



D2.2 SDGs policy framework and alignment Report

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Executive summary

If we can state that the multi-faceted, multi-dimensional journey towards the alignment of Partners' strategies and operations to the SDGs got started with the acknowledgement of the needs in terms of acquisition of new knowledge and in building the capacity of the staff members at all level, we have also to recognize how looking around us to prepare this "SDGs policy framework and alignment Report", exploring concrete actions already undertaken by so many players and stakeholders and corresponding accomplishments towards reaching the SDGs, has been both an outstanding source of motivation and inspiration to take action and move along in this complex, rewarding and profitable journey.


















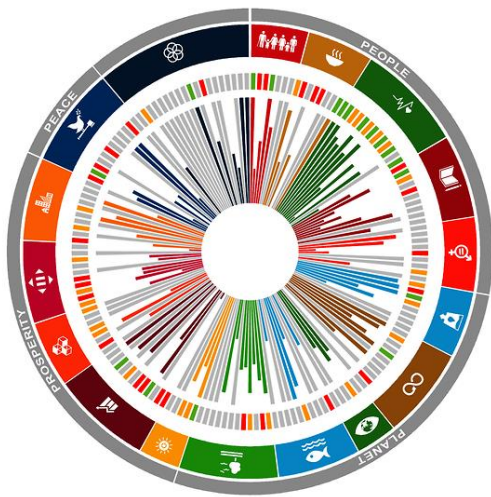
This report is the outcome of the investigation activities carried out by the Partners to assess the level of alignment to the SDGs in their national and local contexts, in connection to existing trends at EU level, analyzing public available data related to the state-of-the-art of current legal, policy, cultural frameworks, highlight existing barriers and bottlenecks, incentives and opportunities (also financial), and above all good practices and success stories.

Not unexpectedly, according to the "Sustainable Development Report 2023" by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the European Union as a whole and EU countries individually continue to lead in the SDG Index, which measures the level (in terms of percentage) of SDG achievement, holding the top 10 spots, and on track to achieve more targets than any other world's region. In particular, as regards the five Partners' countries, represented within our SDGCultheritage project, out of 166 countries ranked by the "Sustainable Development Report", all but Cyprus (ranked 59) are in the top 30, with Poland ranked the highest in 9th position; if the EU27 obtains an overall SDG Index score of 72/100, all five Partners' Countries score above the EU average with Poland's top score of 81,8, Spain, Italy and Greece above or close to 80 and only Cyprus very close to the average with 72,5.

Moreover, data suggest that halfway into the SDGs, the EU as a whole has achieved or is on track to achieve a bit more than two-thirds of the SDG targets, while the situation in the Partners' countries is as follows: Poland has already achieved 18 of the 135 SDG targets and is expected to meet 9 additional targets by 2030; Spain has already achieved 21 of the 131 SDG and is expected to meet 9 additional targets by 2030; Italy has already achieved 17 of the 135 SDG targets and is expected to meet 10 additional targets by 2030; Greece has already achieved 18 of the 135 SDG targets and is expected to meet 10 additional targets by 2030.

While it appears very clear how, under the leadership of EU institutions and initiatives, the Governments' effort has been successful in defining appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks to support the alignment to the SDGs, it emerged with equal clarity how the role of private businesses towards the SDGs is presently limited to very large companies, who are pioneering the alignment to the SDGs, revealing that SDGs awareness amongst large businesses is high and that and highly capitalized companies (especially in relevant sectors, such as utilities) have introduced SDGs in their disclosure and story-telling practices, especially using non-financial statements and sustainability reports to disclose information about SDGs commitment.

We'd like to mention how the tourism sector, which is relevant to the Culture and Creative Industries and is highly relevant socio-economically to 4 of the 5 countries represented in this project, is making solid steps towards its sustainability transformation, announcing goals and targets with emphasis on local community support, nature and biodiversity protection, waste management, energy management, minimization of carbon footprint.

STATE OF THE ART	Within Local/National context
<p>level of alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>Italy National Strategy for Sustainable Development has been approved by the governmental in December 2017, intended as the framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Italy and abroad.</p> <p>According to the “EC European Semester Country report Italy 2020” over the past 5 years, progress has been relevant in most of the SDGs, particularly for SDGs 3 (good health and well-being), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). By contrast, SDGs 1 (no poverty), 10 (reduce inequalities) and 15 (life on land) presented a mixed picture, with some indexes worsening in the short run. Overall, Italy underperforms the EU average in most of the indexes related to SDGs 4 (quality of education), 5 (gender equality), 8 (economic growth) while it performs better than average on SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities) and 12 (responsible consumption). Italy ranks 24 out of 166 monitored States in terms of the country's total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs, with an overall score of 78.8/100, which can be interpreted as the percentage of SDG achievement.</p> <div data-bbox="506 814 1427 961" style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Current level: bars shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach the 2030 target. Colors refers to the Goals.</p> <p>Trend assessment: the outer ring describes the trend using spotlight colours to measure progress towards the target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Target is achieved or on track to being achieved ■ Progress has been made, but is insufficient ■ No progress or moving away from the SDG target ■ No (or insufficient) data </div> <div data-bbox="506 976 812 1501"> <p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  1: No Poverty  2: Zero Hunger  3: Good Health and Well-Being  4: Quality Education  5: Gender Equality  6: Clean Water and Sanitation  7: Affordable and Clean Energy  8: Decent Work and Economic Growth  9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure  10: Reduced Inequality  11: Sustainable Cities and Communities  12: Responsible Consumption and Production  13: Climate Action  14: Life Below Water  15: Life On Land  16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions  17: Partnerships for the Goals </div> <div data-bbox="844 987 1331 1480" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>According to the Italian Statistical Institute (ISTAT) SDGs report 2023 (published in June 2023), the trends relating to the last year show a mixed bag: 42.6% of the measures improves, 24.6% are stationary and 32.8% report a worsening. The percentage of measures with positive time evolution is significantly high for Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals), for which all the measures concerning the ICT use improve, except the percentage of people who use the web to purchase goods or services; also Goal 5 (gender equality) records a high share of improving measures, in particularly those linked to the presence of women in management positions.</p>

The greatest number of worsening indicators is achieved for Goal 7 (Clean energy), due to the strong recovery in energy consumption following the pandemic, and, at the same time, a not as intense growth in consumption from renewable sources. Also, for Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) the percentage of worsening measures is consistent, due to the worsening of prison crowding conditions and lower satisfaction towards public services.

There is a widespread amount of positive signals compared to 10 years before: 58.6% of the measures are in fact improving, 21.3% remain stationary and only 20.1% report a worsening. In Goals 5 (Gender equality), 7 (clean energy), 8 (Work), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals), three-quarters or more of the measures present a positive variation, while in Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Education), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 13 (Climate Change) worsens more than a third of the indicators.

As regards the state-of-the-art of territorializing the SDGs, starting from the global level up to the local one, currently in Italy the principle barriers are the lack of data open sources, the proposal of new not adequately validated metrics by different interested parties and the progressive loss of relationship with Global indicator framework and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Nonetheless, to date, more than 100 provincial capital cities have reached at least 20% and at most 79% of the sustainable development targets, with an average of 53.2% as regards achieving the full sustainability, showing that Italian cities are at an intermediate stage on the path towards full sustainability. In relation to individual Goals, it emerges that Goal 1 (Zero Poverty) is the one with the best results: as many as 45 provincial capital municipalities have achieved at least 80% of the sustainability targets, next Goal 6 (Clean water and hygiene) with 38 cities achieving at least 80% and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Objectives) with 28 cities having achieved at least 80% sustainability. The least satisfactory results emerge in Goal 7 (Clean and accessible energy) with 44 provincial capital cities showing an achievement of sustainability of less than 20% similarly to Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) with 34 cities achieving less than 20% of the targets.

As regards SDGs awareness and alignment amongst the business community is high and that the majority of highly capitalized Italian companies have introduced SDGs in their disclosure and story-telling practices, although the definitions of specific key performance indicators (KPIs) related to the goals are still missing. Italian companies prefer using non-financial statements and sustainability reports to disclose information about their commitments to SDGs and most of them started to report information about SDGs in 2016.

The most commonly disclosed SDG is Goal 8 (Decent work), immediately followed by Goal 13 (Climate actions) and Goal 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure); thus environment and innovation are the other two most important goals for businesses at the same level with Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy), Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production), Goal 4 (Quality education) and Goal 3 (Good health and well-being). Among the 17 SDGs, those that seem to be the least relevant are SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 15 (Life on land).

As regards the business sectors, apparently there is not a clear sector effect on the decisions of companies to disclose (or not to) their SDGs.

As regards the alignment of the Culture and Creative Industries to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as highlighted by the Report “When Sustainability meets Culture”, museums emerge as protagonists of this commitment, in a plurality of forms: from the management of their physical spaces to the production of specific cultural

	<p>contents, to the promotion of virtuous behaviour among the public, remaining a privileged channel of communication with children, adolescents and young people. An online survey aimed at gathering opinions from museum audiences, in fact, revealed that the vast majority of visitors (70%) are convinced that a more effective message in favour of sustainability can be transmitted through art and culture; for over a third, sustainability plays a role in choosing the museum to visit; for 70% museums should work towards their energy efficiency.</p>
<p>legislative/regulatory, cultural, legal, policy, financial/incentive framework</p>	<p>Legislative, regulatory, policy framework</p> <p>At a national level, the instrument for coordinating the implementation of the Agenda 2030 is the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), approved via CIPE Resolution No. 108/2017, defining the national reference framework for planning, programming and evaluating processes at environmental and territorial level to implement the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations Agenda 2030. The implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy is linked to policy documents such as primarily the National Reform Programme (NRP) and, more generally, the Economic and Financial Document (Italy's DEF), while the proposed actions and operational instruments have also to be reconciled with present binding objectives at EU level. The National Sustainable Development Strategy is based on a multidimensional method to overcome economic, environmental and social inequalities and thus pursue sustainable, balanced and inclusive development, implying a wide range of instruments, including budgetary policies and structural reforms.</p> <p>The plan is broken down in five intervention areas, corresponding to the "5Ps" of sustainable development proposed by the UN Agenda 2030, each one laying down Italy's Strategic Choices and Strategic Objectives related to the Agenda 2030 SDGs and recalling the deep interconnection between economic dynamics, social growth and environmental quality (the three pillars of sustainable development):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People: Fighting poverty and social exclusion and promoting health and well-being to ensure human capital development. - Planet: Ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, countering biodiversity loss, and protecting environmental and cultural assets. - Prosperity: Affirming sustainable models of production and consumption, guaranteeing decent employment and training. - Peace: Promoting a non-violent and inclusive society without discrimination. <p>Fighting illegality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership: Taking integrated actions in the several areas involved. <p>The "Benessere Italia" ("Well-being Italy") steering committee was set up at Prime Minister's Office, to "coordinate, monitor, measure and improve the policies implemented by all Ministries in favour of citizens' well-being". A step ahead to empower Italy's governance of the 2030 Agenda, a tool that will enable the Italian Government to promote fair and sustainable well-being through new policies and new approaches.</p> <p>The five macro-areas developing its policy lines are: sustainable equitable regeneration of territories, mobility, territorial cohesion, energy transition, quality of life, and circular economy. These macro-areas place the individual at the centre of their action focus and aim at: promoting healthy lifestyles; defining work-private life balance patterns; designing fair living conditions; promoting human development actions; and lifelong learning.</p>

Annual reports, illustrating an analyzing Italy's progress as to the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals and setting forth proposals for developing ad-hoc strategies to ensure the Country's economic and social development are carried out and published by ISTAT (national statistics agency) and by ASviS - Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development.

