at least 40 per cent of the resources that can be allocated locally, including through calls for tenders, regardless of the financial source, should be allocated to the regions of southern Italy, without prejudice to any specific territorial allocations already provided for in the NRRP. The cohesion policies department of the Cabinet, via the data collected by the monitoring system set up by the central service unit for the NRRP referred to in Article 6, will verify compliance with the above-mentioned target and, where necessary, submit any irregular cases to the steering committee, which will adopt the necessary corrective measures and propose any offsetting measures”.</p> <p>Therefore, it will be necessary to ensure continuous monitoring by the Cabinet and the steering committee during the investment planning and implementation phases, and at the same time invest in strengthening administrative capacity in southern Italy.</p> <p>On the active labour policies front, the resources allocated to job centres should lead to the recruitment of 11,000 new staff members, compared with the current 7,500 (2018 data), thereby helping to reduce the gap with Germany and France, where similar facilities employ respectively 11 and 6.5 times more than the number of staff employed in Italy. However, the emerging profile of these new hires (mainly experts in administrative law) appears to be inadequate, as these facilities should also aim to recruit experts in the fields of psychology and digital orientation. Therefore, as well as boosting the training provided by job centres, it is also necessary to strengthen the training of job centre staff, by creating specific masters' degrees or stepping up on-the-job training.</p>
	Combat service poverty (with Target 1.4)	See Target 1.4.
10.2	Support for the disabled, the elderly and the vulnerable	<p>The project included in the NRPP to reform policies to support dependent elderly people - a policy awaited since the late 1990s - marks a clear break from the past. The NRRP confirms the current Government's intention to finally respond to the needs of dependent elderly people (and their families) - currently amounting to around 3 million Italians, a number that is set to double by 2030 - and to do so by paying attention to the recommendations being made by civil society, and to the debate that has arisen between civil society and the various institutional actors. As well as improving the elderly's quality of life and their contribution to the community, this reform will also increase the liberty of millions of women, on whom the primary burden of care falls. The current Government's willingness to reform has been confirmed by the allocation of a €3.5 billion investment within the scope of the NRRP.</p>
10.3	Equal opportunities policies (with Targets 5.4 and 8.1)	<p>The single family allowance responds to a specific need felt throughout the country, namely simplifying the allowance for families with dependent children, while increasing the number of beneficiaries. However, the system that emerges from the recently launched decree goes against the original universal nature of the measure, by making the allowance extremely progressive, and thereby heightening its focus on combating poverty to the detriment of bolstering the birth rate, as it was initially intended to do.</p> <p>The NRRP measures regarding creches and childcare services appear to be sufficient to significantly increase the coverage rate. However, the plan does not mention how the current expenditure needed to get the new facilities up and running will be financed, nor how staff will be recruited and trained.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
10.4	By 2030, reduce net income inequality (S80/S20) to the levels observed in the best European countries	<p>The proposal to reform the tax system is not driven by an overall vision but is rather a set of piecemeal interventions aimed at maintaining the existing system (for example, a renewed proposal for a dual system with progressive taxation only on earned income, marking an even further shift towards anti-progressive taxation of financial income by aligning its rate to the first IRPEF (personal income tax) rate, as well as acknowledgement of the “imperfections” of this dual system, such as the existing substitute regimes for capital income, which are financially unsustainable (e.g. abolition of IRAP - a business tax), and from which some issues that must be immediately addressed are excluded (e.g. taxation of wealth and inheritance and the related reform of the land register). The many weaknesses are offset by some strengths, but they are insufficient to reverse the overall negative verdict on the reform proposal: 1) the objective to simplify the system and lower the average effective rate for middle-bracket taxpayers with incomes between €28 thousand and €55 thousand; 2) the willingness to correct some of the incentives for perverse behaviour resulting from the current arrangements (e.g. deductions for second income earners on entering the labour market, and the possibility for self-employed people to continue to benefit from the flat tax regime subject to a minimum annual increase in turnover).</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce net income inequality (S80/S20) to the levels observed in the best European countries.
10.5	Improve competitiveness and the institutions	<p>The reform and competition-enhancing intentions contained in the NRRP, depending on the form the implementing decrees take, may have a positive impact on reducing inequalities. For example, the objectives of renewing beach concessions on a competitive basis, improving the quality of calls for tenders and encouraging co-design could contribute substantially to removing barriers to entry for younger people, thereby promoting entrepreneurship. However, this section of the plan lacks the clarity and level of detail that characterises other reform initiatives, so any positive verdict should be suspended pending issue of the relevant draft legislation. Finally, the NRRP reveals the Government’s unwillingness to introduce measures to counter the negative repercussions for consumers and workers of the growing concentration of market power in the hands of a small number of players in the technology and digital sectors, in contrast to what is happening in other countries (e.g., in the United States).</p>

