

## Economic Commission for Europe

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### Webinar “National SDGs indicators and VNR”

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## Statistical Information for 2030 Agenda in Italy

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### How many and which indicators for SDGs in Italy



The [2030 Agenda for sustainable development](#) adopted from the UN-Assembly General (*UN Resolution A7RES/70/1, New York*) is built on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets with the aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

The Goals of the 2030 Agenda refer to different areas of social, economic and environmental development, which need to be considered in an integrated approach, as well as the processes that may accompany and foster them in a sustainable way, that safeguards the planet and guarantees the well-being of people and an equitable distribution of development over time.

The *United Nations Inter Agency Expert Group on SDGs* (UN-IAEG-SDGs) proposed a first list of indicators for their monitoring. Istat, like other national statistical institutes, has the task of constructing the statistical information necessary for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for our Country and contributing to the realization of this global project. Therefore, starting from

December 2016, Istat began to make the indicators available for Italy on a six-monthly basis on the information platform dedicated to SDGs, accessible from [www.istat.it](http://www.istat.it) (<https://www.istat.it/it/benessere-e-sostenibilit%C3%A0/obiettivi-di-sviluppo-sostenibile/gli-indicatori-istat>).

This year, along with the new annual release, the second **SDGs Report 2019**, Statistical information for the 2030 Agenda in Italy ([https://www.istat.it/it/files/2019/04/SDGs\\_2019.pdf](https://www.istat.it/it/files/2019/04/SDGs_2019.pdf)), has been published in April 2019 and the English version ([https://www.istat.it/it/files/2019/08/SDGs-2019\\_inglese.pdf](https://www.istat.it/it/files/2019/08/SDGs-2019_inglese.pdf)) in August 2019. The Reports proposed a further extension of the panorama of indicators.

In application of the "no one left behind" principle, particular attention was paid to expanding possible breakdowns by gender, citizenship, presence of limitations (disability) and territorial level.

In December, the last seventh release Istat was disseminated and produced an updated set of **123 UN-IAEG-SDGs indicators** and, for these, **319 statistical measures**, all available on the website. **125 measure were updated.**

This is a work in continuous evolution, which develop the intrinsic complexity of sustainable development and which takes into account the improvements in the production of statistical measures within the National Statistical System (Sistan) and thanks to synergistic action developed in it, working for a progressive extension of the "mapping" of the indicators proposed by UN-IAEG-SDGs. To meet the global and national demand for information, Istat has intensified its development and strengthening of the statistical measures to allow monitoring of the country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, the work of inter-institutional comparison, previously done both within and outside of Sistan, produced a consistent increment of SDGs statistical information. The national road-map includes to continue with the definition of the indicators used for the 2030 Agenda, the development of the indicators that are not yet available, promoting information sharing, the necessary and profitable synergies, including those with the custodial agencies, and it includes to continue in the integrated reading and analysis of monitoring objectives and measures.

## The SDGs Italian 2019 Report

Istat proposed in this second SDGs Report 2019 further extension of the panorama of already released indicators, together with the analysis of trends and of their interlinkages, giving a statistical framework for monitoring the progresses towards the sustainable development defined globally.

Considering the statistical measures adopted it is important to consider that there is no unique correspondence between the indicators defined at international level and the measures identified for Italy. For some measures there is a perfect coincidence with the international indicators, others measures partially reflect the information needs of the international indicator to which they are connected (this happens for various reasons, mainly because not all the data are available in the specificity requested). The remaining measures have been inserted in order to provide further elements useful for understanding and monitoring the target set in the "national context".

In application of the "no one left behind" principle, particular attention was paid to expanding possible breakdowns by gender, citizenship, presence of limitations (disability) and territorial level.