Cultural framework

A lot has been done to promote the culture of sustainability in the last years, especially with a top-down approach, with the adoption of a coherent framework toward sustainable development, to the point where regardless of the industry they operate in, businesses became more aware of the fact that focusing on sustainability is also an important source of sustainable competitive advantage; within the public sector more and more entities are engaged in building sustainable energy communities, and in reduction of waste production and recycling; citizens are opting for lifestyles with less negative environmental impacts and also due to the recent energy crisis are retrofitting their households to decrease their energy consumption. Concretely this has been attained thanks to the implementation of innovative projects such as the "SDSN Italia SDGs City Index", conceived and promoted by Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei together with the Italian Network for Sustainable Development (SDSN Italia) developed the project, which by taking as reference unity the municipality, as the political and administrative entity primarily responsible for a wider range of policies supposed to influence the territory under jurisdiction, collects and reports indicators for 16 out of 17 SDGs [except Goal 14 (Life Below Water) due to comparability reasons]. This project in fact, helps to bridge the existing gap in the national context: making a link between the Italian reality as a whole and the local sphere and considering its economic, social, geographical and demographic heterogeneity. The City Index serves as an analytical planning tool for cities to encourage reflection on policies that can address current global challenges, while at the same time helping raise awareness of public bodies, stakeholders and civil society on the achievement of the SDGs. helping local communities tackle the still unresolved issues affecting single cities. Thanks to the Report, local administrators can take inspirations from the 2030 Agenda to face, in a coordinated manner, the main challenges of their cities: from fighting poverty to assuring energy efficiency, from sustainable mobility to social inclusion; also, by virtue of the Index, decision makers can identify other territorial realities with similar situations and challenges, thus facilitating the national dialogue in order to promote and accelerate progress.

Financial/incentive framework

The main financial instrument to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Italy is the so-called National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), which using Next Generation Europe funds, is aimed at making Italy more equitable, sustainable and inclusive. The funds as of the NRRP are managed centrally by the Ministries and related managing authorities and awarded on the basis of calls for proposal/tenders open to the participation of private and public entities willing to implement the NRRP measures and actions. The funds allocated by II PNRR to the green transition (mission 2) represent nearly the 40% of the total amount. The Italian Government in cooperation with ISTAT (national institute of statistics), through the "Italiadomani" web portal/analytical framework, is monitoring the economic, social and environmental impacts of the NRRP's measures implementation in connection to the SDGs' statistical indicators, and thus to the goals themselves, with the mapping

	<p>results allowing to see the total resources allocated to the NRRP for each SDG thanks to the infographic "The 2030 Agenda and the NRRP".</p> <p>Amongst the most effective incentive mechanisms there are at least a couple which have an automatic access in supporting investments towards the green transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in the industrial sector, the so-called new law "Sabatini Green" which supports investments related to the purchase or leasing of new machinery and equipment, with low environmental impact, as part of programs aimed at improving the eco-sustainability of products and production processes through subsidized credit; - in the residential sector, the 65% tax credit for the energy efficient renovation of existing buildings. <p>In relation to sustainable development, the Culture and Creative Industries are targeted, in particular, by the component 3 of Mission 1 of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investment 1.3: support to the improvement of the energy performance of cinemas, theaters and museums; - investment 2.2: protection and valorization of rural architecture and landscape; - Reform 3.1: adoption of minimum environmental standards for cultural events; - investment 3.3: building the capacity of cultural operators to manage the green and digital transition. <p>Other complementary funds, in support of the green transition of private companies are managed, through calls for proposals/tenders by the Regions.</p>
<p>existing barriers to the large-scale alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>As regards the cultural and creative sectors, we'd like to fix our perspective on the sub-sector of events planning and organization, especially in connection to the promotion of territories, a market segment largely composed of micro, small and medium sized enterprises and self-employed people, co-existing with a few large-scale players. If the large-scale players have in general no barriers in profiting from the opportunities arising from the green transition, since they have the human resources and capital to re-design strategies and operations, to access incentivizing measures and to communicate to their target customers and sell premium products and services at higher prices, the smaller-scale players face the following headwinds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they have limited human resources and capitals to allocate to the green transition and they have to choose between committing to reduce the ecological footprint associated to their operations and committing to develop greener services at premium products and/or invest in environmental responsible communication strategies; - especially the smaller-scale players working on local scales rarely have internal human resources (either management, administrative or other technical staff) with the appropriate set of skills to understand the trade-offs between conventional and greener solutions in terms of increased short-term investment and upfront disbursement versus the payback of improved operational (and financial) performance in the mid and longer term; especially in smaller provincial towns and mountain internal areas, with limited number of inhabitants and of potential addressable customers as consequence and less disposable incomes on average, the low-price of provided services and products is a major driver of customer engagement and purchase habits; - paradoxically, the spikes in energy prices, which will normally would result in better payback time for energy saving measure, was so steep to endanger the very existence of small business and eroded their (already limited) capacity to invest, if not requiring access to debit just to pay energy bills and prevent cease of operations;

	<p>- while some SDGs (such as Goal 7 “affordable and clean energy”, Goal 8 “Decent work and economic growth”, Goal 12 “Responsible consumption and production”, Goal 13 “Climate action”) are directly connected on the improvement of the overall performance and profitability of businesses, other SDGs are not immediately material for the company value chain to inspire the investment of resources to specific objectives, with a long-term, concrete and measurable commitments and related key performance indicators to the 2030 Agenda;</p> <p>- incentivizing measures and mechanisms in support to the green transition of businesses should be more stable as regards their time framework, easier to access and on an automatic basis rather than based on call for proposals/tenders mechanisms which require specialized expertise.</p>
<p>existing good practices implemented in your countries related to the alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>Currently, large businesses are pioneering the alignment to the SDGs; hereafter some of the most interesting good alignment practices identified:</p> <p>a) A2A (large energy utility): the company satisfies all the primary needs of its reference community, from energy production to waste collection. In line with the best international practices, in November 2015 the A2A Board of Directors issued a plan to develop strategic corporate social responsibility activities, reinforcing the central and strategic role of territories and A2A’s responsibility for sustainability, which entailed the creation of a Group Sustainability Policy for 2030; the definition of a Sustainability Plan, envisaging objectives connected to the internationally recognized framework determined by the Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs; the establishment of a Committee for Sustainability and Territory as the highest governance body in charge of sustainability issues. The newly adopted Sustainability Policy envisaged the quantitative definition of targets to 2030, approved by the Board of Directors, towards the full achievement of its Mission Statement.</p> <p>b) Acea Group has been subscribing to the UN Global Compact’s Ten Principles since 2007 renewing its support on an annual basis. The Acea path to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is also realized through its Sustainability Plan. Among the 17 SDGs, Acea has been working on Goal 4 (quality education). Acea aims at contributing to SDGs particularly in low-income areas of Rome where the closure of the development gap requires considerable efforts, innovation and investments. Acea acts to promote education through the support to school curricula and policies to counteract gender discrimination and to encourage respect for the rights of all, for people with disabilities and women’s empowerment, improving access to sustainable technologies, and training for students and teachers. Acea wants to increase youth’s chances of finding future employment opportunities that favour the 17 SDGs. More specifically, Acea aims to drastically reduce the waste of natural resources and decrease the number of those youths unable to access to an environmental quality education. Such targets are addressed to sustainable development for the benefit of a resilient city. Furthermore, Acea aims to improve the standard of living in those communities and their inhabitants where it has been operating for over a hundred years.</p> <p>c) Edison has a strong presence in Italy, one of the richest Countries in biodiversity in Europe. In line with its corporate citizenship view and with the results of its materiality analysis, Edison launched a specific project on biodiversity preservation in 2012, mainly with the objective to monitor and mitigate the impact of its operations. The first project and the following ones translated Edison’s consideration of biodiversity as a key condition in the surroundings of its facilities, particularly in areas with a strong presence of conservation interest species. In the last years Edison has</p>

	<p>carried on 3 main projects concerning biodiversity, with different focus and approaches.</p> <p>d) Enel’s business model considers sustainability and innovation as an inseparable pairing, which creates value for the Company and for all its stakeholders and enables new opportunities to be taken. Sustainability is an integral part of the way of doing business, and drives us to constantly seek out new solutions to reduce the environmental impact of our activities, to grow together with the communities of which Enel is part, to increase the safety of our colleagues and our suppliers. Listening to and actively involving all stakeholders, together with rational use of resources, enable the promotion of synergy between economic and social progress. In order to respond in a sustainable and flexible way to this context, Enel has designed, tested and spread sustainability model throughout our entire value chain, from business development to operations. This translated the group’s strategy into concrete actions reflected in a precise, challenging and agreed Sustainability Plan, integrated into the group’s Strategic Plan, developed taking into account references, direct or indirect, to the 17 SDGs. Enel has publicly committed to the SDGs and has set clear and ambitious targets for four specific SDGs (4, 7, 8, 13) in order to provide a significant contribution and make the difference.</p>
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Country specific chapter: GREECE

