

7th Expert Meeting on Statistics for SDGs

12 - 13 April 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

Session 4: Disaggregation and inclusive data

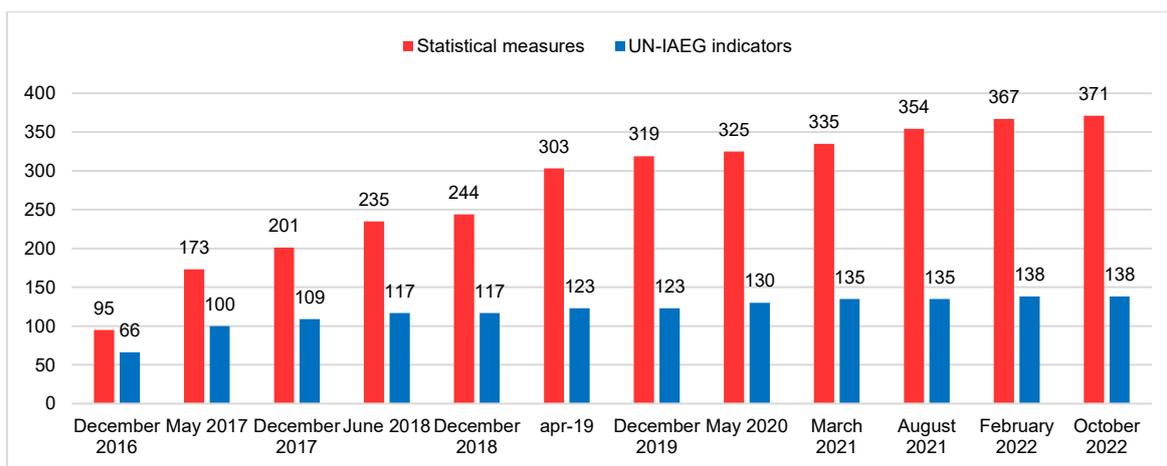
**Challenges and opportunities to “leave no one behind” in SDGs
Istat approach**

Prepared by Angela Ferruzza and Paola Ungaro, Istat

A. The Istat experience

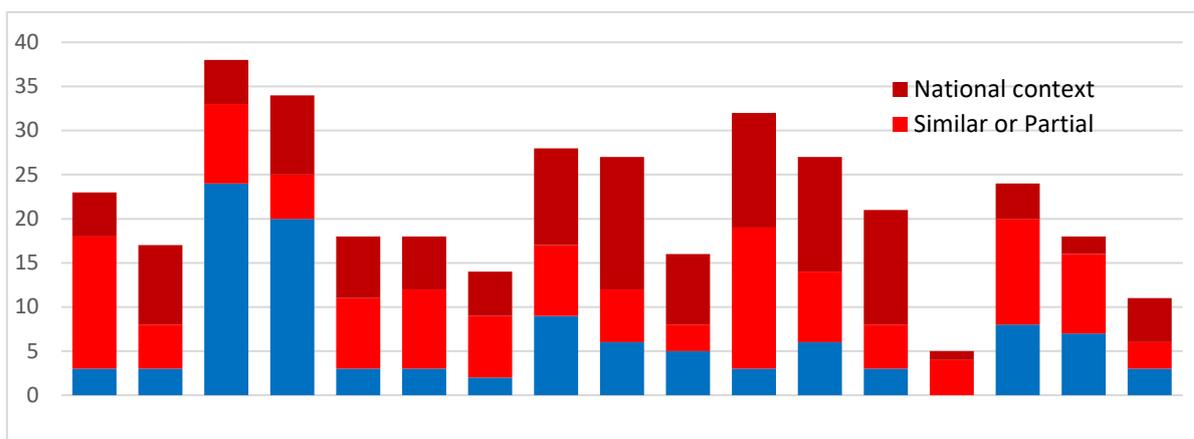
1. A crucial role has been assigned to the National Statistical Institutes for the production of accessible and transparent quality statistical information at national and sub-national level, aimed at monitoring the SDGs, also related to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) submitted to the HLPF.
2. The process of producing national statistical measures uses the current version of the 2020 revision of the indicators suggested by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs. The synergistic work of inter-institutional comparison and enrichment of the information related to the SDGs indicators has produced the current Statistical Platform, built with the cooperation of the institutions of the National Statistical System (Sistan) and beyond.
3. The economic, social, environmental and institutional domains have considered in an integrated approach to develop disaggregated and integrated statistical measures, from global to local, to leave no one behind. In concrete, disaggregated and integrated statistical measures have developed.
4. The national statistical measures for monitoring the SDGs have made available progressively in the dedicated Istat Information Platform , as part of multiple releases since 2016, in order to give continuous updates and enrichments: from 95 national measures for 66 UN-IAEG indicators released in December 2016, to the current version that identifies 371 statistical measures for 138 indicators.