Goal 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
11.1	Urban regeneration programmes	<p>The current situation reveals an endemic and extremely worrying lack of coordination between the various programmes implemented (the Cabinet - €2.1 billion for the Special Programme for Peripheral Areas; Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility - €854 million + €2.8 billion in the NRRP for the Innovative National Housing Quality Programme; Ministry of the Interior - €8.5 billion + €3.3 billion in the NRRP for the 2020 Budget Law programme and €2.45 billion + €210 million for integrated urban plans for metropolitan cities, as well as the cohesion policy funds), which will jeopardise the substantial allocations made. Urgent approval of legislation is needed to establish a single urban regeneration steering committee at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility, in close connection with the Interministerial Committee for Urban Policies, which should be reconstituted, including: a) the necessary technical expertise; b) the power to oversee the relevant authorities with regard to management of the allocations and monitoring the results; c) an observatory, with a view to improving the various programmes in the light of the results achieved and disseminating good practices. In order to implement the commitment contained in the NRRP, the Government should present a draft delegated law on reducing land use, urban regeneration and the fundamental principles of territorial governance. In order to achieve significant results in reducing land consumption, which is steadily increasing, building fees should be increased appropriately in all such cases, and the validity of existing building rights should be terminated within five years.</p> <p>See Targets 11.3 and 15.3.</p>
	Public and social housing	<p>In the programmes aimed at combating housing deprivation (e.g., the Innovative National Quality Housing Programme), it is necessary to go beyond merely holding calls for tenders, in order to move towards multiannual planning with stable and continuous funding, as recommended in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Peripheral Areas of the Chamber of Deputies in the 17th Legislature. A single steering committee for urban regeneration programmes, with preferably pooled funds, could provide a structural instrument for public and social housing policy, involving regular allocations and operating in synergy with the regions and the municipalities.</p>
	Housing policies	<p>The funds for rental support and blameless arrears, which have been refinanced during the Covid-19 crisis, have long been insufficient to meet real demand. Such funds should be regularly scheduled and backed by commitments in the various Budget Laws, and also be part of broader social protection measures. A National Observatory on Housing Conditions (art. 59 of Legislative Decree 112 of 1998, and art. 12 of Law 431 of 1998) should be established, in order to collect data, monitor local requirements and guide interventions.</p>
11.2	Local public transport and rapid mass transit systems	<p>In order to boost rapid mass transit in urban areas, Law 1042 of 1969, which is still in force, needs to be fully updated, including: a) simplification of procedures and responsibilities; b) establishment of a fund for the construction of underground railways, tramways and suburban railways, including final designs, which is currently very costly for local authorities. In addition, the gap between investment requirements (estimated by ASviS to stand at €33 billion in 2020) and available resources (€7.06 billion according to the Chamber of Deputies' report of 27 May 2021, plus €3.6 billion from the NRRP) must be closed. Based on these estimates, €22.3 billion is still lacking. Projects amounting to €11 billion, compared with an available €1 billion, were submitted to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility's call for bids, which expired on 15 January this year. The National Transport Fund also requires more financing, in order to ensure the current resources needed for local public transport operations.</p>
	Sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMPs)	<p>Monitoring of the approved SUMPs (Kyoto Club MobilitAria Report 2021, P. Coppola p. 71) shows that the following improvements are needed: a) the specification of financing instruments and sources that can be activated; b) economic sustainability for the interventions packages; c) annual monitoring of the plan, and consequent revision; d) a strengthening of the concept of metropolitan or greater city area. The Ministerial Guidelines for 2019 need to be updated.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
11.2	Sustainable mobility policies	<p>The proposal contained in the EU Commission's Fit for 55 package (of 14 July) to register only new zero-emission cars from 2035 requires appropriate policies, in order to guide the automotive sector towards the manufacture of electric vehicles and sustainable batteries (including the recovery, reuse and recycling chain) and research in the hydrogen sector, and also to promote their purchase. Incentives for low-emission vehicles should be closely linked to income, as it is precisely the most vulnerable households that experience the greatest difficulties. Renewal of the public sector vehicle fleet should be accelerated, raising the share of new electric, hybrid or hydrogen vehicles purchased or rented from 50% to 75%, as provided for in the 2020 Budget Law. The French <i>forfait mobilité durable</i> example could also be borrowed, with a tax-free annual contribution for public and private employees who opt to commute - and more generally travel - by bicycle (electric or otherwise), by pooling mobility (car sharing and similar), or by using electric, hybrid or pure hydrogen vehicles.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, increase the rate of seat km/person offered by public transport by 26% versus 2004.
11.3	Combat geographical inequalities. Inner and mountain areas	<p>The National Strategy for Inner Areas has aptly drawn attention to vulnerable areas traditionally deemed to be marginal. However, according to the Ministry of Economy, only 5.1% of the €279 million initially available at 31 December 2020 has been spent. This disappointing outcome has been affected by three factors: a) excessive centralised bureaucratic procedures; b) the extent of cooperation between the regions; c) the cumbersome procedures for signing framework programme agreements. These constraints must be overcome with innovative planning instruments, thereby ensuring bottom-up participation and greater transparency, in order to: a) apply the national strategy on a regular basis, so that all funds are well spent; b) use indicators that better define inner areas, such as climatic, biographic, physiographic and hydrogeological factors (ecological classification of areas to assess the impact of investment on sustainable development); c) incorporate objectives to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services and to enhance natural capital, which are crucial in maintaining an appropriate balance between cities and inner and mountain areas.</p>
11.5	Natural disasters	See Target 13.1.
11.6	Air quality	<p>Current legislation gives the regions planning autonomy with regard to air quality. However, the severe sentence of the infringement procedure for exceeding PM10 limits (2014/2147), and the ongoing procedures for exceeding Nox (2015/2043) and PM2.5 (2020/2299) limits, show that regional action is insufficient to deal with this situation. Cooperation between the regions, as shown, for example, by the important European Prepair project, and agreements between regional authorities and the Government, point towards a path that should be more energetically pursued towards a different form of governance that more resolutely involves the national level and addresses such issues as energy production, the transport system, and the main production chains, etc. Prompt preparation of the National Plan for Combating Climate Change and Improving Air Quality, envisaged by Law 141 of 2019 (Climate Decree), and not yet drafted, would provide the ideal opportunity.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce exceedances of PM10 limits to below 3 days a year.
11.7	Urban reforestation and green infrastructure	<p>The investment envisaged in the NRRP to protect and enhance urban and out-of-town green spaces (M2C4, 3.1), the funding for urban and out-of-town forestation projects in metropolitan cities (Law 141 of 2019, the so-called Climate Decree, art. 4) and the creation of urban green spaces to mitigate the effects of climate change in municipalities with more than 60,000 inhabitants (Ministry of Ecological Transition Directorial Decree of 15 April 2021), are a welcome step in the right direction to increase the - often scarce - public green spaces in major Italian cities. However, funding should be extended to all Italian municipalities and local authorities, with support given to policies for increasing cities' natural capital, including a specific plan for green areas to accompany the identification and maintenance of quality infrastructure, which is in line with current national strategies regarding green infrastructure, biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.</p>

