

2023 **VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW** PORTUGAL

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FORWARD



The Prime-Minister
of Portugal,
António Costa

Portugal is completely engaged with the 2030 Agenda, remaining fully committed to eradicating poverty, fighting inequalities, and promoting a global, fair, equitable and inclusive sustainable development, based on the respect for human rights and the principle of human dignity.

This commitment is evident in the strategic priorities and public policies we have adopted, namely the Portugal 2030 Strategy, the Major Options Law for 2022-2026, the National Reform Programme, the Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030, the programming of national and European financing instruments, such as the Recovery and Resilience Plan, among other sectoral instruments.

The exercise presented here reflects the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and embodies an analytic diagnosis of the progress achieved since 2017, the year in which the first voluntary national report was presented, as well as future challenges, in a multilevel and aggregating approach.

Its drafting process, more than an exercise of collection and report of information, was the lodestar for a new cycle of governance, coordination and implementation, at national, regional and local level, of the policies aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This journey has reinforced our belief that a holistic and comprehensive approach is fundamental for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2023, we are halfway to 2030. The challenges to full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs are many and demanding.. Nonetheless, Portugal remains, as in 2015, ready to actively engage with all national and international stakeholders in order to succeed in achieving the ambitious goals we have set and which today, in view of recent crises, are more crucial than ever.

These remain everyone's goals, our universal goals, leaving no one behind. Together we can change the world!

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ACRONYMS

- › **2030 Agenda** - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- › **ARA** - Autonomous Region of Azores
- › **ACM** – High Commission for Migration
- › **AD&C** - Agency for Development and Cohesion
- › **ANAFRE** - National Association of Parishes
- › **ANMP** - National Association of Portuguese Municipalities
- › **APA** - Portuguese Environment Agency
- › **AR** - Portuguese Parliament
- › **BCSD** - Business Council for Sustainable Development
- › **Camões, I.P.** - Camões - Institute of Cooperation and Language
- › **CCDR** - Regional Coordination and Development Commission
- › **CDW** - Construction and Demolition Waste
- › **CESOP** – Centre for Studies and Opinion Polls of the Catholic University of Portugal
- › **CF** – Cohesion Fund
- › **CIC** - Inter-ministerial Cooperation Committee
- › **CIG** - Citizenship and Gender Equality Committee
- › **CIM** - Inter-municipal Community
- › **CLBE** - Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics
- › **CLDS** - Local Social Development Contracts
- › **CMR** - Council of Ministers Resolution
- › **CNADS** - National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development
- › **CO2** - Carbon dioxide
- › **COP** - Conference of the Parties
- › **CPLP** - Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries
- › **CSO** - Civil Society Organisations
- › **CU** - Curricular Units
- › **DAC** - Development Assistance Committee
- › **DGE** - Directorate-General of Education
- › **DGEEC** - Directorate General of Education and Science Statistics
- › **DGEG** - Directorate-General of Energy and Geology
- › **EC** - European Commission
- › **ECP 2030** - Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030
- › **EF** - Environmental Fund
- › **EIA** - Environmental Impact Assessment
- › **EISU** – Integrated Urban Security Strategy
- › **EN3R** - National Strategy for the Rehabilitation of Rivers and Streams
- › **ENCP** - National Strategy for Combating Poverty
- › **ENEA** - National Strategy of Environmental Education
- › **ENE** - National Strategy of Education for Citizenship
- › **ENIND** - National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination
- › **ENSAN 2021** – National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security 2021
- › **EP** – European Parliament
- › **EP 2030** - Portugal 2030 Strategy
- › **ERAЕ** - Entity with Specific Environmental Responsibility;
- › **ERDF** - European Regional Development Fund
- › **ERSAR** - Water and Waste Services Regulatory Authority
- › **ESC** - Economic and Social Council
- › **ESD** - Education for Sustainable Development
- › **ESF+** - European Social Fund Plus
- › **ESI Funds** - European Structural and Investment Funds
- › **EU** - European Union
- › **FCT** - Foundation for Science and Technology
- › **FECOP** – Enterprise Fund for Portuguese Cooperation
- › **FTJ** - Fund for a Fair Transition
- › **GDP** - Gross domestic product
- › **GHG** - Greenhouse Gases
- › **GCM** - Global Compact for Migration
- › **GNI** - Gross National Income
- › **GO** - Major Options Law
- › **GPEARI** - Office of Planning, Strategy, Evaluation and International Relations
- › **GVA** - Gross Value Added
- › **HEI** - Higher Education Institutions
- › **HLMC** - High-Level Monitoring Committee
- › **HLPF** - High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- › **HRC** - Human Rights Council
- › **IACA** - Impact Assessment of Climate Action
- › **IBC** - Iberoamerican Commission
- › **ICES** - International Council for Exploration of the Sea
- › **ICNF** - Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests
- › **ICT** - Information and Communication Technologies
- › **ILGA** - Intervention Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex
- › **IMAR** - Institute of the Sea
- › **InC2** - National Circular Cities Initiative
- › **INA, I.P.** – National Institute of Administration
- › **INE** - Statistics Portugal
- › **IOM** - International Organisation for Migration
- › **IPSS** - Private Social Welfare and Charity Institutions
- › **ISF** - Synthetic fertility index
- › **SM** - Municipal Sustainability Index



- › **JAP** - Junior Achievement Portugal
- › **JRC** - Joint Research Centre
- › **LDC** - Least Developed Countries
- › **LGBTI+** - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other identities
- › **RIA** - Regulatory Impact Assessment
- › **LNOB** - Leave No One Behind
- › **ARM** Autonomous Region of Madeira
- › **MAVI** - Independent Life Support Model
- › **MNE** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- › **NEET** - Not currently engaged in Employment, Education or Training
- › **NDC** – Nationally Determined Contribution
- › **NGDO** - Non-Governmental Development Organisations
- › **NGO** - Non-Governmental Organisation
- › **NHS** - National Health Service
- › **NMW** - National Minimum Wage
- › **NSRF** - National Strategic Reference Framework
- › **NUTS** - Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes
- › **ODA** - Official Development Assistance
- › **ODSlocal** - Local SDG Platform
- › **OE** - National State's Budget
- › **OECD** - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- › **OP** - Operational Programme
- › **OU** - organic units
- › **p.p.** - percentage points
- › **PA** - Public Administration
- › **PAIMH** - Action Plan for equality between women and men
- › **PALOP** - Portuguese-speaking African Countries
- › **PART** - Programme to Support Tariff Reduction in Public Transport
- › **PAVMVD** - Action plan for the prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence
- › **PCM** - Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- › **PDQI** - Demography, Qualifications and Social Inclusion Plan
- › **PEC** - Strategic Cooperation Programmes
- › **PENSAARP** - Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Wastewater and Stormwater Management
- › **PI** - Planning Instruments
- › **PlanAPP** - Competence Centre for Planning, Policy and Foresight in Public Administration
- › **PNAC** - National Climate Change Programme
- › **PNEC 2030** – National Plan for Energy and Climate 2030
- › **PNH** - National Housing Programme
- › **PNIPGM** – National Programme for the implementation of the GCM
- › **PNPCT** - Programme for the Prevention and Control of Smoking
- › **PNR** - National Reform Programme
- › **PPUE** – Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU 2021
- › **PRODERAM** - Rural Development Programme of the Autonomous Region of Madeira for 2014-2020
- › **PRORURAL+** - Rural Development Programme of the Autonomous Region of Azores
- › **PROTransP** - Programme to Support Densification and Reinforcement of the Public Transport Supply
- › **PRV** - Regional Vaccination Plan
- › **PSICC** - Permanent Secretariat of the ICC
- › **PT** - Portugal
- › **PT2020** - Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement
- › **PT2030** - Portugal 2030 Partnership Agreement
- › **R&D** - research and development
- › **RDP** - Rural Development Programme
- › **RePLAN** - Inter-ministerial network in the areas of strategic planning, public policies and foresight
- › **RIS3** - Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation
- › **RMMG** - guaranteed monthly minimum salary
- › **RNC 2050** - Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality
- › **RRF** - Recovery and Resilience Facility
- › **RRP** - Recovery and Resilience Plan
- › **RSI** - Social Insertion Allowance
- › **SDG** - Sustainable Development Goals
- › **SDSN** - Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- › **SEA** - Strategic Environmental Assessments
- › **SFS** - Security Forces and Services
- › **SIDS** - Small Islands Developing States
- › **SME** – Small and Medium Enterprises
- › **SRI** - Regional Innovation System
- › **STD** - Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- › **STEM** - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- › **UAlg** - University of Algarve
- › **UN** - United Nations
- › **UN GCNP** - UN Global Compact Network Portugal
- › **UNFCCC** - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- › **UNFPA** - United Nations Population Fund
- › **UNOC** - II United Nations Ocean Conference
- › **UNSG** – UN Secretary-General
- › **VAT** – Value Added Tax
- › **VNR** - Voluntary National Review
- › **VLR** – Voluntary Local Review
- › **WG** - Working Group
- › **WHO** - World Health Organisation
- › **WoG** - Whole-of-Government
- › **WoS** - Whole-of-Society

1



HIGHLIGHTS





It remains committed to the eradication of poverty, to combat inequalities, and promote a global, fair, equitable and inclusive sustainable development, based on the respect for human dignity and the principles building back better and leave no one behind (LNOB).

The Portuguese Government has adopted a new inter-institutional coordination mechanism in order to strengthen this commitment. The supervision and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda has been repositioned, internally, in the centre of the government, at the level of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM). The external coordination remains within the sphere of competences of the Foreign Affairs Ministry (MNE). A monitoring structure has also been set up. That structure, in addition to integrating the two areas of government listed above, includes representatives of the two governments of the autonomous regions, of the local authorities, of the Economic and Social Council (ESC) and members of civil society of acknowledged merit in the sustainable development field.

The intention in the preparation of the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) was to adopt a participatory and inclusive approach, through the involvement of all stakeholders, not only the public sector (Portuguese Parliament - AR, Government of the Republic, peripheral services of the State's Central Administration, Regional Governments and Local Authorities), but also civil society, such as non-governmental organisations, social partners, academia and the private sector. The process comprised consultations divided into two periods (one *ex ante* to the drafting of the VNR and the other *ex post*, through the holding of a public consultation procedure).

There has been a gradual ownership and incorporation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into public policy planning since 2017. Decisive steps were taken in 2022 through the alignment of high-level planning instruments with the SDGs and their targets, such as the Portugal 2030 Strategy (EP 2030), the National Reform Programme (PNR) 2022, the Major Options Law (GO) for 2022-2026 and the Portuguese 2030 Cooperation Strategy (ECP 2030).

Therefore, there is still a margin of improvement on the appropriation of the 2030 Agenda as the main benchmark for the convergence and coherence of public policies with sustainable development. Moreover, despite this alignment, most current public policy instruments do not specifically mention or refer to the SDGs and 2030 Agenda. Only about 34% of the Planning Instruments (PI) in force make

explicit reference to the SDGs. Additionally, systemic challenges also remain in analysing the trade-offs, spillovers and co-benefits of the SDGs, making it difficult to have a cross-cutting and holistic perspective throughout the public policy cycle.

This analysis exercise also highlights the growing integration of the LNOB principle in most planning instruments and policy measures, where *economic conditions, human rights and gender discrimination* are considered to have cross-cutting scope.

Portugal achieved, in 2021, according to *The Europe Sustainable Development Report 2022*, a score of 73.03 in the index that reflects the application of the LNOB principle. This score ranked 21st among the 34 countries analysed.

In terms of foreign policy, the support for the 2030 Agenda, including in the cooperation for development area, and its universal and inclusive nature, has been a constant. Particularly, through national participation in various international fora that contribute to the different dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). Portugal's ambitious commitments at the various United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conferences, its active role as «Champion Country» of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the political commitment to the Second United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) are examples of this national commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The ECP 2030, adopted in December 2022, contributes to the pursuit of three key international commitments: the 2030 Agenda, and beyond that, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement. This Strategy sets out the following as priorities (i) Development Cooperation, (ii) Development Education and (iii) Humanitarian and Emergency Action.

The national priorities in the field of development cooperation are aligned with the Pillars of the 2030 Agenda - People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, with the emphasis on the 'P' of Partnerships, which is fundamental to achieve the SDGs. Portuguese Cooperation abroad embodies the principles and cross-cutting components, especially the LNOB principle. This is reflected in the centrality given to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDSs), countries in fragile situations and countries in the process of graduation.

There is also progressive ownership of the 2030 Agenda at other levels, such as the illustrated in the design and implementation of public policies at regional and local level, in scientific and academic production aligned with the SDGs and in the growing incorporation of sustainability principles in the strategic plans of companies.

The increase in platforms and networks for monitoring and disseminating initiatives under the 2030 Agenda,

promoted by local authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGO), companies and other entities, in various areas and dimensions of sustainable development, is a reflection of this trend. It is important to create, in this regard, centralised, integrated information and dissemination channels focused on common priorities.

Statistics Portugal (INE) has been publishing an annual statistical report on the SDGs since 2018, to measure national progress. INE has been enhancing the quantity and quality of the information available. This annual statistical report makes a greater effort to increase the level of data breakdown at territorial level and by socio-demographic variables in order to better describe the more vulnerable groups.

The indicators available for Portugal cover 69% of the total of the 248 UN indicators, which is an increase of 17 p.p. since 2018. 61% of the indicators that are currently monitored have a positive trajectory, compared to 2015, while 11% have moved in the opposite direction and 10% have recorded no change. In relation to the indicators measuring the progress of the priority SDGs, defined in the 2017 VNR (SDGs 4, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 14), 54% have evolved positively and 14% have registered a negative evolution.

Portugal follows the statistical evolution of 124 targets, taking into account the number of indicators monitored and their allocation in the SDGs. This represents 74% coverage of targets.

Overall assessment of the evolution of targets shows that more than 60% of the targets monitored have progressed positively. SDGs 1, 6, 7 and 8 stand out due to the fact that they have the highest percentage of targets with a positive evolution compared to 2015. It is to be noted, in the case of SDG 7, that two of its targets have been achieved: *Ensure access for all to modern, reliable and affordable energy services* and *Participation of renewable energy in the global energy mix*, and the same is true for SDG 3, with three targets achieved, *reduction of maternal mortality; mortality of live births and children under five years old; neonatal mortality*.

SDG 9, on the other hand, is the worst performer with 38% of the targets evolving in the opposite direction to what is desirable. SDGs 5, 12 and 14 lack data for more than 60% of the established targets.

The challenges and gaps identified in the VNR will be taken into account, still in 2023, when drafting the *National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030*, in line with the challenge of the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) for the SDG Summit. This National Roadmap will be based on four lines of action: (i) coherence and alignment of public policies with the SDGs; (ii) involvement and participation of multiple public stakeholders and organised civil society; (iii) implementation of a common communication strategy on the SDGs; and (iv) awareness raising and capacity building of different stakeholders.



2

INTRODUCTION



The second VNR is the result of a reflective exercise based on a critical diagnosis of the challenges and progress made between 2017 and 2022. Drafting it has been seen as a catalyst for a new cycle of governance of the 2030 Agenda in Portugal, promoting greater articulation in the pursuit of the SDGs at national and subnational (regional and local) levels. This greater articulation is in two key areas: (i) providing the Agenda with robust political coordination and (ii) promoting an integrative approach at the whole-of-government (WoG) and whole-of-society (WoS) levels.

The structure and contents of this Review reflect these two approaches (WoG and WoS), as well as the principles of the 2030 Agenda (human rights-centred approach, LNOB and gender equality and women's empowerment).

Chapter 3 presents the methodological roadmap that has been followed, detailing the dynamic participation mechanisms and the diversity of stakeholders and stakeholders mobilised, as well as the tools used to collect information.

Chapter 4 highlights the elements that facilitate the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. It highlights, in this regard, the evolution recorded in the period 2017 (first report) and 2023 (present report) regarding the institutional mechanisms for the coordination and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, which culminates with the adoption of the Council of Ministers Resolution (CMR) No. 5/2023 of 23 January. It also describes how the main stakeholders in the various spheres of government and society have appropriated the different dimensions of sustainable development and the SDGs in their activities.

Progress in the alignment and coherence with the 2030 Agenda by the national public planning system is also addressed in this chapter, highlighting the formal convergence of public policies and the main high-level planning instruments. The national systemic issues that impact the progress of the 2030 Agenda are also addressed in this chapter, with a focus on the structural challenges and actions to be implemented.

Also in this chapter, the LNOB principle is presented describing how it has been integrated in Portugal, both internally and externally. This analysis highlights the policies that best express this principle, how the country compares at the European level, and how the national statistical system has evolved to meet data needs to inform about and monitor policies.

Chapter 5 addresses the main progress made in each of the SDGs and the contribution of public policies to them, using different sources: (i) the set of indicators monitored by INE; (ii) the results of public policy evaluation studies; (iii) the survey of the governmental areas and autonomous regions and the analysis of high-level strategy papers, allowing for the identification of a set of planning instruments and policy measures that have an impact on the SDGs. This chapter also highlights the role of Development Cooperation policy in pursuing the 2030 Agenda at global level.

This second VNR includes, in chapters 6 and 7, and taking into account that the VNR is, by definition, a report based on the participation of different stakeholders, the contribution of the peripheral services of the State's central administration and local government, as well as those of civil society (businesses, academia, non-governmental organisations, social partners) in relation to the 2030 Agenda and the main progress or challenges registered.

Chapter 8 addresses the emerging challenges, notably the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and the war against Ukraine, as well as the mega-trends - climate change and demographic dynamics and their respective impacts and public policy responses.

The analysis of the alignment of the main public policy financing instruments with the SDGs is presented in Chapter 9, even though there is still a way to go in quantifying and earmarking financial resources for the SDGs in State budgets. This analysis is possible because those financing instruments incorporate the three classic dimensions of sustainable development in their objectives as well as the financial resources to fund Development Cooperation.

Finally, Chapter 10 sets out the main conclusions and lists the actions aimed at speeding up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

A surgeon in blue scrubs and a surgical mask is shown from the side, looking down at a clipboard holding an x-ray. The background is a blurred hospital hallway.

3

METHODOLOGY AND PREPARATION PROCESS



guidance of [the 2023 edition of the United Nations \(UN\) handbook for the preparation of VNR](#).

The preparation of the 2023 VNR was seen as a national challenge of the utmost importance. It has been perceived as an opportunity to put into practice and give impetus to a new cycle of implementation and overall coordination of the 2030 Agenda in Portugal. Broader processes of communication and political and civic participation have been put in place, in this context. These are facilitated by the existence of a political and institutional architecture which is coordinated at the summit by the member of the government responsible for the cross-cutting nature of public policies and carefully examined by a High-Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC).

The working group (WG) responsible for drafting the 2023 VNR was also created in the context of the new governance model defined by CMR No. 5/2023. That WG, coordinated by the Secretary of State for the PCM, comprises: (i) the Competence Centre for Planning, Policy and Foresight in Public Administration (PlanAPP), created by Decree-Law No. 21/2021 of 15 March; (ii) the General Secretariat of the

The second VNR was prepared in a new political and institutional context of monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. CMR No. 5/2023 establishes a new institutional framework that has leveraged the preparation process of this VNR.

In 2017, also as a result of the short time elapsed since the adoption of the Agenda, the first VNR focused on the collection of information and data of a qualitative nature in relation to the 17 SDGs in parallel, among the various areas of government and civil society. However, the results of the consultation with civil society were not included in that VNR.

This report sought to improve the methodological roadmap for collecting information and levels of participation and involvement in its preparation. It follows the



PCM; (iii) the MNE's Directorate-General for Foreign Policy; and (iv) INE.

The following work pillars were considered in methodological terms:

i) Assessment of the progress of the SDGs from a governmental perspective, the peripheral services of the central government and of local government;

ii) Analysis of official statistical data and incorporation of the results of public policy evaluation studies that portray and back with evidence the progress achieved;

iii) Analysis of the national planning system and how it incorporates the 2030 Agenda, including at the level of high-level planning instruments;

iv) Documentary research to reflect the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in its most varied dimensions;

v) Assessment of the progress of the SDGs from the perspective of civil society stakeholders.

The assessment of progress towards the SDGs from a governmental perspective is reflected in Chapter 4¹ of this review and includes the domestic and external components of public policies.

A questionnaire was sent out, for the purpose of the domestic component, to the line ministeries that make up the Government of the Republic and the two governments of the autonomous regions, Madeira (ARM) and Azores (ARA). Policy-makers were asked in this survey to assess the contribution of the various PI and public policy measures, in their sphere of competence, to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. This assessment also included different analysis areas such as the impact of such PI on the 17 SDGs, the incorporation of the LNOB principle and the integration of emerging topics (such as COVID-19, the war against Ukraine, poverty, gender inequality, climate change, ageing and migration). It should be noted that the participation of the autonomous regions in this exercise was an innovation compared to the previous VNR.

A specific consultation was carried out for the purpose of the external component. This focused on the line ministeries which are an integral part of the horizontal system of the inter-ministerial approach (WoG), pursued by the Portuguese Development Cooperation Policy. Information was collected to provide an integrated, cross-cutting and inclusive view of initiatives implemented in the period under review.

The government assessment was supported by statistical data produced by the central body of the national statistical system, INE, in collaboration with other govern-

ment agencies and bodies. The full annual statistics report is Annex I of this VNR, and is accessible [here](#).

The indicators selected also reflect, where statistically possible, the dimensions associated with the LNOB principle. After a comparative analysis between the indicators regularly reported by INE and those forecast by the UN, the data presented were further broken down in view of the dimensions associated with the LNOB principle.

In the external dimension, an analysis was carried out of the evolution of the flows of Official Development Assistance (ODA) pertaining to Portuguese Cooperation in the period between 2018 and 2021. Data from 2021 concerning the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)² standard were also included, collected following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

According to [recommended good practices](#), the relevant results of public policy assessment studies are evaluated, in parallel, and included, through an [online catalogue](#), as support and evidence of their contribution to the progress achieved.

Another area of work defined in the methodological roadmap is the analysis and systematisation of progress in the ownership and incorporation of the 2030 Agenda in the national planning process. Special emphasis was placed on the high-level, strategic and cross-cutting PIs, in this regard, such as the EP 2030, the GOs, PNR and ECP 2030, which provide the framework for sectoral PIs and other public policy measures, as well as the multi-year financing instruments. The way these programme reference documents align with the SDGs allowed enrichment and supplementation of the information collected through the survey of the line ministeries and analysis of the level of alignment and coherence of priority areas of public policy with sustainable development and with the 17 SDGs in particular.

The documentary research was also relevant to highlight and strengthen the analyses presented throughout the report, namely in how Portugal relates and compares at European and international level, as well as how the various national stakeholders (national and subnational public sector, academia, businesses, civil society) transpose the various areas of the 2030 Agenda to their activities.

The VNR is, by definition, a review based on the participation of different stakeholders, whose analysis of the progress of the SDGs is central to this report. This analysis has a double objective: on the one hand, to identify all progress in the different dimensions and, on the other hand, to strengthen the sense of belonging and co-res-

¹ Complemented in Annex II (full mapping of public policy instruments and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda)

² TOSSD is an international standard defined to evaluate SDGs and the flows of ODA, as agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and developed by an international task force that included national experts, multilateral organizations and civil society. More information can be found at <https://www.tosssd.org/>

ponsibility of the stakeholders in the process of pursuing the SDGs. A relevant milestone of this VNR is the effective involvement of different stakeholders at the different stages of the process.

Initially, this involvement is embodied in two initiatives, which ran in parallel: the 2030 Agenda Tour and collaborative working sessions with representatives of civil society and of regional and local government.

2030 AGENDA TOWN HALL TOUR

PURPOSE: involvement of civil society in the drafting of the 2023 VNR and raising awareness of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

TERRITORIAL SCOPE: 7 regional events (5 regions of mainland Portugal and 2 autonomous regions) and one national event

ACTIVITIES: hold a Town Hall on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (with participants from different groups of public stakeholders and civil society) and a thematic visit (innovative and flagship projects identified as being related to the SDGs).

The Town Halls were envisaged as a forum for participation where innovative discussion on different topics was intended: SDGs identified as priorities by civil society and the reasons for their choice; the role of civil society and regional and local government bodies in implementing the 2030 Agenda; main barriers to multi-level participation; measures to be implemented to ensure effective and timely compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

Full reports of this Tour are in Annex III.

FOCUS GROUPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PURPOSE: assess the pursuit of the SDGs from the perspective of subnational administration (including the peripheral services of central government and local government) and key stakeholders representing civil society.

ENTITIES: regional coordination and development commissions, bodies representing Portuguese Municipalities and parishes, representatives of the business sector, academia, NGOs, social partners, other civil society entities.

ACTIVITIES: mapping the main entities and organisations representing them; holding 3 focus group sessions (academia, companies, NGOs and others) and

working sessions in virtual format with the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities(ANMP), the National Association of Parishes (ANAFRE) and the five Regional Coordination and Development Commissions (CCDRs).

RESULTS: assessment of their roles in the pursuit of Agenda 2030, identification of good practices, appraisal of existing institutional mechanisms.

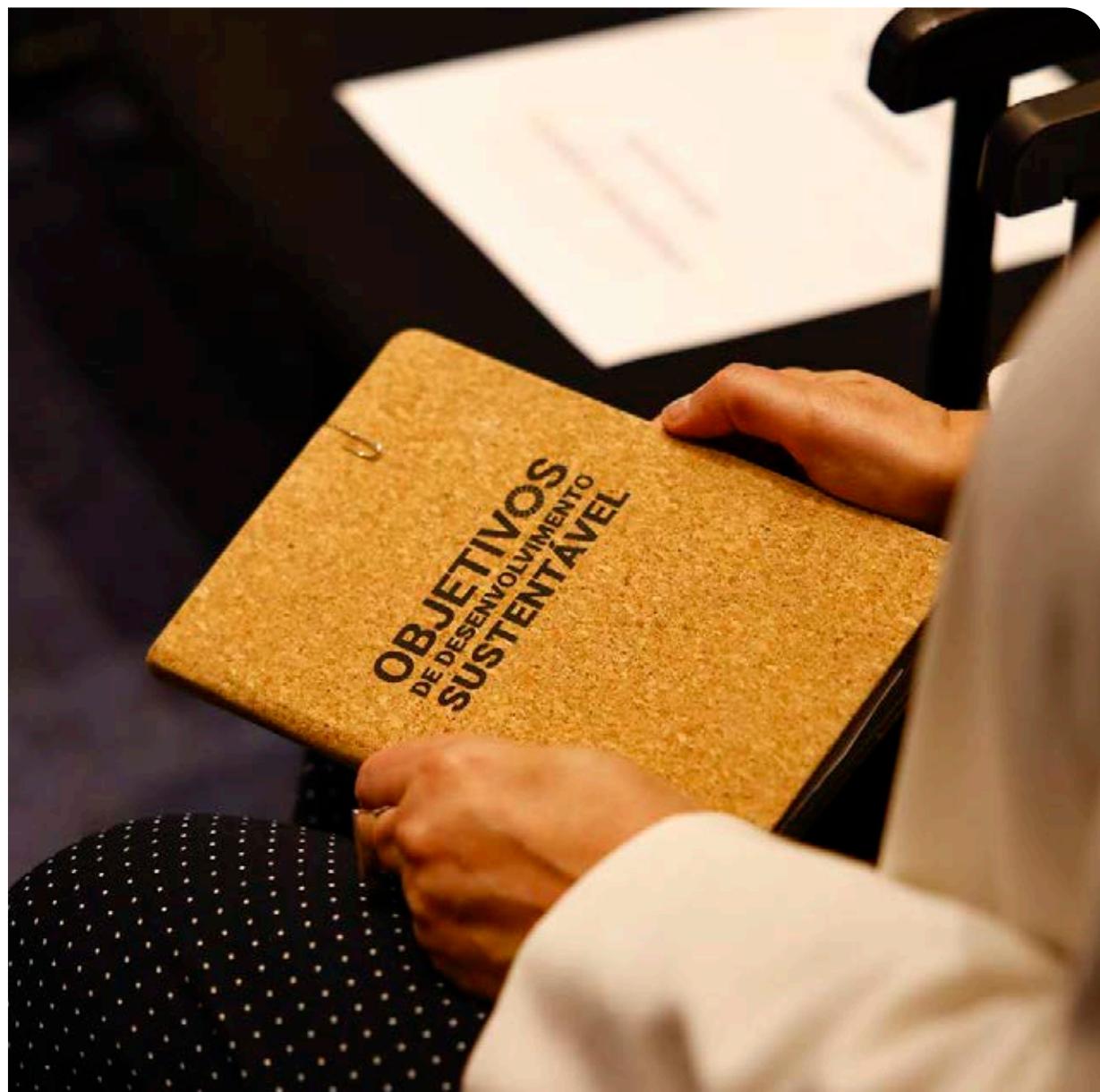
The involvement of these stakeholders and their contributions are reflected in Chapters 6 and 7.



The working sessions were complemented with the implementation of a survey of the participating entities and with documentary and platform research regarding initiatives and good practices promoted/created by these entities and geared towards the promotion of SDGs.

After these consultations, a first draft of the VNR was then submitted to a second round of public scrutiny. Firstly, there was a public consultation³, open to all citizens, complemented by formal auditions with the Parliamentary Assembly (AR), the HLMC, ANMP and ANAFRE and the ESC. The VNR was then revised and enriched by the contributions received.