Latest update: 6 July 2018

<b>Goal 1   xls   pdf  </b> End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<b>Goal 10   xls   pdf  </b> Reduce inequality within and among countries
<b>Goal 2   xls   pdf  </b> End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	<b>Goal 11   xls   pdf  </b> Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
<b>Goal 3   xls   pdf  </b> Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<b>Goal 12   xls   pdf  </b> Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
<b>Goal 4   xls   pdf  </b> Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all	<b>Goal 13   xls   pdf  </b> Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
<b>Goal 5   xls   pdf  </b> Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<b>Goal 14   xls   pdf  </b> Conserve and Sustainably Use Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development
<b>Goal 6   xls   pdf  </b> Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<b>Goal 15   xls   pdf  </b> Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
<b>Goal 7   xls   pdf  </b> Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<b>Goal 16   xls   pdf  </b> Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<b>Goal 8   xls   pdf  </b> Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<b>Goal 17   xls   pdf  </b> Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
<b>Goal 9   xls   pdf  </b> Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	



The key principle of SDGs - Keeping on with the economic and social development ensuring meeting the needs of present generation without compromising those of the future ones - is no doubt a challenge for countries and national statistical systems, but it can be transformed into a relevant opportunity, both for European and national policies, and for quality statistical information. The complexity of the SDGs is one of the characteristic elements, together with the further incontrovertible element, that these refer to very concrete issues that concern each of us.

The domains that constitute the "pillars" of SDGs - social, environmental, economic and institutional – have to be understood, in fact, considering three catalyst principles: universality, integration, participation.

Universality refers to the need to consider objectives with a perspective that goes from global to national and to local (regional and / or urban). This is realized in the application of the "No one left behind principle": to ensure well-being in an equitable manner, attention must be given to gender issues, territories, citizenship, disabilities, different generations. The integration of domains - social, environmental, economic, institutional - and their interactions highlight synergies or, vice versa, trade-offs that can be generated between objectives. It is therefore a matter of considering the interconnections between human and natural systems, the interactions between environmental, social and economic issues and institutional issues. In an integrated global perspective, for example, sustainability must be considered together with climate change and its effects also in terms of hazardous events and disasters: the interconnections and interactions between people, planet, peace, prosperity, participation is evident. There are many references to the well-being of people and to a fair distribution of the benefits of development, intra and inter-generational.

Objectives, targets, indicators, even if organized in single components, are interdependent, integrated and indivisible in order to consider in a balanced way the economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainable development. There are, therefore, many ties between the 17 Goals and the 169 Targets, which reinforce them or may enter into conflict. Navigating the complexity, analyzing the interconnections between the indicators and making the correlations explicit (positive or negative) can be a key factor for strengthening, which guides the statistical analysis. The steps taken to achieve progress for a

Goal could be reinforced or could compete with those established for another Goal. For this reason, both at international and national level, attention is paid to the analysis of interlinkages. An approach that considers the links and interactions between Goal and Target could be therefore useful, making the "interlinkages" between the related statistical indicators and thus constructing the possible related "mappings" dedicated to specific topics.

There are three main purposes of the analyzes related to interlinkages. The first is to facilitate the production of statistical information, aimed at bridging information gaps, in identifying the most appropriate proxy indicators or the most relevant specific national indicators. The explanation and analysis of the interrelationships can help to understand the philosophy underlying the statistical measures to be developed and to identify the critical dimensions. This allows you to focus attention on the fundamental dimensions of each target, trying to make the most of available statistical information. The second purpose is to make complex statistical information more accessible, through the integrated analysis of social, economic and environmental dimensions and their interrelations, making explicit, for example, the interconnections related to climate change, the urban dimension, the possible development drivers, or aspects related to cross-cutting issues such as gender or citizenship inequalities or issues related to disability. The third purpose proposes the use of the identified links to facilitate the use of statistical measures for monitoring, even cross-referencing, of sustainable development objectives to support policies.

The integrated statistical systems, such as the current statistical platform SDGs Istat, as well as the study of the interactions between the different domains of the SDGs and the clarification of the links between the indicators, can support the monitoring and the choices on the synergistic actions to be developed, the definition of priorities, the identification of the trade-offs and of the relevant dimensions to be monitored, contributing to an overall improvement in the consistency of the policies to be implemented.