Figure 1
Istat-SDGs Platform statistical measures of the UN-IAEG-SDGs indicators by time of dissemination



5. In the implementation of the information platform, national statistical measures were identified as *identical* to the indicators required by the UN-IAEG in its 2020 revision, or either *similar* or *partial*¹. Additional *specific to the national context* statistical measures has added. 108 statistical measures are identical, 132 are proxy or partial and 131 are country context specific.

Figure 2
Istat-SDGs statistical measures by type: identical, similar or partial, national context



6. In application of the principle "no one left behind", to satisfy the global, national and territorial information demand, particular attention is constantly dedicated to regional breakdowns, to those by level of urbanization, as well as to those by gender, by citizenship, and by disability.

¹ In this case not all data are available or not all are available in the specificity required by the UN-IAEG-SDG.

Figure 3
Istat-SDGs statistical measures, by breakdown

Dimension	Istat-SDGs statistical measures	Goal
Degree of urbanization / Municipality / Municipality type	76	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Region	210	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Province	15	3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15
Gender	123	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17
Age class	81	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17
Citizenship / Nationality	54	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16
Presence of disability	17	1, 3, 4, 10

7. The key indicators that are suggested to be disaggregated by gender in UN-IAEG official list are 57, and in the Italian experience are 123.

Figure 4
Gender disaggregated indicators according to UN-IAEG-SDG



B. An approach to the analysis of disparities in sustainable development

8. In Italy, territorial imbalances are a relevant issue, often objective of political and institutional attention, to reduce the historic gap between the South and Islands and the North-Centre of the country. The situation of women and young people is disadvantaged in many areas, especially due to difficulties in entering the labour market, which makes these groups at greater risk of poverty. The 2008-2012 economic crisis first and the pandemic crisis then have further increased inequalities, calling for the urgency of policies sensitive to imbalances.

9. By identifying equal opportunities between generations, gender and territory as cross-cutting priorities, Next Generation Italia, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), aims at boosting the country's socio-economic and environmental development by overcoming the historical gaps that characterize it. The promotion of equality is therefore a common objective of the 2030 Agenda and of national and European policies that require monitoring over time.

10. The availability of a large number of disaggregated statistical measures makes possible analyses aimed at measuring the progress towards reducing disparities and reaching a broader balance in the process of achieving the SDGs.

11. Istat team on SDGs has started to explore the issue of territorial and gender inequalities, developing a multidimensional approach for measuring the progress both of Italian regions and males and females, with respect to the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda².