STATE OF THE ART	Within Local/National context
<p>level of alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>Greece ranks 28 out of 166 monitored States in terms of the country's total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs, with an overall score of 78.4/100, which can be interpreted as the percentage of SDG achievement. According to the publication “Measuring distance to the SDG targets” by OECD, Greece has already achieved 18 of the 123 SDG targets for which comparable data are available and is expected to meet 7 additional targets by 2030; moreover, Greece has already met most targets related to securing basic needs and implementing policy tools and frameworks mentioned in the 2030 Agenda. Greece main strengths highlighted by the OECD report: the quality of the environment is one of Greece’s main assets; the decline in economic activity and energy demand during the recession, and the increase in renewable energy sources, have led to decrease in greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP (Target 13.2); protected areas cover 35% of the terrestrial area but only 5% of the territorial sea; more than 80% of freshwater, terrestrial, mountain and marine areas that are considered to be key for biodiversity are already covered by protected areas (Targets 14.5, 15.1, 15.4); on use of natural resources, Greece has below-average and decreasing levels of Domestic Material Consumption per capita and per GDP (Target 12.2 and 8.4). People in Greece have good health; Greece already met targets on maternal and infant mortality (Targets 3.1 and 3.2).</p> <p>The main challenges: following the 2009 financial crisis, also due to the extensive reforms, the economy started to recover in 2017, although the legacy of the crisis weighs on income and jobs, with both GDP and labour productivity declining over the past 15 years (Targets 8.1 and 8.2), with the unemployment rate (Target 8.5), as well as the share of young people not in education, employment or training (Target 8.6), remain above the OECD average. When it</p>

comes to income distribution, inequality has been on the rise, with the income of the bottom 40% growing at a slower pace than the national average (Target 10.1). Greece is also far away from achieving Targets 10.3 on inequalities for racial and ethnic minorities.

Skills need to be improved while a low share of adults engage in lifelong learning; too many children and young people lack minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics (Targets 4.1 and 4.2), while disparities in education outcomes are large among students from different socio-economic backgrounds (Target 4.5). In addition, around three in ten adults lack functional numeracy and reading skills (Target 4.6). Greece also has the lowest participation rate of adults in formal and non-formal education among OECD countries (Target 4.3). Greece still lacks a comprehensive legal framework to foster gender equality; except in the area of employment and economic benefits (Targets 5.1 and 5.3). Women bear the lion share of unpaid care and housework (Target 5.4) and they are underrepresented in decision-making in both the public and economic spheres (Targets 5.5 and 16.7).

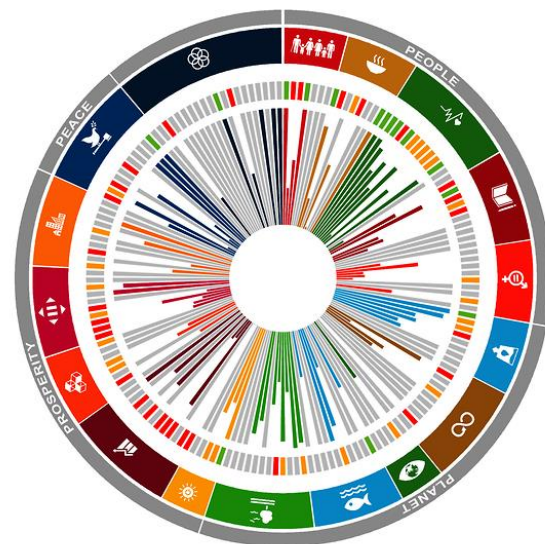
Current level: bars shows current level of achievement on each available target. The longer the bar, the shorter the distance still to be travelled to reach the 2030 target. Colors refers to the Goals.

Trend assessment: the outer ring describes the trend using stoplight colours to measure progress towards the target

- Target is achieved or on track to being achieved
- Progress has been made, but is insufficient
- No progress or moving away from the SDG target
- No (or insufficient) data

Goals

- 1: No Poverty
- 2: Zero Hunger
- 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- 4: Quality Education
- 5: Gender Equality
- 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 10: Reduced Inequality
- 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13: Climate Action
- 14: Life Below Water
- 15: Life On Land
- 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 17: Partnerships for the Goals



As regards the localization of the SDGs, “The progress of the Greek Regions in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) published in September 2022, has highlighted the following five major findings for the SDG Index and Dashboards for Greek regions: 1) no region has met the goal for SDG 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 16, while most of the regions face significant challenges; 2) one region has already met the goal for SDG 3, 5, 6, 7 and 15, whereas the rest of the regions face medium to minor challenges, 3) two regions have already met the goal for SDG 14, whereas the rest of the regions face medium to major challenges, indicating significant heterogeneity in the subnational performance of the regions; 4) the regions of Attica, Southern Aegean and Crete will have to try harder to overcome significant challenges towards achieving the SDGs until 2030, given that more than 60% of the Greek population resides in these areas (Eurostat, 2022); 5) there is a significant lack of

	<p>reliable data at regional level for most of the key performance indicators for SDG 12 and SDG 17.</p> <p>An overview of the state of the art in Greece with regard to SDGs alignment would suggest that Greece has made significant efforts to align its policies and initiatives with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the last decade, with the following key points:</p> <p>The government has shown commitment to achieving the SDGs by incorporating them into its national development strategies and plans, such as the National Reform Program and the National Strategic Reference Framework.</p> <p>Alignment with EU Trends: the European Green Deal, for example, is closely connected to several SDGs and has influenced Greece's environmental and sustainability policies.</p> <p>Legal Framework: laws related to environmental protection, climate action, and social inclusion have been enacted or updated to reflect the principles of the SDGs.</p> <p>Policy Coherence: There is an ongoing effort to ensure policy coherence across various sectors to avoid conflicts between different policy objectives and to promote synergy in pursuing SDGs. This includes addressing challenges related to economic growth, environmental protection, and social inclusion.</p> <p>The context as regards the culture of sustainability: Civil Society Engagement: Civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations and grassroots movements, play an essential role in advocating for SDG alignment in Greece. They often collaborate with the government and international organizations to promote sustainability and social progress.</p>
<p>legislative/regulatory, cultural, legal, policy, financial/incentive framework</p>	<p>Legislative and Regulatory Framework: Constitutional Provisions: Greece's Constitution includes provisions for environmental protection and human rights, providing a legal basis for sustainable development, while the National Reform Program integrates the SDGs and EU priorities into the country's economic and social policies, emphasizing sustainable growth, employment, and social inclusion.</p> <p>National Strategic Reference Framework: This framework guides the allocation of EU funds in Greece, with an emphasis on sustainable development and regional cohesion.</p> <p>National Energy and Climate Plan: Greece has developed a plan to transition to clean energy sources and reduce carbon emissions in line with EU and SDG goals.</p> <p>Financial and Incentive Framework:</p> <p>Environmental Legislation: Greece has a robust set of environmental laws and regulations that address issues such as air and water quality, waste management, and biodiversity conservation. These laws are essential for aligning with SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water).</p> <p>Climate Change Legislation: Greece has introduced climate change legislation to combat greenhouse gas emissions and promote climate resilience, aligning with SDG 13 (Climate Action).</p>

	<p>Urban Planning: Urban planning regulations focus on sustainable urban development, promoting public transportation, green spaces, and energy-efficient buildings in line with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Preservation: There are laws and regulations in place to protect Greece's cultural heritage, including historic sites, artifacts, and traditional practices, contributing to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).</p> <p>Tourism: Greece's cultural heritage, including archaeological sites and museums, is a major attraction for tourists. Sustainable tourism initiatives aim to protect these assets while promoting responsible tourism.</p> <p>Financial/incentive framework, special funding opportunities: Renewable Energy Incentives: Greece offers incentives for renewable energy projects, including feed-in tariffs and tax incentives, to promote clean energy generation and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).</p> <p>Agricultural Subsidies: Programs exist to support sustainable agriculture and rural development, contributing to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).</p> <p>Tourism Promotion: Incentives are provided for sustainable tourism practices, encouraging businesses to adopt eco-friendly measures that align with several SDGs. It's important to note that Greece's sustainability framework may have evolved since my last update in September 2021. Therefore, it's crucial to consult the most recent national and local legislation, policies, and incentives for the most accurate and up-to-date information to support your project's objectives related to SDGs in Greece.</p>
<p>existing barriers to the large-scale alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>The following have been identified as some of the most relevant existing barriers to large-scale alignment to the SDGs in Greece:</p> <p>Economic Constraints: Resource Allocation: Limited financial resources and competing budgetary priorities can hinder investments in sustainable development projects and initiatives, making it difficult to allocate funds to SDG-related activities.</p> <p>High Debt Burden: Economic challenges, such as high public debt levels, may restrict the government's ability to invest in long-term sustainable development projects.</p> <p>Bureaucratic Hurdles: Complex Regulatory Framework: Bureaucratic red tape and a complex regulatory environment can slow down the implementation of SDG-related projects and deter private sector involvement.</p> <p>Lack of Coordination: Insufficient coordination and collaboration between government agencies and stakeholders can lead to inefficiencies and delays in SDG implementation.</p> <p>Political Instability: Changing Leadership: Frequent changes in government leadership or policy shifts can disrupt long-term planning and implementation of SDG-related policies and initiatives.</p> <p>Policy Inconsistency: Inconsistent policy priorities across different administrations may undermine the continuity of sustainable development efforts.</p>

	<p>Lack of Awareness and Capacity: Limited public awareness and understanding of the SDGs can result in reduced support for sustainability initiatives and hinder citizen engagement.</p> <p>Institutional Capacity: Insufficient institutional capacity, including skilled personnel and technical expertise, can impede effective SDG planning and implementation.</p> <p>Social and Demographic Factors, Income Inequality: addressing income inequality and disparities in access to basic services is a significant challenge for achieving SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).</p> <p>Aging Population: Greece has an aging population, which can place additional demands on social services and healthcare, impacting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).</p> <p>Infrastructure Deficits: Transport and Connectivity: Deficiencies in transportation and digital infrastructure can limit access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, affecting several SDGs.</p> <p>Urbanization Challenges: Rapid urbanization can lead to inadequate housing, informal settlements, and increased demand for services, impacting SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).</p> <p>Data and Monitoring: Data Gaps: Insufficient data collection and monitoring systems can hinder the ability to track progress toward SDG targets and make evidence-based policy decisions.</p> <p>Migration and Refugee Crisis: Greece's location at the crossroads of Europe can present unique challenges related to migration and refugee management, impacting several SDGs.</p>
<p>existing good practices implemented in your countries related to the alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>Greece has showcased several good practices in SDG alignment. Initiatives related to renewable energy development, sustainable tourism, and social welfare programs have been recognized as positive examples, demonstrating the country's commitment to sustainable development and progress toward achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>Here are some notable examples:</p> <p>Renewable Energy Expansion: Greece has made significant strides in renewable energy development, particularly in wind and solar power. The country has attracted investments in renewable energy projects, contributing to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). The "Renewable Energy Communities" initiative allows citizens and local communities to participate in and benefit from renewable energy projects, aligning with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 7.</p> <p>Sustainable Tourism Initiatives: Greece's tourism sector, a major contributor to the economy, has embraced sustainable tourism practices. Efforts include promoting eco-friendly accommodations, cultural heritage preservation, and responsible tourism to align with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Programs like "Green Key" certify environmentally friendly hotels, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites emphasize cultural preservation and sustainable tourism.</p>

Waste Management and Circular Economy: Greece has implemented waste reduction and recycling programs, aiming to reduce landfill waste and promote a circular economy, aligning with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). The "Blue Bin" program encourages citizens to separate recyclables from general waste, while initiatives like "Refill Greece" promote reusable water bottles, reducing plastic waste.