It became clear throughout this process that the mechanisms of governance and multi-level articulation of the 2030 Agenda are decisive aspects to ensure proper monitoring and coordination. There is also still a way to go in areas such as: raising the awareness and ongoing training of civil society as a whole and the various levels of administration; the coordination and articulation of the various strategic and sectoral policy instruments with the SDGs; the development of more robust monitoring and follow-up mechanisms based on targets and baseline values defined for Portugal; the engagement processes of multiple public stakeholders and civil society.



³ The public consultation was held online, between May 8th and 22nd. The synthesis report on the comments received is on Annex IV of this VNR

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, sitting at a table and drawing together with crayons. The boy is in the foreground, looking down at his paper with a smile. The girl is partially visible behind him. They are using colorful crayons on a light-colored surface.

4

**POLICY AND
ENABLING
ENVIRONMENT**



4.1 INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The principles that would guide the SDG governance model in Portugal were defined and approved in the Council of Ministers, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

The Council of Ministers issued a statement on 25 February 2016, in which it was established that the MNE would have overall coordination, with the support of what was then called the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure. In this way, the close articulation between the domestic and external components of the Agenda was ensured, together with the other competent sectoral ministries.

The Inter-ministerial Commission on Foreign Policy (CIPE), in terms of institutional coordination, was responsible for articulation of the implementation between the domestic/external areas as well as the preparation of monitoring and reporting exercises, including reports. The Inter-ministerial Committee on Cooperation (CIC) ensured the coordination and incorporation of the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the pursuit of the SDGs in the area of Development Cooperation.

The CIPE was a network of focal points, including all areas of government, to ensure in operational terms the articulation, convergence and implementation of the measures, projects and actions to be developed under the 2030 Agenda, as well as to maintain integrated and consistent communication to facilitate the necessary monitoring exercises. Notwithstanding the synergies and trade-offs between SDGs, the responsibility for each SDG was attributed to a line ministry.

Portugal presented its first VNR at the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). It was prepared from the collection and processing of information for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the mapping of public policies that contributed to the pursuit of the SDGs.

In this institutional model, the Agency for Development and Cohesion (AD&C), the cross-cutting coordination entity of European funds, and INE were designated as central entities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Cohesion was considered to be one of the main investment instruments for regions and local authorities to implement the SDGs and ensure their economic, social and territorial development. Statistical monitoring was considered a key tool for monitoring progress in achieving the SDGs.

INE, as the main body producing and disseminating official statistics, plays a central role in the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, in line with the provisions of UN resolution [A/RES/71/313](#). In this context, it coordinates national monitoring of the SDG indicators and international cooperation in this field, namely:

- It produces relevant data in the framework of official statistics;
- It liaises with other national sources for data mapping and reporting;
- It publishes the information available through a national reporting platform and other communication initiatives (e.g. annual publications since 2018, infographics and brochures targeted at schools);
- It takes on the role of national focal point for SDG indicators vis-à-vis international bodies;
- It promotes common statistical capacity-building initiatives in the area of SDGs, within the framework of the Statistical Programme of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).

The compilation and dissemination of all available information for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda benefits from the contribution of multiple entities:

- The primary use of custodian agencies at international level (responsible for methodological advances and international comparability of indicators within their area of intervention) is emphasised through the [UN global database](#).
- We highlight, among the set of national sources, the use of data from the National Statistical System⁴ (50%), which includes, in addition to INE: entities with delegated statistical powers in the areas of Education (Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics - DGEEC), Energy (Directorate-General of Energy and Geology - DGEG), Justice (Directorate-General of Justice Policy), Fisheries (Directorate-General of Natural Resources, Security and Maritime Services), and Labour and Vocational Training (Strategy and Planning Office); and the Bank of Portugal.
- Various national public authorities, whose information in their respective policy areas has proved indispensable, such as: Portuguese Environment

⁴ National Statistical System is defined by Law no. 22/2008 of 13 May

Agency (APA), National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority, Camões - Institute of Cooperation and Language (Camões, I.P.) Citizenship and Gender Equality Committee (CIG), Directorate-General of Economic Activities, Directorate-General of Education (DGE), Directorate-General of Maritime Policy, Directorate-General of Health, Directorate-General of the Territory (DGT), Water and Waste Services Regulatory Authority, Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF), Planning, Policies and General Administration Office of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security and General Secretariat for the Environment.

The statistical monitoring report on the 2030 Agenda, published annually since 2018, («<https://www.ine.pt/xurl/pub/611060313>») focuses on the indicators available for Portugal, from 2010 to the most recent year available. From 2022 onwards, the analysis of progress began to focus on the period from 2015 to the most recent year, given the time distance from the start year of the 2030 Agenda. This has made it possible to observe a greater number of occurrences.

The publication summarises the performance of each SDG, based on the overall SDG indicators available for Portugal. Data with a geographical breakdown at level II of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes (NUTS), as well as the breakdown by age, gender and degree of urbanisation are included, when available and relevant. Initiatives to enhance the number of data collected and the additional breakdown are under way, notably in the environmental and territorial fields, and information concerning minority and/or vulnerable groups.

Additionally, the stakeholders involved in the preparation of the 2023 VNR decided that the institutional architecture adopted by Portugal in 2016 did not facilitate the application of a WoG and WoS approach. This was because the coordination was focused, in practice, on a governmental area and an inter-ministerial commission with competences mainly oriented to external relations, where the different non-governmental stakeholders did not participate. The focus of that commission's competences was also broader than the 2030 Agenda itself.

In order to overcome the limitations of the existing institutional model, a process of revision of the institutional structure of coordination of the 2030 Agenda began in 2022. This culminated in the adoption of CMR No. 5/2023, establishing a new governance model. This model refocuses the responsibility of the internal coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the delegation to the member of the Government responsible for the area of the PCM (see Chapter 3). This amendment makes it possible to capitalise on the benefits of a WoG approach, in particular by improving the coherence of public policies and by leveraging greater convergence of political decision-making. The responsibility of coordination of the 2030 Agenda outside the national scope was maintained within the MNE.

This perspective was further strengthened with the creation of the HLMC, responsible for monitoring and following up on the actions leading to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Portugal. This committee includes representatives from the governmental area of the Presidency, the governmental area of Foreign Affairs, Regional Governments and local authorities (municipalities and parishes). This Committee also safeguards the WoS approach, with the inclusion of representatives from the ESC⁵ and three persons of recognised standing in the sustainable development field. The possibility that additional civil society representatives may attend the meetings of the Committee is also envisaged.



⁵ Constitutional body for consultation and social consultation (see page 17)

The role of the governments of the autonomous regions and local authorities is of particular importance in the localisation of the SDGs in the territory⁶, from a WoG perspective. This is due to their ability to translate a comprehensive agenda into concrete and real actions closer to the citizens and relevant stakeholders regionally and/or locally.

Portugal has mainly used, for the WoS approach, the public consultation mechanism to hear relevant stakeholders in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development, benefiting significantly from these consultations.

A public consultation was held in 2014 related to local implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, anticipating the international negotiations of the Post-2015 Agenda and the conclusion of the period of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This consultation was organised in partnership by Camões, I.P. and a group of civil society organisations (CSOs)⁷. It consisted of six regional workshops, an online questionnaire and a national final event.

A new consultation was held following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in the first half of 2016, with an enlarged⁸ organising committee, again led by CSOs. The Consultation Process on the Operational implementation of the SDGs (2016) sought: (i) to promote broad reflection on the 2030 Agenda and its ownership by stakeholders (CSOs, local authorities, businesses, academia and trade unions); (ii) to map priorities, intervention needs and opportunities at national and local level; (iii) to gather input for the drafting of recommendations to the government and also for a cross-sectoral plan for mobilising civil society at the national level. The recommendations obtained from this process were translated into a document and submitted to the AR in April 2017.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MNE), aware of the holistic and inclusive nature of the exercise, in addition to and in the context of the drafting of the 2017 VNR, organised a multi-stakeholder seminar with representatives of civil society entities on 29 March 2017. At that seminar, MNE presented the work developed at inter-ministerial level, a report on the methodology applied in the drafting of the report and on the next steps until the HLPF that year. It sou-

ght to hear from the participating organisations how the 2030 Agenda had been included in its scope of action.

PCM developed a broader consultation process in 2023, divided in two periods - one prior to drafting and the other after a first version of the 2023 VNR. This process was accomplished with the organisation of the 2030 Agenda Tour and focus groups dedicated to the various representatives of civil society but also the representatives of regional and local administration, in order to collect contributions for the 2023 VNR, as mentioned above - chapter 3.

CMR No. 5/2023 also provides for the definition of a common communication strategy on the SDGs in order to strengthen the knowledge and ownership of the Agenda by Portuguese society as a whole. A strategy is being developed in this regard that will make citizens aware of the importance of the 2030 Agenda. It will also enable a central forum to bring together the different initiatives and allow coordination of the multilevel implementation and of all stakeholders, both public and private.

4.2 OWNERSHIP OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 Agenda and the pursuit of its 17 SDGs are a huge challenge for all countries. Its success depends on the ownership of its goals not only by government entities, sovereign bodies and local authorities, but also by a wide range of key stakeholders, including civil society entities such as NGOs, businesses, academia and the citizens themselves.

The mechanisms for implementation and monitoring, dissemination of information, capacity-building and awareness-raising of all the stakeholders involved, as well as the allocation of resources, are some of the factors that enhance the ownership and incorporation of the SDGs by the different stakeholders and stakeholders.

The aspects highlighted below, regarding the ownership mechanisms by government, local government, the

6 localising the SDGs

7 This consultation was organised by the following CSOs: Animar – Portuguese Association for Local Development; Minha Terra - Portuguese Federation of Local Development Associations; PpDM - Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights; Portuguese NGDO Platform; National Youth Council (CNJ), as well as by Camões, I.P., with the support of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC). The results can be found at: www.instituto-camoes.pt/images/agendaPos2015/Rel_Final_ConsultaPublicaImpl_Local_AgPos-2015_PT.pdf

8 The organising committee included the following partners: Animar - Portuguese Association for Local Development; CPF - Portuguese Centre of Foundations; CGTP-IN - General Confederation of Portuguese Workers - National Inter-Union; CNJ - National Youth Council; CONFAGRI - National Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives of Portugal; Minha Terra - Portuguese Federation of Local Development Associations; PpDM - Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights, PPONGD - Portuguese Platform of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. In organising the consultation, they also had the support of UNRIC - United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, Camões, I.P., and the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra.



national scientific system and other groups of civil society stakeholders, are detailed throughout this Review, with special emphasis on chapters 4 (4.3 and 4.4), 6 and 7.

GOVERNMENT

The adoption of CMR No. 05/2023, as described above, has introduced substantial changes to the architecture for implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda in Portugal. It is an essential element to promote the ownership of the SDGs at the various levels, strengthen coordination and promote the coherence of public policies, as well as to ensure the broad involvement of the different relevant stakeholders.

The path taken towards giving the main cross-cutting and sectoral high-level planning instruments a more effective alignment with the dimensions of sustainable development is to be highlighted in terms of policy instruments and measures, as described in Chapters 4 and 5. The main reflection of this alignment is that provided by EP 2030, PNR 2023, GO 2022-2026 and ECP 2030.

RePLAN - Network of Planning and Prospective Services of Public Administration, which started operations at the end of 2022, was assigned, in this sense, the task of monitoring of the 2030 Agenda through the Multisectoral

Strategic Planning Team, co-coordinated by the PCM governmental area (PlanAPP) and by the Finance governmental area (Office of Planning, Strategy, Evaluation and International Relations - GPEARI). RePLAN is an inter-ministerial network for cooperation and sharing of knowledge and resources in the areas of strategic planning, public policy and foresight, as well as for the development of collaborative work and networking to promote the articulation of sectoral policies with cross-cutting strategies.

This path of appropriation of the 2030 Agenda in the governmental areas and central administration bodies under their tutelage has been boosted by the set of training, awareness-raising and information actions that have been carried out by the National Institute of Administration (INA, I.P.), as the body responsible for transmitting and disseminating knowledge within the public administration (PA).

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The autonomous regions (ARM and ARA) have made a significant commitment to sustainability and the integration of the 2030 Agenda into their strategic activities. One of the most effective paths in both regions is characterised by their certification as sustainable tourism destinations, by *EarthCheck*, the world leader in the certification of sustainable tourism and sustainable destinations.

In 2018, the ARA approved, through the Resolution of the Council of Government No. 58/2018, of 15 May, the model leading to the certification of the Azores as a Sustainable Tourism Destination, thus combining and articulating the traditional sustainable development areas, environment, economy and social areas, and also the cultural dimension. The Tourism Destination Sustainability Management Structure (DMO) was created for this purpose, initially under the responsibility of the Regional Secretariat for Energy, Environment and Tourism, and currently under the tutelage of the Regional Secretariat for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructures.

The certification of the Azores as a Sustainable Tourism Destination took place in December 2019. It became the first archipelago in the world with this certification. This involved committing to the development of the sustainable tourism destination based on the SDGs.

The process of certification and implementation of the respective action plans, led by DMO, is based on collaborative and participatory dynamics of the local stakeholders, from the most varied quarters, and it is put into effect by three structures:

- The **Advisory Committee**, which monitors, gives opinions and makes recommendations on the certification process and brings together the associations representing the economic sectors and public and private stakeholders.

- The **Monitoring Group**, composed of public entities, that operationally implements the measures and actions aimed at meeting certification requirements and targets.
- The **Green Teams**, which are nine WG (one for each island of the ARA) that act as *fora* for listening, discussion, monitoring and the dissemina-

tion of good practices, and which bring together public and private entities, economic stakeholders, partners and local communities.

The [2019-2030 Action Plan - Sustainability of the Azores Destination](#) elects 10 SDGs as priorities and 12 key areas of action:

Figure 1 – Priority SDG and key areas of action of the 2019-2030 Action Plan - Sustainability of the Azores Tourism Destination



Source: 2019-2030 Action Plan - Sustainability of the Azores Tourism Destination

AZORES SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

The Regional Government of the Azores launched this initiative in 2017, to accelerate the pursuit of sustainable development and the SDGs.

It comprises public, private and associative entities, which voluntarily subscribe to the commitment to implement sustainability, social and governance strategies.

Signatories are followed through 5 distinct and interactive steps: knowledge (perceive their stage of sustainable development), capacity-building (acquisition of skills and tools), prioritisation (where to act), engagement (stimulating partnerships, including all stakeholders), reporting (monitoring, communicating results and sharing good practices).

There were 46 signatories in 2017. Currently more than 200 entities, in the 9 islands, have signed up for the Charter. About 330 people were trained, 60 events were held and the entities benefited from 372 hours of consultancy.

Due to the new guidelines issued by the European Commission (EC) within the scope of non-financial reporting directives, the model of this Charter was revised and updated in 2023, and it will also provide support for subscribing entities in the adaptation phase to these requirements and the development of sustainability reports, thus promoting greater resilience and competitiveness.

In the case of the ARM, the Regional Secretariat for Tourism and Culture, through the Regional Directorate for Tourism, led the process of certifying ARM as a Sustainable Tourism Destination (DMO), a certification seen as being of paramount importance in the recognition and validation of all the work carried out by the region over the last few decades, namely in the path towards a more sustainable territory at an environmental, cultural, social and economic level: this is a project by and for everyone.

The DMO was created at the start of 2022, through the Resolution of the Regional Government Council No. 51/2022, of 31 January. The Madeira Archipelago was certified as a sustainable tourism destination at the beginning of this year.

The Madeira DMO, as is the case of the ARA, is also based on a collaborative and multi-level structure - Advisory Council, Internal WG and four Green Teams, as well as the engagement of regional and local stakeholders.

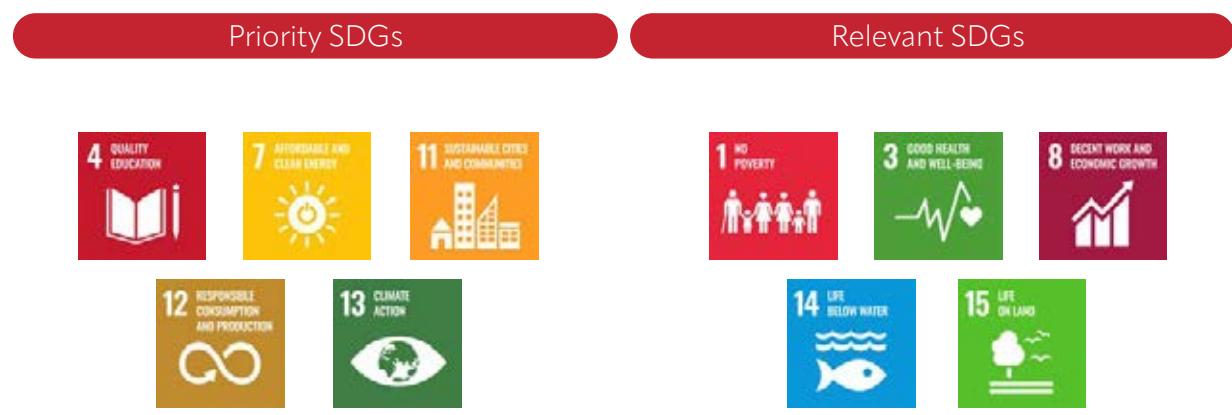
The [2022-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Madeira Destination](#), which guides the action of ARM in this period, identifies five priority and five relevant SDGs, but also 13 commitments in the environmental, social, eco-

nomic and cultural aspects with quantified targets aligned with the other regional planning instruments.

Some of the defined targets are presented below, as examples:

- Achieve a share of renewable energy resources of 55% in electricity generation and 18% in primary energy demand, by 2030;
- Reduce GHG emissions by 55%, by 2030, compared to 2005, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050;
- Ensure a 35% rate of preparation of municipal waste for reuse and recycling, by 2030;
- The rate of early school dropouts should be less than 9%, by 2030;
- Reduce the gender employment gap to 4 p.p., by 2027;
- Increase the proportion of adults participating in learning activities each year to at least 60%, by 2030;
- The proportion of wooded areas occupied by fast-growing species is expected to be less than 25%, by 2030.

Figure 2 – Priority and Relevant SDGs in the 2022-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Madeira Destination



Source: [2022-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Madeira Destination](#)

COURT OF AUDITORS

The international community of Supreme Audit Institutions is devoting increasing attention to the 2030 Agenda and Portugal is no exception.

The [Court of Auditors' Strategic Plan for 2020-2022](#)

set a strategic objective «to contribute to the sustainable management of public finances,» one of the priority axes of action being «to audit the implementation in Portugal of

⁹ As part of this process, and with a view to assessing sustainable performance, a Benchmarking Report was prepared, with contributions and with the collection of data, to respond to the vast set of qualitative and quantitative criteria of EarthCheck's normative standard. Based on the data obtained, three areas were distinguished in which the destination has the best performance, namely in terms of Waste Sent to Landfill, Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, and Crime/Security

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,» a goal that is kept in the Action Plan for 2023.

The Court of Auditors, the supreme body for monitoring the legality of public spending, has accordingly intensified its audit work in recent years in areas related to the pursuit of SDGs.

It should also be noted that the [opinions issued by the Court of Auditors concerning the General Account of the State in 2018 and 2020](#) included an assessment of the operational implementation of the SDGs in Portugal as regards the formal structure of coordination, implementation, monitoring and review, as well as the financial resources allocated by sectoral policy programmes and measures.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The ESC is a constitutional body with advisory and social consultation powers, which promotes the participation of economic and social stakeholders in the decision-making processes of the sovereign bodies and dialogue between the government, social partners and CSOs.

Its action concerning SDGs is primarily in an advisory role, through the provision of opinions and the production of reports. It makes a set of recommendations aimed at the difficulties and the aspects of public policies that are not well implemented, and which impact on the pursuit of the SDGs. Birth rates, domestic violence, the climate and higher education are some of the issues addressed recently by the ESC in its opinions.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNADS), established in 1997¹⁰ under Principle 10 of the [Rio Declaration](#), is an independent national advisory body that brings together the «participation of various social, cultural and economic forces in the search for a broad consensus on environmental policy.» It is responsible for delivering opinions and recommendations on issues relating to the environment and sustainable development. CNADS is a member of the network of European Advisory Councils for the Environment and Sustainable Development and one of the partners and drivers of the Municipal Platform for SDGs (ODSlocal Platform), contributing actively to the establishment of partnerships and the collection, sharing and dissemination of relevant information.

REGIONAL COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS

There is growing and varied ownership of the 2030 Agenda among the CCDRs, as detailed in subchapter 6.1. This is, however, occurring with different degrees of maturity among the five Commissions of mainland Portugal, as regards the systematisation and integration of the Agenda's objectives in the processes and strategies they design and implement.

The new Statute, enacted in May after approval from the Council of Ministers in March, foresees the restructuring of the CCDRs with a view to taking on decentralised powers of the State. Therefore, a more active role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda is expected, allowing for more integrated management, taking into account the territorial specificities of each region.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities play a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The localisation of the SDGs in the field is key to accelerating the necessary progress, transforming local realities with greater proximity and more active engagement of the communities.

The ownership of the SDGs by Portuguese municipalities is growing. This reality is reflected by the initiatives implemented in terms of decision-making processes, training of council technical teams, raising awareness and monitoring.

We highlight here, even though this topic is addressed in subchapter 6.2, some examples of recent developments:

- The creation, within the ANMP, of a [Section of municipalities for the SDGs](#), which currently has 79 members;
- Increasing incorporation of the 2030 Agenda in municipality planning and budgeting instruments - strategic plans, activity plans and council budgets;
- Creation of municipality technical teams responsible for promotion of the SDGs;
- Creation of communication elements and content for dissemination in council communication channels and promotion of awareness-raising actions and dedicated events for citizens and local stakeholders.

Some municipalities have also joined international networks with commitments to one or more forms of sustainability, of which we highlight the [SDG Cities Programme](#) from the UN Habitat - UN Human Settlements Programme.

¹⁰ Decree-Law No. 221/97 of 20 August was amended and strengthened by Decree-Law No. 136/2004 of 3 June

As regards the monitoring and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda at local level, two initiatives stand out:

ODSLOCAL

(SEE SUBCHAPTER 6.2)

This Platform, coordinated by CNADS, aims to mobilise municipalities, local stakeholders and citizens in relation to the SDGs and allows projects related to the 2030 Agenda to be viewed and the contribution and progress of each council in relation to the SDGs to be monitored. CNADS, recognising the vital importance of collaborative implementation based at the local level, joined forces with the Institute of Social Sciences, MARE - NOVA University of Lisbon and the company 2adapt – Climate Action Services (2adapt - *Serviços de Adaptação Climática*) and with the high patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic, created ODSlocal with private funding. The platform is based on a comprehensive and intense mobilisation of decision-makers and municipal

technicians, local agents and citizens in relation to the SDGs and is supported by a dynamic online portal that allows for the visualisation and monitoring of the contributions and progress of each municipality in relation to the various SDGs, with strict control of the quality of information and intense involvement of stakeholders and respective training, along with a strong commitment to a communication strategy.

The ODSlocal platform, as per the latest [publication](#) at the end of 2022, relies on the participation of 92 municipalities that monitor 139 indicators, on a constant basis, assessing local progress towards SDG targets, presenting 790 local Best Practices and 699 local projects with civil society organisations CSOs.

MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY INDEX OF CESOP-LOCAL

CESOP-Local is an applied research unit, geared towards providing the Centre for Studies and Opinion Polls of the Catholic University of Portugal (CESOP) with a municipal observatory for sustainable territories. It monitors the degree of sustainability of the territory, the dynamics of stakeholder involvement and the degree of performance of the local council. It locates, measures and monitors the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the local level. This is aimed at mediating, sharing and transferring good practices and knowledge, and ensuring cohesion of sustainable development at local level.

In this context, the [ISM - Municipal Sustainability Index](#) was created, which is now in its fifth edition. It brings together a total of 133 indicators (of which 117 are unique) concerning 66 goals, with applicability to local

circumstances, and which best translate the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda at municipal level. It is the result of the research carried out by CESOP-Local's team of researchers as a living laboratory of societal dynamics for local sustainability, in collaboration with the partner municipalities of the CESOP-Local Network for Sustainable Territories. It aims to mediate, share and transfer good practices and knowledge for the cohesion of sustainable development of the council's territory. It is an index that allows each municipality to obtain an annual report with the diagnosis of its territory in relation to each of the 17 SDGs, based on the targets and indicators analysed and developed. It is also available from 2020 on the CESOP platform, providing easier access for local authorities.



ACADEMIA, BUSINESSES, ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY

One of the chapters of this VNR (see chapter 7) is dedicated to the analysis of the progress of the SDGs in this set of relevant stakeholders. It highlights in detail the level of ownership and incorporation of the 2030 Agenda in their practices, the main challenges and difficulties they face and the identification of transformative actions.

The dynamics at this level are varied. Many of the advances achieved in the business sector (see subchapter 7.1) are the result of a set of collaborative platforms that have been set up and which aim to mobilise the public and private business sector to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. They define a set of principles and commitments for sustainability, raising awareness among companies in order to enable them to adopt sustainable behaviour and empowering them with the necessary tools for the incorporation and monitoring of these commitments in their business strategies.

Within the national scientific system and academia, scientific production and its indexation to the SDGs is to be highlighted (see subchapter 7.2), as well as the contribution of research and development (R&D) projects and doctoral scholarships aligned with sustainable development. The commitment of higher education institutions (HEIs) to the 2030 Agenda is increasingly evident. It results not only in the linking of their academic activities at the level of teaching and research aimed towards the SDGs, but also in the creation of study centres and observatories that play an important role in the development of methods for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and for capacity-building and raising awareness among other entities.

Organised civil society, acting through networks and platforms, has played a decisive role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as can be seen from the analysis in subchapter 7.3.

4.3 INTEGRATING THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGs AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

Sustainable development is one of the principles set out in the Treaty of the European Union (EU). Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda there has been an effort to integrate the SDGs into European policy guiding documents, reinforcing the commitment of the EU, together with the Member States, to take a leading role in the implementation of the Agenda, both domestically and externally.

The EC presented, in 2016, the Communication [«Next steps for a sustainable European future - European action for sustainability»](#) where it reiterates the commitment of the EU, together with the Member States, including Por-

tugal, in respect of the principle of subsidiarity, to act in a coordinated and joint manner to integrate the SDGs in the EC policy priorities and in the sectoral policies to be developed. An annual report monitoring progress in achieving the SDGs in the EU has been published by [Eurostat](#) since 2017.

This commitment was later densified, in 2017, through the Joint Statement by the Council, European Parliament (EP) and EC: [«The new European consensus on development - our world, our dignity, our future»](#) by creating a framework to enable a common approach to be applied by EU institutions and Member States, in development cooperation. This coordinated external action is complemented internally by the integration of the Agenda into all internal policies. The Statement also establishes that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the adoption of national strategies for sustainable development, with the signatories undertaking to carry out a mid-term review of the Consensus by 2024. One of the principles highlighted by this Consensus, highlighted for its importance, is that of Policy Coherence for Development for the achievement of the SDGs.

The EC published in 2020 a [working document](#) highlighting the inclusion in the national reports of the European Semester of a chapter on environmental sustainability as well as an annex dedicated to reporting the overall performance of the SDGs in Member States. Considering the comprehensive approach for the inclusion of the SDGs, they were also reflected in the [Recovery and Resilience Plans \(RRP\)](#), presented in conjunction with a revised version of the Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027) and a NextGenerationEU recovery instrument, mainly to formulate coherent policies aimed at sustainable development.

The [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) (RRF) is at the heart of the NextGenerationEU. In a [2020 study](#), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) automatically mapped (through text mining) the main documents of this mechanism with the goals and targets of the SDGs. It concluded that, addressing all 17 SDGs, there is a special predominance of two of them (SDG 3 and SDG 8).

All these instruments, as well as their framework vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development, contribute to the fulfilment of the six ambitions identified in the political programme of the current EC, which have been progressively densified in numerous initiatives.

Figure 3 – Number of Legal Acts adopted for each EC priority

EC PRIORITIES	SDGS COVERED	INITIATIVES ADOPTED
A European Green Deal	SDGs 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	36
A Europe ready for the digital age	SDGs 4, 9	28
An economy that works for people	SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10	38
A stronger Europe in the world	SDGs 17	44
Protecting the European way of life	SDGs 3, 4, 10, 16	37
A new impetus for European democracy	SDGs 5, 10, 16	12

Source: EP - [Legislative Train Schedule](#) (viewed 8/04/2023) and EC Working Paper «[Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach](#)»

The initiatives presented include the [New Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#), the [EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy](#), the [«Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition» Communication](#), [The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#), the [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#), the update of the [2020 New Industrial Strategy: Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's Recovery](#) and the [European democracy action plan](#). The legal transposition of EU Directives and/or adoption of strategies at the domestic level, which set out these European initiatives, has been one of the main avenues for the vertical integration of the 2030 Agenda.

4.4 INTEGRATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGs AT NATIONAL LEVEL

4.4.1 INTEGRATION IN PUBLIC POLICY PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

The 17 SDGs that make up the 2030 Agenda and their respective targets are inseparable and indivisible, reflecting the three dimensions of sustainable development: econo-

mic, social and environmental. This view is especially expressed by SDG 17, with a specific target that establishes the need for coherence in sustainable development policies.

The integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in Portugal, from a government perspective, is enhanced by the main instruments of public policy planning. EP 2030 is notable in this regard.