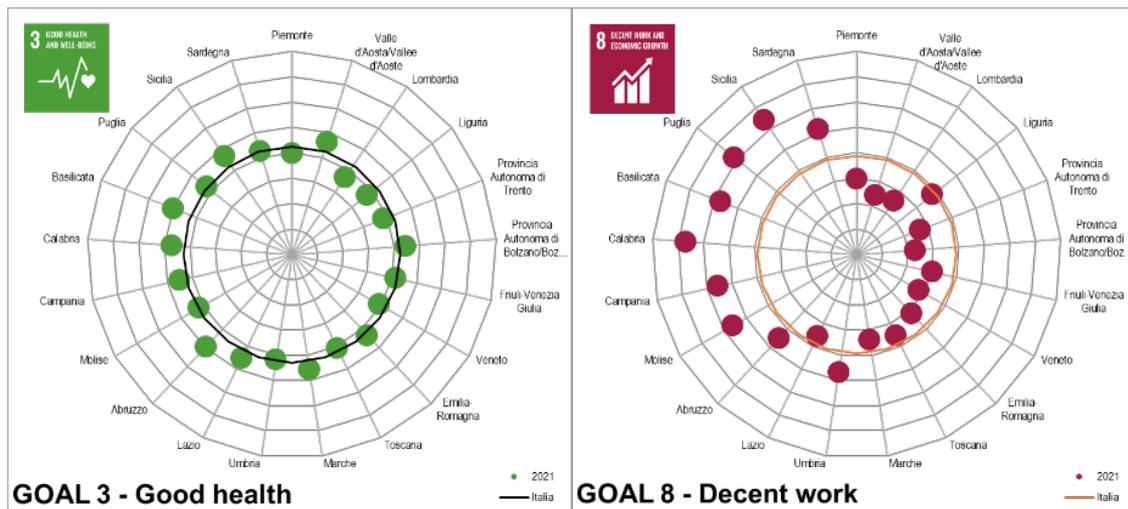
12. Considering that only a minority of the Agenda targets have defined quantitative benchmarks, the analysis of territorial imbalances has been based on the comparison of Italian regions performances with a so called 'best performance' (bp). The bp has defined as the best result observed for one or more regions from 2010 to the present, and identified by taking into account the positive/negative direction of the measures with respect to the targets. The distance between each region and the bp³ has been calculated for each statistical measure of the Istat-SDGs system with regional breakdown (152 measures, covering all 17 Goals). The distances of the statistical measures have then aggregated for each Goal, in order to study the overall performance of each region and the level of inter-regional homogeneity/heterogeneity, by Goal.

13. The main findings of the analysis indicate that almost 2/3 of the bps have achieved in the North and more than half have achieved over the last 5 years. Moreover, the Goals can be classified according to the degree of homogeneity/ heterogeneity among regions in reaching the bp. The Goals showing more a homogeneous trend are Goal 3 (Good health and well-being), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 12 (Responsible consumption and production). In Goal 3, for instance, the regions are all close to the Italian average (represented by the circle in bold) at a similar distance from the bp (represented by the centre of the radar graph; Figure 5). Conversely, the Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), 10 (Reduced inequalities) and 8 (Decent work and economic growth) show higher differences between regions, with the northern and central regions performing better (placing within the circle in bold and closer to the bp) and the southern region performing worse (outside the circle and far away from the centre of the graph). The other Goals, especially environmental ones, show a more nuanced and varied profile, not always clearly representing the north-south dichotomy.

² See National Statistical Institute — Istat. 2022 SDGs Report (forthcoming).

³ For methodological and computational details *ibid*.

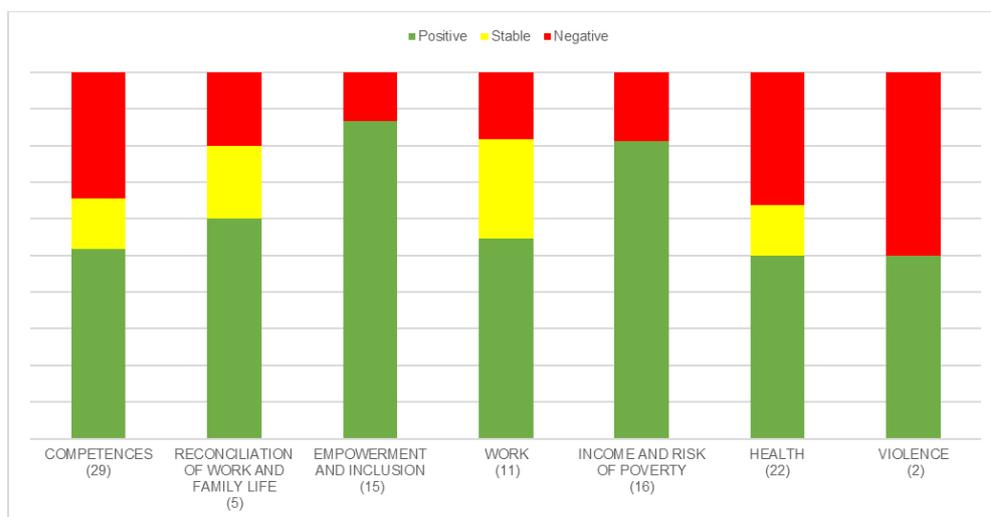
Figure 5
Overall distance of regions from the best performance, by Goal: Goal 3 and 8