Biodiversity Conservation: Efforts to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems have been made through the establishment of protected areas and the promotion of sustainable land use practices, contributing to SDG 15 (Life on Land). The Natura 2000 network includes protected habitats and species, while the LIFE program supports conservation and restoration projects.

Digital Transformation and Innovation: Greece has been investing in digital transformation and innovation, supporting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). The "Digital Governance" initiative aims to improve e-governance services, making government operations more efficient and accessible.

Educational Initiatives: Educational programs and campaigns have been launched to raise awareness of the SDGs among youth, fostering a culture of sustainability and active citizenship, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education). Non-governmental organizations and schools often organize educational events, workshops, and conferences on sustainability and the SDGs.

Social Inclusion Programs: Greece has initiated programs to support vulnerable populations and promote social inclusion, aligning with SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Initiatives like the "Integrated Homelessness Program" provide shelter, healthcare, and social support to homeless individuals.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Greece's cultural heritage preservation efforts contribute to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The "Adopt a Monument" program allows private individuals and businesses to contribute to the maintenance of historical sites.

Marine Conservation and Fisheries Management: Initiatives like the "Fishery Improvement Projects" focus on sustainable fisheries management, supporting SDG 14 (Life Below Water). Greece has designated marine protected areas to safeguard biodiversity and promote responsible fishing practices.

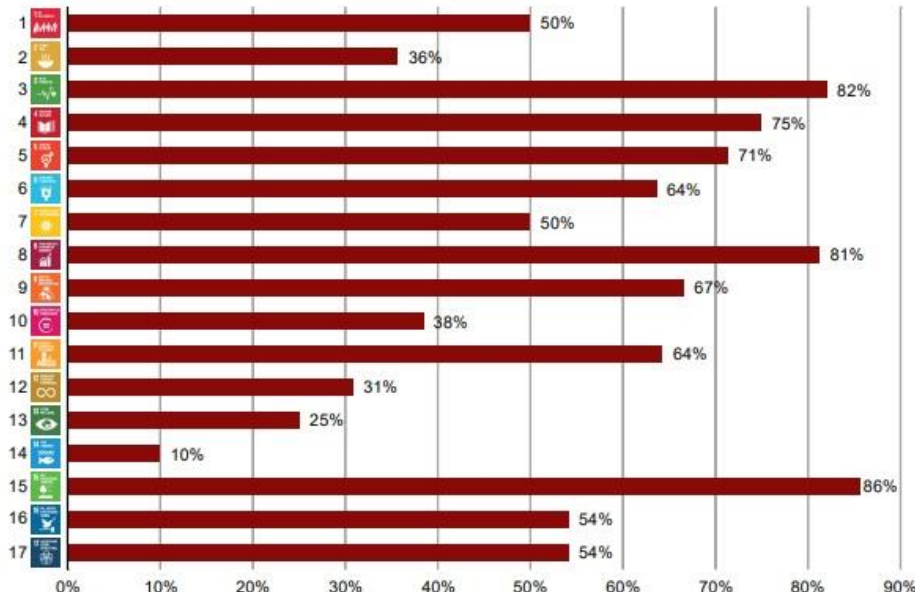
International Cooperation: Greece actively participates in regional and international initiatives, such as the European Green Deal, to address climate change, promote sustainability, and achieve SDG 13 (Climate Action).

In 2021, the Government integrated, for the first time, sustainability and environmental footprint indicators in the process of drafting and implementing the state budget, within the framework of a currently implementing green budgeting, performance budgeting and spending review reform, which aims to increase and enhance transparency, accountability, coherence, resilience and inclusiveness in public financial management.

Businesses perspective
The business-members of UNGC Network Hellas, as part of their commitment, are already

	<p>taking actions to advance the SDGs and are disclosing this information through their annual Communication on Progress report; based on their reports, the three SDGs that are mostly reported are Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 13 (Climate Action). Amongst the industries reporting policies on these SDGs: construction & materials, financial & support services and oil & gas producers. Mainly, business are undertaking the following actions: alignment of core corporate strategy with the SDGs; development of products and/or services that contribute to achieve the SDGs; the voluntary contributions to NGOs; the organisation or participation in key summits or major events related to the SDGs; the public communication of their best practices; and their impact on the engagement of the public-private partnerships projects.</p> <p>Historically, the Tourism sector is contributing significantly to Greece’s economy and social support, normally contributing directly and indirectly to more than 25% of the country’s GDP. In the period 2018-2022 the Tourism sector in Greece made solid steps towards its sustainability transformation, led by two of the sector’s largest hotel companies Sani-Ikos and Mitsis groups, as well as by the aviation industry Aegean Airlines, Athens International Airport, who are publishing fully audited and SDGs compliant social responsibility reports. Additionally, in the period under review, numerous large and medium-sized tourism and travel enterprises, as well as the regional airport operator Fraport commenced their sustainability transformation, announcing goals and targets with emphasis on local community support, nature and biodiversity protection, waste management, energy management, minimization of carbon footprint; acknowledging the fact that the sector’s sustainability transformation is still at an early stage, Sustainability transformation of the Greek Tourism model is key pillar of SETE’s “Greek Tourism 2030 Action Plans”.</p> <p>The Hellenic Responsible Business Awards, organized since 2015, is the most prestigious forum for acknowledging Greek businesses’ work on sustainable and social development; held under the auspices of the Ministries of Development, Investments and Environment Energy and the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises.</p>
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STATE OF THE ART	Within Local/National context																																				
<p>level of alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>In Spain we have the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 created by the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 in 2021 which constitutes a central priority of the Government and which has received the collaboration of the autonomous communities, cities, local entities, civil society organizations, organizations of the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and the rest of the key actors in achieving the SDGs. Besides, the global indicator framework made up of 231 indicators distributed among the different objectives and targets has been developed. This analysis is run by the INE (National Institute of Statistics) and the annual report can be consulted in their website. A coverage rate of 60% has been achieved for the total indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the global framework. Of the 17 Objectives, 12 have a coverage equal to or greater than 50%. Among them, SDG15 stands out (Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, fight desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt the loss of biodiversity), with a coverage of 86%. On the contrary, SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) has the least coverage, with 10% of the available indicators.</p> <p>Coverage of indicators per SDG. January 2021. Percentage</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="487 903 1396 1491"> <thead> <tr> <th>SDG</th> <th>Coverage Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>50%</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>36%</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>82%</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>75%</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>64%</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>50%</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>81%</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>67%</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>38%</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>64%</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>31%</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>25%</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>86%</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>54%</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>54%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In the area of social justice measures such as the improvement of the Minimum Living Income, the amount of which has been increased by 15% to protect the most vulnerable families. The approval of the labor reform has been a milestone for the creation of stable and quality employment and has been accompanied by other measures regarding labor rights, such as the increase continued improvement of the Interprofessional Minimum Wage and the approval of Royal Decree-Law 16/2022, which has led, among other measures, to the recognition of the right of domestic workers to social protection in</p>	SDG	Coverage Percentage	1	50%	2	36%	3	82%	4	75%	5	71%	6	64%	7	50%	8	81%	9	67%	10	38%	11	64%	12	31%	13	25%	14	10%	15	86%	16	54%	17	54%
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	<p>situations of unemployment. Regarding feminist rights and eradicating sexist violence and the gender gap the Government has deployed measures such as the Comprehensive Organic Law to Guarantee Sexual Freedom, the Plan for Effective Equality and the Co-Responsible Plan. There are also two regulations in the parliamentary process phase that will contribute to protecting feminist and LGTBI rights: the Draft Organic Law on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy, and the Bill for the real and effective equality of trans people and for the guarantee of the rights of LGTBI people. To face the climate crisis and to stop the loss of biodiversity, preserve our ecosystems and guarantee that living conditions in the planet remain habitable for human beings the Government has approved the Climate Change and Energy Transition Law, the Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, the Law on Waste and Contaminated Soils for a Circular Economy and the food chain law.</p> <p>The industrial sector has also been protected, with measures to cushion the impact of high energy prices in the electro-intensive industry, and the science law has been approved, which guarantees a funding floor and improves the stability of research personnel. The promotion of these two sectors is directly linked to the objective of achieving a more productive and diversified economic system.</p>
<p>legislative/regulatory, cultural, legal, policy, financial/incentive framework</p>	<p>The first big step was the approval by the Council of Ministers of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in June 2018. Also in June 2018, within the framework of the UN High-Level Political Forum, Spain underwent a Voluntary National Review for the first time, an exercise that was repeated three years later, in 2021. Furthermore, in June 2021, the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy was approved, a comprehensive document through which Spain renews and deepens its commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda, translating the SDGs into eight major country challenges and establishing what public policies can allow us to successfully address them. A reinforced governance system of the structural and permanent 2030 Agenda has been organized establishing three functional levels of articulation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda 2) Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda 3) Sustainable Development Council <p>A structure of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy has been defined based in a broad framework of action, an accelerator policy, and concrete actions, and following a common basic structure: on the one hand, the challenge (Country Challenge) is identified and diagnosed, pointing out all the aspects that characterize it; next, the accelerator policy is identified that encompasses the framework of actions that will allow us to make a qualitative leap in solving this challenge and in achieving various SDGs and goals; and finally, the priorities for action within this policy are specifically detailed, collecting the different measures, strategies, action plans and/or reforms and regulatory frameworks that provide it with content. Eight Country Challenges (with their diagnosis, accelerator politics, goals and specific actions) have been developed which evolve all the SDGs. A progress report has also been prepared annually since 2019. The Congress urged the Government, via Proposition No. of Law 161/00262 approved in December of 2017, to accompany all regulations processed in parliamentary headquarters with a Report of regulatory impact on compliance with the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Cultural framework</p> <p>The cultural sector has a fundamental role in the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda. With the aim of increasing the presence of the cultural sector in narratives about sustainable</p>