Goal 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
12.1	Support for sustainable consumption patterns	<p>We call for programmatic intervention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify sustainability best practices and support their sharing in all countries, by finding and promoting suitable solutions based on local conditions and resources and implementing them; • implement policies for developed countries to support developing countries; • in implementing the Next Generation EU programme, rebalance the rapid progress towards ecological transition with incisive social justice and equity measures, so as not to leave anyone behind; • promote demand-side measures to support markets for consumer goods produced in an environmentally and socially sustainable way (also guaranteed by certification), thus encouraging virtuous behaviour by producers and consumers; • regulate environmental claims in order to avoid greenwashing and potentially misleading information, in order to protect consumers as well as the market.
12.2	Support for sustainable production patterns	<p>In order to have an increasingly circular economy we call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishment of a public register on the use of resources: land, green spaces, mobility sharing, and water; • promotion of the market for secondary raw materials and materials from renewable sources; reduction of waste and use of materials with a growing percentage of recycled content; the design of dismantlable, recyclable products with reduced environmental impact; • promotion of product reuse, including via exchange platforms, by drafting a law to reorganise the second-hand and reuse sector, including through partnerships and local and/or supply chain collaboration; • investment in food safety and quality, the circular bio-economy, sustainability research and soil fertility; • promotion of a mix of voluntary measures (environmental and social sustainability certification for supply chains) and mandatory measures (obligatory supply chain due diligence).
12.3	Combat food waste	<p>To combat food waste in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy we call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising awareness of the issue through analytical identification of the sources of waste (e.g., incorrect storage, overpurchasing, etc.) by demographic segments, lifestyles and consumption habits, as well as psychological analysis of the cognitive factors underlying decision-making; • a combating strategy at all levels of the food life cycle - through the various stages of harvesting, production, distribution and household consumption - in order to develop behavioural change programmes; • removal of barriers to surplus management: regulatory uncertainty and capacity/quality of recipients; • investment in facilities and technological tools to support - including with tax incentives (e.g., solar panels, bonuses, etc.) - companies that manage surpluses in accordance with the food and drink material hierarchy, and profit or non-profit organisations that reduce food waste in a circular economy process, by putting surpluses to good use; • development of efficiency across the entire food supply chain and stepping up relations between producers, distributors and consumers; • education on responsible consumption and citizens' awareness of their market power and pressure on agri-food companies, via targeted communication campaigns.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
12.4	Environmentally sound waste management and support for the circular economy	<p>The management of chemicals and all forms of waste throughout their life cycle was not achieved by 2020, and therefore it is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> invest in a targeted manner via a dedicated plan to achieve this Target by 2023; develop a plan for progressive, circular reuse of waste, by sorting and enhancing it, in order to protect the environment by adopting a matrix approach to the various waste input and output cycles; generally promote the spread and consolidation of a circular economy culture, which is also linked to the strategy for inner areas, ranging from primary education to continuous training of workers.
12.5	Reduce, recover and reuse waste	<p>A substantial shift towards zero waste entails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reversal of the economic logic of production, putting environmental and social impact before economic and GDP growth objectives; a transformative change in the way consumption is presented, by identifying barriers to responsible behaviour and analysing the consumer choice pathway in order to bring about behavioural change; a policy to invest in the integrated waste cycle, especially in southern Italy; adoption of policies for the preparation of waste for reuse and recycling (e.g. end of waste decrees); revision of waste collection charges, including resolution of the issue of outstanding receivables; development of the accounting system (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research waste register), including interregional municipal waste flows; investment in infrastructure for the distribution, storage and accumulation of electricity from renewable sources, smart grids, digitalisation of grids, energy communities, electricity interconnectors between European countries and with Africa, electrification of consumption, charging points for electric vehicles and charging stations for hydrogen vehicles; step up waste separation and reduce the use of landfill sites as much as possible; incentivisation of existing “reuse economies”; design, manufacture and use packaging products that are resource efficient, durable, including in terms of lifespan and planned obsolescence, decomposable, repairable, reusable and upgradable, and also use materials obtained from waste in their production; use easily recyclable plastics, such as biodegradable and compostable plastics, and recycled plastic. <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2030, increase the share of urban waste recycled to 60%.
12.6	Transparent sustainability reporting by businesses	<p>We call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promotion of a culture of sustainability at corporate and organisational level; analysis and dissemination of the advantages of businesses that invest in social and environmental sustainability: internal efficiency; consensus among employees, customers and suppliers; innovation and proactivity; risk reduction; reputation; increasing loyalty of quality segments; informing citizens about their market power, and about their capacity, if organised, to change the behaviour of business; quality working conditions and respect for workers; ethical finance support for ESG investments; extension of mandatory non-financial reporting to medium-sized companies; modernisation of equipped production areas, industrial districts and business networks using green infrastructure; construction of technology hubs for the circular economy and encouragement of research and innovation relating to durable and repairable products; a due diligence law on human and environmental rights.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
12.7	Green public procurement	<p>Supporting green and social public procurement requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of planning and reporting tools for local government purchases through budget items that are measurable within the sustainable development mission; • decisively include minimum social criteria, in addition to environmental criteria, and give them high priority; • launch a standardised, coordinated national policy on green and social public procurement; • strengthen green and social public procurement by fully applying the Procurement Code and the Minimum Environmental Criteria, partly to rationalise consumption and improve its accounting, thereby leading to important economic, environmental and social outcomes; • transpose EU guidelines for green and social public procurement in the various sectors at national level, also with a view to ensuring free competition within the EU, for example by providing minimum criteria for sustainability certification.
12.8	Widespread education and promotion of a sustainability culture and good practices	<p>New consciousness and lifestyles that are in harmony with nature require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rethinking priorities in life, going beyond the imperatives of consumerism and ownership, and rather seeking quality relationships and appreciation of all expressions of meaning and beauty; • consumption and savings choices that prioritise social sustainability (the well-being of everyone) and environmental sustainability (protection of the planet); • development of public-private partnerships to support the transition towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns; • persuasive and enabling communication, transferring skills and increasing the perception of control over the positive outcomes that may be achieved through our choices and behaviours; • education on social equity, environmental protection and combating climate change in all kinds of schools and in universities, as well as continuous training for workers.
12.a	Development cooperation for responsible production and consumption	<p>We call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research and innovation policies to support and “build” scientific and technological capacity regarding new paradigms that are compatible with full and respectful use of ecological balances and endogenous resources that can be reproduced locally, thereby bringing about a new kind of production and consumption and maintaining a balance between man and nature; • partnerships with third countries to improve social and environmental sustainability standards, and to increase productivity by reducing pressure on natural resources; • standards and processes to avoid the diversion of unsustainable products from national and EU markets to third markets; • a commitment by industrialised countries to reduce carbon emissions to zero ahead of 2030 as soon as possible, ensuring a just transition for workers and communities affected by climate change and the decarbonisation process, with actions and programmes to reduce poverty and curb inequalities in the enjoyment of human rights; • prioritise investment in responsibly produced renewable energy and social protection, while supporting the creation of new, decent and environmentally friendly jobs.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
12.b	Sustainable tourism (with Target 8.9)	<p>We recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating measurement indicators to assess the sustainability of supply, and researching the perceived wellbeing of the various tourism stakeholders; • investing in inner areas and parks with infrastructural, tangible and intangible interventions, promoting local development by guaranteeing income and cultural preservation including through sustainable tourism, and safeguarding biodiversity and resilience to natural disasters and climate change; • pay special attention to mountainous areas, by protecting the agro-ecological approach to the orographic and climatic characteristics of the mountains, in awareness that production costs are higher and amounts of products are lower, and providing tax breaks for mountain farming, forestry and pastoral activities; • focus on “quality products”, deriving from traditional livestock and vegetable production, by promoting PDO and PGI products in the Mountain Products Register, and thereby marketing local products.
12.c	Environmentally harmful subsidies	<p>We continue to call for a policy to move beyond unjustified (albeit hard to reduce) fossil fuel subsidies, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage a rapid transition to renewables in order to combat the climate crisis, while being fully aware that this involves shifting the environmental impact; • reduce consumption by eliminating waste and committing to significant investment in energy saving; • account for energy consumption either as depletion or reintegration of the natural resources extracted; • rapidly reduce fossil fuel subsidies, and allocate the resources saved to social measures to reskill and support the affected groups; • transform environmentally harmful subsidies into environmentally beneficial subsidies, as well as into investment to support green and sustainable supply chains.