In the report, some of the analyzes aimed to explore the nature of interlinkages between Goals and finalized to take into account the different purposes, referring to statistical measures, used as a tool to identify such interactions, are described. The results are shown using a visualization through the graphs which helps to identify the main nodes related to the identified interconnections. Gender, citizenship, disability are considered in the analysis of the interconnections between objectives, targets and indicators: their potential information can improve the consistency of the analyses, making synergies and complementarities explicit. Cross-sectional analyses related to the urban dimension, climate change, innovations and infrastructures as development engines, can explain further aspects related to interconnections, conceptual and due to coherence also with other international frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework or those related to Changes climate. The interrelationships are analyzed by comparing the hypothesized by UN-IAEG-SDGs with the statistical information currently available in the Istat-SDGs Information System, making the links explicit through graphs.

Furthermore, the indicators are in line with the indicators of Equitable and Sustainable Well-being (BES), which have been included in the economic-financial planning cycle since 2017.

Bes	SDGs
1. Health	1 indicator in GOAL 2 "Zero hunger" - 2 indicators in GOAL 3 "Good Health and Well Being"
2. Education and trainin	4 indicators in GOAL 4 "Quality Education" - 1 indicator in GOAL 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth"
3. Work and life balance	1 indicator in GOAL 5 "Gender Equality" - 3 indicators in GOAL 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth"
4. Economic well-being (*)	4 indicators in GOAL 1 "No poverty" - 3 indicators in GOAL 10 "Reduced Inequalities"
5. Social relationships	
6. Politics and Institutions(**)	4 indicators in GOAL 5 "Gender Equality" - 4 indicators in GOAL 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions"
7. Security	1 indicator in GOAL 5 "Gender Equality", GOAL 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions"

(\*) 1 identical indicator in more goals

(\*\*) 1 identical indicator repeated in more goals

(\*\*\*) 5 indicators in more goals

Bes	SDGs
8. Subjective well-being	
9. Landscape and cultural heritage	1 indicator in GOAL 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities", GOAL 13 "Climate action"
10. Environment(***)	1 indicator in GOAL 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy", GOAL 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth", GOAL 14 "Life below water", GOAL 15 "Life on land", GOAL 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" - 2 indicators in GOAL 6 "Clean Water and Sanification", GOAL 13 "Climate action", GOAL 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production" - 4 indicators in GOAL 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" - 5 indicators in GOAL 1 "No poverty"
11. Innovation, research and creativity	2 indicators in GOAL 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure"
12. Quality of services	1 indicator in GOAL 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions"

The SDGs measures available constitute the necessary input to measure the National Sustainable Development Strategy<sup>1</sup> (NSDS), which recognizes the key role of Sistan and Sistan in their production. The need to define a core of indicators for the NSDS (Strategia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile) monitoring also derives from the needs linked to the path of its declination at the regional level. In March 2018, on the initiative of the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea, a working Table was set up on indicators for the implementation of the NSDS with the aim of defining a small and representative core set of indicators with reference to all the Goals. The Table defined and agreed upon the criteria for selecting the indicators and the methodological approach needed to identify a first set of indicators. In fact, it was agreed to refer to the methodological criteria adopted by the BES Committee, established pursuant to art. 14 of law 163/2016, adapting and expanding them to incorporate a further criterion of spatial disaggregation of reference data, at least at a regional level.

The following general, non-hierarchical criteria have therefore been adopted: Parsimony, Feasibility, Timeliness, Sensitivity to public policies, Territorial dimensions. The application of these criteria conducted to the experimental selection of a list of indicators, used in some cases to try regional analyses.



<sup>1</sup> Presented at the Council of Ministers in October 2017: [http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio\\_immagini/Galletti/Comunicati/snsvs\\_ottobre2017.pdf](http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio_immagini/Galletti/Comunicati/snsvs_ottobre2017.pdf).