This strategy, the preparation of which began at the end of 2017 and which was adopted in November 2020, constitutes the «main planning reference of public policies to promote the economic and social development of the country», as well as of the respective financing instruments. It acts in the promotion of economic recovery and the strengthening of resilience following the COVID-19 disease pandemic. The three dimensions are reflected in the four thematic agendas, considered to be the core for the development of Portugal's economy, society and territory up to 2030:

- i) People first: better demographic balance, greater inclusion, less inequality;
- ii) Digitalisation, innovation and qualifications as drivers of development;
- iii) Climate transition and resources' sustainability;
- iv) An externally competitive and domestically cohesive country.

The [Strategic Vision for the 2030 Economic Recovery Plan](#), widely discussed and subject to public consultation, was a notable contributor to defining this strategic framework. A robust framework was established which, in the face of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, has the following main objectives: to promote the recovery of the national economy, to create the conditions to support a country more resilient to future external shocks, and to contribute decisively to a process of external convergence of Portugal with Europe, while ensuring domestic social and territorial cohesion and resilience.

EP 2030, as a macro-instrument for public policy planning, is aligned with the main plans and instruments, both at European and national level. Those plans and instruments break down its vision and ensure an integrated and coherent application, through the main means of implementation. On the one hand, EP 2030 is reflected in the six pillars established by the EU RRF (Figure 1 - Annex II) and therefore in the RRP presented by Portugal (Figure 2 - Annex II).

The Portugal 2030 Partnership Agreement (PT2030) between Portugal and the EC, signed in July 2022, complements the support of other national and European instruments such as the RRP. It sets out the major strategic objectives and planning for the implementation of the funds earmarked for the PT2030 for the 2021-2027 period, namely the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus

(ESF+), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the Fair Transition Fund (FTJ) and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. PT2030 has been the subject of a broad public consultation process, as well as a set of meeting and discussion initiatives with partners.

The PT2030 programme aims to support economic, social and territorial cohesion in Portugal until the end of the decade, in line with the main EU priorities, structured around five strategic objectives (SOs), translating the thematic agendas of EP 2030 (Figure 4 - Annex II): SO 1 - Portugal more competitive and intelligent; SO 2 - Portugal

Greener; SO 3 - Portugal More Connected; SO 4 - Portugal more Social and Inclusive; SO 5 - Portugal Territorially more Cohesive and Closer to its Citizens.

PT2030 is implemented through four thematic programmes (Compete 2030, People 2030, Sustainable 2030 and Sea 2030); seven regional programmes (Norte 2030, Centro 2030, Lisbon 2030, Alentejo 2030, Algarve 2030, Azores 2030, and Madeira 2030), as well as, through the Technical Assistance Programme 2030, and a set of operational programmes (OPs) for territorial cooperation, negotiated and implemented in partnership with other EU Member States.

Figure 4 – Framing the components of the 2030 Agenda and the EU Policy Pillars within the Strategic Reference Instruments in Portugal and their main financing instruments



Source: PlanAPP, PCM

Note: The detailed alignment matrices are reflected in Annex II

It should also be noted that in the previous Partnership Agreement, Portugal 2020 (2014-2020), the topic of sustainable development had been reinforced, both in the planning and evaluation phases, through Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and the respective follow-up of the recommendations. This evaluation strategy will also be used in the implementation phase of PT 2030, based on the search for development strategies that reconcile economic growth with the safeguarding of environmental values and the promotion of social cohesion and citizenship.

On the other hand, the main results of Portugal 2020 (PT2020), in the various thematic areas (Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Human Capital, Competitiveness and Internationalisation, Rural Development, Social Inclusion and Employment, and Sustainability and Resources' Efficiency), prove the manifest contribution that the financing instruments in that period had for the set of SDGs (Figure 5 - Annex II).

In addition to EP 2030 and PT2030, two other high-level and cross-cutting planning instruments, PNR 2023 and the GO 2022-2026¹¹, are central to the delivery of the defined strategic guidelines¹². The former aims to periodically ensure strategic coherence between European guidelines and national goals, namely in the light of the country-specific recommendations addressed to Portugal in the context of the European Semester. The second, defined in the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic, is the main planning instrument associated with the multi-annual bu-

dgetary planning. It includes the policy measures and the investments that enable them to be achieved (Alignment of the GO for 2022-2026 with EP 2030 - Figure 3 - Annex II).

The dimensions of sustainable development have been taken into consideration by both these instruments, densifying both the EP 2030 and the European recommendations. They have included, since 2022, specific reference to their alignment with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. This alignment between targets and indicators for each SDG and the most impacting measures of the PNR and the GO 2022-2026 is based on the indicators provided by the central statistical bodies (INE and Eurostat), compiled and made available by the Recovering Portugal Mission Structure¹³.

The PNR presents the main measures and the qualitative and quantitative impact of each against the SDGs in its [table 4](#).

The GO 2022-2026 identifies, in a separate chapter, the alignment of the SDGs with policy options at the economic, social and environmental levels (Figure 8). An exercise which made the association of each policy area and measure with an SDG was underlying the preparation of the GO 2023-2026 and the alignment matrix of the strategic challenges and the SDGs. It is easily perceived in this alignment matrix, made operational through the qualitative contribution of the measures to the 17 SDGs, that all are covered by the universe of the measures envisaged, as detailed in section 5.2 of the VNR.

¹¹ GO for 2023-2026 are still under discussion

¹² Law No. 24-C/2022. The GO 2022-2026 identifies five strategic challenges: (i) good governance; (ii) climate change; (iii) demography; (iv) inequalities and (v) digital society, creativity and innovation

¹³ Structure established by CMR No. 46-B/2021 of 4 May 2021 (<https://dre.pt/dre/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/46-b-2021-162756796>) with amendments by CMR No. 93/2022 of 18 October 2022 (<https://dre.pt/dre/detalhe/resolucao-conselho-ministros/93-2022-202345718>)

**Figure 5 – Alignment of the GO 2022-2026 with the SDGs**

SDG	Good Governance	Climate Change	Demography	Inequalities	Digital Society
SDG 1	••	•	•••	•••	•
SDG 2		•		•	
SDG 3	•••	•	••	••	
SDG 4	•••			•••	••
SDG 5	•	•	•••	•••	••
SDG 6		•••			
SDG 7		•••			
SDG 8	••		•••	•••	•••
SDG 9		•••			•••
SDG 10	•••	••	•••	•••	••
SDG 11		•••	•	••	
SDG 12		•••		••	•••
SDG 13	••	•••			•
SDG 14	•••	•••			••
SDG 15	•••	•••			
SDG 16	•••			••	
SDG 17	•••				



••• Very relevant direct contribution

•• Relevant direct contribution

• Indirect contribution

Source: GO 2022-2026

The construction of a «Context Key Indicators» scoreboard stands out in the drawing up of the GO 2022-2026 and the alignment of this instrument with the 2030 Agenda. The aim of this is to monitor the socio-economic evolution of the country in core areas of governmental action and public policy planning. The tool monitors 67 indica-

tors, distributed over the 5 challenges identified in the GO. A significant part of this scoreboard of indicators (23) corresponds to the official SDG indicators. This work of alignment at indicator level is a clear reflection of how the integration of SDGs into strategic PIs can also evolve towards greater compatibility and synergies between indicators.

Figure 6 – GO 2022-2026 Context Indicators and SDG Indicators

MAJOR OPTIONS	SDG INDICATORS (INE)	TYPE
DT - Good Governance and Public Services	SDG 17 - 1713.1	Economic
DE1 - Climate Change	SDG 2 - 2.4.1	Agriculture
	SDG 7 - 7.2.1	Energy
	SDG 12 - 12.2.2	Environment
	SDG 12 - 12.5.1	Environment
	SDG 13 - 13.2.2	Environment
	SDG 15 - 15.1.1	Territory
DE2 - Demography	SDG 8 - 8.5.1	Employment
	SDG 8 - 8.5.2	Employment
	SDG 8 - 8.6.1	Employment
	SDG 11 - 11.1.1	Housing
	SDG 11 - 11.1.2	Housing
DE3 - Inequalities	SDG 1 - 1.2.1	Inequality and Poverty
	SDG 1 - 1.2.2	Inequality and Poverty
	SDG 10 - 10.4.1	Inequality and Poverty
	SDG 10 - 10.4.2	Inequality and Poverty
DE4 - Digital Society, Creativity and Innovation	SDG 9 - 09.5.1	Innovation
	SDG 9 - 09.5.2	Innovation

Source: PlanAPP, PCM



4.4.2 INTEGRATION INTO SECTORAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

Other existing sectoral planning instruments also

present clear alignments and contributions to the pursuit of the SDGs, embedded in their strategic fields or axes, with a focus on the following:

Figure 7 – SDG-related Sectorial PIs

PI	STATUTE	RELATIONSHIP WITH SDGS
National Programme of Spatial Planning Policy	Law No. 99/2019 of 5 September	The ultimate instrument of the land management system, it makes a strategic correspondence between the 15 territorial challenges and the SDGs
Action Plan for the Circular Economy in Portugal	CMR No. 190-A/2017, of 11 December	It presents the macro level actions for which it is indicated whether the action contributes to international or national commitments, such as SDGs and their targets
Sustainable Bioeconomy Action Plan	CMR No. 183/2021, of 28 December	It identifies for each of its 5 axes of action, as well as for the 3 sectorial actions, the SDGs to which the implementation and performance of the envisaged measures will contribute
National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030	CMR No. 55/2018, of 7 May	It transposes the biodiversity conservation commitments of the 2030 Agenda (SDG 14 and 15) into the national plan
Strategy to Combat Poverty 2021-2030	CMR No. 184/2021, of 29 December	Defines six axes of intervention, which were duly aligned with the SDGs at the proposal stage
National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination 2018-2030	CMR No. 61/2018, of 21 May	It aligns its 6 strategic axes with the SDGs and respective targets
National Strategy for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities 2021-2025	CMR No. 119/2021, of 31 August	It contributes to the achievement of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11, with which it is aligned
ECP 2030	CMR No. 121/2022, of 9 December	It presents for the cross-cutting axis (gender equality and women's empowerment) the sectorial priorities of development cooperation organised according to the 5 principles of sustainable development (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships), as well as the main and supplementary SDGs to which each of the 5 thematic axes contributes
National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities 2013-2022	CMR No. 154/2018, of 29 November	It presents, for each of its 8 strategic objectives, the SDGs and their targets with which it is aligned
II National Youth Plan	CMR No. 77/2022, of 13 September	It references for each of its 425 measures/activities the SDGs with which it is aligned
Child Guarantee National Action Plan 2022-2030	CMR No. 3/2023, of 17 January	The alignment with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10 is achieved either through the linkages with the European Pillar of Social Rights (mainly principle 20) or through Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004 of 14 June 2021 on the creation of a European Child Guarantee

Source: PlanAPP, PCM

Other planning tools refer to the SDGs, although with a less detailed alignment. These include: the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality (RNC) 2050¹⁴; the National Plan for Energy and Climate (PNEC) 2030¹⁵ or the National Waste Management Plan 2030¹⁶.

Additionally, the creation of a single Environmental Fund (EF)¹⁷ is of note, to support environmental activities, with contributions in SDGs 6, 11, 12 and 13.

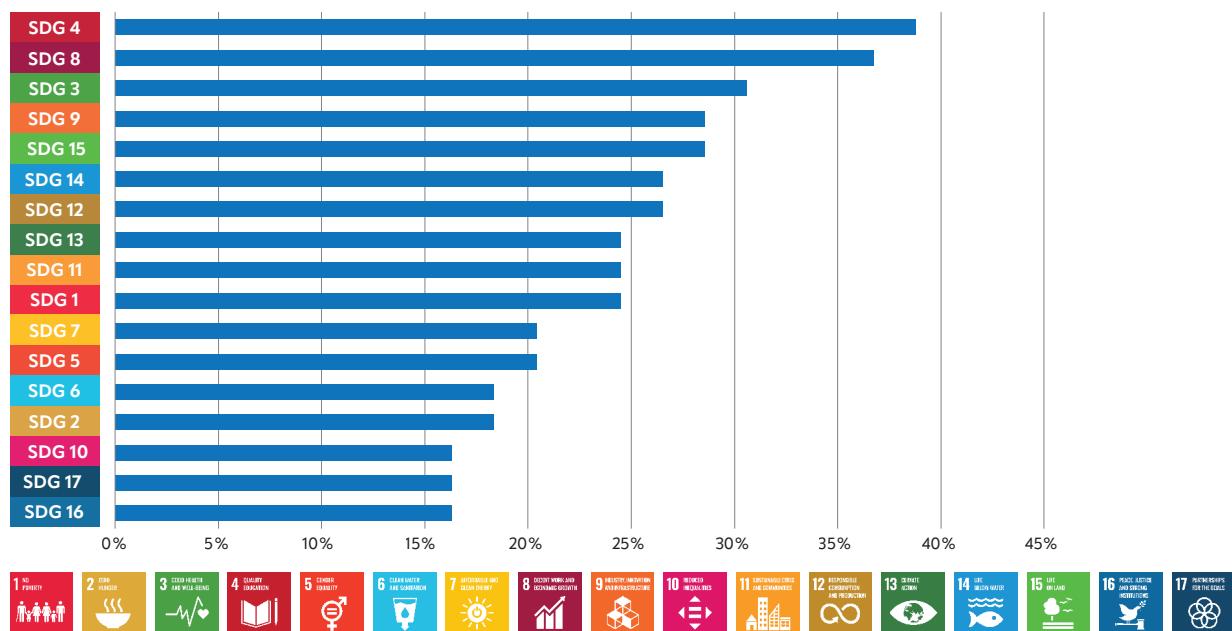
In the autonomous regions, of note in the ARM is the [Economic and Social Development Plan \(PDES\) Madeira 2030](#) which associates with the four Strategic Challenges identified for the region with the corresponding SDGs, and as well the [2022-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Madeira Destination](#), which identifies ten SDGs - five

priority and five relevant - associated with the Plan's nine strategic areas.

In the ARA, the [Azores Hydrographic Region Management Plan 2022-2027¹⁸](#) includes an alignment analysis of the potential contribution from this PI to the SDGs. In addition, the [2019-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Azores Tourism Destination](#) envisages 67 actions, for all nine islands of the ARA, and the SDG with which it is aligned is identified for each action.

An overall look at the universe of PI in Portugal leads to the conclusion that **60% of the PI in force** do not include any specific reference on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, of those that explicitly make reference to the SDGs, 35% mention SDGs 4 and 8.

Figure 8 – Planning instruments (%) making semantic reference to SDGs



Source: PlanAPP, PCM

Additionally, it should be noted that SDGs 9 and 12 are, in the universe of PI in force or completed between 2017-2022, those most mentioned as being impacted. This information is obtained from another source, a survey of

governmental areas performed under this VNR. SDGs 9 and 12 show very relevant contribution rates: above 50% in a total of 157 reported PIs. Conversely, SDGs 6, 7, 14, and 15 are impacted by a smaller number of PIs.

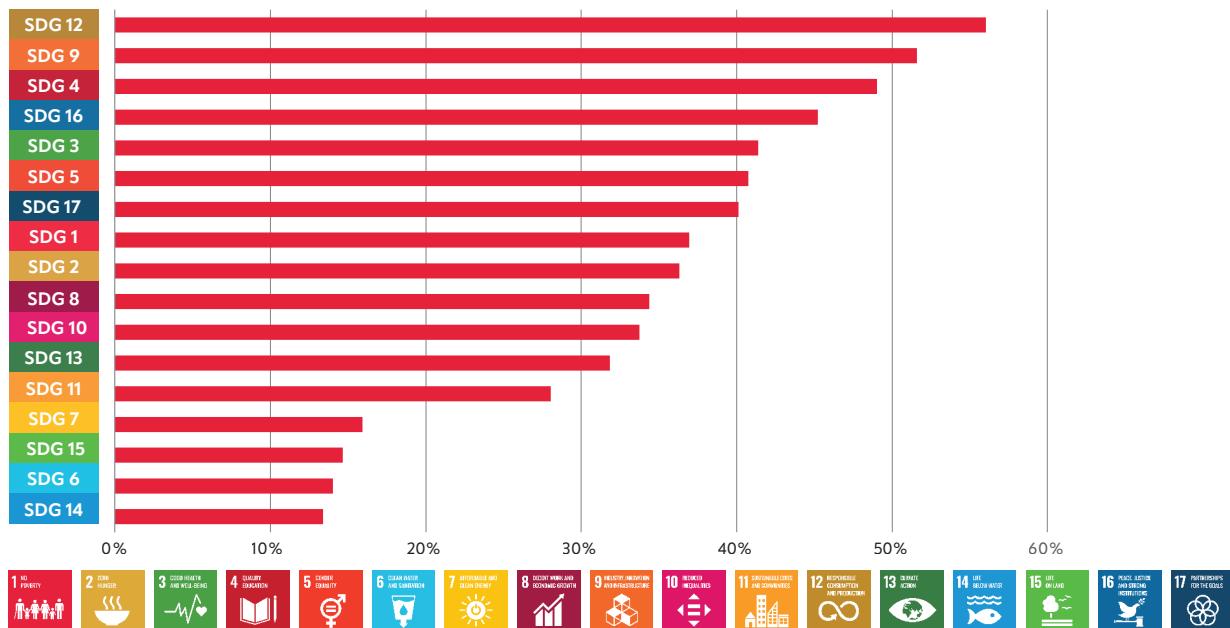
¹⁴ CMR No. 107/2019, of 1 July

¹⁵ CMR No. 53/2020, of 10 July

¹⁶ CMR No. 31/2023, of 24 March

¹⁷ Decree-Law No. 42-A/2016, of 12 August

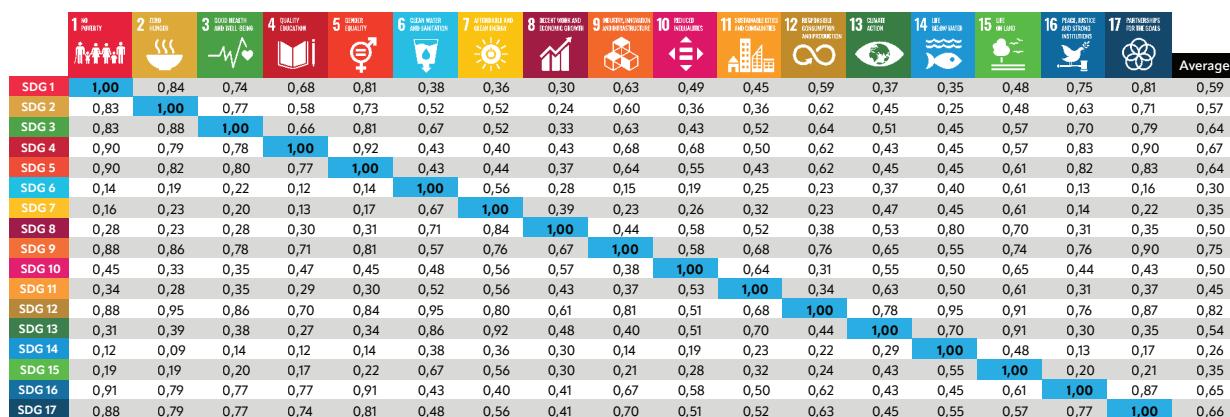
¹⁸ Regional Legislative Decree No. 8/2023/A, of 27 February

**Figure 9 – Planning Instruments (%) with very relevant contribution by SDG¹⁹**

Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

The analysis of the SDGs identified as contributing significantly to each of the PIs²⁰ shows that all of them are associated with more than one SDG. This fact demonstrates the natural interlinkages between SDGs. However, stronger (~1) and weaker (~0) association values are shown. In this sense, SDGs 9 and 12 that appear associated with other SDGs in 73% and 80% of the PIs, respectively, are worth highlighting in average terms. On the other hand, SDGs 14 and 6 are as-

sociated on average with other SDGs at values below 30%. The relationship of SDG 12 with SDGs 2, 6 and 14 stands out, with a stronger interlinkage (greater than or equal to 0.95). However, in terms of reciprocal benefits (SDGs simultaneously identified in the same instrument), three groups stand out, in more than 80% of the instruments in which they are mentioned: (i) group 1: SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 17; (ii) group 2: SDGs 3 and 5; (iii) group 3: SDGs 5, 16 and 17.

Figure 10 – Interlinkages between SDGs through Planning Instruments

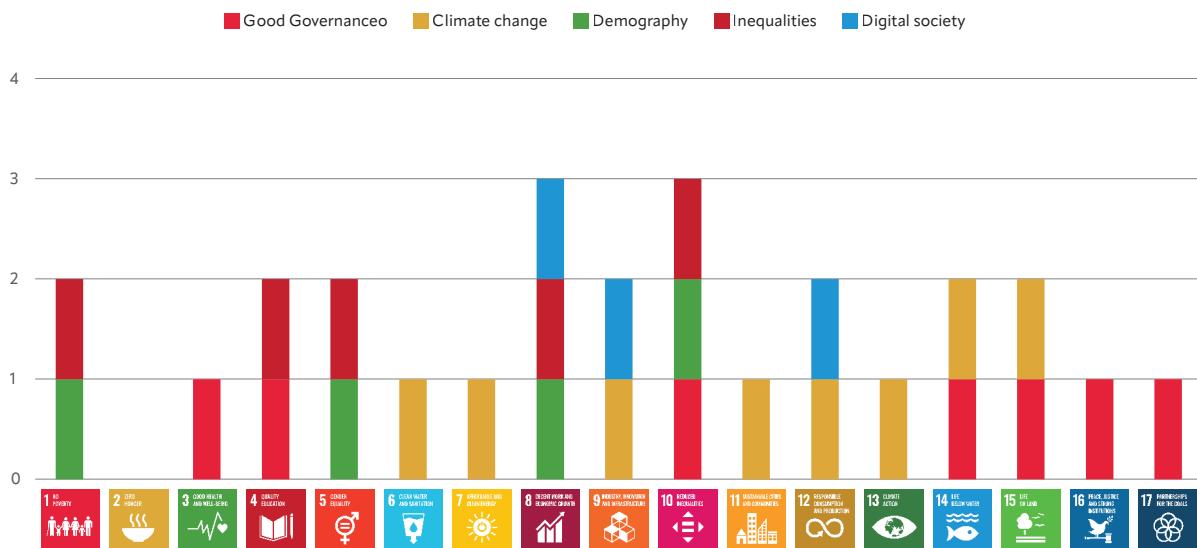
Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

¹⁹ More than one SDG may have been identified for each instrument²⁰ Only the PIs identified with a very relevant input from the governmental areas were associated with each SDG. Then, the remaining SDGs that arise are gauged in association with the identified Instruments. After identification of all the SDGs is completed, the percentage values are estimated from the base point value of the SDG's intersection with itself.

It is verified from the alignment of the GO 2022-2026 with the SDGs that the challenges covering a greater number of SDGs, with a very important direct contribution, are «Climate Change» (8 SDGs) and «Good Governance» (7 SDGs), followed by the challenges of «Inequalities», «Demography» and «Digital Society», with 5, 4 and 3 SDGs, re-

spectively. In the same line of analysis, the SDGs that stand out, for the very important direct contribution, in the current challenges of the GO 2022-2026, are SDGs 8 and 10, covered by three challenges. All SDGs defined as priorities in the 2017 VNR are covered by the challenges set.

Figure 11 – Alignment - Very Relevant Direct Contribution - Between the Strategic Challenges of the GO 2022-2026 Law and the SDGs



Source: PlanAPP, PCM

4.4.2.1. Education for sustainable development

One of the main factors contributing to the ownership of the 2030 Agenda by all stakeholders and sectors of society in a bottom-up approach is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In this regard, national efforts to integrate ESD in various areas of public policy should be highlighted. ESD is also important to promote also to promote learning and empowerment environments among different audiences, based on the recommendations of the UNESCO ESD programme for 2030.

In this area, we highlight [the National Strategy of Education for Development \(ENED\) 2018-2022](#), the [National Strategy of Environmental Education \(ENEA\) 2020](#) and the [National Strategy of Education for Citizenship \(ENEC\)](#) which aim, at various levels, to entrust and prepare different groups with the knowledge, skills and behaviours necessary for the transition to sustainability.

First of all, ENED 2018-2022, the successor of ENED 2010-2016, and its Action Plan, aim to strengthen capacity building and make materials available to both educational stakeholders (teachers/educators/trainers) and technicians from civil society organisations- The aim is to enable them,

in formal and informal education contexts, to act and educate in building societies that are fairer, more supportive, more inclusive, more sustainable and more peaceful.

The mid-term evaluation of ENED 2018-2022, highlights among its recommendations, the diversification of support/financing lines and the promotion of ENED's visibility at national level, allowing for its greater knowledge and appropriation within society.

ENEA 2020, adopted in 2017, promoted and supervised by APA in conjunction with DGE, focuses on environmental sustainability literacy. This strategy's wider reach among the target audience, aimed at students/educators/trainers, PA leaders and technicians, and business leaders and technicians, promotes active citizenship in the field of sustainable development, especially in its environmental dimension. The purpose is to accelerate the transition to a decarbonised society, focused on the circular economy and the rational and efficient management of its resources, through the enhancement of the territory. The positive results of this strategy (see [ENEA 2020 report](#)) have ensured it has extended beyond the initial period foreseen (2017-2020) and is currently being updated.



ENEC, also adopted in 2017 and coordinated by DGE, focuses on the promotion of knowledge and skills of a social nature, promoting critical thinking and developing competencies of active participation in a school environment (teachers, educators and students). The themes to develop are orientated to the 2030 Agenda (e.g. human rights, gender equality, health, sustainable development, environmental education, consumer education, security, defence and peace, among others). DGE has been developing, in this regard, and in conjunction with other public bodies and institutions and with various civil society partners, reference documents to guide teachers/trainers/educators connected with the promotion of citizenship, including the [Environmental Education for Sustainability Benchmark](#) (DGE/APA/ICNF and DGEstE - Directorate-General of Schools), the [Consumer Education Benchmark](#) (DGE/DGC – Directorate-General of Consumers/DECO – Portuguese Consumer Protection Association), the [Education for Development Benchmark](#) (DGE/Camões I.P., FGS – Gonçalo Silveira Foundation and CIDAC – Amílcar Cabral Intervention Centre for Development) and the [Security, Defence and Peace Education Benchmark](#) (DGE/IDN – National Defence Institute/CNCS – National Cybersecurity Centre).

Moving forward, it will be important, despite progress in the area of EDS, to strengthen capacity building at the level of stakeholders/technicians with direct involvement in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies for the 2030 Agenda. This should focus in particular on the 2030 Agenda components, but also on more complex aspects, such as synergies and trade-offs between SDGs and side effects or spillovers.

Furthermore, within PA, emphasis should be given to the work undertaken by INA, I.P. through training, teaching, scientific research and technical assistance, in the field of sustainability and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (mainly for SDGs 4, 10 and 16).

Taking a holistic and transversal approach to sustainability, INA, I.P. created, in November 2022, the [Integrated Training Path in Sustainability for PA](#), to be implemented from 2023. The Programme was structured around the following lines of action: (i) integrate sustainability and the SDGs within INA's activity, in general; (ii) train PA workers and leaders in matters of sustainability, to promote practices in

line with the premises of sustainable development; (iii) encourage and promote research and the development of knowledge in terms of sustainability in PA, through the PA Knowledge Centre; (iv) disseminate knowledge about sustainability and good practices and reflect on their application and materialisation within the scope of PA; (v) promote innovation among PA workers and leaders, in the area of sustainability and the SDGs; and (vi) create synergies with public institutions and other stakeholders, national and international, in order to enhance the creation of social, economic and environmentally sustainable value.

4.4.3 INTEGRATION THROUGH REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.4.3.1 Economic Impact Assessment

The political decision-making process should be supplemented, in the context of the legislative procedure, with information on the expected impacts of the measures drawn up, such as burdens on citizens and businesses. These should be quantified and, ideally, monetised with regards to costs and benefits.

A regulatory impact assessment (RIA) is currently carried out prior to each law, decree-law or regulatory decree, in order to know in a quantified manner the foreseeable impacts of the legislation adopted, with the aim of simplifying and improving the quality of legislation, and the aim of legislating stringently.

This analysis is based on the «How Much Does it Cost?» RIA model developed in the framework of the SIMPLEX+ Programme and implemented in 2017 as a pilot project. This is coordinated by the RIA Technical Unit (UTAIL), created at the time in the Presidency and Administrative Modernisation Ministry²¹. This model was made definitive in 2018 through [CMR No. 74/2018, of 8 June](#).