Goal 13: CLIMATE ACTION		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
13.1	Support environmental risk prevention measures	A National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNACC) is urgently needed. As indicated in the new European adaptation strategy of March 2021, the plan will need to benefit from public funding opportunities, including macro-fiscal policy assessments of the harm to public budgets that may result over time from inaction or inadequate climate change preparedness and response. Actions should prioritise nature-based solutions and especially integration with Goals 2, 6, 11, 14, and 15, and also Goal 9, for infrastructure resilience and synergies with carbon sequestration measures under the new EU LULUCF Regulation. Given that adaptation actions are physically implemented in local areas, within a reasonable period of time (by 2022), municipalities and regions should ensure that all local planning actions, at every level, include stress tests relating to the most recent projections of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change on local climate vulnerabilities, and that they are brought into line with the pursuit of climate change adaptation objectives, with any relevant changes to municipal contingency plans made immediately. To this end: a) the PNACC should include tools and guidelines for risk assessment by local authorities and provide for separate general guidelines for the various sectors of production; b) together with the adaptation policies, measures to reduce hydro-geological risk should take into account the impact of the dynamics brought about by climate change in the short, medium and long term, and be equipped with a financing framework related to the recommendations set out in the adaptation measures, and a training plan for the public sector and the professionals and economic operators involved in local planning processes.
13.2	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (with Targets 2.4, 7.2, 7.3, 9.4, 11.2, 11.5 and 12.4)	<p>Based on the minimum threshold set out in the European Climate Law of a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 (less carbon sinks) and climate neutrality by 2050, Italy should do its utmost within the national and European framework to achieve the most ambitious level recommended by the best available science (a 65% cut by 2030), by helping to identify the bottlenecks in the system linked to the interdependency of the worlds of finance and industry, the renegotiation of positions, conflicts of interest, cultural aspects, and possible response measures, including through analyses and impact assessments conducted for the revision of the PNIEC. The PNIEC framework should rule out the use of nuclear power, set out a path for reducing the use of natural gas, bring forward the ban on the sale of motor vehicles with combustion engines to 2030 if possible, and shut down coal-fired power stations from 2025. Just transition measures should include conversion of fossil fuel subsidies into decarbonisation incentives by 2025 at the latest, and better use of new revenue from carbon pricing and border carbon taxation.</p> <p>To ensure effectiveness and coherence in the pursuit of climate objectives, sectoral integration measures, ex-ante assessment of the coherence of all policies for pursuing climate objectives, and periodic monitoring of the achievement of results should be introduced. This should also be implemented through the reform of the legislative process recommended by the Government in the NRRP, complemented with the recommendations made by ASviS in the May 2021 assessment document (see page 17 of ASviS's assessment of the NRRP), including verification of the principle of doing no harm to the environment.</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases by 55% versus 1990.
13.3	Education in sustainable development (with Targets 4.8 and 12.8)	Italy should activate the participatory mechanisms provided for in the European Climate Law and in the Climate Pact launched by the European Green Deal, making them operational from the beginning of 2022, and integrating them with local initiatives such as the Mayors' Climate and Energy Pact. A plan for education, awareness raising and capacity building, as required by this Target, should be drawn up at the same time, via the media, schools and cultural institutions. To this end, various actions of the European Skills Agenda and the accompanying Pact for Skills need to be transposed into the national framework, thereby creating synergies with institutions participating in climate action.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
13.a	Development cooperation in the UNFCCC Agreements	As stated by UNEP in its latest Adaptation Gap Report, the goal of mobilising US\$100 billion per year by 2020 for developing countries has not yet been met. Moreover, the most critical issue is the scarcity of adaptation investment in non-market sectors and public goods, which benefits a wide range of stakeholders, making it difficult to mobilise private funding. For adaptation alone, UNEP estimates that US\$140 to 300 billion per year will be needed for developing countries until 2030, rising to between US\$280 and 500 billion per year through 2050. As well as ensuring its own contribution, it is necessary for Italy, acting together with the EU and in the appropriate international fora, to support the establishment of a supplementary fund and promote the possible introduction of innovative financing measures in developing countries, such as swapping debt for investment in order to implement the 2030 Agenda, as already agreed by the EU Council meeting on 22 June 2021.