	<p>development from a multilevel approach, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has signed several agreements between 2021-2022 with the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development. Specifically, a framework agreement and a specific agreement have been signed in order to provide a context of cooperation to raise awareness among Spanish society about the SDGs and promote the participation of the academic and cultural sectors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>One of the first advances and actions within the framework of these collaboration agreements was the organization of the multi-stakeholder workshop Contributing to the Sustainable Development Strategy through Culture. The main objective was to propose a multilevel dialogue around several central issues, paying special attention to the role and in the contributions of cultural agents to the promotion and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The results materialized in a document/report with the conclusions and contributions collected, as well as the creation of a database with key actors who could form a future network of experts in the sector to promote culture and the 2030 Agenda. Other notable advances have been the celebration of the IV edition of the Public Conference on Culture and Sustainable Development, which included the presentation of the publication Guide to Getting Started with the SDGs in Culture, as well as a training program for the actors of the culture on the 2030 Agenda and the publication of Sustainable Development Goals and their goals from a cultural perspective.</p> <p>Financial/Incentive framework: It is essential to know quantitatively the means of implementation dedicated to achieving the SDGs, in investment and public spending, and to accompany this information with a qualitative assessment. Consequently, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda includes the transformative measure number 7: “Budgeting for the SDGs: Alignment of the General State Budgets with the 2030 Agenda.” With the aim of advancing the afore mentioned measure, the Ministry of Finance has been leading, since 2019, an exercise to align the bills of the General State Budgets to the 2030 Agenda in cooperation with all ministerial departments. As a result of this effort, the General State Budget Project corresponding to the 2021 financial year has been accompanied by the First Alignment Report with the SDGs, prepared by the State Secretariat for Budgets and Expenses. With the purpose of institutionally strengthening this work, the article 37.2 d) of Law 47/2003, General Budget, has been modified, incorporating, as complementary documentation that must accompany the bill, the Budget Alignment Report with the SDGs.</p>
<p>existing barriers to the large-scale alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>According to TEKIOS and as some of the conclusions of the SDG Observatory promoted by Esade and La Caixa Foundation in its latest report regarding SMEs, collected with 43 Spanish SMEs from various sectors committed to sustainable development: To incorporate SMEs into the challenge of sustainability, it is necessary to ensure that they receive more equitable access to information and resources, and regulations that are more in line with their needs.</p> <p>Since 2020, SMEs have had to carry out their activity in a very fluctuating and uncertain socioeconomic context that, above all, encouraged them to focus on their own survival and not take unnecessary risks. There were many uncertainties: the increase in general and labor costs, the rebound in demand, the oscillation in sales, financial debt, etc. In this context, SMEs have renounced medium/long-term planning during the last year and transformative measures have been slowed down.</p> <p>Another main obstacle is the costs associated with sustainability, which are reflected in the final price of products that may be more prohibitive for the final consumer. This</p>


	<p>factor, however, will be conditioned by the purchasing power of consumers and the prioritization of sustainability in public procurement, among other aspects. Another obstacle to overcome is related to the difficulty faced by SMEs in sharing sustainability values throughout the entire value chain. Small businesses are often unable to exert sufficient control over larger suppliers and customers, and cannot find collaborators who align with their level of awareness.</p> <p>To all this, we also add regulations that are unfriendly to small and medium-sized organizations. Although in recent years a dense legal framework favorable to the sustainable transition has been created and a generous amount of funds have been made available to companies to promote green transformation, SMEs are still very critical of the administration.</p> <p>Among the most recurring criticisms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The excessive bureaucracy to access aid. - Legal uncertainty in the face of regular regulatory changes and variable demands. - The lack of adaptation of the regulations to the reality of SMEs - The little respect for sustainability criteria in the administration's purchases and awards. <p>In terms of attracting talent, the companies participating in the study claim to have fewer resources and capacity for professional promotion compared to larger companies. However, this disadvantage can be easily overcome as long as job seekers perceive that the purpose of the companies with vacancies - whatever their size - genuinely align with sustainability criteria.</p>
<p>existing good practices implemented in your countries related to the alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>One of the key actors for promoting the participation of local governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). One of the most notable advances has been the progressive expansion of the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda, established in October 2020, and which currently has 478 member entities representing more than 26 million inhabitants. With an endowment of 600,000 euros destined to strengthen the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda and the development of strategies and plans to promote the localization of the 2030 Agenda, work is being done on the development of a budget alignment guide for the 2030 Agenda in the budgets of local entities.</p> <p>Another of the great advances has been the call by the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda, in August 2022, for competitive grants for actions to promote the 2030 Agenda in local entities. With a maximum budget of 4,8M€ to be distributed among local entities, the aim is to finance projects or initiatives related to the preparation and/or adaptation of municipal strategic plans of the 2030 Agenda, awareness-raising actions, as well as all those initiatives that enable the implementation of the SDGs at the local level.</p> <p>The Sustainable Development Strategy integrates actions and initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has launched a line of subsidies to finance projects and activities carried out by platforms, civil society organizations and non-profit associations, entities in the field of eco - social economy, universities and public research organizations that promote the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the action priorities of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. With an endowment of 10M€ annually, the call finances projects and initiatives whose purpose is to boost, promote and align public policies with the 2030 Agenda. With a high percentage of actions that promote political and social advocacy actions, awareness-raising, technological innovation applied to public policies and social intervention in healthcare services, as well as the establishment of</p>

multi-actor alliances and networking and intervention and social entrepreneurship, in the 2021 call 58 projects were benefited.

The business sector in Spain is gradually assuming the 2030 Agenda as a guide to integrate sustainable development in its activity, as shown by the results of the consultations carried out since 2018 by the Spanish Network of the Global Compact. 86% of the 2,507 participating companies said they are aware of this international agenda. The increase in participation is related to the recognition that the integration of sustainability and the SDGs provides greater competitive advantages and positively impacts the company's economic results (49% of respondents). In fact, 32% of the companies that have participated recognize that they have developed a sustainability strategy aligned with the SDGs, and 57% have a person or department that works in the field of sustainability. Among the measures related to business sustainability, the increase in those related to gender equality stands out positively, through work-life balance plans and equality plans, and those related to the environment, renewable energy and measurement of emissions. However, the results indicate that only 10% of companies evaluate their impact on human rights.

Of the priority areas to whose fulfillment Spanish companies are contributing to a greater extent, it stands out that although the SDGs related to gender equality (SDG5) and decent work (SDG8) continue to be the traditionally most addressed, a greater number of companies are incorporated that work in the areas of responsible production and consumption (SDG12) and affordable and non-polluting energy (SDG7), which shows a growing awareness of aspects of the circular economy and climate action (SDG13).



STATE OF THE ART	Within Local/National context
<p>level of alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>According to the Sustainable Development Report (formerly the SDG Index & Dashboards), Poland ranks 9 out of 166 monitored States in terms of the country's total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs, with an overall score of 81.8/100, which can be interpreted as the percentage of SDG achievement.</p> <p>The greatest progress is being made for SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). Moderate improvements are recorded for SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land). Unfortunately, among the other SDGs, stagnation is evident.</p> <p>Mentioned trends are illustrated in the graphic below:</p> <p>▼ SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS</p>  <p>The percentage of alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals in Poland is also shown in the diagram below:</p>

▼ AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



As the graphic above shows, Poland performs best on poverty eradication (SDG 1), access to quality education (SDG 4), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), innovation, industry and infrastructure (SDG 9), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) and protection of sustainable terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15). The goals related to climate action (SDG 13), ensuring the protection of marine resources (SDG 14), the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (SDG 17), and affordable, clean and accessible energy (SDG 7) remain a major challenge for our country.

In turn, Eurostat's report 'Sustainable development in the European Union. Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context', published in May 2022, shows that Poland, compared to the EU average, has made the most progress on 3 of the 17 SDGs, i.e. reducing inequalities (SDG 10), combating poverty (SDG 1) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17) between 2015/2016 and 2020/2021. The most challenging are the goals related to sustainable food production (SDG 2) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12).

The OECD in its 2022 publication. "Measuring distance to the SDG Targets - Poland" on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicates that Poland has met 18 of the 130 individual targets. Poland has a rapidly developing economy and records strong economic growth, and has a thriving labour market (SDG 8 - economic growth and decent work). It also performs better compared to other OECD countries with regard to the implementation of SDG 15 - life on land. In contrast, Poland's biggest challenges remain: improving skills in adults (SDG 4 - good quality education) and issues related to greening the economy (SDG 7 - clean and accessible energy, SDG 13 - climate action).

Additionally, in July 2023, halfway through the 2030 Agenda, Poland presented for the second time its progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Full report presenting Poland's progress towards SDGs in a graphical form can be found at the link: https://stat.gov.pl/download/gfx/portalinformacyjny/en/defaultaktualnosci/3316/33/1/1/polish_sdg_statistics_in_a_nutshell_.pdf

The publication presents selected indicators from the set of measures monitoring Poland's national sustainable development priorities.