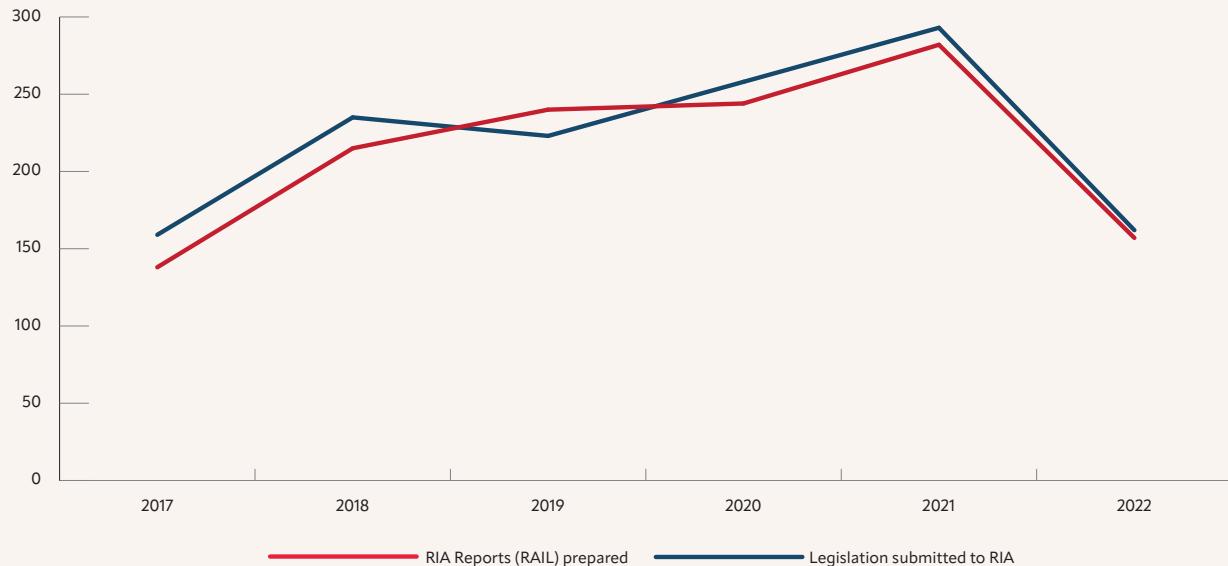
The RIA process implies an assessment using the standard cost model²², but it incorporates specific *ex ante* impact concerns on a number of issues which have also gradually been integrating into the legislative sphere²³ the three dimensions of sustainable development. 1,276 RIA Reports (RAIL) were prepared between 2017 and 2022, compared to 1,330 statutes submitted.

²¹ See CMR No. 44/2017 of 24 March. Today, UTAIL is a Technical Unit of PlanAPP

²² The Standard Cost Model (SCM) is the methodology adopted by the EC and most Member States and OECD countries for the identification and quantification of administrative costs imposed on enterprises by legislation. In Portugal, this exercise of cost quantification has the particularity of also considering the impacts on citizens and integrating other cost components besides the administrative costs that are considered in the original version. The current RIA model is also supplemented by a qualitative analysis of benefits. <https://www.oecd.org/regreform/regulatory-policy/34227698.pdf>

²³ The «How Much Does it Cost?» measure incorporates in the scope of its methodology, besides those components, other areas that include SDG concerns, notably the LNOB principle. It is decided, considering an overall view of the measure, to include its contributions to these two components in this chapter.

Figure 12 – Number of legislative acts submitted to RIA and RAIL, drawn up between 2017-2022



Source: PlanAPP, PCM

Note: The number of legislative acts submitted to RIA in the 1st quarter of 2022 was roughly 1/3 of the average for the remaining quarters of the year. This reduction, which also exists when compared with previous years, is mainly due to the electoral period and the Parliamentary Elections of 30 January 2022, as well as the fact that the XXIII Constitutional Government only came to office at the end of March, when the XV Legislature began.

4.4.3.2 Social impact assessment

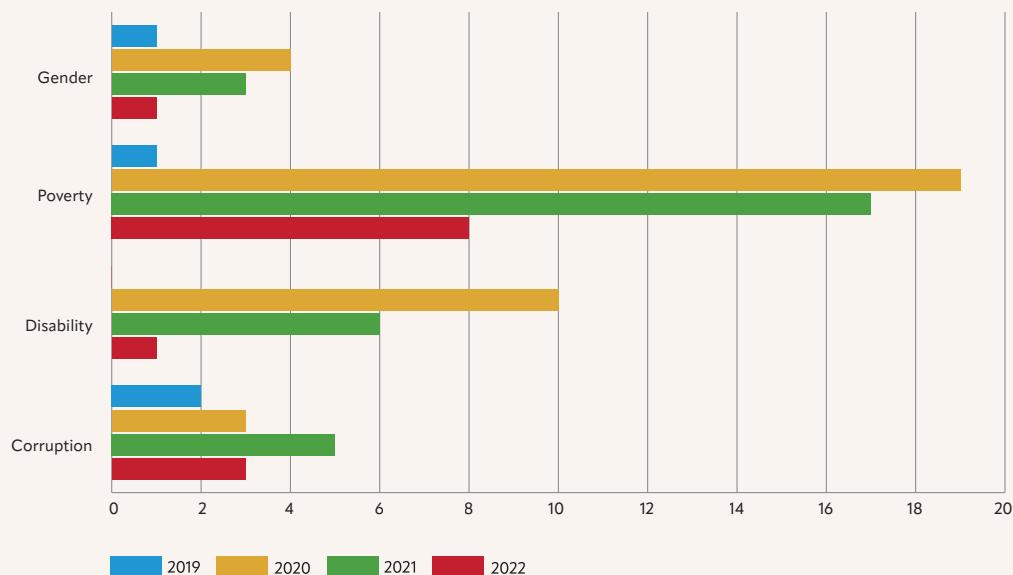
The extension of the scope of the RIA, consolidated by Decree-Law No. 169-B/2019, strengthened the prior evaluation and control of the creation of new administrative costs for citizens and businesses, extending the scope of the RIA to non-economic impacts. The RIA questionnaire related to the social dimension of poverty, previously distributed in the framework of the government's legislative procedure with the explanatory memorandum for draft laws, is now included in the impact assessment instruments. This is due to the importance of combating poverty and social

exclusion. The social impact assessment module has generally consisted of the development of a questionnaire. It is then used to measure social impacts in the following areas:

- Gender Impact;
- Impact on poverty;
- Impact on disability; and
- Impact on the risks of fraud, corruption and related offences.

The impact on poverty stands out among the components of analysis in which *ex ante* social impacts were identified, between 2019 and 2022..

Figure 13 – Number of legislative acts with social impact, by type of impact (2019 and 2022)



Source: PlanAPP, PCM

Note: Statutes can involve more than 1 impact category

4.4.3.3 Environmental impact assessment

A new module on Climate Action Impact Assessment (AIAC) was integrated into the RIA in 2021. This is due to the relevance of climate change in the international, European and national context, and responding to the need to ensure that the different draft laws put forward for ministerial approval are aligned with the objectives of national climate policy, namely decarbonisation and climate objectives set out in the RNC 2050 and PNEC 2030.

A number of questions have been developed in this regard to analyse the alignment of draft laws with national climate policy (in terms of mitigation, adaptation, or both) and to identify needs or opportunities for improvement, where applicable. This module covers five components that are relevant to climate action:

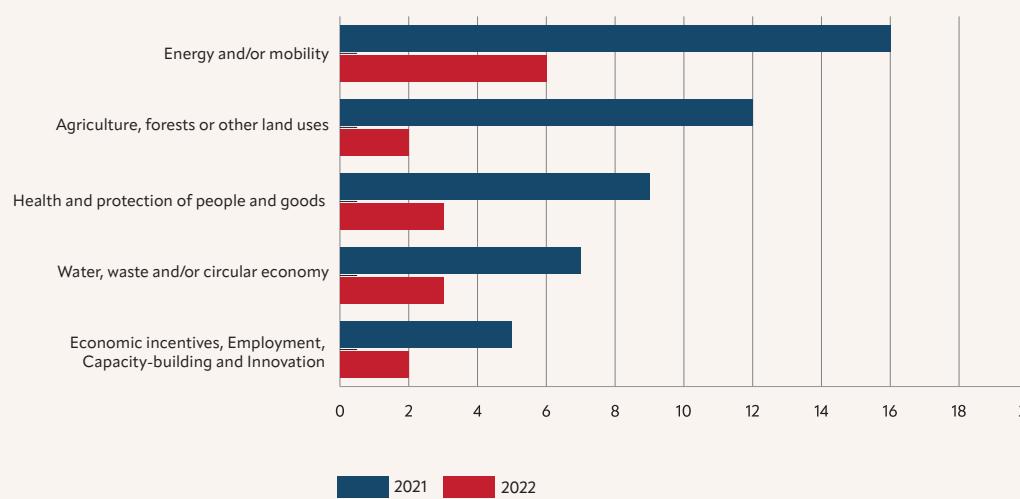
- a) Energy and/or mobility;
- b) Agriculture, forestry or other land use;
- c) Water, waste and/or circular economy;
- d) Health and protection of persons and property; and
- e) Economic incentives, employment, training and innovation.

Thus, since the entry into force of the new information sheet template²⁴, by 2022, the impact assessment on climate action was applied to 202²⁵ and 113 legislative acts respectively. An impact on at least one of the components was identified in 33 legislative acts, in 2021, i.e. 16.3% of the statutes subject to RIA had some form of impact on climate action. The energy and/or mobility component was the most flagged. The same was true in 2022. It was found in all of them that the legislative proposal was aligned with climate policy and the objective of carbon neutrality.

24 CMR No. 5/2021, of 19 January

25 10 of these legislative acts relate to cases submitted in 2020 that were sent back for the RIA and/or whose new version was the subject of AIAC

Figure 14 – Number of legislative acts with impact on climate action, by type of impact (2021 and 2022)



Source: PlanAPP, Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Note: Statutes can involve more than one impact category

The legislative procedure includes, in this way, the three dimensions of sustainable development. It invites the proposers of the various draft laws to reflect on the expected impacts. Then, after it has been the subject of an overall assessment, it is possible to improve the system of *ex post* monitoring and reporting, guaranteeing more information and knowledge for subsequent changes or legislative reviews.

4.4.4 INTEGRATION INTO PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY

Portuguese foreign policy is based on defending and strengthening multilateralism. In this sense, Portugal adopts a multilateral and open vision, defending global governance and committed to the pursuit of sustainable development. It is guided by the values and principles of international law and the UN Charter, as well as by respect for and promotion of human rights.

Portugal's foreign policy and development cooperation are fully in line with the 2030 Agenda. Portuguese participation in the various international *fora*, as well as action in

the context of development cooperation, have been advocating and contributing to the achievement of the 17 SDGs, in particular in the countries that are partners in cooperation.

In the EU context, Portugal has been supporting a higher level of political ambition and the optimisation of the alignment of European policies and initiatives with the 2030 Agenda. This commitment was demonstrated during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council (PPUE) in the first half of 2021. This was notable in the negotiation and adoption of the Council Conclusions which laid the basis for the establishment of a regular and more structured dialogue mechanism between the EC and the EU Council for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at EU level. Portugal also led the negotiations within the respective WG on the development of the EU Key Elements for the 2021 HLPF.

National action at UN level is highlighted in four areas: (i) human rights; (ii) education; (iii) just transition and (iv) climate change and oceans.

(i) Human rights

Portugal has advocated greater interlinkage and pari-



ty between the three pillars of the UN (peace and security, sustainable development and human rights). Portugal is, for this reason, a member of the «core group»²⁶ of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). This group tables a resolution on the protection of human rights in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. After being adopted by consensus in 2018 and 2020, it was adopted again at the 52nd session of the HRC in early April 2023. The text, as in the two previous resolutions, establishes a meeting in Geneva before the HLPF, concerning the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and human rights. The innovation in relation to the two previous versions is the strengthening of the local capacities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The field offices of that Office of the High Commissioner must now be strengthened in order to provide technical assistance to States in integrating a human rights perspective in the efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

(ii) Education

Portugal recognises education as a central and transformative tool in empowering children and young people with key competences for their aspirations and future opportunities, as well as to address many of the world's challenges. Portugal supported, at the UN Transforming Education Summit, in September 2022, the commitment to an inclusive and equitable humanistic education, ensuring gender equality, and quality education for all at all stages of life.

Portugal promoted and organised the National Consultation for the Transformation of Education, in July 2022, in preparation for the UN Summit. This engaged various sectors of Portuguese society to look at education issues. Students, teachers, non-teaching staff, senior officers, parents and guardians, local councillors, entrepreneurs, representatives of small, medium and large companies discussed and proposed ideas and actions that were integrated into the National Declaration of Portugal. In this context, Portugal endorsed the UNSG's call for recognition of education as a «global public asset» and a political priority in the recovery from the global health crisis.

This Summit provided an opportunity to underline the decisive importance of education for personal, social and economic development, to reaffirm political commitments to the recovery of learning. It also aimed to give renewed impetus to the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 4, by

reassessing the goals and objectives set in the light of the impacts on education of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(iii) Just Transition

Portugal has also been advocating reform of the UN development system, in line with the 2030 Agenda, optimising its global operational implementation. Our country has supported, in this regard, the Joint SDG Fund since its creation. This has included the establishment of a portion of this Fund devoted to the area of social protection. That will make it possible to operationally implement the Global Accelerator of Jobs and Social Protection for Fair Transitions²⁷, by incorporating its objectives into national cooperation projects. There are, at national level, the Strategic Cooperation Programmes, (PEC), («ACTION/Portugal» and «STEP Portugal»), and other initiatives with the direct involvement of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security.

The global financing system also needs to be reformed in order to improve access to financial markets for developing countries, under fairer conditions, and to mobilise the necessary financial resources to ensure the ultimate goals of eradicating poverty and hunger. Portugal therefore supports initiatives aimed at addressing this challenge. The highlight is the «SDG Stimulus», which aims at significantly increasing development funding, notably by improving conditions of access to financial markets, and accelerating progress in meeting the SDGs.

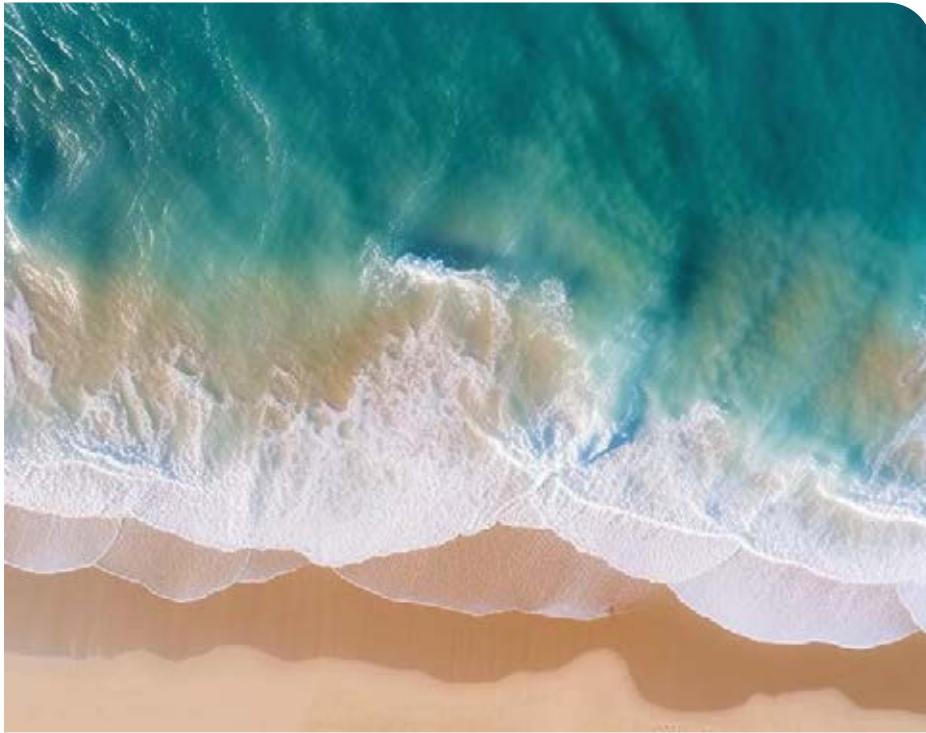
(iv) Climate change and Oceans

Portugal's commitment to the 2030 Agenda dates back to the period of its negotiation, underlining Portugal's dedication to ensuring the establishment of an autonomous Oceans goal (SDG 14). This confirms the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for the sustainable development of the planet.

It was on the basis of this commitment that Portugal, together with Kenya, organised the UNOC, in Lisbon, in June 2022. It ended with the adoption of the Lisbon Declaration by consensus, with the title «Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility». This Declaration identified the challenges and priorities for action, with emphasis on the recognition of the Ocean-Climate nexus and the importance of the oceanic component in climate action, the setting of ambitious objectives for the protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and the centrality of scientific knowledge

²⁶ Together with Luxembourg («penholder»), Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Fiji, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Uruguay

²⁷ An initiative launched by UNSG in September 2021, enabling a collective response to the current challenges, namely by financing investments that boost economic recovery and the creation of new jobs, ensuring a fair, green, digital and social transition to more inclusive and sustainable economies



and science and innovation-based solutions that promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans.

One of the main highlights of the UNOC was the Sustainable Blue Economy Investment Forum, the second edition of which will take place this year in Portugal. Its main result was the awareness that there will be no green transition without a blue transition and the potential of creating a sustainable blue economy, also responding to the concerns of the LDCs and SIDS, given their special vulnerabilities. The objectives of promoting the blue economy have been supported by Portugal, particularly in the action of the private sector. This is especially the case with the efforts of the UN Global Compact of the Action Platform on Sustainable Ocean Business (a platform that brings together companies, UN entities, governments and academia to determine together how the sea economy can progress and advance the 2030 Agenda).

In line with the SDG 14 target of protecting at least 30% of marine areas by 2030, many voluntary contributions were made at UNOC to this effect, including from Portugal. This broad consensus has resulted in the conclusion of two important international processes in the area of biodiversity, in which the country has actively engaged:

(i) the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in December 2022, which internationally and definitively established the «30x30 objective» (to protect at least 30% of marine and land areas by 2030); and (ii) the conclusion and adoption of a legally binding instrument in the framework of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction), in March 2023.

Portugal has played an active role in international bodies with competence over marine protected areas on the high seas, such as the [OSPAR Convention²⁸](#). Under this convention, based on a proposal from a non-governmental organisation, Portugal pioneered the designation of the first marine protected area on the continental shelf beyond the 200-mile limit, the *Rainbow Hydrothermal Field*, in 2006.

UNOC has also made it possible to speed up the commitments to SDG 6, with the organisation of the High-Level Symposium on Water - bridging SDG 6 and SDG 14. This was a preparatory meeting for the 2023 UN Water Conference, the first in 46 years, which took place in March.

²⁸ Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic



The Symposium has enabled the exploration of the inter-linkages, synergies and best practices of integrated management of these two SDGs.

Portugal co-chairs the Nairobi Group of Friends to Combat Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. It called for the establishment of an International Negotiating Committee to conclude, by 2024, an international agreement to combat plastic pollution, in particular marine litter, approved by the United Nations Environmental Assembly in 2022.

Portugal is committed, in the context of climate change, to the most ambitious objectives for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It has taken solid steps in this regard, at national level: in 2016, Portugal was one of the pioneers in setting the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050; in 2019, one year ahead of schedule, Portugal submitted its Long-Term Strategy for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the RNC 2050, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), under the Paris Agreement; in 2020, the first PNEC 2030 was approved, the main national instrument of energy and climate policy, and work began on the development of the National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100, which is expected to be completed in 2023. In 2021, Portugal submitted its Adaptation Communication to the UNFCCC.

At EU level, Portugal submitted, together with the EC and EU Member States, its revised joint National Determined Contribution (NDC), in 2020, which set the commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 55% by 2030. During the PPUE, Portugal led the conclusion of the negotiations of the first European Climate Law which, in addition to the NDC, establishes the commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050.

At the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP27), in 2022, in Egypt, Portugal committed to: (i) bringing forward to 2026 the target of achieving 80% electricity production from renewable sources; (ii) the ambition to accelerate the carbon neutrality target to 2045; and (iii) an increase of 25% in the national contribution to climate finance by 2030 (an increase of EUR 8 million), with the allocation of EUR 1 million to the Adaptation Fund.

At this COP, Portugal was also guided by its usual leadership in the defence of a greater integration of oceanic solutions in climate action and the ocean-climate nexus. It also highlighted the importance of preventing and combating wildfires, which are estimated to be responsible for 6% of annual CO₂ emissions, and could reach 20% in more extreme years. This is the context in which the city of Porto hosts the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference this year.

OCEAN-CLIMATE NEXUS

Portugal has been working consistently in recent years on the recognition of the Ocean-Climate nexus, highlighting the importance of the ocean component in climate action in its participation in various international *fora*.

Some of the main threats of climate change are especially present in the ocean, such as rising sea levels or climate-related natural risks in coastal areas and their erosion, in addition to the fact that increasing acidification and eutrophication of the seas has irreversible consequences on marine resources.

However, the ocean can play an essential role in climate action. In the fight against climate change, the sea is a

passive ally, retaining about 23% of carbon dioxide (CO₂ emissions), regulating the global atmosphere. It can, however, play a more active role in mitigation and adaptation efforts, including through the development of ocean-based solutions in the context of climate action. In this respect, Portugal has developed projects aimed at the protection and promotion of blue carbon ecosystems. Of note in this regard is the interest in registering and accounting for its contribution in the RNC 2050, but also in the investment in renewable energy projects in the sea and in efforts to decarbonise maritime transport.

4.5 LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

One of the transformative actions of the 2030 Agenda is to address and include the most vulnerable groups and to end discrimination based on economic conditions, gender, age, disability, origin, ethnicity, language, religion, political opinion or any other status or condition.

The LNOB principle, in its many dimensions, is present in several fields of intervention. As the following analysis shows, Portugal incorporates this principle, from the outset, in the provision of data and statistical information, in public policies of an external and internal scope, at national and local level, and by means of public and private entities dedicated to combating inequalities and discrimination.

4.5.1 DATA BREAKDOWN AND UPDATE

The provision of broken-down statistical data on the main vulnerable groups is essential for analysing the implementation of the LNOB principle, for the production of more and better information and knowledge, and consequently for informed decision-making by countries in the definition of policies and strategies.

The [SDG Progress Report \(2022\)](#) and the [European Report on the quality of statistics \(2022\)](#) highlight the persistent inadequacy of data breakdowns for vulnerable groups and reinforce the need for collection and systematisation by conventional means and the extension to other non-traditional sources of information, with greater coverage and detail (gender, age, disability, migrants, ethnic minorities, territory).

In Portugal, INE has been enhancing the quantity and quality of SDG monitoring information. The availability of indicator coverage increased by 17 p.p. between 2018 and 2023, currently covering 69% of the official indicators agreed by the UN Statistical Commission.

However, gaps remain in the data available, mainly related to SDGs 5, 12 and 14. In an attempt to fill these gaps, INE has launched a set of initiatives to strengthen (cross-reference with administrative bases and local bases), localise (NUTS II and degree of urbanisation) and break down information (gender, age) in areas such as inequalities and gender, in order to strengthen the LNOB principle.

In the area of socio-demographic statistical operations of the national statistical system, developments are under way to increase the coverage of data for vulnerable groups, minorities and inequalities through the following operations: (i) 2023 Survey of Living Conditions, Origins

and Trajectories of the Resident Population; (ii) Public and Private Space Security Survey, implemented in 2022; (iii) Employment Survey; (iv) Fertility survey; (v) Professional Skills Survey; (vi) Household Use of Information and Communication Technologies Survey and (vii) Adult Education and Training Survey.

These operations will describe and observe, in greater detail, issues such as inequalities between women and men, gender pay disparities, population diversity in terms of origins, generational trajectories and objective living conditions (education, employment and housing conditions), and insecurity phenomena in domestic and public spaces.

In addition to the operations already mobilised and/or the new initiatives under way, statistical operations are also identified, which can be used in the future, to better map and understand the most fragile and excluded layers of society, such as: Immigration Statistics, Foreign Population Statistics, [Survey of special educational needs in higher education institutions](#), [Survey of the registration of students enrolled and graduates of higher education - RAIDES](#), Statistics of [vaccinations](#) and morbidity, [Statistics on social reintegration and fostering minors](#).

The General Population Censuses and other national representative statistical operations should also work towards the integration of indicators to address the lack and inadequacy of information on issues such as human rights, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and special needs.

In addition to the wealth of information from INE, the [SDGs' thematic dossier](#) platform (INE) contains other official and unofficial sources that incorporate the principle of the 2030 Agenda - a world of and for all. It can, in addition, add value to the knowledge about vulnerable and/or minority groups and, in particular, in the components where national data are scarce. In this sense, statistical data from the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights, in the area of human rights, from the Observatory of Roma Communities, in the area of ethnicity, from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and other identities (LGBTI+) Associations, such as the Observatory of Discrimination of LGBTI+ People – ILGA – *Intervenção Lésbica, Gay, Bissexual, Trans e Intersexo*²⁹, in the area of sexual orientation, are relevant supplementary data sources.

4.5.2 THE INTEGRATION OF THE PRINCIPLE AT NATIONAL LEVEL

The [Europe Sustainable Development Report 2022](#) contains an index which reflects the application of the LNOB principle in each country. This index, composed of 32

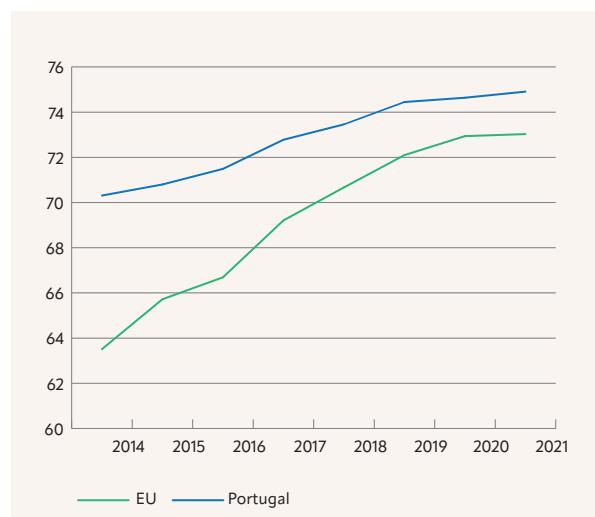
²⁹ Intervention Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex



indicators, takes into account the progress of inequalities in four dimensions: (i) extreme poverty and material deprivation; (ii) income inequality and respect for the fundamental rights of workers; (iii) gender inequality and (iv) access to and quality of services.

Portugal has been on an upward path towards the EU average, since 2014. Portugal scored 73.03 in 2021, ranking 21st (out of 34 countries analysed).

Figure 15 – LNOB Index 2014-2021 (PT and EU)

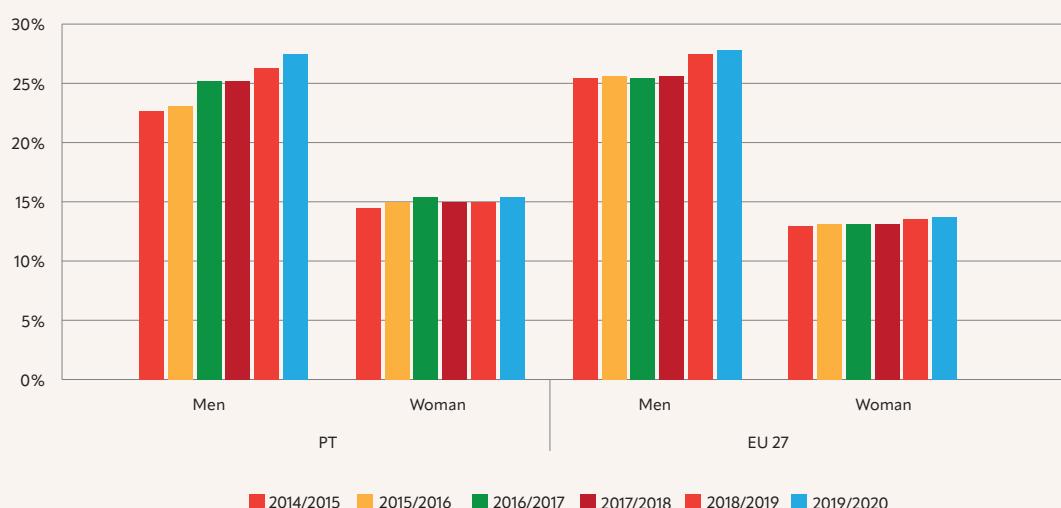


Source: Europe Sustainable Development Report 2022 (sdgindex.org)

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and UN Women also portray the principle of LNOB, in a systematic way and articulated with the other SDGs, as well as the positioning of countries specifically in relation to SDG 5 ([Progress Report on SDG 5, 2022](#)). The report also highlights the direct and indirect gains from education in reducing poverty, improving maternal health, decreasing child mortality, gains in the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and reducing gender violence. It also mentions

the perpetuation of gender stereotypes in the Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)³⁰) field as a barrier to women and girls in accessing the opportunities generated in that area. In Portugal, similarly to the global picture, female graduate representation in these areas remains very low, although slightly above the EU average.

Figure 16 – Graduates of higher education in Science and Technology areas, by gender, between 2014 and 2020 (PT and EU)



Source: Eurostat, data updated on 09/08/2022

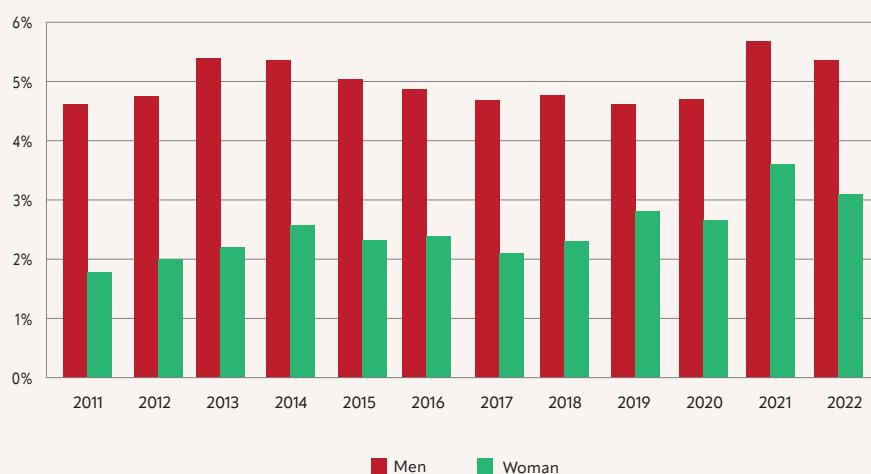
Note: Number per 1,000 inhabitants, resident population aged 20 to 29

³⁰ Science, technology, engineering and mathematics

The evolution of the indicators with data available in the framework of Target 5.5 - *Ensuring the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life* - corroborates the profile outlined by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and

the UN: despite the favourable advances and the legal framework in force, Portugal is still far from parity. There are still disparities in terms of equality and participation in public and political office, access to leadership and senior positions, salary levels and ownership of agricultural property.