Goal 14: LIFE BELOW WATER		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
14.1	Implement the marine strategy, efforts to prevent pollution of water bodies (with Goals 2 and 6) and the pollution of land and policies to cut the use of single-use plastic (with Goal 12)	Implementation of the marine strategy requires effective measures that take into account the various anthropogenic pressures and policies affecting marine water quality and assess their direct and indirect costs, including the costs of inaction. Consequently, it is necessary to address the issue via a systemic and integrated approach as set out in the European Green Deal research programme's Mission Starfish, in line with the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, including <i>ex-ante</i> and <i>ex-post</i> impact assessments of all policies. Policies to prevent pollution of water bodies (see Target 6.3) require an integrated vision and design, which - as set out in the framework of the European Zero Pollution Strategy in the European Green Deal - is closely correlated with agricultural policies to reduce pesticide use and excessive nutrient inputs, by pursuing as far as possible all the objectives of the European From Farm to Fork Strategy (Goal 2), as well as depollution of industrial production processes (see Goals 8, 9 and 12), prevention of the release of non-biodegradable waste such as plastics into the environment, and proper treatment and purification of urban waste water (see Target 6.1).
14.2	Protect ecosystems and biodiversity (with Goal 15)	The interaction with climate change adaptation (see Goal 13) is in turn supported by the Biodiversity Strategy (see Goal 15), via adoption of nature-based solutions for the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems, the restoration of seabed ecosystems and the regeneration of habitats. The restoration targets for 2030 should be at least 30%, as is the case for terrestrial biodiversity (see Goal 15). Marine spatial planning, as provided for in Directive 2014/89/EU, is needed as a key tool to prevent conflicts between political priorities on the use of the sea, and to reconcile nature conservation with economic growth.
14.3	Combating sea acidification	In line with the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, a concrete, structured and targeted commitment within the national framework for research on sea acidification and its effects on ecosystems should be made by national scientific institutions, and European and international partnerships should be joined and promoted.
14.4	Sustainable fishing	Sustainable co-management of fisheries should be encouraged, by promoting and supporting small-scale fishing operations, based on the engagement of fishers, trade associations, institutions, research bodies and environmental associations, as suggested by the Regional Action Plan of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, to which Italy is a signatory. Therefore, the Commission has granted legal recognition to this instrument, whose priority objective is to reduce the so-called "fishing effort", thereby curbing the impact on marine biological resources, supporting the small-scale fishing sector via the promotion of fishing tourism and the processing and direct sale of local fish products to consumers, and creating conditions to increase fishers' income, not least by raising consumer awareness of sustainable fishing methods, in line with the European Parliament's resolution of 21 January 2021 entitled "More fish in the seas?"
		Target: • By 2030, eliminate overfishing.
14.5	Extend marine protected areas	It is necessary to effectively manage 100% of Italy's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), in order to eliminate "paper parks" and comply with the international conventions Italy has signed. As stated in the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, protected areas should have clearly defined conservation objectives and measures. Moreover, 10% of Europe's marine waters will need to have a strict level of protection. Italy can already contribute to the prior definition of strict protection levels, as scientific evidence shows that economic returns for the community are far higher than the necessary investments. As the European Commission points out in its Communication on the Sustainable Blue Economy, "investment in Marine Protected Areas, especially in strictly protected areas, generates a strong economic return and increase the amount of fish and marine life when protection is effective".
		Target: • By 2030, ensure that marine protected areas account for a 30% share of territorial waters.

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
14.6	Subsidies harmful to fisheries	As the set deadline of 2020 has passed without any outcome, the delay should be urgently made up for as far as possible. A plan should be drawn up by the end of 2021 to eliminate all the harmful subsidies already included in the latest list published by Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea Protection, recommending that harmful subsidies should cease as soon as possible and in any event by 2025, and be gradually redirected towards biodiversity-friendly investments, whilst stepping up the application of environmental taxation within tax systems.
14.a	Marine research and technology transfer	Via our national scientific institutions and within the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development we should contribute towards a concrete, structured and targeted commitment (see Target 14.3) by providing expertise and a research budget commensurate with the importance of marine ecosystems for Italy's geographical, natural, economic and historical-cultural characteristics.
14.c	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Within the EU and in all international fora (WTO, G7, G20) we should support the most advanced positions regarding effective multilateralism for sustainable management, the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, trade agreements, research partnerships, including within the framework of the above Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the signing of a global agreement to ban harmful fishing subsidies, the promotion of a moratorium on seabed mining, and measures to combat plastic pollution by supporting a leading role for the EU in the negotiations for a global agreement on plastics, including the elimination of plastics from the oceans by 2030, by setting binding targets.