<p>legislative/regulatory, cultural, legal, policy, financial/incentive framework</p>	<p>Legislative, regulatory, policy framework The adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the UN in 2015 coincided with the broad public debate in Poland on defining a new approach to development policy and the need to identify and give new impulses to development. National level:</p>
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As the result, the new national development model was presented in the Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD). The coherence of the SRD and the Agenda 2030 is visible in many aspects: at the level of objectives, areas and priority actions, and finally - indicators. The priorities of the socio-economic development of Poland have been defined in all three dimensions of sustainable development:

- Social – the prime concern is, first of all, to reduce social exclusion, poverty, all kinds of social inequalities. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of citizens’ life. We focus on the development of human and social capital through access to knowledge and education, skills and healthcare (SDGs: 1, 3, 4).
- Economic – the priority is the construction of a strong, modern industry and support for entrepreneurship. Investments in innovation, development of modern technologies and high value added products, of information technologies and full use of the digital revolution are of key importance. We support the internationalization of Polish enterprises and promote the creation of Polish brands abroad (SDGs: 2, 8, 9).
- Environmental – we strive to improve the condition of the environment and sustainable management of resources. Our aim is to increase the available water resources and achieve high water quality, rational management of natural and geological resources as well as effective waste management. The improvement of air quality in Polish cities remains the priority, as well as the protection of soils against degradation and the reduction of the impact of noise and electromagnetic fields, what will positively affect the health of residents (SDGs: 6, 11, 12, 15). Poland puts on a socially and territorially sensitive development, with a high level of employment, good quality jobs and a large scale of entrepreneurship. The benefits of economic growth should be available to everyone, regardless of where they live (SDG 10). Achieving the above priorities will be supported by strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of state and its institutions (i.e. better quality of the enacted law, efficient administration, strong system of strategic management of development processes) (SDG 16).

Regional and local level:

The Sustainable Development Goals are also being implemented at regional and local levels. Integrated action plans and strategies for sustainable development are being implemented, as well as programmes focusing on the SDGs. Actions at the regional and local level include not only strategies and development programmes, but also local spatial plans, environmental programmes, waste management programmes, low-carbon management programmes, revitalisation plans, environmental education initiatives, nature inventories and others. All support the effective implementation of development policy.

Some local authorities or regional authorities are preparing voluntary sub-national reviews. Other networks and think tanks, such as ICLEI (Local Government for Sustainability), a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments involved in urban sustainability, also promote the mainstreaming of the SDGs at the local level.

Cultural framework

The promotion of sustainability takes place at many levels. Many educational, analytical and supportive activities are being undertaken to help business build collaborative spaces with government, experts and civil society to align with the SDGs. One such activity is the 17 Goals Campaign

The 17 Goals Campaign mobilises Polish business to take action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and seize the business opportunities of Agenda 2030.

The campaign is conducted in a broad partnership of companies and institutions and is an example of how cross-sectoral cooperation for the 2030 Agenda can look like in practice. The Campaign's portal is an online knowledge centre about the Sustainable Development Goals for Polish business.

	<p>Any company that wants to work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. You can get involved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculating your own impact using the Impact Barometer. • Submitting your good practice to the good practice database • Joining one of the initiatives under the umbrella of the 17 Goals Campaign. • Businesses, as sustainability leaders, are invited to become sectoral stakeholders and partners in the Campaign. <p>The 17 Goals campaign has brought together more than 700 companies and nearly 200 institutions in joint projects. Focused on the initiative, they take active steps towards specific Goals.</p> <p>Financial/incentive framework</p> <p>Poland does not yet have a classification of budget expenditures aimed at achieving sustainable development goals, but an analysis of budget expenditures indicates that priority is given to expenditures on supporting families, combating social exclusion and equalising development opportunities for regions, i.e. in areas that determine development policy in the country. The majority of public expenditures included in the COFOG1 classification are part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Between 2018 and 2021, Poland has seen an increase in development spending as a proportion of GDP in areas that directly contribute to noting progress towards 14 of the 17 SDGs. Meanwhile, the 2021 data reflected, among other things, the impact of the pandemic on GDP growth or the effect of government efforts to mitigate the negative socio-economic effects of the pandemic by reducing spending in areas contributing to the selected SDGs (with the exception of healthcare spending, which became a priority).</p> <p>Poland is committed to sustainable financing initiatives. One of the innovative tools for achieving sustainable development goals are green bonds. As of 2019, more than 10 such bonds have been issued on the Polish capital market. Funds raised from the issuance of green bonds have directly contributed to financing investments in the area of sustainable energy (SDG 7) and climate action (SDG 13) as part of increasing the share of RES in the Polish energy mix (e.g. through the development of photovoltaic infrastructure), improving energy efficiency, developing low-carbon transport infrastructure or financing mortgages secured by green buildings.</p> <p>Good practice: a system classification system allowing identification of SDGs inputs</p> <p>In March 2022. The Ministry of Finance presented a concept for a new classification system. The concept envisaged the possibility of creating a segment of horizontal objectives, where public outlays (expenditures) that can simultaneously contribute to the achievement of multiple objectives and high-level results of public interventions could be identified. Examples of horizontal objectives could be support for specific groups of addressees or sustainable development objectives. The new classification system is one element of the new budget system. Legislative solutions introducing the new budget system should enter into force in Q1 2025</p>
<p>existing barriers to the large-scale alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>In Poland, there are several main barriers the large-scale alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient level of business and community engagement – Implementing sustainability measures often requires large financial investments. Many small and mid-sized companies and local communities in Poland do not have sufficient financial resources to make the necessary changes • Lack of cross-sectoral cooperation – Poland still lacks strong cooperation between the public sector, the private sector and civil society. Joint action by all these sectors is key to achieving sustainable development goals. • Institutional and regulatory barriers – Existing institutional and regulatory frameworks in Poland may not fully support the implementation of the SDGs. In some cases, there may be conflicting policies or regulations that impede progress towards achieving the goals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and monitoring challenges – Monitoring progress towards the SDGs requires reliable and up-to-date data. However, there may be challenges in collecting and analyzing data related to the SDGs in Poland, which can hinder effective monitoring and reporting. • Transition towards a green economy – Shifting towards a more sustainable and green economy is a key aspect of achieving the SDGs. However, transitioning from traditional industries to a low-carbon and sustainable economy can be challenging and may face resistance from vested interests in Poland. • Insufficient public awareness and education – People are still not aware of the need to act in favour of sustainable development. Many do not understand the concrete environmental and social benefits of such actions.
<p>existing good practices implemented in your countries related to the alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>One of the good practices bringing Poland closer to achieving the SDGs is the Responsible Business Forum. In Poland, it is one of the main actors working on sustainable development and supporting companies to become more responsible. Their mission is to build a coalition of companies around solving social problems, creating a community of socially engaged companies, creating a space for the exchange of experience between managers, public administration, representatives/ academics and social organisations. They actively seek social responsibility solutions for companies operating in Poland, adequate to their needs and possibilities.</p> <p>In 2022, the Responsible Business Forum published the report "Responsible Business in Poland 2022. Good practices". This report is a regular publication of the Responsible Business Forum, which is a compilation of companies' sustainable development activities from a given year. It provides the largest overview of corporate responsibility initiatives in Poland. The publication is a useful source of information and inspiration for Polish companies.</p> <p>In addition, among the activities and initiatives of Polish companies for the implementation of sustainable development goals listed in the report "Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Poland. Report 2023" are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing food waste through IT solutions (SDG 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foodsii app helps save food from going to waste. Thanks to technological solutions, it makes it possible to provide partners with information about products that can be picked up from a given location at a reduced price, thereby reducing food waste in these entities. • The functionality of the Żabka shop chain's 'Dobra paczka' application - allows products with an expiry date to be reserved in shops. In order to prevent food waste, the QMS (Quick Meal Solutions) product expiry date management system was implemented. 2. Increasing the inclusiveness of sectors economy and equality in the workplace (SDG 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GIRLS go CYBER project was carried out under a grant awarded by the Motorola Solutions Foundation. Its aim was to support women wishing to develop their careers in the ICT sector, with a particular focus on the area of digital security. • Orange Group set up a Gender Equality in the Workplace and Diversity Committee to analyse and review goals for gender balance in all roles, equal career opportunities, equal pay or work-life balance and to address violence and discrimination. • The CCC Group pursued equality in the workplace by reducing the Gender Pay Gap Ratio and enabling employee development (Glass Ceiling Ratio). 3. Innovations in energy management (SDG 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (which is a Polish development bank) has created the 3W initiative: water-hydrogen-carbon, which aims to support the worlds of science and business in the development of modern technologies used in industry, energy and medicine. The 3W idea supports the sustainable social and economic development of Poland. It creates a unique ecosystem that fosters the integration of intellectual and material resources around innovative technologies in the areas of water, hydrogen and carbon nanotechnologies.

	<p>Examples of good practice for sustainable development at local level in Poland:</p> <p>1. Development of municipal climate change adaptation plans in cities with populations over 100,000 in Poland Objective: Development of municipal climate change adaptation plans for 45 of Poland's largest cities. Activities: Identification of potential impacts of climate change in a given area on environmental, social and economic conditions, assessment of the risks of these impacts, assessment of adaptation options and plans for specific actions: Investment in infrastructure, risk and disaster management, green and blue infrastructure, spatial planning. Additional objectives: Building awareness of the need for adaptation to climate change in Poland and increasing the involvement of local communities in the creation of development and adaptation plans.</p> <p>2. Development of the Digital Transformation Policy of the Capital City of Warsaw Objective: The Digital Transformation Policy identifies priorities, values and principles for targeted digital development. It aims to transform Warsaw into a city offering the highest level of digital services by 2030. Activities: Analysis of trends and standards in the area of smart cities, review of cities with similar digital transformation policies, development of a Draft Digital Transformation Policy. Digital transformation policy priorities: Services close to the user, greater user involvement, innovation, user security and privacy, transparency in city management, office efficiency, high user digital culture.</p> <p>3. Development of a revitalisation strategy for the centre of Łódź Objective: Redevelopment of 100 ha in the centre of Łódź, including the Łódź Fabryczna railway station and adjacent areas. Additional objectives: Building awareness of the need to adapt to climate change in Poland and increasing the involvement of local communities in the development of adaptation plans and their implementation.</p> <p>4. Revitalisation of four central districts of Łódź (2016-2017) Objective: Revitalisation of four central areas in the centre of Łódź to improve public spaces and increase the proportion of green areas. Additional objectives: Comprehensive plan for the four neighbourhoods within the priority programmes, development of the future functional structure, transport solutions, smart city and quality of life initiatives.</p>
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STATE OF THE ART	Within Local/National context
<p>level of alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>According to the Sustainable Development Report (formerly the SDG Index & Dashboards), Cyprus ranks 59 out of 166 monitored States in terms of the country's total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs, with an overall score of 72,5/100, which can be interpreted as the percentage of SDG achievement.</p> <p>The greatest progress is being made for SDG 10 (reducing inequalities) which is on track or maintaining SDG achievement; SDGs 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17 are moderately improving; SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 15 are stagnating, while SDGs 13 and 16 are decreasing. Mentioned trends are illustrated in the chart below:</p> <div data-bbox="516 613 1372 1302"> <p>▼ OVERALL PERFORMANCE</p> <p>COUNTRY RANKING: 59 / 166</p> <p>COUNTRY SCORE: 72.5</p> <p>REGIONAL AVERAGE: 71.8</p> <p>STATUS OF SDG TARGETS (%)</p> <p>▼ AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG</p> <p>▼ SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS</p> </div> <p>According to the Second Voluntary National Review for the Sustainable Development goals of the Republic of Cyprus, Cyprus has shown progress in most SDG indicators, even though it continues to rank low among the EU countries.</p> <p>Cyprus performs well regarding reducing poverty, securing good health, in high tertiary educational attainment, but falls behind in quality education and in affordable energy even though challenges remain towards clean energy. It is ahead of many EU countries in terms of the gender pay gap and while showing some improvement in the number of women in leadership positions, continues to rank very low among EU27. Cyprus has the highest number in asylum applications, experiencing the highest influx of migrants in the EU.</p> <p>Regarding the environment, Cyprus' performance is below the EU average in most SDGs. Severe challenges exist with respect to sustainable agriculture, clean water and sanitation due to the extended drought periods caused by climate change. Cyprus</p>