Figure 17 – Proportion of the employed population in management positions, by gender (%), 2011-2022 (PT)



Source: NE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

In terms of public policies, Portugal has in recent years been strengthening legislation and creating policy measures to promote equality and non-discrimination against women. Some of these measures are highlighted:

- **National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination 2018-2030 «Portugal + Igual» (2018-2030) (ENIND)** - takes as its core the elimination of gender stereotypes and the full realisation of human rights. It is based on three action plans: Action Plan for equality between women and men (PAIMH); Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (PAVMVD) and Action Plan for Combating Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sexual Characteristics.
- **Engineers for a day** - programme directed towards students at the primary and secondary education levels, with the aim of deconstructing the gender stereotypes associated with the most segregated areas through practical activities. It has involved more than 12,500 young people since 2017, with the involvement of 200 partner entities, mainly companies in the technology sector, 15 municipalities, 62 primary and secondary schools and 23 HEIs.
- **Incode 2030: Technovation Girls** - a worldwide programme in the STEAM (STEM including arts) areas that aims to empower and mobilise girls from 8-18 years old in the technological areas, impelling them to think, act and create technological solutions. In 2022, it had 270 more students, from 50 localities belonging to 12 districts.
- **Sustainable Employment Commitment** - a transitional measure that aims to stimulate the hiring of unemployed people, mainly from vulnerable groups (single parent families, beneficiaries of the Social Insertion Allowance - RSI, domestic violen-



ce victims, disabled persons, among others). The support is further increased for the under-represented gender in a given profession.

- [Law No. 90/2019, of 4 September - Strengthening the Protection of Parenthood](#), in the maternity, paternity and adoption field.
- **Decent Work Agenda** - promotes equality in the labour market between women and men, reinforces measures and introduces new measures to encourage the real sharing of family responsibilities (teleworking, extended leave)
- [Law No. 60/2018, of 21 August, promotes equal pay between women and men](#). The Authority for Working Conditions has been notifying companies with significant wage differences between men and women. It will strengthen supervision of companies with more than 500 employees by 2025.
- **Alliance for Equality in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)** - Alliance, created in 2021, that brings together government entities, universities and companies that are working together in the «Engineers for a Day» programme. It is coordinated by CIG, in conjunction with the Portuguese Association for Diversity and Inclusion. The objective is to promote the digital inclusion of women and their participation in engineering and technology, consolidating and structuring forms of systematic cooperation and dissemination of the work carried out by the partner entities. It was also possible, during the 2030 Agenda Tour, to collect a set of best practices based on the LNOB principle. Some of these examples are systematised in the table below, by type of entity that participated in the town halls.
- **III National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2022)** which commits to «integrate the gender perspective in the different areas of public policy, notably in the framework of diplomatic, military, security, justice and development cooperation activities.» The III PNA comprises three components: prevention, protection and participation.
- [Law No. 62/2017, of 1 August](#), promotes a system of balanced representation between men and women in the administrative and supervisory bodies of public sector entities and companies listed on the stock exchange;
- [Law No. 26/2019, of 28 March](#), which promotes balanced representation between men and women in the management staff and on the bodies of the PA.

LNOB PRINCIPLE AT NATIONAL LEVEL

■ **Strategy Combating energy poverty** a guiding and central document of the strategy for energy transition and climate transition. This instrument directly incorporates the principle of leaving no one behind and reflects the integration of issues of inclusion, accessibility and combating energy poverty into public policies.

LNOB PRINCIPLE AT LOCAL LEVEL

■ **Rurban Link (Network of Circular Links between Urban and Rural Areas) integrated into the National Circular Cities Initiative - InC2** aims to promote circular functional links between urban and rural areas by creating circular agri-food systems. Currently the Network is composed of 8 municipalities: Bragança, Câmara de Lobos, Guimarães, Penela, Reguengos de Monsaraz, Ribeira Grande, Lisbon and Fundão (leader of the network) and Lisboa E-Nova - Lisbon Energy-Environment Agency as a partner. It aims to connect and bring producers closer to consumers and develop the composting of organic waste.

■ **Plan for Social Cohesion 2022-2025** emerges from the Platform of Social Partners of Câmara de Lobos, in operation since 2015. It has 26 social partners, with local intervention. The Plan has four key axes: 1. Enhancement of Human Capital, 2. Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, 3. Protection of Socially Vulnerable Communities and Groups 4. Increased Co-Responsibility, Networking and Participation, 16 Strategic goals, 54 measures and 65 targets.

■ **Flamenquitos de Santiago Project** promoted by the Ordem de Santiago Schools Group in Setúbal, in 2021. The initiative aims to combat school dropouts and school absenteeism in the Roma community and promotes the inclusion of Roma students through arts, music and dance. The project has shown a strong positive impact on the school community by strengthening the commitment of young Roma ethnic people to school.

LNOB PRINCIPLE IN ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY

■ **ABEM programme** developed by Dignitude Association. It is an innovative project that allows access to subsidised and prescribed medicines by low-income households. It is based on a network of partnerships with IPSS and local authorities that identify households in need and inform them of the pharmacies' networks for access to medicines at no cost. The medicines are fully funded by donations. The programme helps to control the disease situation of the most vulnerable citizens, ensures adherence to treatment, curbs comorbidities and alleviates the scarce budget of many households. It provides a cross-cutting contribution to the overall improvement of the health status of the most vulnerable groups.

■ **Valor T** promoted by the Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa charitable organisation. It is a nationwide employability agency serving people with disabilities. It advocates the full participation of all in society, and access to decent work as an essential right for all and the condition for an independent life.

■ **Ver Programme - Regenerative Employment Nursery** is a support programme for the creation of self-employment and/or to increase income, based on regenerative businesses of Biovilla. It is aimed at the long-term unemployed and unemployed young people, refugees and female poverty in the Setúbal region.

■ **REFood** a 100% voluntary movement that transforms not only waste into nutrition, but also the lives of all those involved in a true circular and supportive economy by distributing food to the most vulnerable and unprotected.

LNOB PRINCIPLE IN BUSINESSES

■ **The Alqueva Academy of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants** supports the implementation of new projects in production, processing and marketing under the prism of the organic production mode. The Academy consists of EDIA (Alqueva Development and Infrastructure Company), CEVRM (Centre of Excellence and Enhancement of Mediterranean Resources) and Monte do Pardieiro.

LNOB PRINCIPLE IN THE ACADEMIC SECTOR

■ **Decentralisation of Higher Vocational Technical Courses**, a partnership between Guarda Polytechnic and Guarda Council, facilitates the access of students with less resources and of people who can become specialised without leaving their territory, allowing the qualification and development of people and territories.



According to the last available [report of the country in the European semester](#), social indicators have evolved positively in recent years, especially with regard to SDGs 1 and 8. However, it is noted that social protection still has structurally imperfections and shows that social transfers remain insufficient to address persistent inequalities and poverty, a situation exacerbated by the pandemic context, moving Portugal away from the EU27 average (2017 figures identical to 2020³¹).

Access to social housing and energy poverty are also challenges highlighted in this VNR, considering their impact which is more critical on vulnerable groups, including young people.

Furthermore, between 2017 and 2021 there was an abrupt rise in the housing price index in Portugal of almost 52 p.p.. (in EU27, 28 p.p.)³². This indicator is perceived as one of the main ones reflecting the strong impact on the vulnerability of economic conditions in Portugal due to the

combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine.

The mapping of PIs and the survey of governmental areas carried out in the framework of this review also lead to the conclusion that, on the one hand, there is a very significant set of PIs addressed exclusively to the most vulnerable groups (Figure 6 - Annex II), according to the five factors listed by the UN in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, and, on the other hand, that the LNOB principle is being progressively more integrated by public policies, in a cross-cutting manner.

The survey also allows us to conclude, regardless of the central objective of each PI, that respondents consider that the PIs associated with SDG 4 best embody the LNOB principle. This is followed by SDGs 16, 5, 1, 9, 12, 17, and 3 (in that order), all having an average association of the LNOB principle with PIs of more than 50. In contrast, the instruments associated with SDGs 7, 6, 14 and 15 are those that least reference this principle.

Figure 18 – Average of PIs Adopting the LNOB Principle by SDG



Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

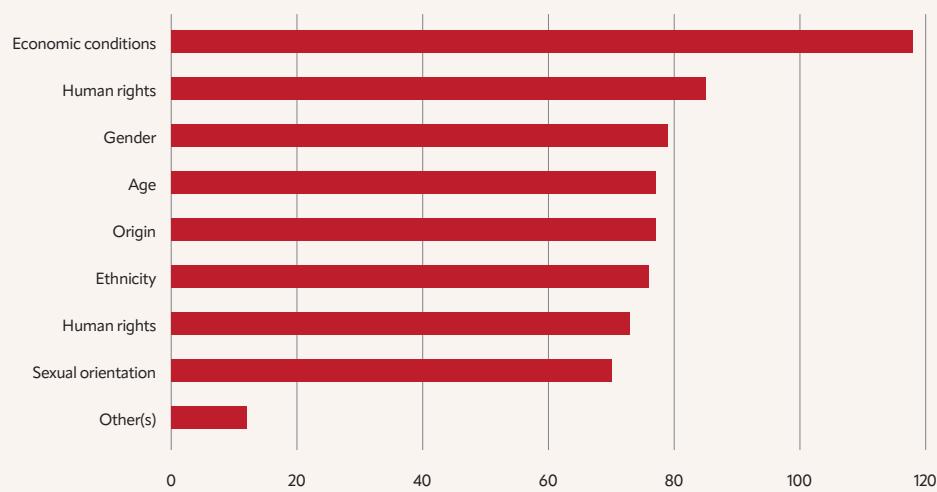
³¹ Eurostat, 20/12/2022 data

³² Eurostat, 07/10/2022 data

According to the same survey, line ministries identify economic conditions, human rights and gender as being the components of the LNOB principle with the greatest

cross-cutting impact on PIs, regardless of the central policy objective of that instrument.

Figure 19 – Number of PIs incorporating the LNOB Principle per reference group



Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

In the autonomous regions, the ARA identified 254 public policy measures. It found a great balance between

the various components, such as economic conditions, human rights, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and race in the pursuit of the LNOB principle.

Figure 20 – Number of Public Policy Measures incorporating the LNOB Principle by reference group



Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

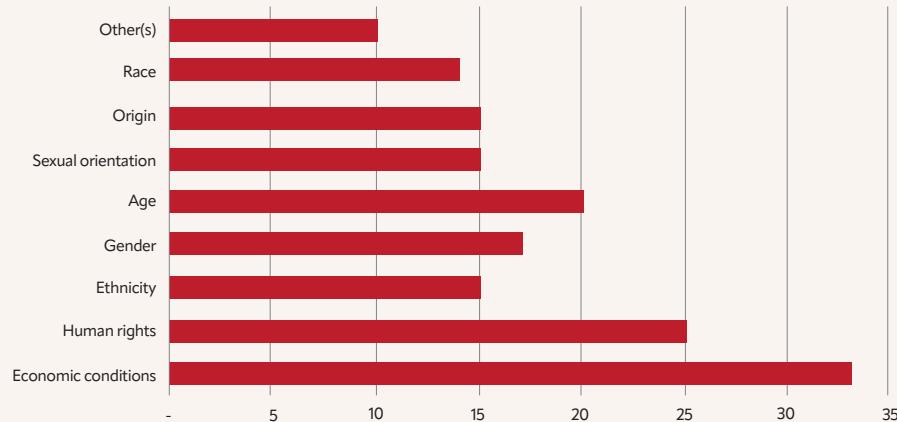


AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

There is a less balanced distribution of the components of the LNOB principle among the SDGs in the 164

Public Policy measures analysed by ARM. The most prominent component of the measures is economic condition.

Figure 21 – Number of Public Policy Measures incorporating the LNOB Principle by reference group



Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

4.5.3 THE INTEGRATION OF THE PRINCIPLE INTO PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY

The global challenges are cross-cutting and their consequences are most heavily felt by vulnerable people. The COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine exposed the vulnerabilities of national systems and demonstrated how crises are interlinked with each other, with an impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. They have also demonstrated, from another perspective, how the LNOB principle is essential for a more sustainable, fair and inclusive social, economic and environmental recovery.

Portugal has emphatically supported the «Our Common Agenda» initiative of the UNSG, as part of the Decade of Action for the implementation of the Agenda and at the halfway point of the route to 2030. This initiative advocates the need for urgent and decisive action to accelerate and ensure the timely implementation of all SDGs. The UNSG calls for the renewal of the social contract, which is at the heart of this initiative. That contract has to be adapted to the current global challenges, based on respect for human rights (civil, political and socio-economic rights), for young people and future generations, restoring confidence in multilateral institutions and strengthening social cohesion.

Our country supports efforts to achieve universal social protection, guarantee access to health care for all and

guarantee a minimum income for the most vulnerable, as well as adequate housing, education for all and decent employment. Portugal is specifically playing an active role in relation to three vulnerable groups: (i) migrants; (ii) women and (iii) young people.

(i) Migrants

Portugal recognises the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development, promoting a positive and supportive narrative regarding migration. Portugal, in line with the 2030 Agenda, understands that migration can be a driver of sustainable development for migrants and their communities, both in the countries of origin, transit and destination.. Migration and sustainable development are therefore multidimensional and interdependent phenomena, which require coherent and comprehensive responses.

Portugal adopted the GCM, approved at the UN General Assembly in December 2018, and pioneered the creation of a National Plan for the Implementation of the GCM (PNIPGM), involving the entire Government. At the first International Forum for the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Pact, which took place in New York in May 2022, Portugal committed to reviewing the National Plan. It also committed to the involvement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, in order to optimise the national response

to the migration challenges. This process of comprehensive consultation with civil society, within the framework of the PNIPGM, was led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Migration (ACM), in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). It started in 2021. Portugal also participates, in articulation with the IOM, in the Migration Governance Index. This is a tool within the scope of the SDGs that seeks to identify best practices and possible gaps in the policies, programmes and institutional capacity in the migration field.

Portugal is also one of the first and most active «champion countries» of the GCM, promoting efforts to facilitate migrants' access to legal protection, health care, education, work, and social support, which have been increased by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine. As migration is a political priority, Portugal is committed to promoting the right conditions for migrants to reach their development potential and integrate into our society.

(ii) Women

The world is not on track to achieve the SDG 5 targets by 2030. Discrimination against women and girls continues in all sectors and societies and violence against women is at emergency levels. Portugal is still committed to the promotion of gender equality, having identified SDG 5 as a priority in the 2017 VNR and participating fully and at the political level in the Commission on the Status of Women, which meets annually.

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a cross-cutting priority of ECP 2030. In all phases of implementation of programmes, projects and initiatives with cooperation partners, a gender perspective is thus adopted. This is particularly the case in projects focused on combating female genital mutilation, gender-based violence, the pay gap between men and women, gender and climate change, sexual and reproductive health rights and the inclusion of women in peace processes. In addition, Portugal has contributed to the UN «Spotlight Initiative» programme, with EU support, which has the specific objective of preventing and combating violence against women and girls.

Portugal has traditionally been a strategic partner of the United Nations Population Fund in implementing projects that have an effective impact on women's empowerment, in combating early, child and forced marriages, in the framework of obstetric fistula and in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, which have saved millions of lives.

(iii) Young people

Sustainable development embodies the concept of striking a balance in its three dimensions, to allow the sa-

tisfaction of current needs, but also those of young people and future generations. The LNOB principle also means bringing young people into the centre of political decision-making, not only by listening to their concerns, but also by ensuring their full participation as agents of change and as key players in the 2030 Agenda. That is why Portugal has continued to lead the youth agenda in New York by tabling biennial resolutions on this topic at the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly and the Committee on Social Development. Portugal also supported the establishment of the new UN Youth Office.

4.6 SYSTEMIC ISSUES AND TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

4.6.1 STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

Portugal's national and European context is relevant for the analysis of the progress of the 2030 Agenda. As signs of an economic recovery began to emerge following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war against Ukraine caused a further slowdown in the pace of growth and exacerbated the impacts, through an inflationary crisis and a climate of energy and food insecurity. Portugal has a number of structural debilities which, together with the risk of exposure to global economic shocks, constrain sustainable growth in the long term, and has a direct impact on the achievement of the SDGs.

Portugal's structural economic and social challenges include unemployment and job insecurity and demographic changes. These factors are manifested in the inability to absorb highly qualified young people in contrast to the low education level of the adult population, the need to adapt health and long-term care systems to a demographic context of progressive ageing of the population, as well as the strengthening of the fiscal framework and the economic sustainability of public enterprises. Additional challenges are improving the business environment, business productivity and digitalisation and strengthening the R&D system. The challenges, from an environmental point of view, are the mitigation of and need to adapt to the effects of climate change, extreme risks of environmental disasters, transition to renewable energy and the dependence on external resources, energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of industry.

The RRP seeks to sustain the improvement of the situation of countries in sustainability terms (economic, environmental and social) and its monitoring is a tool to support policy making. Portugal's main vulnerabilities, according to the RRP monitoring, are:

- in the economic field, sustainability and financial stability. Portugal has, compared with all 27 EU

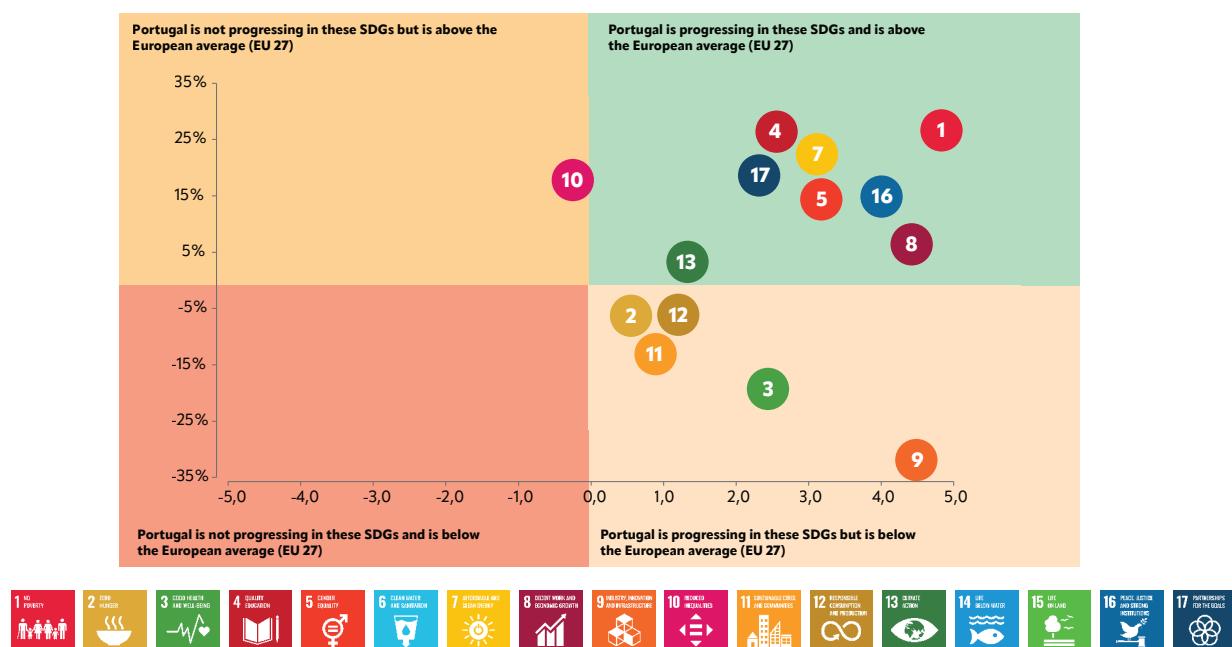


- countries, less resilience to external shocks associated with financial globalisation;
- in social terms, the country has still room to improve its ability to resolve the issues of social inequalities;
- in the digital transition, Portugal has fewer vulnerabilities and greater capabilities than the European average;
- in the environmental dimension, Portugal does not have greater vulnerabilities compared to EU countries, but has lower capacities, in particular as

regards mitigating the effects of climate change and promoting the circular economy.

The analysis of how the SDGs interlink with each other is an essential element in understanding the progress of the 2030 Agenda and the structural challenges that impact on that progress. The vulnerabilities identified above are directly associated with the SDGs which Portugal is furthest from achieving or where there is more of a gap between Portugal and other European countries, with a focus, in comparative terms, on inequalities (SDG 10).

Figure 22 – SDGs for Portugal, comparing distance from targets and performance of the EU 27 (2022)



Source: Eurostat, [SDG Country Overview \(2022\)](#)

However, meeting the 2030 Agenda requires a holistic and integrated approach. Actions to comply with one SDG can have positive or negative impacts on the achievement of others.

In the case of Portugal, between 2015 and 2019, the [INE publication](#) identifies the association between gross domestic product (GDP) growth and its relation to increased employment and the reduction of social inequalities. At the same time its decrease, with the corresponding degradation of social indicators, can have a positive effect on the reduction of GHG emissions, as was verified during the mandatory confinement to combat the COVID-19 disease pandemic.

The analysis of interlinkages is also relevant to understanding problems that are structural and systemic in

nature, because it allows for an integrated, synergistic and coherent approach to policies, identifying positive synergies or negative trade-offs.

As Portugal does not have a periodic or regular analysis of spillovers, the existence of some systemic dimensions is noted, through international sources. The «Spillover Index» tool, part of the [Sustainable Development Report](#), analyses the environmental and social impacts that emerge in the areas of trade, economy and finance, and security. The main negative impacts of Portugal, according to the index mentioned, are the environmental impacts associated with trade, with harmful results in the indicators: (i) low water consumption incorporated into imports; (ii) exports of plastic waste; (iii) CO₂ emissions incorporated into imports; (iv) threats to land and freshwater biodiversity embedded in imports.

4.6.2 ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED

One of the major challenges for Portugal will be to strengthen institutional mechanisms for sustainable policy-making, combining both sustainability and a perspective of long-term planning and investment.

The recent creation of PlanAPP³³ is an example of an institutional response that promotes cooperation and coordination between policy areas. The creation of this body was based on a concern for policy coherence, promoting coordinated action across several areas. This coordination takes place at an inter-ministerial level, at the heart of the government.

The alignment of PIs in the most diverse areas, especially high-level ones such as GO, with the SDGs is a recent example of the monitoring of Portugal's commitment to the 2030 Agenda, from a legislative point of view.

The prior analysis of legislative impact can significantly contribute to identifying synergies and trade-offs of policies with the SDGs. The legislative impact was initially focused on financial burdens, but it now incorporates other components, such as poverty, disability and the environment. It enables the early detection of policy impacts in

strategic areas of sustainability. This tool can be enhanced by analysing the interlinkages between the SDG targets and the policy objectives.

The recent change in the governance model of the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and its relationship with policies is aimed at, with regard to monitoring the progress of the SDGs in Portugal, making sustainable development an objective for which all policies must compete, in a coordinated way. It allows the development of partnerships and synergies, in a WoG and WoS approach.

The incorporation of the long-term vision into the political process, enhanced by scenarios and foresight exercises, is another challenge to be developed. This is an aspect in which Portugal does not yet have a tradition. Portugal has traditionally organised its planning cycles according to its political cycles or funding from Europe. Looking at policies over the long term, taking a holistic approach such as that of the 2030 Agenda, requires skills to think ahead, identify trends or build scenarios for the future. This can enhance not only the sustainability of policies, but also strengthen the capacity to respond to crises, countering the excessive exposure to the volatility of the global economy.

³³ Decree-Law No. 21/2021 of 15 March

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white rectangular card. On the card, there is a large black gender symbol (a circle with a horizontal line) and a red circle containing the number '5'. The background is dark and out of focus.

5

PROGRESS ON THE GOALS AND TARGETS AND EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND MEASURES TAKEN SO FAR FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT

5.1 COMPARATIVE PROGRESS

In accordance with [SDG Index & Monitoring Portugal \(2022\)](#), Portugal ranks 20th among the 193 UN Member States, and has successively improved its performance, despite following the trend of decreasing the pace of progress of the SDGs, from 2017 onwards.

In the European context, Portugal³⁴ shows positive developments in some SDGs compared to 2017 and in comparison with the EU average. It is also possible to observe the trend of global stagnation, between 2019 and 2020, arising from the crisis of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and which was followed by the war against Ukraine, in 2022.

According to EU monitoring (2022), Portugal has evolved, with better performance than the EU average, in SDGs 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 16 and 17. It shows progress, but with a performance below that of the EU, in SDGs 3, 9, 11 and 12. In relation to SDG 10, although it is far from the other goals, it recorded results above the EU. It should be noted that for most of the indicators collected in this index, the years analysed are 2020 or 2021, and do not yet reflect the impact of the war against Ukraine and inflation on the progress of the SDGs.

According to another source of comparative analysis, [the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\) report \(2022\)](#), Portugal has achieved or is in the process of achieving targets on inclusion ((immigrants, minorities and gender equality), renewable energy, air qua-

lity, waste and water. However, it indicates that economic challenges (low productivity, low wages, poor economic performance) remain. It points out the challenges of progress in SDGs 2 and 3 - as regards risk factors and behaviours (alcohol consumption, tobacco, obesity); in SDGs 8, 10 and 17 - raising the standard of living and financial transfers; in SDGs 11, 12 and 15 - in the form of land use and environmental objectives; and SDG 16 - strengthening confidence in the judicial system.

The [Europe Sustainable Development Report \(2022\)](#) states that the EU has progressed by 0.7% per year according to the SDG Index for Europe³⁵, mainly due to the progress made in European regions with lower levels of well-being. The document points to very tenuous progress in Europe in 2022, in terms of meeting the 2030 Agenda, as well as setbacks caused by COVID-19 and international crises. In this challenging context, Portugal is in 18th place³⁶ out of 34. The countries of Northern Europe occupy the top three positions.

This report included an index of performance of inequalities, intended to evaluate the LNOB principle, divided into four components: (a) extreme poverty and material deprivation (10 indicators); (b) wage inequalities and compliance with fundamental labour rights (3 indicators); (c) gender inequality (6 indicators); (d) access to and quality of services (13 indicators). Portugal ranks³⁷ 21st out of 34 European countries in this index. Once again, it is the Nordic countries (Norway, Finland and Iceland) that perform better, with scores above 85 out of 100. This indicates that their systems of social protection and access to universal services contribute to reducing inequalities.

Portugal has more positive spillovers (at 71.2 points) than negative ones, as regards effects on other countries, indicated in the Spillover Index³⁸. It should be noted that the [country](#) has progressed favourably in relation to the overall SDG score, evolving 5.8 points between 2015 (64.8) and 2021 (70.6).

³⁴ [Sustainable development in the European Union - Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context, 2022. Publications Office of the European Union. Eurostat. Luxembourg p.333](#)

³⁵ SDG Index Europe 2022 SDSN, includes 110 indicators, official and unofficial, covering the 17 SDGs, supported on a scale of 0-100, where 0 - worse/not achieved and 100 - best/achieved. The scores of the global SDG index and of the targets reflect the degree of achievement. The difference between 100 and the country scores is therefore the distance to go to achieve the SDGs and targets. A score of 100 means that the country has achieved all SDGs/targets.

³⁶ Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Bermont-Diaz, L., Kloke-Lesch, A., Koundouri, P., Riccaboni, A. (2022). Achieving the SDGs: Europe's Compass in a Multipolar World. Europe Sustainable Development Report 2022. SDSN and SDSN Europe. France: Paris p. 7

³⁷ Idem, p.10

³⁸ The Spillover Index - Measures each country's spillovers (positive and negative) and how they influence others in achieving the SDGs, at 3 levels: environmental and social impacts (10 indicators); economic (3 indicators) and security (1 indicator). A high score means that the country produces more positive than negative effects



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



5.2 PROGRESS AND CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SDGs

This chapter reflects the overall assessment of the progress of the SDGs using different sources of information, as explained in Chapter 3.

The 17 SDGs are associated with 169 targets and 248 global indicators. INE currently monitors 170 indicators, representing a 69% coverage rate.

The number of available indicators impacts the number of targets for which a statistical assessment of their evolution can be made. Thus, the official statistical data available allows us to assess the progress of 124 targets (with at least one associated indicator), which corresponds to a degree of coverage of 74% of the targets. It should be noted that SDG 9 is the only one with 100% coverage, that is, all

targets have at least one associated indicator. SDG 12, conversely, has only 45% of the targets covered by indicators providing available data.

There are also targets which, despite having associated indicators, are not measurable because the values for the indicators concerned are too short, irregular or inconclusive.

This chapter presents a qualitative assessment of the progress of the respective targets for each of the SDGs, based on the evolution of the indicators that support them. The direction of the evolution in the period is attributed by the rate of change between the most recent available year and the first available year, from 2015 onwards. They have at least two interpolated observations.