Goal 15: LIFE ON LAND		
Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
15.1	Strategy for sustainable biodiversity, agriculture (with Goal 2) and industry (with Goals 8, 9 and 12) and mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change (with Goal 13)	<p>A new national biodiversity strategy should be drawn up in line with European and international guidelines, making use of all the findings of the annual report the state of natural capital, and making it an absolute national priority to maintain the health of natural systems in the interests of current and future generations. Effective policies for ecosystem health and biodiversity depend on a systemic shift towards an economy that ensures wellbeing within the limits of our planet, progressing towards a regenerative growth model, and ensuring that the environmental transition is achieved in a just and inclusive manner. Achieving this entails shifting from a compartmentalised and sectoral strategic policy approach to a systemic and coherent approach. Together with the strategy, a national action plan for the restoration of natural systems to be drawn up by 2022 at the latest. In line with the goals of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the plan should include the target of restoring at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. In synergy with Goal 2, the plan will need to incorporate the minimum objectives set out in the From Farm to Fork Strategy regarding biodiversity, a drastic reduction in the use of pesticides and protection of pollinators, a marked reduction in the use of fertilisers, expansion of organic farming and the promotion of agroecology and nature-based solutions. Livestock farming should also comply with environmental criteria aimed at encouraging the regeneration of natural resources and the One Health principle.</p> <p>These measures synergistically integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, in pursuit of the minimum objectives set out by the EU Regulation on carbon removal through land use and forestation (new LULUCF Regulation), the European Methane Strategy to reduce emissions, and actions for the climate resilience of ecosystems and the agricultural/production system.</p>
15.2	Forestry strategy	<p>Within the above biodiversity strategy, the forestry strategy should be revised by defining specific objectives for the protection and restoration of ecosystems, carbon removal and adaptation to climate change (see Goal 13). Environmental objectives should be adopted as the guiding principle and aim of the economic objectives, with which the production system (see Goals 8, 9 and 12), the tax system, and private and public financial flows (see Target 15.a) should comply.</p>
15.3	Land degradation and use	<p>As part of the strategies and plans of the previous Targets, a specific action framework for halting soil degradation and combating desertification should be planned. The measures should include systemic land protection legislation (addressing all the issues covered by the resolution of 28 April 2021 of the European Parliament), which is also combined with approval of a law regarding the reduction of land consumption, urban regeneration and the renaturation of anthropised areas, aimed at achieving a negative land consumption balance, and thereby contributing to the objective of restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. These measures should also be implemented through local spatial plans, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and to the above LULUCF carbon removal targets, including via implementation of the European From Farm to Fork strategy.</p>
		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2050, eliminate the increase in annual land use.
15.4	Mountain ecosystems	<p>The biodiversity strategy should include specific sections on mountainous areas, regardless of the fact that many of these fall within protected areas (see Target 15.5), given the physical extent and importance of these ecosystems for Italy's geographical characteristics. Development of the strategy for inner areas should include measures for biodiversity, given its importance for adaptation to climate change, and the strong influence climate change has on mountain ecosystems.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
15.5	Terrestrial protected areas	<p>In order to ensure that at least 30% of Italian territory becomes a protected area by 2030, as recommended by the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, clearly defined conservation targets and measures should be defined. Moreover, at least 10% of Italian territory should be under strict protection. Italy can already contribute to prior definition of strict protection levels, given that scientific evidence shows economic returns for the community are far higher than the required investments. In order to preserve and protect endangered species, monitoring programmes and research activities should be incorporated.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, ensure that terrestrial protected areas account for a 30% share of national territory.
15.6	Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	<p>It is essential that the principle of fair and equitable sharing arising from the use of genetic resources be developed as a condition for ensuring the widest possible commitment and active engagement of citizens in defending biodiversity. To this end, the protocol that implements the relevant EU Regulations should be developed, and these principles and content should be incorporated within the actions envisaged in the new National Biodiversity Strategy.</p>
15.7	Implementation of the CITES convention	<p>The characteristics of trafficking in protected species of flora and fauna should be described within the national framework, in order to introduce structured measures and adequate responses to the estimated needs, thereby complementing what has already been provided for in the 2021 Budget Law.</p>
15.8	Prevention and reduction of the impact of alien species	<p>Research and monitoring services need to be developed in order to tackle the impact of alien species, which is recognised as a determining factor in biodiversity loss, and which is set to worsen with climate change and the depletion of ecosystems. Requirements in terms of expertise and resources should be quantified, partly in order to implement the related monitoring services, including the impact on agronomic practices and agricultural production. The spread of invasive alien species should be prevented at all times by introducing mandatory, ex ante risk assessments of imports of non-native species.</p>
15.9	Public non-financial reporting	<p>The reporting envisaged in Target 15.9 should come into force from the next financial year and be taken into account in all subsequent financial and non-financial planning actions that affect the legislative process, as well as national, regional and local sectoral and spatial planning at all levels. The measures should be integrated with the green budgeting provided for in the European Green Deal and Italy's NRRP. It should be noted that in March 2021 the 52nd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Ecosystem Accounting, a new statistical standard that provides an accounting framework to measure the contribution of ecosystems to our societies, their health and the services they provide. We hope that Italy will adopt this system, paying due attention to synergies with the verification factors of the "do no harm" principle of the European Green Deal and the funding mechanism of the NRRP.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
15.a	Sustainable finance	An integrated financial framework should be defined to serve the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and the Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Plan. From a private green finance perspective, the feasibility of introducing green taxation measures to finance actions - which correlate the disincentive of business-as-usual finance and the contributions of public budgets in responding to requirements - should be ascertained. As actions for biodiversity and ecosystem health are in fact nature-based actions for climate change adaptation - taking into account the European Commission's guidelines in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (see Goal 13) - adaptation should be integrated into macro-fiscal policies by assessing the main economic impacts of climate risks and considering their cost in public budget planning processes. Regarding the transformation of the agricultural system, it should be taken into account that 40% of the CAP budget from 2023 is earmarked to finance climate actions, which will require appropriate planning and monitoring measures. However, the cost of inaction should be taken into account in the public financial framework. Any critical issues encountered in defining fit for purpose financial frameworks should complement the position Italy has taken in the European forum by requesting further support measures and regulations that ensure clear and effective channelling of financial flows to meet the environmental goals of the decade.
15.b	Financing sustainable forest management at global level	Support should be given at European level and in all international fora (Convention on Biological Diversity, WTO, G7, G20, etc.) to the most advanced positions regarding effective multilateralism for sustainable management and the protection and restoration of forest ecosystems, through trade agreements, with the inclusion of due diligence and verification obligations for all products sold on the European market that derive from forestry activities (upholding the positions of the European Parliament Resolution of 22 October 2020 on deforestation). The introduction of innovative development finance solutions that entail swapping developing countries' debt for investment in the 2030 Agenda should be supported, as recently agreed in the EU Council, and initiatives along the lines of the "Great Green Wall" in the Sahel should be promoted. Funds earmarked for development cooperation should be subjected to a stress test in order to ensure their alignment and coherence with the 2030 Agenda and Goal 15 Targets, as well as their impact on forest policies in all planning, spending and reporting phases.