continues to lack behind with respect to responsible consumption and production and climate action. However, the data show a continuous improvement towards most environmental goals, with the overall implementation rate for all SDGs rising from 70.60% in 2017 to 75.21% in 2020.

Cyprus has implemented the following initiatives:

Social Inclusion

- Introduction of the General Health System (GHS), a modern and universal healthcare system, that provides equal access to high quality healthcare services.
- Implementation of a multidimensional Strategic Action Plan for the integration of migrants including labour market program and vocational orientation.
- Adoption of the new National Action Plan for Equality between Men and Women (NAPD) (2019-2023)
- Participation of youth in Government decision making through the Children's Parliament 'Annual Meeting' and the launch of the 'Public Consultation Day'.

Innovation and Digitalisation

- Establishment of the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy to enable and accelerate Cyprus' digital transformation.
- Launch of the new Industrial Policy (2019-2030) seeking transition to a circular economy via policies to enhance sustainable entrepreneurship.

Green Transition

- Adoption of the new National Governance System for the implementation of the EU Green Deal in Cyprus.
- Participation in the Climate Change Actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East.

- Launch of the National Strategy for the Development of Mountain Communities.

Cyprus also follows closely the Agenda 2030 developments at the UN currently on a number of areas related to the goals of the Agenda, which are also national priorities. Specifically:

- During the Agenda 2030 negotiations, Cyprus was especially active on Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. It has strongly supported the Oceans Conference (New York, 5-9 June 2017) and its national commitments include regional cooperation initiatives for preparedness and response to major hydrocarbon marine pollution incidents.
- The protection of cultural heritage is also a policy area related both to target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage but also to 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.

Cyprus supported the development of the new Convention of the Council of Europe, on Offences relating to Cultural Property, which aims at protecting cultural property and preventing and combating cultural property crimes. Several events and activities were also organized internationally around the same theme, including a special event on "Promoting and strengthening the international legal framework for the protection of cultural heritage.

- Cyprus has been a strong supporter of Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" and the Paris Agreement, with high commitment and active involvement in relevant UN processes. In May 2017, the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN cochaired together with the Permanent Representative of Peru to the UN the 18th UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, with the timely theme "The effects of climate change on oceans".

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyprus is a strong advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women (Goal 5). It was a member of the EU negotiating team for the Agreed Conclusions of the 60th Commission on the Status of Women, which dealt with the theme of “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development”, directly linked to Agenda 2030 of women. • The strategic location of Cyprus and its historical experience as a country of origin, transit and destination of migrants has provided it with a deep knowledge of migration and of the importance of developing a common understanding on the phenomenon at the international level.
<p>legislative/regulatory, cultural, legal, policy, financial/incentive framework</p>	<p>Legislative, regulatory, policy framework</p> <p>A combination of policies and legislation, both national and EU, cover most part of the SDGs in Cyprus at all three dimensions. The most important is the Action Plan for Growth and the National Reform Program prepared in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy.</p> <p>Through the National Reform Program, policy actions are being promoted aiming to address economic challenges in order to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Emphasis is placed on enhancing good governance and administration at a public service and business administration level as well as introducing and enforcing transparency mechanisms at all levels of public decision making and policy formulation.</p> <p>Social welfare Policy has been an immediate priority. The new policy is based on the principle that the state must be able to ensure a minimum standard of living for all citizens, while taking steps to activate, integrate or reintegrate all those in need into the labor market.</p> <p>The National Strategy on Social Policy was adopted for the period 2014-2020 and addresses the promotion of children’s welfare, the reform of the welfare system, active inclusion, long-term care, and effective governance.</p> <p>Also, innovative measures and policies are introduced to support growth, production, and the provision of services, including the reduction of waste and pollution, and the safeguarding of our natural capital and ecosystem services. Specific attention and support are promoted for certain priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of an integrated strategy in the tourism sector, extension of the maritime sector and infrastructure and modernization of the professional services sector, which relate primarily with SDGs 8 and 9, but also with SDGs 12 and 14. • Strengthening the competitiveness of the primary and secondary agricultural sector in Cyprus and reviving the Cypriot countryside. The Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 is the basic strategic tool through which agriculture’s objectives will be supported for the modernization and the improvement of competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Targets include increase of organic farming, increase of the agriculture sector and revival of the rural population by encouraging farmers especially young farmers to move to the countryside. • Promotion of green development and creation of green jobs. Investing in waste management, greenhouse gas reduction, recycling, and adaptation to climate change: <p>The National Action Plan for a Green Economy is one of the key tools towards resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production patterns and more sustainable growth. The Plan includes measures in all sectors, such as agriculture, water resources, biodiversity and green infrastructure, forests, energy, transport, industry, waste management, tourism, climate change and adaptation.</p>

• Development of an integrated and holistic national industrial policy for the enhancement of digital and industrial abilities, embodiment of primary technology, investments in Research and Development with the purpose to develop innovative products and services. Especially linked with the implementation of SDG 9 (infrastructure, industrialization, and innovation), but also with SDGs 7, 8 and 12, the new integrated industrial strategy will take into account policies such as the Smart Specialization Strategy, the Action Plan of the National Coalition for Digital Jobs, the National Digital Strategy, the National Policy Statement for the Enhancement of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Cyprus

The National Youth Strategy of Cyprus for the period 2017-2022 defines the vision of the state for its young people. It is the government's commitment to implement actions that guarantee quality of life and offer new opportunities for all the young people in Cyprus. It aspires to ensure the active participation of all young people in society and to explore ways that empower them to realize their full potential as citizens.

Cultural framework

Enhancing and developing the culture of sustainability has been at the core of Cyprus's education system. Major reforms during the past few years, aimed at modernising pedagogical policies, upgrading structures and improving infrastructure targeting early childhood education and lifelong learning. More specifically, the Unit of Education for the Environment and Sustainable Development continues to have as a priority task the empowerment of youth on SDGs, the enhancement of the skills for decision-making, participation and action. Educational tools are set in place with the adaptation of ESD Curricula as well as the provision of obligatory and optional professional courses for teachers. At the same time, non-formal education is strengthened by providing opportunities to students and teachers to have first-hand experiences and experiential activities through the Environmental Education Programs that offered within the Governmental network of Environmental Education Centres.

The Cyprus Pedagogical Institute continues to organize and offer different training activities related to human rights, antiracist and intercultural education, on intimidating behaviour, on prevention and management of conflicts and violence, prevention and management of school bullying, on social identities/gender development, on gender equality, respect for diversity, human rights, peaceful coexistence, on development of social skills like empathy, active listening and positive assertiveness.

Furthermore, the recently revised Curricula have integrated a gender perspective in educational materials, to combat gender stereotypes from an early age through the encouragement of boys for more active participation in family life and girls in politics/public life, as well as develop relationships based on equality and mutual respect between

Cyprus leads the large cross-regional core group (including Argentina, Ethiopia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Iraq, Mali, Poland, Serbia and Switzerland) that presents the triennial resolution on Cultural Rights and the Protection of Cultural Heritage at the United Nations Human Rights Council. The latest iteration of the resolution was once again unanimously adopted by the Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2022. The resolution has mandated an intersessional seminar to be held before March 2024 (before the 55th session of the Council) and a report by the OHCHR before March 2025 (before the 58th session of the Council).