The following symbols are associated with the appraisal of the targets. They are applied with the following

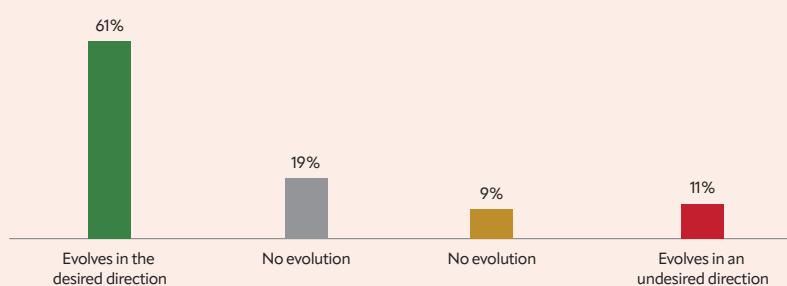
	POSITIVE EVOLUTION <p><i>Target with a single associated indicator: when the indicator evolves favourably</i></p> <p><i>Target with more than one associated indicator: when those which move in the desired direction prevail or where the other indicators are not subject to evaluation</i></p>
	NO EVOLUTION <p><i>Target with a single associated indicator: when the indicator does not change during the period under review</i></p> <p><i>Target with more than one associated indicator: when there are indicators in equal numbers which are evolving in opposite directions</i></p>
	NEGATIVE EVOLUTION <p><i>Target with a single associated indicator: when the indicator moves in the opposite direction to what is desirable</i></p> <p><i>Target with more than one associated indicator: when those which move in the opposite direction to that desired prevail or where the other indicators are not subject to evaluation</i></p>
	NO EVALUATION <p><i>When all the indicators associated with the target cannot be evaluated (series that are too short or irregular, or inconclusive)</i></p>
	TARGET ACHIEVED <p><i>When at least one of the associated indicators achieved the target</i></p>
	IMPACTED BY COVID-19 <p><i>Target with indicators(s) impacted by COVID-19</i></p>
	NO INDICATOR <p><i>When there is no indicator available, at national level, to measure progress</i></p>



Of the 124 targets assessed throughout this chapter, 61% have evolved positively since 2015, 9% have shown no evolution, 11% have evolved contrary to the direction desi-

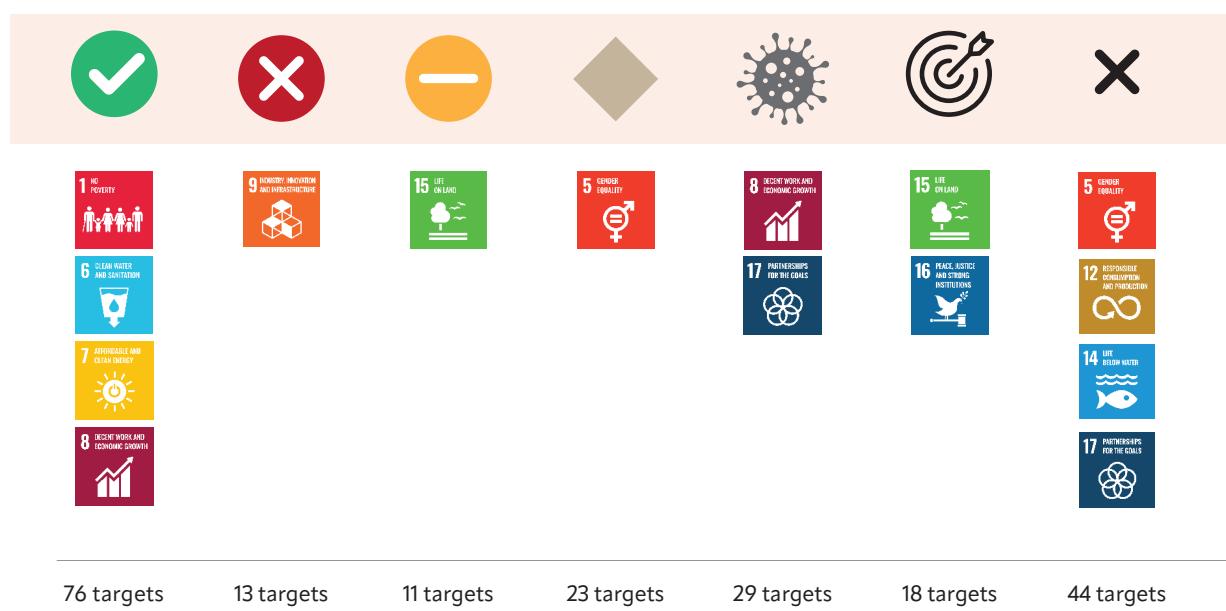
red and, finally, although they have indicators, it is not possible to assess 19% of the targets for the reasons mentioned above.

Figure 23 – Overall score of targets



Source: PlanAPP

Figure 24 – Most Impacted SDGs and Total No. of targets associated with each situation



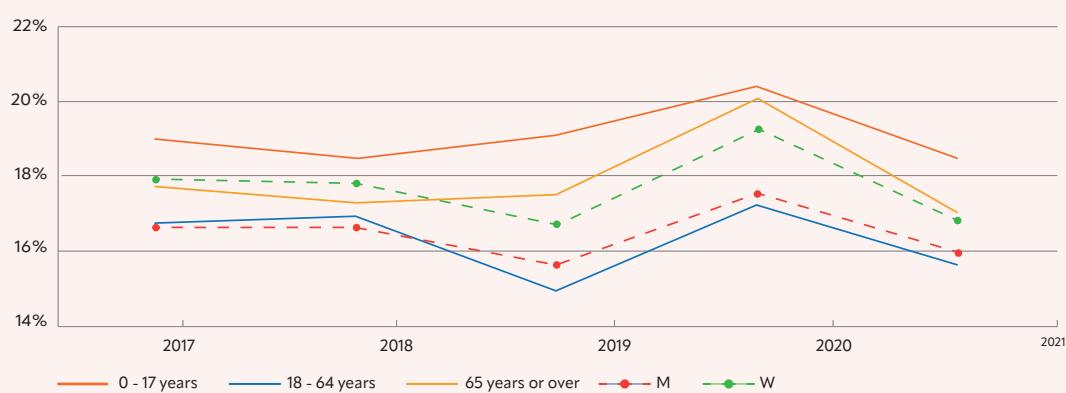
Source: PlanAPP

criteria:

5.2.1 SDG 1 - END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

 1 NO POVERTY	TARGETS			EVOLUTION	
	1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere				
	1.2 Reduce at least by half the proportion of people (all ages and gender) living in poverty				
	1.3 Implement adequate social protection systems for all, substantially covering the poorest and most vulnerable				³⁹
	1.4 Guarantee equal rights in access to economic resources, basic services, property, basic services, natural resources, new technologies and financial services				
	1.5 Build the resilience of those most vulnerable to environmental, economic and social disasters				
	1.a Ensure significant mobilisation of resources to the end poverty in all its dimensions				
	1.b Create sound policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions				
SDG 1 has 69% indicator coverage					
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators
					The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 25 – At-risk-of-poverty rate, after social transfers, by gender and age group



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. the 2030 Agenda»

³⁹ Target with a restricted analysis, limited only to the number of beneficiaries of three social benefits (old age, disability and survival), not demonstrating the coverage of the remaining policy measures with a view to reducing the poverty rate as a whole (such as the Social Benefit for Inclusion or the Solidarity Complement for the Elderly, among others).



ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The evolution of the risk of poverty in Portugal affects social groups and territories differently and stems largely from the behaviour of household incomes.

Portugal has been evolving positively since 2015 as regards the at-risk-of-poverty rate, despite the setback in 2020 that affected a large part of the indicators in this SDG as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. It was possible to resume this trajectory in 2021. The progress achieved in groups where the poverty rate has been persistently higher than the global rate is to be noted, as is the case of children and young people (up to 17 years old) and women. The restoration of household incomes, the creation of new social benefits and the growth in the proportion of public expenditure on essential services has helped drive this progress.

The only target with a negative evolution summarizes the evolution of beneficiaries of a restricted number of benefits, offering an incomplete picture of the social protection network of the most vulnerable groups. It does not take into account, in particular, the Social Benefit for Inclusion, which already reaches more than 135 thousand people with disabilities, which includes a base component to compensate for the increased general costs that result from the situation of disability, an increase that aims to compensate for specific costs and a supplement that aims to fight poverty for people with disabilities.

Additionally, it does not take into account other policy measures implemented since 2015 that while not specifically aimed at vulnerable groups, comprehensively reduces poverty and inequalities. The increase in the minimum wage, the greater scope of the social energy tariff, the reduction in personal income tax in particular for families with children, the significant increase in the family allowance of up to 36 months, free school textbooks or the single social pass, among others other measures, had a very relevant impact on the increase in the disposable income of families with lower incomes.

These measures contributed to a reduction to historic levels of the poverty intensity rate and the social and material deprivation rate that typically can characterize the evolution of the living conditions of the most vulnerable groups.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The «**Minimum Income in Portugal - 20 years of RMG/RSI**» report (2019) concludes that the RSI is one of the most emblematic policy measures to combat severe poverty. However, after two decades of application of the measure, the low amounts of the benefit and inefficiency in

promoting the autonomy of beneficiaries and their integration into the labour market remain.

The Local Social Development Contracts (CLDS) programme, implemented since 2007, is based on the premise that territory is an essential dimension in the fight against poverty. The «**Impact Assessment of CLDS**» report (2019) shows that CLDS are a tool for strengthening the Social Network and generate strong synergies with the interventions of IEFP (Institute for Employment and Vocational Training) services and the RSI measure. However, the programme's design (mainly duration and volume of resources) proved to be less adequate given the scale of the problems identified in the various depressed territories. In general, areas such as family intervention and changing attitudes and dispositions of the recipients were more enhanced than the effective transformation of their living conditions.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The National Strategy for Combating Poverty 2030 (ENCP) 2030, adopted in December 2022, embodies Portugal's main challenges in this area. **The implementation of this plan aims to reduce the monetary poverty rate in the population to 10% (-660,000 people), and a 50% reduction in the groups of children (-170,000) and the working poor (-230,000), as well as to reduce disparities between the different national territories.** The ENCP reflects the vision of multi-dimensional poverty. It indicates the need to implement policy instruments directed at people on low incomes, simultaneously with measures that address dimensions of poverty such as housing, education, health, territories or work, or aimed at specific groups of the population that are particularly vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion, such as homeless people, Roma people, people with disabilities or immigrants.

Focusing on children's human rights and in close alignment with the ENCP's goals and axes that aim to "reduce poverty among children and young people and their families", the incorporation of the **European Child Guarantee** at national level started by carrying out a diagnosis of vulnerable children in Portugal and a broad consultation process that culminated in the approval of the **National Child Guarantee Action Plan 2022-2030** in January 2023. This plan has four fundamental pillars, which integrate measures under the responsibility of various areas of government, aimed at breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and social exclusion, ensuring access by all vulnerable children to a set of essential services. A local model of intervention and approach was designed and privileged, with the creation of **Local Nuclei for Child Guarantee**, already underway, within the scope of the Local Social Action Councils, aimed at children and young people and families in situations of social vulnerability that, through optimisa-

tion of existing resources, boosting synergies and within the framework of effective cooperation and related application of national and local policies, especially attentive to the specific characteristics of each territory and based on an integrated and multidisciplinary approach, allow an effective response to the needs of children and their families with a view to promoting cohesion, social development and effective integration.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The incidence of poverty is higher in the ARM and ARA than in other regions of mainland Portugal. However, it is worth noting the developments that occurred in the two regions between 2017 and 2020, in particular in the ARA where the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis were felt more strongly in 2021.

Figure 26 – At-risk-of-poverty rate (after social transfers)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **Mid-term evaluation of the 2014-2020 OP** in the field of social inclusion and combating poverty highlights the importance of measures to promote school success and to promote lifelong learning as mechanisms to correct inequalities. The poor implementation of capacity-building measures for the human fabric of the regional social economy is a penalising factor for the impact of health and social infrastructure, and despite these being fundamental and favourable to integrated social intervention strategies. The figures for the at-risk-of-poverty rate in the region show the structural dimension of poverty in the territory, which is reinforced by the stable percentage of RSI beneficiaries. The policy to combat exclusion promoted by the OP, notwithstanding the contribution of the occupational programmes, has still a margin to improve

integrated interventions and focused on the factors of exclusion that have the greatest influence in poverty trap situations.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Regional Strategy for Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty** was approved for the period 2021-2030 (Resolution n.º 1497/2021, of 30 December), and its centered on the most vulnerable citizens and directed towards social inclusion, the fight against poverty and inequality.

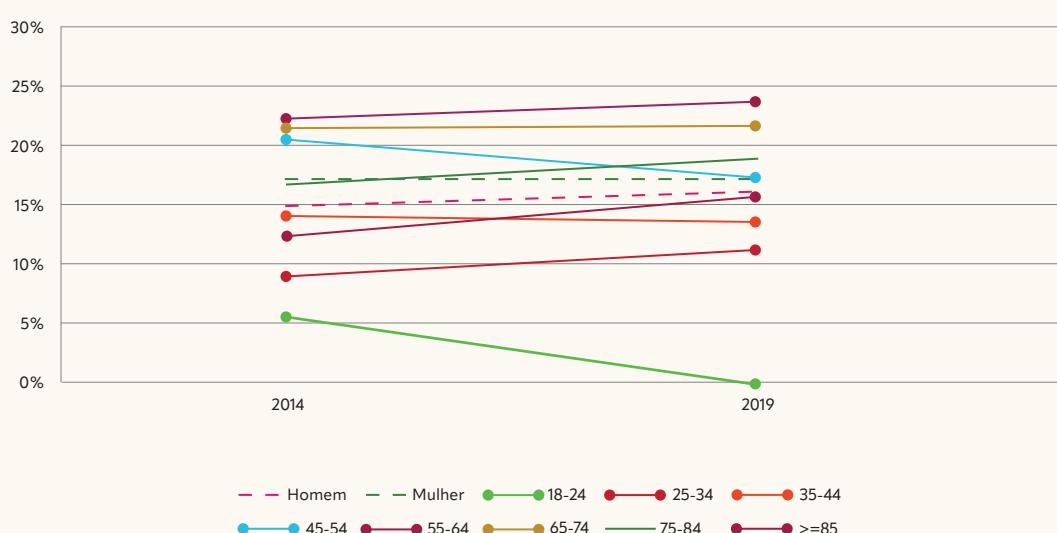
It is an instrument under construction, attentive and sensitive to realities and dynamics, and its implementation aims to contribute to the significant improvement of most indicators associated with the phenomenon of poverty, with the participation and contributions of all regional PA bodies, partners, institutions and individuals.



5.2.2 SDG 2 - END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

2 ZERO HUNGER 	TARGETS		EVOLUTION	
	2.1 Access by all to quality, nutritious and sufficient food all year round			
	2.2 End all forms of malnutrition and address the nutritional needs of adolescents, pregnant and breastfeeding women and the elderly			
	2.3 Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly the most vulnerable, securing equal access to land and other productive resources			
	2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices			
	2.5 Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species			
	2.a Increase investment in rural infrastructure, genetic research, technology and gene banks			
	2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets			
	2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information			
SDG 2 has 57% indicator coverage				
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19
				No indicators
				The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 27 – Proportion of the population aged 18 years and over with obesity, by gender and age group



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Some indicators that challenge current public policies stand out, although evolution has been favourable. The high prevalence of obesity, registered in 2019, was an increase from 2015 and is one of the challenges in this SDG. It is not, however, reflected in the framework of the targets assessed due to the absence of data according to the methodology adopted, as explained above. In 2019, 1.5 million people aged 18 years or over (16.9%) were obese in Portugal. Women were more affected than men (17.4% and 16.4%, respectively). Obesity mainly affects the population aged 55 to 74 years, with values in this age group above 20%.

The indicator of food price anomalies is also to be emphasised. It deteriorated in 2020 after normal values since 2015 and abnormally high values in 2020, due to the pandemic situation, with probable aggravation in the future due to the war against Ukraine. This contributes to a negative evaluation of target 2.c. In the national context, the agreement signed by the government in March 2023 with the agriculture and distribution sectors, aimed at reducing and stabilising food prices, should be recalled. The pact fo-

resees the already-implemented reduction of value added tax (VAT) from 6% to 0% for a basket of essential goods, as well as support for agricultural production, along with other measures that will be monitored regularly.

The agricultural area used for organic production has been increasing slightly, albeit still at very low levels. It was 5.3% in 2019, up 0.2 p.p. from 2016.

For the implementation of this target, the Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the EP and of the Council, of 30 May 2018, on organic production and labelling of organic products but also the participation in the international network of bioregions and developing the strategic planning of the biological production model are essential to combat food insecurity resulting from the different crises and reach a level that allows a balance between agricultural production and the protection of ecosystems.

In this context, within the scope of public consultation, attention was directed to the need to include measures or strategies related to the dissemination of breastfeeding and breastfeeding practices, in line with the guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF, among others.

In the international field, there has been an increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other official flows to the agricultural sector since 2015, which peaked in 2017.



ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **Assessment of the Mainland Portugal Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020**, published in 2019, mentions the significant contribution of this programme to the effects on the modernisation of agricultural holdings, the enhancement of agricultural production and the increase of its added value.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Two recently adopted strategies, the **Innovation Strategy for Agriculture 2020-2030** - «Future Earth (Terra Futura)» - and the **National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security (ENSAN) 2021** will have a positive impact on promoting the well-being and sustainability of more innovative, efficient and sustainable agriculture and adequate and safe food, in the framework of the progressive achievement of the human right to adequate food.

The ENSAN 2021 revolves around five identified needs: (i) improvement of the nutritional state of the Portuguese population; (ii) ensure the security of food systems, including in the more vulnerable groups; (iii) better functioning of the agri-food value chain, including the reduction of food waste; (iv) improving the quality of consumer information; and (v) entrepreneurship and innovation in terms of food and nutrition security.



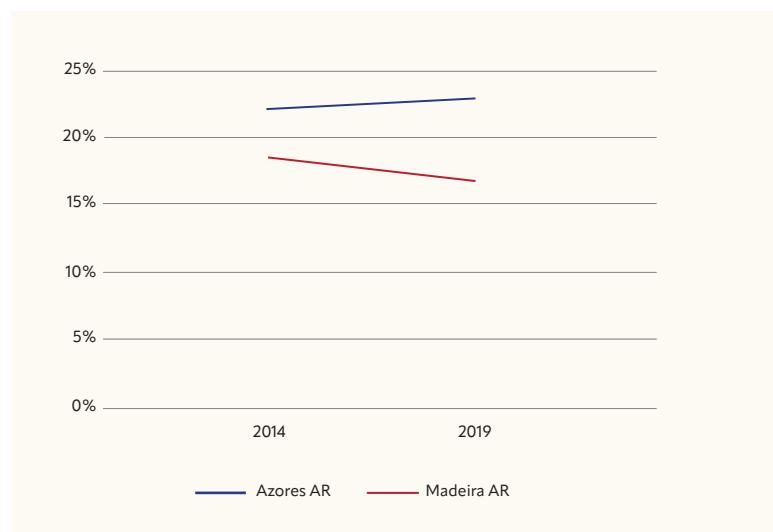
ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

In the ARA, the prevalence of obesity recorded in 2019 increased, as was the case in the national evaluation, increasing by 0.7 p.p. compared to 2015. This is, therefore, a challenge to be tackled in this region, considering in addition that the rate is higher than in the country as a whole (22.8% of the population aged 18 years and over are obese). On a more positive note, the prevalence of obesity recorded in 2019 in the ARM decreased 1.7 p.p. compared to 2015 - 16.8% of the population aged 18 years and over was obese.

It should be noted with regard to the goal of creating sustainable food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices, that in 2019 the ARA had 0.6% of the agricultural area used in organic production mode, which is a slight increase of this indicator (0.4 p.p.) compared to 2016. Despite the increase, this island region presents the lowest share of use of the agricultural area for organic production. In the ARM, on the other hand, registered in this same time interval the most significant increase of all national regions - 3.3% of the agricultural area was used for organic production in 2019, compared to 0.5% recorded in 2016.

Figure 28 – Proportion of the population aged 18 years and over with obesity, autonomous regions



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **Assessment of the RDP of the ARA, PRORURAL+**, published in 2019, highlights the contribution to potentially important results and impacts. These include the improvement of the economic performance of farms by the combined effect of restructuring, modernisation and also rejuvenation of the managers of the supported farms.

Also noteworthy was the approval, in 2019, of the **Regional Strategy for the Development of Organic Agriculture and Action Plan for the Production and Promotion of Organic Agricultural Products of the ARA**, which has been successfully applied in this region.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Assessment of the RDP of the ARM 2014-2020, PRODERAM 2020**, (2019), mentions the significant contribution of this programme and its impact on the modernisation of agricultural holdings, the enhan-

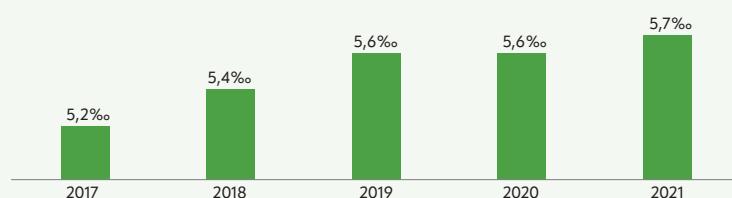
cement of agricultural production and the increase of its added value. It should be noted that there are some recommendations for better implementation of the programme, in particular those concerning the strengthening of agri-food chains. The aim is to achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture.

Additionally, emphasis is given to the Food Emergency Programme implemented in the ARM with a view to supporting all households indicated in the scope, according to the financial allocation available, with the aim of guaranteeing support to 100% of eligible beneficiaries. In December 2022, 4,032 eligible recipients were identified, corresponding to 100% of covered recipients.

5.2.3 SDG 3 - ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

	TARGETS	EVOLUTION	
3.1 Reduce the maternal mortality rate	—		
3.2 End preventable deaths of infants under 5 years of age	✓		
3.3 End the epidemics (e.g. AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria), neglected tropical diseases and communicable diseases (e.g. hepatitis and water-borne diseases)	✓		
3.4 Reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third and promote mental health and well-being	✓		
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse	◆		
3.6 Half the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	✓		
3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services	✓		
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage	✓		
3.9 Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	✗		
3.a Strengthen the implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control	◆		
3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for diseases which primarily affect developing countries, and provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration	✓		
3.c Increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries	✓		
3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.	✗		
SDG 3 has 89% indicator coverage			
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation
			Impacted by COVID-19
			No indicators
			The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 29 – Physicians per 1,000 inhabitants, Portugal (2017-2021)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»



ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The reduction in mortality rates in general stands out favourably, as well as the reduction in fertility rates among adolescents. There is also a reduction in the percentage of smokers. Also worthy of emphasis is the equally favourable growth of vaccine coverage and the increase in the number of pharmacists and dentists. Another item of data to be highlighted is the number of doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, which went from 5.2 in 2017 to 5.7 (provisional data) in 2021. Other health professionals, such as nurses, pharmacy professionals or dentists, were also greater in number in 2021, compared to the figures registered in 2017.

In the opposite direction, an increase in maternal mortality rates was recorded, although the indicator is below the threshold of the target (less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births).

The increase in the maternal mortality rate, standing at 20.1 in 2020, remains under analysis by the authorities. For this purpose, a multidisciplinary **Commission for Monitoring Maternal Mortality** was created in July 2022, for a period of five years, consisting of several experts from different medical areas, representatives from the Order of Doctors and Nurses, the scientific field and Obstetrics and Maternal-Foetal Medicine. Factors such as comorbidities and the increase in the average age of pregnant women may have influenced the increase in these values.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDG 3, as with other SDGs, has not yet been fully assessed. Effects such as the delay in the monitoring of chronic diseases during the pandemic period, especially those that may have longer-term symptoms, may not yet be reflected in the population's main health indicators. This SDG is also inter-linked with aspects associated with other SDGs that were perhaps not captured by the statistical indicators. Pandemic crises and other natural disasters such as those associated with the effects of climate change (SDG 13), i.e. fires, floods, cold spells or heat waves, can have an impact on the quality of the health of the population, especially those who are most vulnerable, with worse incomes and poorer living conditions (SDG 1, 7, 11).

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **Programme for the Prevention and Control of Smoking** (PNPCT) report of 2020 assessed the results of the implementation of the public policy. It reported, on a positive note, the 15% decrease in the prevalence of smokers aged 15 years and over, between 2014 and 2019. The total prevalence of smokers in 2019 was 17%, and that of daily smokers was 14.2%. These values, contrary to the stability trend of recent years, indicate a clear decrease in smoking

in both sexes. There was also a decrease in smoking by women, which was another of the objectives that the PNPCT aimed to achieve. The assessment recommends, despite this result, reinforcing investment in smoking prevention and control, promoting a paradigm shift from the perspective of a chronic and irresolvable health problem to a muscular approach to eradicating smoking.

Furthermore, the **National Health Plan 2030**, recently approved by the Council of Ministers in May 2023, which progresses from the National Health Plan 2012-2016 Extension of 2020, will play a decisive role in achieving the goals of this SDG.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The main challenges related to the pursuit of SDG 3 in Portugal are associated with the evolution of health needs and increased demands and expectations regarding the appropriate functioning of the National health Service (NHS), as a guarantee of the fundamental right of all citizens to health protection. The **National Health Plan 2012-2016 Extension 2020** is the main instrument of strategic planning in this field, taking on a cross-cutting role in the implementation of public health policies in their varied fields. The **Strategic Management Programme of the NHS's human resources** was approved for that purpose. Its objective is to improve the recruitment process of health professionals and enable their enhancement. It is also important to mention the approval and conclusion of the Commitment Agreement with ANMP, which aims to provide municipalities with the necessary means for decentralisation of competences, in this field. This will make greater proximity between the NHS and local populations possible.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

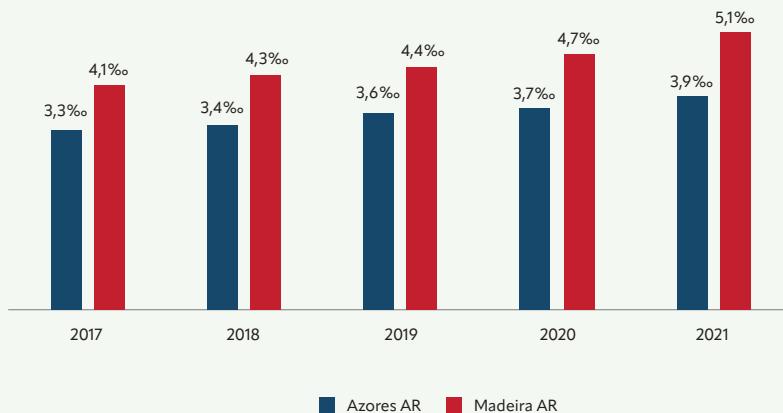
OVERALL EVALUATION

The situation of the autonomous regions, similar to that of the mainland, is characterised by a positive overall trajectory since 2017, albeit more moderate in comparison with the results of mainland Portugal. The increase in the number of physicians per 1,000 inhabitants, from 3.3 in 2017 to 3.9 (provisional data) in 2021 in the ARA and from 4.1 in 2017 to 5.1 (provisional data) in 2021 in the ARM, is to be highlighted. Other health professionals such as nurses, pharmacy professionals or dentists were also more numerous in both regions in 2021 than in 2017, similar to the situation registered for the country as a whole. The decrease in 2021, compared to 2017, of the neonatal mortality rate and the number of deaths of children aged under five years in both autonomous regions should also be highlighted. The adolescent fertility rate decreased significantly in the ARA

(from 15% in 2017 to 11.3% in 2020). It increased slightly in the ARM (from 6.1% in 2017 to 6.2% in 2020). The proportion of smokers among the resident population aged 15 years and over has also decreased in both regions, similar to the figures of the overall national assessment.

On a less positive note, and contrary to what has happened in the country as a whole, the death rate from intentionally self-inflicted injuries (suicide) per 100,000 inhabitants rose slightly in both island regions in 2020, compared to 2017.

Figure 30 – Physicians per 1,000 inhabitants, autonomous regions



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **2014-2020 Regional Health Plan Mid-Term Evaluation Report** (2018) shows that the measures taken to promote school health, combat obesity and comply with the Regional Vaccination Plan (PRV) had a positive impact, demonstrated by the evolution of the respective indicators. The programme's contributions to the fight against child obesity are highlighted, in particular the recruitment of professionals focused on school health, which includes the hiring of nutritionists for the School Health Teams. The results of the PRV arise from raising awareness among pupils, parents and the educational community about the importance of vaccination and the updating of the PRV. Other drivers of the good results of the PRV are the care taken in inviting people to take vaccines and the updating of vaccine records and the achievements in child health surveillance measured by the increase in the percentage of General Health Examinations performed. Dissemination and raising

the awareness of pupils, parents and the educational community has contributed to raising the importance of health surveillance.

Finally, projects on health literacy - health education activities in various areas - were also highlighted.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Mid-Term Evaluation of the Regional Health Plan Extension 2020** (2019) presents the result of the evaluation of a set of indicators selected within the scope of the programme. The analysis shows the positive evolution in the neonatal mortality rate indicator, which decreased from 3.1 deaths in 2017 to 1.1 deaths in 2020 per thousand births, as well as the infant mortality rate indicator, which decreased from 3.6 deaths in 2017 to 3.2 in 2020 per thousand inhabitants. It is also important to mention that the assessment noted the predominance of vaccine coverage in children of the region.