Goal 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
16.1	Crime prevention and security	<p>It is recommended to extend the scope of the regulations introduced by the “Red Code” Law on domestic and gender-based violence (Law 69/2019) to include attempted murder and, in general, any attempted crimes (such as sexual violence). These changes are imposed by the need to comply with European law.</p> <p>We also recommend adoption of a Code of Conduct for political parties - as a means for educating citizens and combating forms of offline and online hatred, and also in the run-up to the upcoming 2021 local elections - that sets out criteria for non-hostile communication and language in political promotion and election campaigns, both offline and online, with a view to combating violence and hatred, and also ensuring the pursuit of key principles such as integrity, transparency, correct information, civic education, tolerance and social inclusion in relations between politics and citizens.</p>
16.3		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, eliminate prison overcrowding.
16.4	Combat organised crime	<p>Twenty-five years after the approval of Law 109/96, Libera has presented a political manifesto on the issue of confiscation and the public and social reuse of assets. Only four of the 15 points are shown:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of the positive innovations of the reform of the Antimafia Law, with the current system of antimafia prevention measures serving as an effective tool to combat mafia organisations and economic and financial crime; 2. Effective extension to corrupt persons of the seizure and confiscation regulations provided for members of mafia organisations, thereby ensuring full equality of confiscation and reuse of assets seized from corrupt persons. Recent judicial investigations and institutional reports have show how mafia organisations and corrupt elements are increasingly taking advantage of the health emergency and the economic and social crisis; 3. Amendment of the legislation governing the equivalent restitution of confiscated property in the event of annulment of confiscation. Repayment of an equivalent amount should be provided for as a single solution. We also recommend that responsibility for such repayment be transferred from the assigned authority to the Fondo unico giustizia (a seized assets fund); 4. Allocation of appropriate tools and resources to judicial authorities that deal with asset management seizure and confiscation phases, with regard to antimafia prevention and criminal proceedings. Standard criteria and transparency, and rotation of asset managers, should also be adopted. <p>The NRRP also includes an item of expenditure of €300 million regarding the renovation and development of assets confiscated from mafia organisations.</p>
16.5		See Target 16.4.
16.7		<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, reduce the average duration of civil proceedings to the levels observed in the best Italian regions.

Goal 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
17.2	Development cooperation and official development assistance	<p>The funding provided in the Budget Law, broken down by ministry and intended to finance interventions to support development cooperation policies, add up to a forecast amount of €5,346,032,843 for 2021. This marks a slight increase in funding compared to 2020, but Italy is still far below the Target. As the 2021-2023 Planning Document has yet to be approved, how the funds will be allocated, and whether 0.20% of the total will be earmarked for vulnerable and lower income countries, is still unknown. Therefore, in order to reach the Target, Italian legislation should establish a precise pathway towards achieving a 0.70% share of GNI spent on official development assistance by 2030. In addition, although dependent on the participation of a number of government and non-government actors, the process of guiding and planning development cooperation activities should be accelerated and provide all the information needed to enable the monitoring and verification of coherence.</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, increase the share of GNI spent on official development assistance to 0.7%.
17.3	Financing for global common goods in preparation for and response to pandemics	<p>The aim of the Finance in Common Summit organised by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) is to reconcile the response to the pandemic with longer-term economic recovery measures, by involving the development community in the mobilisation of financial resources for implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The summit will discuss sustainable agriculture for food security, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation. It will be significant if the CDP leads the initiative from the standpoint of a strong commitment to agroecology. The actual role of CDP is affected by the delay in developing instruments that would allow it to operate in line with the intentions of Law 125/2014 on international cooperation, and thus be able to draw on additional private funding.</p>
17.4	Multilateral commitment to debt sustainability for developing countries	<p>Although the G20 agreed to extend debt relief measures for the most vulnerable economies until the end of 2021, and reached consensus on a new Special Drawing Rights allocation of US\$650 billion, these measures still have a limited impact on the needs of lower-income countries. In the relevant multilateral international fora, Italy should commit to debt cancellation for these countries, to debt restructuring for countries that can sustain debt rescheduling, and to initiatives that also bind private creditors to these principles.</p>
17.6	Policies to promote the transfer of knowledge to developing countries	<p>UN Special Procedures for Human Rights experts called on the G7 countries to join the WHO call for the Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), a platform designed to enable greater sharing of intellectual property rights and clinical trial data in order to accelerate and make globally available the production of vaccines, drugs and coronavirus diagnostics. Backed up by the European Parliament - which in a resolution of 10 July 2020 called on the Commission and the member states to lend their support - the platform will bring together data, knowledge and intellectual property relating to existing products for combating coronavirus, and facilitate access to them in all countries around the world. The Global Health Summit held in Rome in June 2021 acknowledged that the technology transfer hub set up by the WHO is ready to pool all the necessary technology transfer skills that C-TAP will combine. The Italian Government should consider joining C-TAP and invite Italian companies to do likewise.</p>