14. The evolution of gender inequalities over time has been analysed basing on 100 Istat-SDGs measures broken down by gender and available in time series, classified in six areas, according with National and European Strategy for Gender Equality: Competences, Reconciliation of work and family life, Empowerment and inclusion, Work, Income and risk of poverty, Health, Violence. The set of measures goes well beyond Goal 5, considering each measure that contributes to the monitoring of progress of both genders with regard to the cultural, economic and civil growth objectives set out in 2030 Agenda.

15. The concept of "gender trend" has been introduced to monitor the gaps between men and women, and to highlight when indicators are improving from a female perspective. In fact, the gender trend is defined positive if the evolution of a statistical measure over time is to the greater benefit of women compared to men, stable when there are no variations and negative when the gender differences increase to the detriment of women⁴.

Figure 6
Gender gaps



16. The main results show an overall positive evolution of gender gaps. For most of the statistical measures considered (62, equal to 62%) the gender trend index shows a positive

⁴ For methodological and computational details *ibid*.

evolution, 11 measures are stable, while 27 show a negative trend, Figure 6). Income and risk of poverty is one of the areas which record the largest improvements, thanks to the greater progress by the female component compared to the male one in almost all the measures considered, followed by “Empowerment and inclusion”, driven by the strong reduction in the percentage of unsentenced women detainees. Gender differentials result more frequently stable or worsening in the areas of Health and Competences.

3. Monitoring National Strategy for Sustainable Development: the challenge of territorial disaggregation

17. The Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MEES), as far as the national dimension is concerned, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), with regard to the international dimension, in coordination with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, have implemented the process of evolution of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD). The first version of the NSSD was adopted in 2017, while in recent months the 2022 Strategy is still in progress⁵. The ongoing work is involving all stakeholders — enterprises, municipalities, regions, citizens and associations — in order to promote the transition to an economy where management, conservation and sustainable use of resources is ensured.

18. The Istat-SDGs statistical measures represent the necessary input for the measurement of the NSSD. A narrow and representative⁶ core of monitoring measures was then selected⁷.

19. This statistical measures subset has revised, in order to take into account the ongoing revision of the NSSD, the information requests by all the stakeholders involved in the revision of the Strategy, as well as the larger information availability of the current SDGs Platform compared to the one used at the beginning. The same methodological approach has been adopted as for the first selection. It has therefore decided to use statistical measures from the Istat Platform, consistent with the indicators of Equitable and Sustainable Well-being (ESW), also in order to ensure that the measures comply with the statistical eligibility requirements. Moreover, the criteria of sparing, feasibility, timeliness, extension and frequency of time series, sensitivity to public policies, territorial dimension were used, focusing on statistical measures that have the best available territorial breakdown. The ongoing analyses show the reconfirmation of almost all statistical measures identified in the previous version, as well as the need for an extension to take into account new national and international information requirements: 55 indicators selected from the Istat system were considered.

20. The second VNR of the NSSD was presented at the latest UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (13-15th July 2022)⁸. A strong positive trait that characterized the VNR is the presence of a plan to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development as well as attention to the territorial dimension. In the selection of the 55 indicators used for monitoring the NSSD the territorial disaggregation is crucial.

⁵ See <https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/sviluppo-sostenibile-e-rapporti-internazionali>.

⁶ During 2018, at the initiative of MEES, the Working Table on Indicators for the Implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy was established. Representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Presidency of the Council, Ispra and Istat participated in the activities. The Table defined and agreed the criteria for the selection of indicators and the methodological approach necessary to identify a first set of indicators relevant for the monitoring of the NSSD.

⁷ See National Statistical Institute — Istat. 2022. 2021 SDGs Report. Rome: Istat. <https://www.istat.it/en/archivio/266473>.

⁸ See <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/italy>