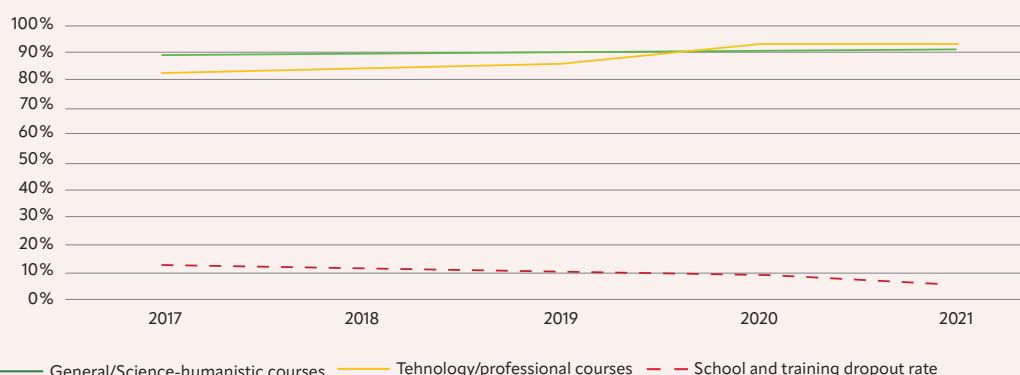


5.2.4 SDG 4 - ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



TARGETS	EVOLUTION		
4.1 Ensure free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education	✓		
4.2 Ensure equal access to quality early childhood development and to pre-school care and education	✓		
4.3 Ensure equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education	◆		
4.4 Substantially increase the number of people who have relevant vocational and tertiary education	◆		
4.5 Eliminate all forms of discrimination in education and ensure equal access to all levels of vocational education and training for the most vulnerable	✓		
4.6 Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	✗		
4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development	✗		
4.a Build and improve physical facilities for education, suitable for children and sensitive to disabilities and gender issues, and with a safe and non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment	✗		
4.b Increase the number of higher education scholarships for developing countries	✓	COVID-19	
4.c Substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states	✗		
SDG 4 has 67% indicator coverage			
Positive evolution	—	Negative evolution	◆
No evolution	✗	No evaluation	COVID-19
Impacted by COVID-19	✗	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 31 – Transition/Completion Rate in Secondary Education and Early School Dropout Rate, Portugal



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The evolution of most indicators associated with SDG 4 was favourable. The school enrolment rate at age 5 approached the target in the 2020/2021 school year (99.2%) and the primary and secondary school completion rates evolved in the same direction (96.9% and 91.7% in 2020 /2021), progressively approaching the targets. There are still some regional disparities, although all regions follow the positive trend. The data from the last [International Student Assessment Programme \(PISA\) report](#) (2018) shows that in terms of reading skills there was a slight decrease in proficiency, and a slight increase in math proficiency. There was also a positive evolution in terms of digital skills among the adult population, with the differences between men and women reduced. The differences by degree of urbanisation are, however, still quite significant.

There are still no data available to estimate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on learning. In the framework of SDG 4, the acquisition of skills and school results must be monitored with greater attention, given the long period of confinement and limitations on the normal functioning of schools.

As regards educational inequalities, boosted by income inequalities, the parity index evolved in a positive direction (0.31 in 2017, to 0.44 in 2021). It is still, however, far from the target, with people belonging to the 1st income quintile still at a disadvantage compared to people in the last income quintile.

The only target with a negative assessment concerns facilities and equipment; however, the indicator associated with it did not capture the extraordinary investment made to confront the constraints posed by the health crisis. In fact, the acquisition of computers significantly reduced the number of students per computer from 4.7 in 2017 to 1.9 in 2020.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The [Evaluation of the Contribution of Portugal 2020 to the promotion of educational success, reduction of early school dropout rates and youth employability \(2021\)](#) demonstrated that measures such as the **National Programme for the Promotion of School Success**, the **TEIP⁴⁰ Schools Network**, the **Integrated and Innovative Plan to Combat School Failure**, the **Vocational Courses** and other vocational pathways in secondary school (such as the courses of the Learning System), the **Psychology and Guidance Services** and the **Training of Teachers** and other educational stakeholders have a high European Added Value for the fulfilment of national and European objecti-

ves. It should also be added that **Vocational Training** is the main response for welcoming students with school careers marked by failing the academic year. Vocational courses perform better than scientific-humanistic courses in terms of accessing the labour market, which leads to the conclusion that policies of education and training followed in this domain have fulfilled their main objective, the reduction of school dropout rates.

The **Evaluation of the National Reading Plan 2027**, covering the period 2017-2020, concludes that the plan has contributed to enhancing the presence and media projection of reading in printed and digital print media, in physical form and on the Internet. It has also contributed to linking reading to sciences, humanities, arts and digital technologies, in accordance with a new ecology that consists of multiple literacies, as well as the use of reading to combat misinformation, prejudice and ignorance.

Effects of Education Policies on Productivity

(GPEARI, 2021) stresses that the magnitude of the increase in the population with secondary education is decisive for the increase of Total Factor Productivity. The increase in productivity should result from the entry of more qualified and efficient workers into the final goods market, but also from the stimulus to knowledge and innovation that translates into new goods, companies and/or production methods.

In ESD, the **ENED 2018-2022**, **ENEA 2020** and **ENEC** stand out as well (see subchapter 4.4.2.1).

MAIN CHALLENGES

Maintain the trajectory of reducing early school leaving, ensure the completion of secondary education for all students and further increase the access to and completion of higher education. The impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on this sector is underlined, leading to significant impacts on the school system, causing a worsening of the inequalities that public policy must continue to address in the coming years. The main challenges will therefore be to guarantee the autonomy of the schools, decentralisation and the reduction of bureaucracy, the hiring of teachers effectively necessary for the smooth functioning of the educational system and the completion of the renovation of the infrastructure of schools. In addition, the objectives of modernising vocational education are to be achieved by setting up specialised technology centres which seek to adapt supply to the needs of the business world; expanding the **Qualifica Programme** which promotes the qualification of the adult population and lifelong learning; and by promoting the fight against dropping out of higher education, by reducing course fees, increasing social support for students



and increasing investment in higher education for adults through the diversification and adaptation of the educational offer.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

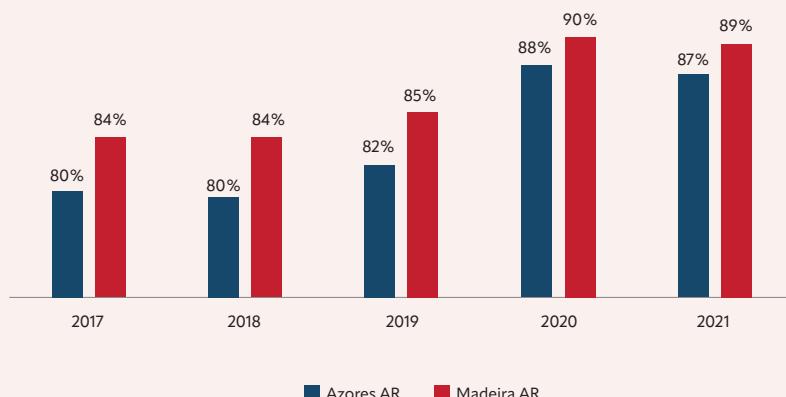
OVERALL EVALUATION

SDG 4 has also evolved favourably in most indicators in the autonomous regions, as it has in the overall national assessment. In fact, completion rates of primary and secondary education increased in the 2020/2021 academic year, compared to 2017. In a comparison between the figures obtained in 2017 and in 2021, we found that the completion

rate in primary education increased by 2.1 p.p. in the ARA (from 91.5% to 93.6%) and 2.8 p.p. in the MAR (from 94.4% to 97.2%). The completion rate in secondary education increased 7 p.p. in the ARA (from 80.2% to 87.2%) and 5.6 p.p. in the ARM (from 83.5% to 89.1%). However, in a comparative perspective with other regions of the country, and despite the notable positive trend, it is noted that the ARA registers the lowest completion rates of primary and secondary education in the country.

Moreover, the schooling rate at age five years performs differently, in the same time comparison between 2017 and 2021: in the ARA there was a drop from 99.4% in 2017 to 97.1% in 2021. ARM, however, reversed that trend, increasing from 99.3% in 2017 to 104.8% in 2021.

Figure 32 – Transition/Completion Rate in Secondary Education, autonomous regions



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The Mid-Term Review of the OP of the Azores 2014-2020

(2021) mentions the significant contributions that public policy has made in relation to the targets associated with SDG 4. The most notable positive results are the transition to the labour market of young people through vocational qualification and greater proximity to the world of work, via traineeships; the reintegration of adults into this market through participation in occupational programmes and attendance of educational or professional certification pathways, despite the persisting abusive practices of using occupational traineeships as a source of sporadic labour supply; the continued strengthening of vocational training.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The Mid-Term Review of the Madeira Regional OP

2014-2020, published in 2022, states that «the field of Skills Training has taken on significant weight in the OP as a whole since the beginning of planning, and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic it took on the need to provide a mass response to qualification of the unemployed population and to continue the region's commitment to diversifying the education on offer.» It also provided a decisive contribution to the training and qualification of unemployed and inactive adults, generating a relevant contribution from the programme towards achieving the SDG 4 targets.

5.2.5 SDG 5 - ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

5 GENDER EQUALITY 	TARGETS		EVOLUTION
	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls		◆
	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence and exploitation against women and girls in the public and private spheres		◆
	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation		✗
	5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate		✗
	5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making		✓
	5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights		✗
	5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, property and financial services, inheritance and natural resources		✓
	5.b Empower women through the increased use of basic technologies		◆
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels		✗	

SDG 5 has 50% indicator coverage

Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators
✓	—	✗	◆	✖	⌚	

Figure 33 – Proportion of Women in positions of leadership in the Public Administration (2017-2022)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»



ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The existence of a legal framework, which promotes and monitors gender equality, and parity in the use of information and communication technologies are the best-performing SDG 5 indicators since 2017.

The worst-performing indicator concerns full participation and equal opportunities at the civic level. In the elections to the AR that have taken place since 2017 (2019 and 2022), there were more women elected members of parliament compared to the 76 in 2015. However, there was a reduction from 89 to 85 female members of parliament from 2019 to 2022, still far from the goal of parity between men and women (115 parliamentary seats for each group). 32 women were elected as mayors to the 308 councils in 2017, and in 2021 29 were elected as mayor. The proportion of female managers is still lower, although the difference compared to men has fallen since 2017. There are more women than men in PA management posts, although there is less female presence in senior management posts than in middle management posts.

Inequalities between women and men do not occur only through the indicators associated with SDG 5. The cross-cutting nature of these differences suggests that the analysis of these indicators should be combined with indicators monitored in other SDGs and where the information can be broken down by gender. It is found that, in spite of the legal framework promoting gender equality, women earn less and are more exposed to poverty than men, when we use indicators associated with the labour market as an example, such as the average hourly earnings, monitored in the framework of SDG 8, or the risk of poverty rate, monitored in SDG 1.

Lastly, it should be noted, in relation to this SDG, that the indicators used to monitor it do not show a geographical breakdown greater than the national scope (no data for NUTS II), which makes it impossible to assess overall the reality of this indicator in the autonomous regions.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **Evaluation of the implementation of the Pilot Projects of the Statute of the Informal Caregiver**, (2021), concludes that the recognition of this statute also has an impact on the recognition and appreciation of unpaid domestic care work, which mainly affects women.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The main challenges faced by Portugal regarding the achievement of the gender equality objective are the promotion of the effective achievement of equality between women and men in employment, wages and

working conditions. This shall be achieved through the creation of mechanisms to promote the reduction of income and wage inequality, to combat occupational segregation and to deconstruct gender stereotypes associated with this field. It is also necessary, in addition to this dimension, to ensure compliance with the laws of balanced representation in management positions in the PA on and in the management bodies of companies. Another of the major challenges is to combat all forms of violence against women, focusing on combating domestic violence and promoting support and protection for victims.

In this sense, the **ENIND 2018-2030** includes two specific action plans dedicated to promoting the goals of this SDG (the AIMH and the PAVMVD). The **PAIMH** finds correspondence in the different goals of this SDG with the following strategic objectives: (i) Guarantee a governance that integrates the fight against discrimination based on sex and the promotion of equality between women and men in policies and actions, at all levels of PA; (ii) Guarantee the conditions for full and equal participation of women and men in the labour market and professional activities; (iii) Guarantee the conditions for education and training free of gender stereotypes; (iv) Promote equality between women and men in higher education and scientific and technological development; (v) Promote equality between women and men in health across the life cycles of women and men; (vi) Promote a culture and media free of sexist stereotypes and promoting equality between women and men; (vii) Integrate the promotion of equality between women and men in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **Mid-Term Review of the OP of the Azores 2014-2020** (2021) concludes that the Programme has had a positive impact on the promotion of women's employment, which, although it is at a smaller scale of intervention (400 participants), has a positive role in enhancing the role of women in the labour market. There is a large margin for more intensive progress to be made.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The ARM is executing, at the moment, the third **Regional Plan against Domestic Violence 2021-2025**, involving 20 partner entities, spread out across a regional network that has been developing a significant amount of projects in this area, including victim support and protection.

5.2.6 SDG 6 - ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	TARGETS		EVOLUTION
	6.1 Achieve universal and equitable access to affordable drinking water		
	6.2 Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation		
	6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimising the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and reuse		
	6.4 Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity		
	6.5 Implement integrated water management		
	6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems		
	6.a Expand support for water and sanitation in developing countries		
	6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management		

SDG 6 has 64% indicator coverage

Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 34 – Proportion of housing served by wastewater drainage, per NUTS II (2017-2020)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»



ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS OVERALL EVALUATION

The progress of this SDG has been mostly favourable since 2018, as there has been an approximation or even the achievement several indicators. The level of excellence in the quality of water for human consumption («Safe water») is notable, with a percentage of 99% in 2021 (most recent value available). This is an increase of 0.3 p.p. compared to 2017. The proportion of the resident population without a bath, shower and flushing toilet inside their household has also favourably evolved, decreasing from 0.8% in 2017 to 0.4% in 2022 for the general population and from 2.9% to 1.3% in the same period for the population at risk of poverty. The proportion of households in 2020 (most recent value available) connected to a water supply obtained the same results as 2017, keeping 96% coverage.

The proportion of households connected to wastewater drainage in 2020 (most recent value available) remained the same as that which existed in 2017, at 85% coverage, mainland Portugal data.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The Assessment of the RDP of Mainland Portugal

2014-2020 (2019) assessed the effect of RDP on improving water quality and efficiency in use and found relevant synergies between the commitments established for the set of supported operations and the improvement of water quality, as well as the increase in efficiency in its use, namely the reduction of water consumption in the areas supported, by between 4% and 9% compared to pre-support consumption.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The adoption of a national water policy, with the rational and sustainable use, planning and management of water resources, has a prominent place in the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic. Indeed, the sustainable use of resources, resilience to climate change and environmental protection are the key challenges that Portugal will have to face in the context of SDG 6. The water and sanitation sector in Portugal, which is made up of public water supply services for the population and urban wastewater sanitation, naturally has a fundamental importance in Portuguese society. Investments in the country, in this regard, were and have been planned over the years in order to improve water treatment and the water infrastructure in general. Portugal has a political strategy in the water and sanitation sector translated into consistent legislation, as well as integrated strategic plans. The **Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Wastewater and Rainwater Management 2030 (PEN-SAARP 2030)**, in the field of strategic planning, is currently being drawn up. It adds value to the **Strategic Plan for Water Supply and Wastewater Sanitation 2020** since, in addi-

tion to the strategic aspect associated with the water supply and wastewater sanitation sector, it will also contribute to rainwater management. It will contribute, in general, to the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the urban water cycle.

Water, at the same time, requires us to think about its management as a product, resource and utility, applying the principles of circular economy: design for zero pollution, keep the resource in use and regenerate its natural capital. The efficient management of urban wastewater, in that sense, also supports the transition to a circular economy, where resources are intended to be preserved within production and consumption systems, especially at their highest value and, in this regard, water must also be thought of in this way - reducing, reusing and regenerating. This is also one of the main challenges facing Portugal, especially if we take the Alentejo and Algarve regions as an example, which deserve special attention due to the now-traditional scarcity of water in both regions. It is, in fact, clear that water resources are a natural capital whose protection is a priority, particularly in the context of the risks they face from climate change, as recurrent and prolonged droughts have shown. The management of water resources in this context requires conciliation and ensuring the compatibility of the varied uses, ensuring conditions for the appropriate ecological functions of water resources. In order to pursue this challenge Portugal relies on the contribution of the **National Strategy for the Rehabilitation of Rivers and Streams (EN3R)**, as well as the Management Plans for Hydrographic Regions, Flood Risk Management Plans, Public Water Reservoir Management Plans and the Regional Water Efficiency Plans for Alentejo and Algarve. In summary, the main challenges that Portugal faces in this field are: (i) to enhance the measures foreseen in the **2030 Sustainable Bioeconomy Action Plan**; (ii) continue to support the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the urban water cycle; (iii) review the **Public Water Reservoir Management Plans**; (iv) optimise storage capacity, including through interconnections between systems, as a means of ensuring greater resilience for supply systems; (v) continue the implementation of EN3R in a cohesive approach to the enhancement of the national hydrographic network.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

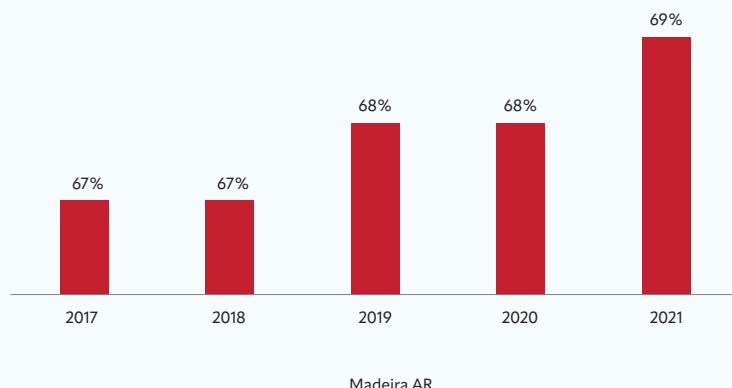
OVERALL EVALUATION

Progress in autonomous regions in the indicators impacting SDG 6 can only be analysed for both island regions through the «Safe Water» indicator, which is the only one with data for both regions. The level of excellence of

drinking water quality («Safe Water») should be emphasised, with a percentage of 99% in the AAR in 2021 (most recent value available), the same as the value recorded in 2017, and 99.3% in the ARM in 2021 (most recent value available), an increase of 0.9 p.p. compared to 2017.

The proportion of households connected to wastewater drainage in the ARM in 2021 (most recent value available) is to be highlighted, compared to 2017, with an increase of 2 p.p.. It is still, however, the region of the country with the lowest values.

Figure 35 – Proportion of households connected to wastewater drainage, ARM



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The mid-term assessment of the OP of the Azores

2014-2020 (2021) indicates that the gains in relevance and pertinence of the planning are closely linked to the further development of the sustainability policies pursued, in terms of environment and resource efficiency. It also considers the high potential for the application of the knowledge that the ARA has in relation to climate change. The efficiency and effectiveness of the urban water cycle in terms of improvements in network management and rationalisation of water consumption and water storage is one of the stand-out measures of those indicated for further development.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The Assessment of PRODERAM 2020 (2019)

shows that the preservation and management of water as a resource was one of the main concerns of the Programme. It mainly concerns creating and improving infrastructure for collecting, storing and distributing water in order to minimise the very high levels of losses from the levada drainage channels and to store water to ensure a more uniform distribution throughout the year, notably for agricultural use.

It translated into earmarking a very significant amount for that measure of the Programme - *Investments in collective irrigation* - of EUR 34 million (16.4% of all public expenditure planned for the Programme period). Improving water quality was not a direct objective of the Programme; however, support for agricultural holdings (SDG 2) requires that the rules of cross-compliance are met. The contribution to water quality in all agricultural holdings in the region is ensured by this means. It is also mentioned in the assessment that there are other measures of the programme that stood out as having relevant effects on water quality in the respective holdings. It also highlighted that forestry measures (SDG 15) have had an indirect contribution through the protection of water courses and, consequently, on the quality of water resources.

In the mid-term assessment of the OP Madeira

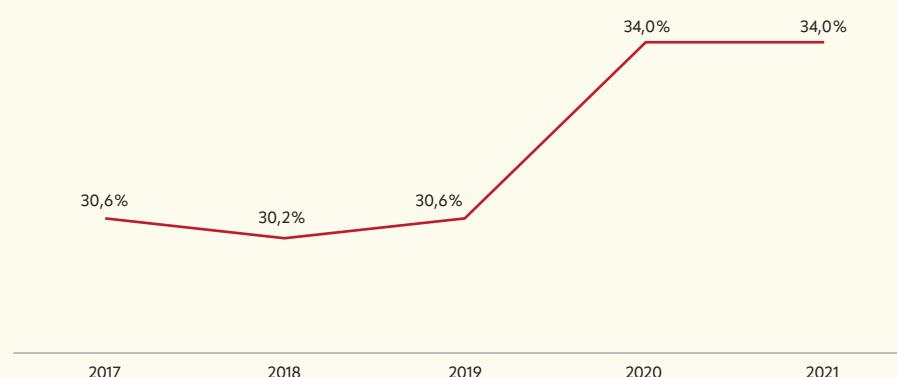
2014-2020 (2022) the need to strengthen and continue the commitment to improving physical accessibility to the wastewater service is evident. This will ensure compliance with wastewater discharge permits and ensure safe water in accordance with the standards of the new Community directive.



5.2.7 SDG 7 - ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	TARGETS			EVOLUTION		
	7.1 Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services					
	7.2 Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix					
	7.3 Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency					
	7.a Enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology					
	7.b Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries					
SDG 7 has 83% indicator coverage						
						
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 36 – Percentage of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (2017-2021)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The energy transition is at the centre of public policies in Portugal. The current context of global energy crisis

emphasises the relevance of some targets set out in this SDG.

Overall, the assessment of the indicators in SDG 7 is positive, highlighting the targets achieved or practically achieved in energy, such as 100% of the population with access to elec-

tricity and 95% with *primary access to clean fuels and technologies*. The proportion of renewable energy in final energy consumption has been steadily improving since 2015, which is also a positive result. Portugal is also more energy efficient, reflected in the decrease in energy intensity of the economy (ratio of total primary energy consumption to GDP).

With regard to financial flows directed to developing countries to support research and development of clean energies and renewable energy production, there was a decrease compared to 2015. ODA is subdivided into several headings that vary according to the projects/credit lines or disbursements at any given time. Although there are, to date, no ODA projects aimed at energy transition in developing countries, total national ODA has registered a positive trend since 2019, mainly in the last two years (with an increase of 17.5 p.p. in real terms, in 2022, corresponding to 0.23% of gross national income - GNI).

Meeting the targets in this SDG is closely related to poverty reduction (SDG 1), in particular energy poverty.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The decarbonisation of the economy was one of the thematic objectives set out in the Europe 2020 Strategy, namely through its Energy-Climate Package. The assessment carried out in this area - **Assessment of the implementation of the measures to strengthen the transition to a low-carbon economy** (2021) shows positive developments, especially in the autonomous regions (ARA and ARM), regarding the incorporation of renewable energies into the national energy mix. The contribution of renewable resources to electricity production reached 50.8% in 2018.

The assessment also concludes that the production of electricity from renewable energy sources using new technologies or technologies that are thinly disseminated within the national territory increased by 15.8% in the period under evaluation.

However, it concludes that there is a lower impact on the reduction of CO₂ emissions, apart from its considerable significance in one of the main emissions sectors, transport.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Portugal bases its core energy strategy on its endogenous resources that are conducive to this purpose, such as the sun, wind and water, in order to guarantee access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources for all, and taking into account a strong commitment to energy transition based on renewable energies. This energy transition based on renewable energies ensures clean and green energy for Portugal, but also reliable energy at competitive and affordable prices. The country's objective will be to achieve 80% of renewable energy in electricity production by 2026.

However, these energy transition objectives do not only translate into climate-related goals. They also contribute to the security of energy supplies, hence the commitment to the country's endogenous resources, and to leveraging the country's reindustrialisation, economic development, national added value and ensuring jobs for the future («green jobs») (SDG 8).

Making access democratic is, in this sense, transversal to this transition policy. It is a key element in achieving the intended results and, as such, elements of social and territorial cohesion are an integral part of the design of these public policies. Incentives for energy efficiency and the thermal comfort of the residential sector and public buildings are another important element of Portugal's strategy to ensure an inclusive energy policy. It has policies dedicated to the most vulnerable, in this area. Some examples are the **Long-Term Strategy for the Renovation of Buildings, the Resources' Efficiency Programme in the PA for the period until 2030** and the **National Long-Term Strategy for Combating Energy Poverty 2023-2050**, the publication of which and subsequent entry into force is expected in the short term.

The establishment and adoption of the new **Climate Law** in 2021 reflects the vision and intentions with regard to the objectives of promoting the use of renewable energy sources and their integration into the national energy system, improving energy efficiency and resources, as well as combating energy poverty. It also considers, for example, the **Long-Term Strategy for the Renovation of Buildings, the National Hydrogen Strategy** and the **National Long-Term Strategy for Combating Energy Poverty 2023-2050**, the publication of which and subsequent entry into force is expected in the short term.

The **RNC 2050** should also be noted, which establishes the intention of implementing the energy transition in a sustained manner (as agreed in the Paris Agreement). It aims to greatly increase energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy, focusing on the incorporation of endogenous renewable energy in final energy consumption, promoting electrification and adjusting the role of natural gas in the national energy system. Also to be noted is **PNEC 2030**, the main energy and climate policy instrument for the decade.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

In order to substantially increase the share of renewable energies in the energy mix, it should be noted that the contribution of renewable resources in electricity production in the ARA has decreased slightly from 39.2% in 2017 to



38.9% in 2019 (date of the most recent figures for both island regions). In turn, the contribution of renewable resources in electricity production in ARM increased from 26.6% in 2017 to 32.5% in 2022.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The mid-term assessment of the OP of the Azores

2014-2020 (2021), showed in the "Low-Carbon Economy" priority axis that the most important investments were targeted at two pillars of energy policy, i) supply of renewable energies and ii) demand for energy efficiency and sustainable urban mobility. It also concludes that the programme has made a very important contribution to creating conditions for the growth of renewable energies in the ARA, and that a more ambitious financial allocation could even be considered to achieve better results, given the relevance of the topic and the potential for implementation. The same conclusion can be reached as regards electric mobility, since the region could be a national leader in terms of the network of public charging posts, with an impact on the growth of the electric car fleet, making the incentives more attractive to public transport companies.

On the other hand, in terms of energy efficiency in businesses, infrastructure and housing, the results achieved are less significant, due to the lack of demand.

The assessment concludes as regards the «Environment and Resources' Efficiency» programme axis that energy production is very stable, always above consumption, reflecting the independence of the ARA in terms of energy flows (neither importing nor exporting), with sufficient installed capacity for regional consumption. The share of non-renewable (thermal) production is declining, although not yet significant for a more marked energy transition.

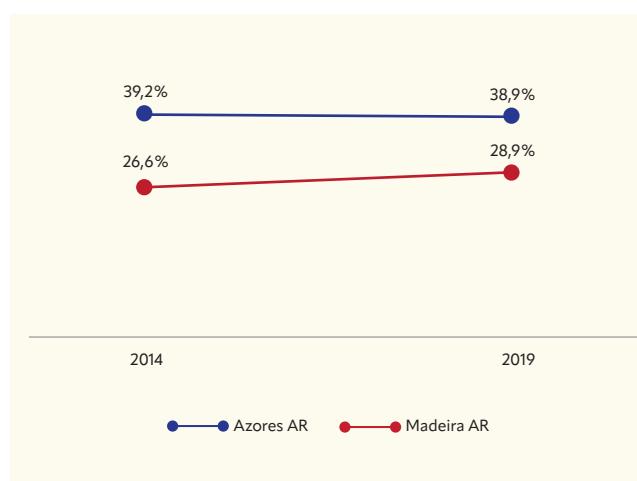
The focus on renewable energy, particularly geothermal energy and solar energy, has proved effective with geothermal energy taking on a more significant evolution. The assessment recommends increasing targets for renewables in production consumption from 37% to 60% of the total in 2025 (S. Miguel from 50% to 68%; Terceira Island from 37% to 67%).

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Assessment of PRODERAM 2020**, (2019) concludes that the programme's contribution is very small or of a one-off nature for energy efficiency, renewable energy production and reduction of GHG and ammonia emissions.

In the **mid-term assessment of the Madeira Regional OP 2014-2020**, (2022), the programme was unable to achieve its full potential in promoting energy efficiency and the use and appropriation of renewable energies in businesses.