Financial/incentive framework

	<p>In 2022, the Cypriot economy grew solidly and with continued momentum. Real GDP increased by 5.6% in 2022 following growth of 6.6% in 2021. Despite the links with the Russian economy, the negative impact of the Russian aggression of Ukraine on Cyprus' economy has so far been contained. Household spending proved resilient, supported by increased employment and higher wages, targeted measures to compensate high energy prices, and accumulated savings from the pandemic. Tourism performed well, reaching about 90% of pre-pandemic revenue and 80% of pre-pandemic arrivals. This reflects a successful strategy to diversify tourist markets. Going forward, economic activity is expected to remain positive though growth is expected to slow to 2.7% in 2024. This reflects the anticipated global slowdown, high prices and tightening monetary policy.</p> <p>Non-tourism service sectors are gaining momentum and help diversify the economy. The share of gross value added by services excluding sectors related to tourism and public services increased from an average of almost 60% from 2016-2019 to around 65% in 2022. These sectors are mainly export-oriented and their share in total exports of services increased from 51% in 2016-2019 to 64% in 2022. As a result, the economy has become less dependent on tourism.</p> <p>Ongoing implementation of the recovery and resilience plan and Cyprus' new long-term strategy for the sustainable and inclusive growth are key to further redirecting the economy to higher value-added sectors. In addition to support from the Recovery and Resilience Facility Cyprus receives a significant volume of EU Cohesion Funds (EUR 1.5 billion from 2021- 2027, representing 5.5% of GDP in 2022)</p> <p>At 20% of GDP in 2022 (against the EU average of 23.2%), investment levels in Cyprus are not only below the EU average, but they are also concentrated in housing, machinery, and equipment (mainly transport equipment, for the registration and deregistration of ships). By contrast, the level of productivity-enhancing investment, including research and development, is still low. The same applies to labour productivity, which is only 85.8% of the EU average.</p> <p>Green and sustainable growth is increasing only slowly. In 2021, Cyprus' greenhouse gas emissions in the sectors not covered by the Emission Trading Scheme far exceeded its annual emission allocations. The existing and additional measures planned by Cyprus are not sufficient to reach the effort sharing target of reducing emissions by 32% by 2030 compared to the 2005 level, in line with the EU's Fit for 55 objectives. Under current policy, Cyprus would only reduce its emissions by 7% and 17% with additional measures. Cyprus' green transition has been slow and its potential to expand renewable energy is so far untapped. The share of solar energy reached 26% in heating, but in the electricity mix, oil still accounts for 85% and renewable energy for only 15%. Investments in large-scale renewable energy production are not happening due to the limited capacity of the, the lack of storage facilities, and the slow process of opening the electricity market to competition. Support schemes started in 2021 to help citizens, public authorities and businesses save energy, for instance by insulating buildings and producing energy from photovoltaics. The schemes have been successful in attracting enough applications.</p>
<p>existing barriers to the large-scale alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>Agriculture: Cyprus ranks in the lowest positions among EU countries in relation to sustainable agriculture. It is severely affected by climate change, putting at risk both the safety and adequacy of domestically produced food and livestock production. Rising temperatures, declining rainfall and extreme weather events are the main threats faced by farming today. The lack of irrigation water and new diseases exert</p>

destructive pressures on agricultural development, while intensive cultivation results in the substantial degradation of agricultural land, posing a threat on biodiversity.

Greenhouse gas emissions:
 Cyprus is among the Member States with the highest greenhouse gas emissions per person, with most of the emissions coming from the energy production sector, which is heavily relying on fossil fuel and highly exposed on oil prices.
 Based on 2019 data, Cyprus ranks 14th in the final energy consumption and 15th in the primary energy among other EU countries. In 2019, the primary energy consumption was 2.88 tons of oil equivalent (TOE) per capita (while the EU average was 3.02 TOE per capita).

Cyprus, which relies heavily on imported 31 sources for its energy needs. This is a significant energy trade deficit, expressed in percentage of GDP. Hence the importance of energy security, market integration, energy efficiency and using indigenous energy resources, in particular renewables, to reduce our dependence on external suppliers while decarbonizing the economy and stimulating new business sectors. The goal of a resilient Energy Union is at the core of the European Commission's work to give consumers secure, sustainable, competitive, and affordable energy. For the period up to 2020, the Energy Union is complemented by the Europe 2020 Strategy with its headline targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, to satisfy 20% of the EU's energy demand with renewables, and to increase energy efficiency by 20% by 2020.

In 2019, the share renewable energy in Cyprus was 13.8%, placing Cyprus in the 20th position among EU countries (with the EU average share being 19.7%). Moreover, the share of renewable energy varies by sector. Cyprus underperforms in the use of renewable energy in transportation and electricity (3.3% and 9.8%, respectively), while it performs relatively well in heating and cooling (35.1%)

Waste management:
 Due to high consumption patterns Cyprus has one of the fastest rising waste generation rates in Europe with considerable environmental, health and socioeconomic impacts given the small size of the country. Over the period 1996-2011, the total amount of municipal waste generated increased by 45%, although more recent data show that the growth rate of residual waste has been reduced, due to the increase in separate collection (mainly involving packaging and WEEE) and energy recovery. According to legal requirements, government has prepared a waste management strategy, a waste management plan for municipal waste and a waste prevention program.

- Cyprus produces 609 kg of municipal waste per capita per year, being far higher than the EU average of 505 kg
- Cyprus recycles approximately 16.6% of its municipal waste, compared to an EU-wide average of 47%
- 67% of all municipal waste is disposed of in landfill, more than three times higher than the European average of 23%, and well below the 10% target set for 2030

A study was carried out reference the marine litter of Cyprus and after a year of waste collection from 20 beaches in Cyprus, a total of 42,499 marine litter items were collected, of which 86.3 per cent were plastic, with the top three plastic items being bottles and caps plastic (fragments smaller than 2.5cm) and cigarette butt being the main litter. Plastics have been identified as the most abundant marine litter on Cyprus beaches (86.3%), with bottles and caps (23.0%), plastic fragments smaller than 2.5cm (22.1%), and cigarette butts (17 %) being the most common items.

The land degradation indices show that Cyprus is lacking in comparison to the rest of the EU. Specifically, it is 27th in the soil sealing index which estimates the increase in

	<p>sealed soil surfaces with impervious materials due to urban development and construction, with the index value in Cyprus in 2015 being 113.7 compared to the EU average of 104.5. In addition, it ranks 20th in the estimated soil erosion by water index, which estimates the risk of soil loss by water erosion processes (the index value in Cyprus in 2016 was 6.5% compared to 5.3% in the EU)</p>
<p>existing good practices implemented in your countries related to the alignment to the SDGs</p>	<p>Protection of female migrants The COALESCE project is dedicated to providing comprehensive psycho-social support to female migrant victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in Europe and was implemented by a consortium of organizations across Europe including three from Cyprus, MIGS, the Cyprus Refugee Council and Caritas Cyprus The objectives were to facilitate transnational actions for the early identification of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings including in the context of asylum procedures, and to provide concrete measures for assistance, support, integration, and sustainable voluntary return while taking into account their specific needs based on age, sex and specific consequences of the form of exploitation to which they were subjected.</p> <p>Educational System Development of the Educational Unit for the Environment and the Sustainable development The Unit was officially established in 2018, which is the competent Unit of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth for the promotion of the environmental education and sustainable development in the context of formal, non-formal and informal education. It aims of shaping a civil society that will act and act based on protecting the environment and ensuring the quality of life with a view to shaping a sustainable world. A network of Environmental Education Centers is established around Cyprus for the integration of the environmental and Sustainable Development issues in the Curriculum and are designed on the basis of the philosophy and pedagogical of the Education for Sustainable Education Development focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning beyond and outside school, • interaction with space, • the utilization of the knowledge and experience of local populations, the systemic, interdisciplinary, and holistic view of environmental and sustainable development issues that are examined each time; the awareness of the fact that engagement with the local environment is a key field of universal action, • the social character of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development <p>Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyprus towards its commitment to preserve crop diversity and domesticated animals has banned genetically modified organism (GMO) farming. The agriculture research Institute of Cyprus runs a gene bank / herbarium where it preserves more than 12000 named specimens of plant genetic resources. Agriculture Genetic institute also participates in the European Cooperative Program for Plant Genetic Resources and other international and national organizations. ARI is also a partner in the “Trust project” for collecting, protecting and preparing crop wild relatives. • Common Agriculture policy. (CAP) 2023-2027 Cyprus aims to increase the sustainability and resilience of the agricultural sector by expanding the production of high-quality agricultural products while improving the

economic viability of small and medium-sized holdings. Cyprus allocates around EUR 155 million to support farmers' income with basic income support (about EUR 233 per hectare annually) to mitigate the risk of production decreases arising from price fluctuations and external influences.

Due to the importance of haloumi cheese the main Cypriot agricultural export, the Cypriot Plan aims to enhance the sheep and goats farming sector. It will financially support the income of small sheep and goat farmers and will introduce measures to modernize farms and improve animal welfare, in order to increase productivity and the average holding size.

Sustainable tourism

The NGOs in Cyprus play an important role in promoting sustainable tourism. The Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI), a non-profit nongovernmental organization since 2006, through its projects contributes to the alignment to the SDGs.

CSTI aims to harness tourism demand (tour operators, agents) with the supply of tourism resources (small producers and their communities) to develop a sustainable approach to tourism in Cyprus. Offering a memorable experience for the tourist, this approach also provides a clear economic benefit to villages marginalized by mass tourism, while minimizing adverse socio-economic and environmental impact.

Many projects have been implemented and are running through the years of its establishment aiming to integrate the sustainable development goals not also within the tourism industry but also on a local level by engaging locals, tourists, stakeholders, community leaders to act. Such projects are:

Cyprus Breakfast project

The philosophy behind the Cyprus breakfast is to establish a brand for the promotion of the Cyprus hotel industry which aims to focus on the local gastronomic culture and heritage as the core differentiation factor that can sustain a competitive advantage for the hotel industry in the international travel market. The brand also aims to highlight the social role of the industry through its support for local communities and small producers. Many hotels have implemented the Cyprus breakfast project with a great success.

Reduction of plastic pollution

Implementation of the Keep our sand and sea plastic free project which is an initiative of the TUI Care Foundation in partnership with the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative and it aims to reduce the amount of single-used plastic generated in the tourism businesses but also along our coasts and communities so that less of it ends up in the sea. 150 hotels and stakeholders have partnered with the project and have already reduced the use of plastic in their businesses by using alternative material and methods.

Under the umbrella of this project CSTI has created 5 Plastic free beaches around Cyprus, by installing water stations providing free, filtered cold water to the users, creating a smoking area where the users can gather and use the ashtrays provided instead of littering the sand, artwork with plastic and furniture with up cycled plastic and informative signs were also installed at the beaches.

Waste Management CSTI with its partners has developed the first waste mapping guide to be implemented in hotels and restaurants. The guidance document is tailored principally to meet the needs of hotel operators and other organisations working in the Cypriot tourism industry to highlight the financial and environmental benefits of undertaking waste mapping as part of their on-going business operations. Waste mapping enables you to identify the sources, types, and quantities of waste you produce.

	<p>The mapping approach allows you to investigate where and how waste arises and present this visually in a way that can help to identify hidden costs of waste. The guide is structured to take you through the key steps in implementing a waste mapping process through diagrams, photographs, and templates aiming to reduce the waste produced. The Waste Mapping guide is available free of charge in both Greek and English.</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence projects in HORECA CSTI is working with its IT partners in developing applications on food waste, water and energy consumption in order to assist the HORECA industry to contribute towards achieving the 17 SDGs.</p>
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