Target	Topics and policies	Proposals and Targets
17.7	Cooperation and policy consistency at internal and transnational level	The active participation of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian cooperation system as a whole in the OECD process for a National Coherence Plan for Sustainable Development is important. The coherence of cooperation policies should be taken into account in all thematic and geographical priorities. It is necessary to clarify the focus on the coherence of relations between international trade policies, foreign investment and cooperation, migration and cooperation, food security and cooperation, environment and cooperation, finance and cooperation (the debt issue), military security and cooperation (cooperation with respect to military missions needs to be arranged). It would be useful to set up an initiative to assess the spillover effects of Italian policies on the cooperation partner countries.
17.15	Respecting each country's policy space in poverty eradication and sustainable development policies	We invite the Government to step up the use of the country-owned results framework in order to plan development cooperation interventions in such a way that actions can be monitored and assessed in terms of the priorities set out in the Three-Year Planning and Policy Document, and above all in terms of the recommendations of the 2030 Agenda. Whilst acknowledging the attempt to include people with disabilities and a reflection on crisis and vulnerability among the objectives of the 2019-2021 Planning and Policy Document, we believe it still falls far short in terms of applying a real human rights-based approach - especially the use of disability mainstreaming - in government planning and specifically in international cooperation tools. Every strategy, every plan and every policy should be effectively geared towards <i>leaving no one behind</i> .

NOTES

¹ www.corteconti.it/Download?id=b3c16124-353c-4868-90d5-4331545cbf5d

² www.quirinale.it/elementi/59460



Appendix: Goals and Targets





Goal 1: NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Targets

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
- 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions



Goal 2: ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Targets

- 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

- 2.a** Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- 2.b** Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
- 2.c** Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Goal 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

Targets

- 3.1** By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2** By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3** By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4** By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5** Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6** By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.8** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.a** Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 3.b** Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- 3.c** Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- 3.d** Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks





Goal 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Targets

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Goal 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Targets

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life



- 5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.a** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

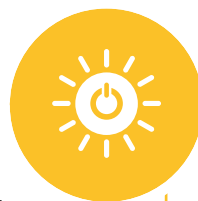
Goal 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Targets

- 6.1** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a** By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management





Goal 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Targets

- 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

- 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support



Goal 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Targets

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
- 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 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, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

- 8.10** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
- 8.a** Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

- 8.b** By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Goal 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Targets

- 9.1** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2** Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3** Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 9.4** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

- 9.5** Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
- 9.a** Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
- 9.b** Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
- 9.c** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020





Goal 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Targets

- 10.1** By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.5** Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- 10.6** Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 10.a** Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- 10.b** Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
- 10.c** By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Goal 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets

- 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.2** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- 11.3** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- 11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5** By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management



- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation

and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

- 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Goal 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Targets

- 12.1 Implement the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

- 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

- 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

- 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

- 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

- 12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities





Goal 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Targets

- 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.a** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the

needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

- 13.b** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change

Goal 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

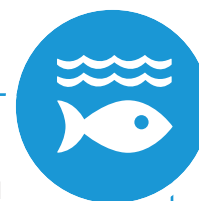
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Targets

- 14.1** By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks

in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

- 14.5** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- 14.6** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
- 14.7** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism



14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”

Goal 15: LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Targets

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities





Goal 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Targets

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development



Goal 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Targets

Finance

- 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to devel-

oping countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

- 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

- 17.6** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- 17.7** Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agree
- 17.8** Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity-building

- 17.9** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Trade

- 17.10** Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- 17.11** Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- 17.12** Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systemic issues**Policy and institutional coherence**

- 17.13** Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- 17.14** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15** Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- 17.16** Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

- 17.18** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- 17.19** By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Members of ASviS (at 13 September 2021)

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The Report prepared by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), now in its sixth edition, assesses the progress our country, its regions and the European Union have made in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the UN's 2030 Agenda, adopted by the governments of 193 countries on 25 September 2015. The Report also highlights the areas where action is needed to ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability of our growth model. The Report for 2021, drafted by experts from the Alliance's over 300 member organisations, offers a wide-ranging view of the situation in Italy vis à vis the various aspects of sustainable development. It offers concrete proposals for policies capable of improving people's wellbeing, reducing inequalities and increasing the quality of the environment in which we live.

ASviS was established on 3 February 2016, on the initiative of the Unipolis Foundation and Rome's Tor Vergata University. The Alliance is committed to spreading a culture of sustainability at all levels and aims to raise awareness in Italian society and among economic stakeholders and government institutions of the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ASviS is the largest network of civil society organisations ever created in Italy and has rapidly become a point of reference for government and an authoritative source of information on sustainable development issues, made available via the Alliance's website at www.asvis.it and on social media. The Sustainable Development Festival 2021, to be held this year between 28 September and 14 October, will feature hundreds of events throughout Italy and online.

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