Figure 37 – Contribution of renewable resources to the production of electricity (%), by autonomous region



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»



5.2.8 SDG 8 - PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

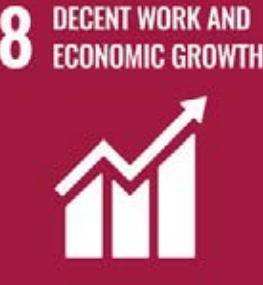
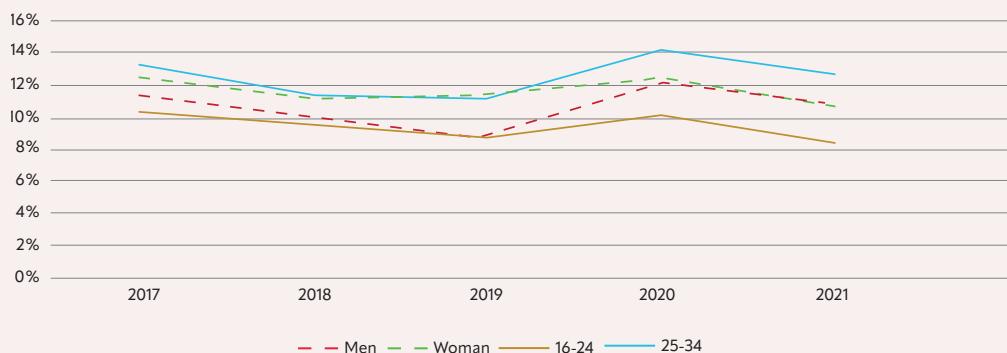
	TARGETS		EVOLUTION	
	8.1 Sustain <i>per capita</i> economic growth and at least 7 per cent GDP growth per annum			
	8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation			
	8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation			
	8.4 Improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production and actively endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation			
	8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work with equal pay			
	8.6 Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training			
	8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour			
	8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers			
	8.9 Develop and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products			
SDG 8 has 81% indicator coverage				
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19
			No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators



Figure 38 – Rate of young people aged between 15 and 34 years not in employment, education or training, by Age Group and Gender



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Employment indicators improved between 2017 and 2022, despite the drop in 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic. The recovery started in 2021 and in 2022 the unemployment rate was the lowest of the whole period (6%). Youth unemployment (16-24 years), decreased from 23.9% in 2017 to 19% in 2022, but remained significantly higher than in any other age group. In 2022, 9.4% of young people between the ages of 15 and 34 years were not in employment, education or training.

Positive developments in employment indicators have accompanied economic developments. The GDP growth rate in 2022 (6.9%) was the highest in the whole period.

Portugal has distanced itself from the targets for fatal industrial accidents (with a slight rise in 2020), the availability of other monetary intermediation establishments (mainly due to the increase of other means of payment, such as home banking) and ODA.

Regarding ODA for the Aid for Trade Initiative, despite the decrease recorded in 2021, preliminary figures for 2022 show an increase of EUR 1.76 million. This item of ODA is measured based on disbursements related to loans or credit lines (no operation of this type having been recorded in 2021), so the large amounts of these operations tend to cause these ODA values to fluctuate significantly.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **National Minimum Wage 45 years later: Balance sheet and current outlook on employment and wages in Portugal** study (2019) analyses the trajectory of updating

the minimum guaranteed monthly salary (RMMG) and the impacts associated with its increase for the period between 2015 and 2019. It concluded that the increase of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) shifts the majority of workers who earned between the previous and the new minimum wage value to the new threshold, but that the effect of dragging the remaining wages is very small and occurs, essentially, in those around the new amount of the NMW, pointing to a positive trajectory but warning of the shortcomings that the policy reveals as the only inducer for the general increase in wages.

Another important study in the field of work is the **Impact Assessment of the Youth Employment Initiative** (2021), which mainly covers young people with the general characteristics of NEETs (Not currently engaged in Employment, Education or Training) in Portugal. However, given the characteristics of NEETs in Portugal, it has fallen short of the ability to reach the less educated and more vulnerable profiles, such as the long-term unemployed or inactive. It also concluded that the **Youth Employment Initiative** (IEI) was a strongly youth employment-oriented initiative implemented in a period of rising unemployment, affecting young people across the board, including the most qualified.

Additionally, the **Agreement for the Valorisation of PA Workers** (2022), a preponderant element in the restoration of the rights of public workers, initiated in 2016, which covered the restoration of salaries, the unfreezing of careers and the reopening of PA admissions, and laid the foundations for a new trajectory of appreciation of PA workers' remuneration (6.6% appreciation of the wage bill and an average increase in monthly basic wages of 4.6%). In addition to these values, there is an increase in the employee meal benefit.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The main challenges that Portugal faces in this area are the promotion of work with rights, the fight against the precariousness of the labour market and the dynamisation of collective labour relations that strengthen the bargaining power of workers. In this sense, the **Decent Work Agenda and the Enhancement of Young People in the Labour Market 2023** is a set of measures aimed at improving working conditions, in particular combating the insecurity of youth employment, abusive temporary work, false self-employment and the unjustified use of fixed-term contracts; strengthening the rights of workers who work via digital platforms, and reconciling personal, family and professional life, with special emphasis on extending exclusive parental leave within a framework of equality between women and men. The main challenges in the area of economic growth are to transform the profile of the national economy based on innovation and the digital economy as strategic axes that boost economic growth. Portugal must adopt measures that promote investment in productive modernisation through the incorporation of disruptive technologies, the consolidation of investment in and valorisation of national products through innovation and the incorporation of knowledge. It is also important to highlight the role that public policies can play in the field of taxation, as an incentive to investment and capitalisation of the business fabric.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

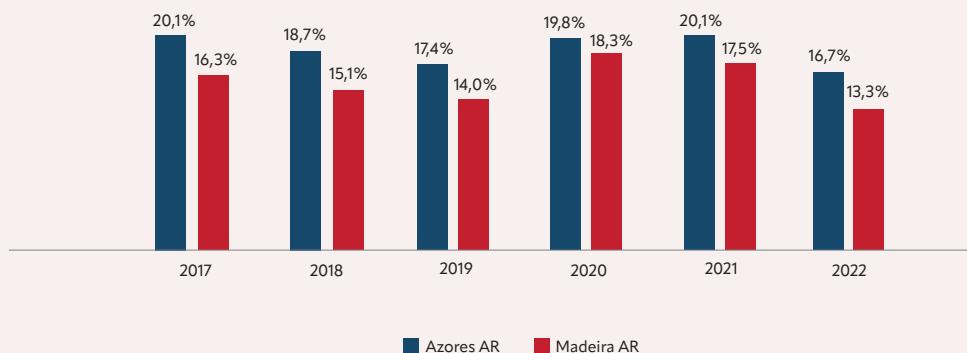
OVERALL EVALUATION

The progress of SDG 8 in the autonomous regions, as is the case of the national global assessment, is also

characterised by improvements in the economic and employment situation compared to 2017 (improvements interrupted in 2020, but resumed from 2021). This trend is supported by some important indicators such as the unemployment rate (6% in 2022 in the ARA compared to 9.1% in 2017; 7% in 2022 in the ARM compared to 11.1% in 2017) and the rate of youth not employed, in education or training (16.7% in 2022 in the ARA compared to 20.1% in 2017; 13.3% in 2022 in the ARM compared to 16.3% in 2017). We saw growth in *per capita* GDP (measured in thousands of euros) from 16.8 in 2017 to 18.3 in 2021 in the ARA, and growth from 18.8 in 2017 to 19.3 in 2021 in the ARM. It should be noted with regard to achieving higher levels of productivity that the indicator concerning apparent labour productivity (measured in thousands of euros) slightly increased in 2020 (31.6) compared to 31.3 in 2017 in the ARA. The converse was recorded in the ARM, as a decrease was registered from 2017 (34.2) to 2020 (32.6).

As regards the ability of national financial institutions to encourage the expansion of access to banking services, it should be noted that the number of ATMs per 10,000 inhabitants increased slightly from 15.6 in 2017 to 15.8 in 2021 in the ARA and from 11.7 in 2017 to 12.8 in 2021 in the ARM. The decline in monetary intermediation establishments per 10,000 inhabitants can be highlighted, although from a perspective of diminished evolution. It decreased from 6.1 in 2017 to 5.1 in 2021 in the ARA and from 4.7 to 3.5 in the ARM. It should be noted, however, that this reduction mainly reflects structural changes in the means of payments and financial services used by consumers as a consequence of the relative increase in payments by homebanking. It should not, therefore, be considered an unfavourable evolution.

Figure 39 – Rate of young people aged between 15 and 34 years not in employment, education or training, by autonomous region



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. the 2030 Agenda»



AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The mid-term assessment of the Azores OP 2014-

2020 (2021) concludes that there is disparity between the difficulty of progressing in the training of active employees and the very strong response in the demand for internships (with an employability rate of 52-53%). Also, although to a lesser extent, there is some discrepancy in subsidies for hiring, which shows that the way the training offer is proposed in the financing should be reformulated in order to bring consistency in the response to the structural constraints identified in the ARA.

On the other hand, the assessment positively highlights the implemented «**Cradle of Employment**» policy measure, initially designed to protect female employment, promote gender equality and reconcile family life. It benefits women on maternity leave (companies are entitled to replace the worker who was on leave free of charge), and it now includes men and women entitled to the parenting subsidy.

Also within the scope of job creation and maintenance, the following policies stand out: (i) the **TURIS.ESTÁVEL** programme for the promotion and creation of new jobs through the allocation of support to promoting entities, for permanent hiring, on a full-time basis, as well as support for the conversion of fixed-term employment contracts into permanent, full-time employment contracts in the tourism

and hospitality sector; (ii) **FORM.AÇORES**, with the objective of increasing the employability of users enrolled in the Qualification and Employment Centre, through knowledge and analysis of the individual profile and with adjusted referral that promotes future insertion into the labour market, contributing to the promotion support measures for professional qualification; and (iii) the platforms **CERTIFICAR** and **Emprego.Azores/EmpregoJovem.Azores**, which act as promoters of employability.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Impact Assessment of the Employment Measures supported by Madeira 14-20** (2021) showed that the employment measures were comprehensive in terms of their target audience, focusing on young people, disadvantaged and low-skilled people (groups most affected by unemployment). The measures also covered unemployed adults, in order to insert them into the labour market, either through internships and/or employment or through the creation of their own enterprise. The impacts associated with the measures are greater employability and job satisfaction, an increase in the entrepreneurial culture and the re-integration into employment of disadvantaged people. The high participation levels in the activities and the result indicators supported this assessment conclusion.

5.2.9 SDG 9 - BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE		TARGETS	EVOLUTION	
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being	✗ ⁴¹			
9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and significantly raise industry's share of employment and GDP	✗ ⁴²			
9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services	—			
9.4 Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable	✓			
9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, encourage innovation and substantially increase the number of R&D workers per 1 million persons and public and private R&D expenditure.	✓			
9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries	✗			
9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries	✓			
9.c Significantly increase universal access to information and communication technologies and strive to provide universal and affordable internet access in least developed countries	✓			

SDG 9 has 92% indicator coverage

						
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Portugal showed a favourable evolution in several indicators for SDG 9. Strengthening R&D over the whole period resulted in an increase in investment as well as in the number of researchers. The evolution in reducing carbon emissions was also favourable throughout the period. Mobile telecommunication network coverage remains constantly close to the target (99.9% of the population in 2021).

Conversely, the transport sector evolved unfavourably, marked by the impact of the pandemic in this sector. Passenger numbers and freight carried on road, rail and air transport declined.

Portugal deviated from the target of increasing the proportion of the population employed in the manufacturing industry, which after relative stabilisation until 2020 registered a significant reduction in 2021, which was maintained in 2022. This reduction is compatible with a reorganisation of some sectors of the labour market in areas

⁴¹ Target expressed by the decrease in passenger and freight carried on road, rail and air traffic (impact of the COVID-19 disease pandemic)

⁴² Variation in the proportion of the population employed in the manufacturing industry, showing a slight decrease, which may be correlated with changes in work and in sectors of activity during the COVID-19 disease pandemic, requiring further data to be able to analyse the true trend.



Figure 40 – Proportion of GDP expenditure on research and development



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

more related to the health crisis or more conditioned by the constraints placed on economic activity and which, in this way, had to adapt the services they sold or adapt the way they sold them.

Accordingly, it should be noted that the added value of the manufacturing industry in GDP was equal in 2022 to the value recorded in 2015, despite some fluctuations in the period considered.

Furthermore, despite the increase in the total values of national ODA in the last two years, those destined for the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructures in developing countries, registered a decrease in 2021. However, preliminary data for 2022 show an increase of EUR 1.81 million (activities related to the Open Sea Initiative of the Ministry of Defence).

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The Financial Crisis and Capital Structure Decisions

study (GPEARI, 2021) shows that public policies aimed at facilitating access to credit for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises are a determining factor in addressing an adverse macroeconomic scenario. Another key aspect highlighted by the **Assessment of the Implementation of National and Regional Research Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3): Network, Achievements and Expected Results** (2019), is the decisive contribution of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI) and their relevance to the advancement of the RIS3 approach. It is a way of increasing the sustainability of the support provided, guiding this maturation to more focused and less dispersed effects, therefore with a greater probability of generating effects in the productive specialisation model and the intensity of the incorporation of knowledge. There is also the contribution of the **National and Regional Innovation Strategies** for the enhancement

of smart knowledge, the progression of the value chain and the intensification of collaborative practices through the intensification of knowledge and R&D and strengthening the process of structural change of national productive specialisation and its knowledge intensity.

For the pursuit of this SDG, three high-level PI stand out, with significant future impact, namely: (i) the **RRF**, under the heading of decarbonisation of the industry (incorporation of renewable energies and electrification of activity, as well as the promotion of eco-innovation and development of cleaner production processes, through digitisation, and the promotion of R&D projects) and through the **Mobilising Agendas for Reindustrialisation** (with the purpose of «expanding the synergistic and progress link between the business fabric and the scientific and technological system in Portugal»); (ii) the EP 2030, through thematic agenda 2 for digitalisation, innovation and qualifications as drivers of development; and (iii) the **National Strategy for Intelligent Specialisation 2030**, which defines the national vision of the importance of quality of life, the creative environment and scientific and innovative capacity as factors for attracting and retaining talent and business dynamics, as driving forces of a trajectory of growth and convergence.

Also, with the creation of the **National strategy for Space** and the Portuguese Space Agency, it is intended to move from the traditional development of components and subsystems to the development of national programmes creating services and industrialisation agendas, acting in three dimensions: continuation of the development of competences through the European Space Agency (ESA); development of national programmes/challenges for the provision of services and Space Education, maintaining the promotion of spatial literacy and motivation for the areas of STEM.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Portugal faces a number of demanding challenges, with regard to the full implementation of SDG 9. The most notable of these is the modernisation of transport infrastructure, in particular the railway, the commitment to revitalise and modernize industry, through support to capitalisation and the adoption of sustainable production processes and the strengthening of public investment in R&D, by reinforcing the annual funds available to the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), and by encouraging the creation and development of companies of the start-up and scaleup types⁴³.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The progress of SDG 9 in the autonomous regions is, like in the national global assessment, also characterised by some progress compared to 2017. It is worth highlighting, as regards the aim of strengthening scientific research, the increase in the share of GDP expenditure on R&D in both island regions, with the ARA showing values of 0.34% in 2020, compared to 0.30% in 2017 and the ARM registering 0.51% in 2020,

compared to 0.35% in 2017. In the area of R&D and innovation, the proportion of full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers per thousand inhabitants fell slightly in the ARA in 2020 (1%) from 2017 (1.1%). The situation in the ARM was the contrary in this indicator, increasing from 1.3% in 2017 to 1.6% in 2020. In terms of the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, a decrease in employment was registered in the manufacturing industry in the ARM (minus 0.5 p.p. in 2022, compared to 2017). The values in the ARA remain unchanged from 2017 to 2022. The proportion of gross value added (GVA) of high and medium-high technology industries in the gross added value of manufacturing industries fell by 0.2 p.p. in the ARA in 2021 (0.8%) compared to 2017 (1%). In the ARM, there was an increase of almost twice the value in the same time period (2.1% in 2017 and 4% in 2021).

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The Mid-term assessment of the OP of the Azores

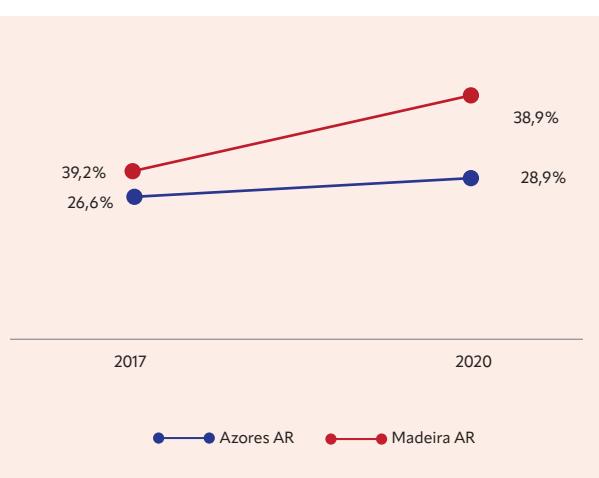
2014-2020 (2021) concludes that the priority action axis of «Research, Technological Development and Innovation» has made a high potential contribution to the maturation of the SRI Azores (Regional Innovation System) in terms of consolidating the provision of technology-based infrastructure, strengthening scientific and technological research and transferring knowledge according to the priorities of RIS 3 (Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation for the ARA) and intensification of corporate RTD. The same assessment also highlights the fact that the Azores OP makes a very positive contribution to the consolidation and qualification of organisations in the business environment in the fields of entrepreneurship, internationalisation and innovation, with a high potential to increase the intensity of this contribution in the future, especially if collective actions involve a larger number of regional companies.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The Mid-Term Assessment of the Madeira Regional

OP 2014-2020 (2022) highlights the programme's decisive contribution to the «quality of scientific and technological research and the strengthening of the sharing of results of RTD to promote the development of products and services of public interest. On the other hand, the OP has supported the implementation of a range of interventions to which it is possible to associate a significant contribution to the development of R&D and Innovation in the ARM and in the consolidation path of its SRI.»

Figure 41 – Proportion of GDP expenditure on research and development, by autonomous region



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

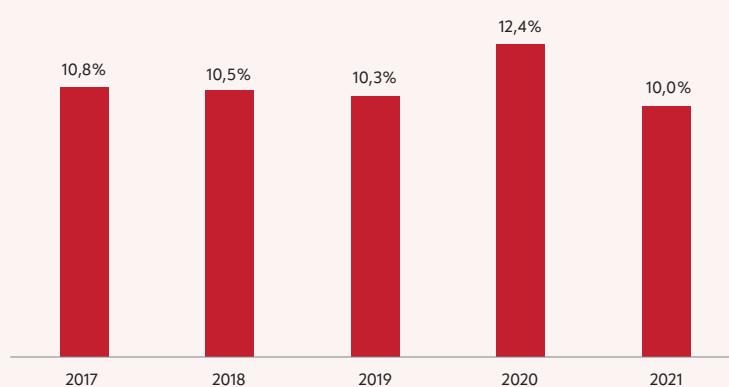
43 The Law of Start-ups (Law No. 21/2023, of 25 May) is of note. This Law sets out the framework applicable to start-ups and scaleups, changes the taxation scheme applicable to option plans for workers in start-ups and innovation sector companies and strengthens the tax incentive system for corporate research and development.



5.2.10 SDG 10 - REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	TARGETS	EVOLUTION	
	10.1 Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	✓	
	10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all	✓	COVID-19
	10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and reduce inequalities of outcome	◆	
	10.4 Adopt fiscal, wage and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality	—	
	10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions	✓	
	10.6 Ensure enhanced representation for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions	◆	
	10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people	✓	COVID-19
	10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organisation agreements	✗	
	10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows to States where the need is greatest	✓	COVID-19
	10.c Reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%	✓	
SDG 10 has 71% indicator coverage			
✓	—	✗	◆
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation
			Impacted by COVID-19
			No indicators
			The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 42 –Proportion of people living in households with an equivalent income below 50% of the median equivalent income



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The share of work in the country's wealth has increased steadily and the average income of the population has increased between 2017 and 2021, with a higher growth rate for the most vulnerable 40%. It should be noted, despite this positive evolution, that between 2020 and 2021 the income of the 40% with the fewest resources decreased, although it did not decrease in the population as a whole. This was the period of greatest impact of the pandemic, with more negative effects on the incomes of the most vulnerable.

Inequalities, measured by the Gini coefficient, have declined slightly over the period. The effect of fiscal policies on the mitigation of inequalities was not, on the other hand, significant.

On a scale of 1 to 4, Portugal scores 3 on policies that facilitate safe and orderly migration and mobility.

SDG 10, despite the progress made, is the one in which Portugal is, on the whole, furthest from the desired progress.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **Mid-Term Assessment of the Support Model for Independent Living (MAVI) in Portugal**, (2021) shows that this measure proves that the use of personal assistance, framed by Support Centres for Independent Life, promoted a clear improvement in self-determination and inclusion of the overwhelming majority of recipients, significantly reducing the risk of institutionalisation and their family dependency. This radically transforms life paths, expectations, dreams and personal behaviour vis-à-vis dependence and autonomy. It can thus be concluded that the support model for independent living (MAVI) has enabled not only the liberation and empowerment of the disabled person in relation to the family, but also the liberation of the family in relation to the imperative need to provide that same care, enhancing their rest and leisure opportunities

MAIN CHALLENGES

The most important challenges facing Portugal in the area of SDG 10 are the pursuit of coordinated public policy efforts to reduce social inequalities in the areas of income distribution, territorial cohesion, access to essential equipment and goods, access to justice and the fight against discrimination. The **ENIND 2018-2030** should be mentioned here, as a basic instrument for guiding public policy towards the objectives of strengthening the cross-cutting nature of policies to promote gender equality, ensuring compliance with balanced representation laws in the management and supervisory bodies of public companies and listed companies, as well as in management

positions of the PA, besides the implementation of gender equality in employment, wages and working conditions. Another planning instrument that is contributing to tackling another of the country's major challenges is the **National Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination 2021-2025**. It has as its main aim the fight against racism and any other form of discrimination, ranging from derogatory speech and hatred to the incitement and perpetration of aggression on racist, xenophobic, sexist, homophobic or transphobic grounds.

In this context, the measure of democratization of access to higher education based on the attribution of social support also stands out. Several changes were introduced in the social action system with a view to expanding the universe of scholarship students, increasing the amounts of scholarships and supplements, introducing new support modalities, and improving the effectiveness and speed of the system for awarding scholarships. Since 2017, the eligibility threshold has been raised twice (in the academic year 2020/2021 and 2022/2023) and will be extended again from September 2023, where it will be fixed at EUR 10,548.16 per capita income. Between September 2022 and September 2023, the eligibility threshold will increase by 12%

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The assessment of SDG 10 for the national island regions is analytically undermined, to a certain extent, by the lack of indicators broken down at NUTS II level in this field.

Figure 43 – Compensation of employees in gross value added in the autonomous regions



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»



However, with regard to the creation of policies to achieve greater equality, we must highlight the considerable increases in 2020, compared to 2017, in both regions namely employee compensation in GVA terms. In the ARM, a rise of 7.7 p.p. was observed (from 47% in 2017 to 54.7% in 2020) and in the ARA there was an increase of 4.8 p.p. (from 50.8% in 2017 to 55.6% in 2020). It should be noted that the ARA equalled the national average in this indicator.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **Mid-Term Assessment of the Azores OP 2014-2020** (2021) shows that combating inequalities is one of the major strategic objectives. In this area, the assessment points to the achievement of results in the framework of Occupational Programmes for vulnerable groups in the labour market and in improving access to sustainable, high-quality services at affordable prices.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Impact Assessment of the Employment measures supported by MAdeira OP 2014-2020** identifies active inclusion and the promotion of equal opportunities as one of the investment priorities. It mobilises a specific objective for this purpose, to contribute to increasing levels of employment of unemployed people, including those with more difficult integration, with the aim of their reintegration in the labour market. The conclusions of the assessment state that the employment measures of the Madeira OP 2014-2020 are comprehensive in their target audience, focusing on young people, disadvantaged and low-skilled people (groups most affected by unemployment). The measures also covered unemployed adults, in order to insert them into the labour market, either through internships and/or employment or through the creation of their own enterprises.

5.2.11 SDG 11 - MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

TARGETS	EVOLUTION	
11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	✓	
11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations	✗	
11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement	✓	
11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	✓	COVID
11.5 Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global GDP caused by disasters	✗ ⁴⁴	COVID
11.6 Reduce the adverse <i>per capita</i> environmental impact of cities	—	
11.7 Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces	◆	
11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas	✓	🎯
11.b Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels	✓	
11.c Support LDCs, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials	✗	

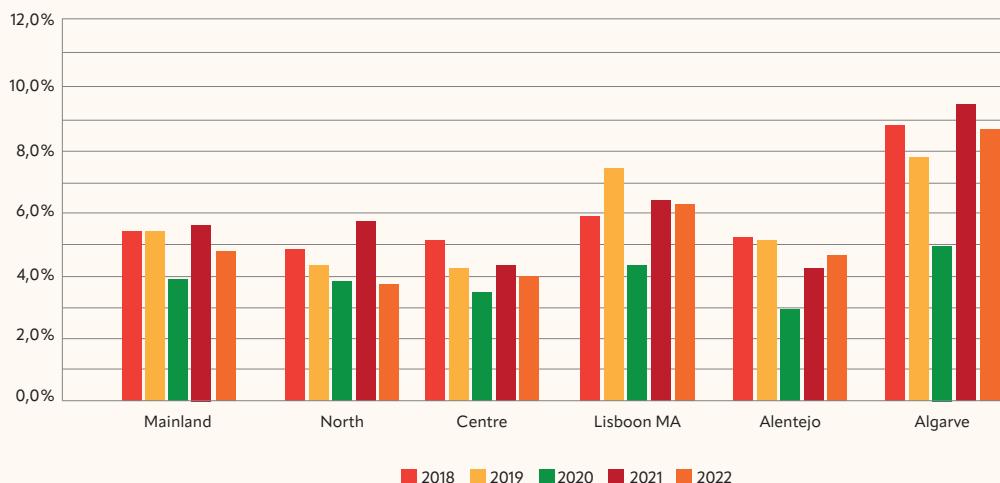
SDG 11 has 73% indicator coverage

✓	—	✗	◆	COVID	✗	🎯
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

⁴⁴ The COVID-19 disease pandemic is counted as a catastrophe for this purpose



Figure 44 – Housing Cost Overburden Rate, by NUTS II (2018-2022)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The indicators associated with the assessed targets show that the proportion of spending on housing has decreased from 6.7% in 2017 to 5% in 2022. It had reached the minimum value of 4.1% in the year the pandemic started, in 2020. There is also an improvement in the severe housing deprivation rate, and an increase in public expenditure on cultural heritage.

Still in the relation to culture, it should be noted that both the town halls, within the scope of the «Agenda 2030» Tour, and the public consultation open to all citizens, demonstrated the transversal importance of Culture for the dissemination and appropriation of the 2030 Agenda.

The only target with a negative evolution is associated with deaths caused by catastrophes, which is used as an indicator and which was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 disease pandemic, which is considered as a catastrophe in the UN context and has only recorded data until 2020.

The improvement in air quality should be highlighted in the field of reducing the adverse *per capita* environmental impact of cities, which achieved its best value in 2021. Moving in the opposite direction is the increase in the volume of municipal waste collected between 2017 and 2020.

The achievement of the targets in this SDG is linked to the achievement of the no poverty (SDG 1) and quality health (SDG 3) targets, since poverty reduction is also achieved by reducing the housing deprivation rate, which can translate into health gains for the population.

Air quality levels may be associated with trade-off effects with economic development, such as the positive impact that confinement during the pandemic period will have had on the reduction of carbon emissions (SDG 13) and on air quality.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **Impact Assessment of the Programme to Support Tariff Reduction in Public Transport (PART)** (2021) and the **Impact Assessment of the Programme to Support the Densification and Strengthening of Public Transport Supply (PROTransP)** (2020) show the significant contribution of the programmes to the achievement of Goal 11.2 of SDG 11. However, it is not included, for methodological reasons, in the summary table. This objective was achieved mainly by a significant increase in the number of passengers on public transport up to 2020. Railway was, according to the assessment, the form of transport that most benefited in terms of passengers transported in 2019 compared to the same period of 2018. Passenger numbers increased with Fertagus more than 30% (count in November), Metro

Sul do Tejo up 26% (annual data) and CP suburban services (Portugal) up 23% (annual data). This increase was also seen in road transport, notably by the increase in sales of travel passes, with increases of more than 10% registered in 11 inter-municipal entities. It is also important to highlight the contribution of this programme to the significant reduction of carbon emissions (SDG 13), to the more sustainable and accessible use of public space and to increasing the connectivity of people in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Urbanisation poses major challenges such as environmental degradation, air quality, noise, pollution, municipal waste management and energy poverty. In addition, the pressure on cities has exacerbated the problem of housing and cohabitation for many. Therefore, one of the major challenges facing Portugal in pursuing the SDG 11 goals is access for all to safe, adequate and affordable housing and to the respective basic services. It should be noted that Portugal currently has two strategic instruments to overcome this challenge: **New Generation of Housing Policies** and the new **Housing Law** are the basis of the ongoing strengthening of legislation, with 246 local housing strategies and a State Real Estate Exchange with housing available for affordable leasing.

Another of the challenges that Portugal faces in this SDG is the transport and mobility sector. Investment in this sector contributes to the creation of direct and indirect employment (SDG 8), and its implementation can improve the levels of connectivity and accessibility of populations. In this sense, the reduction of travel pass prices is maintained throughout the territory and supply is densified, with the continuation of the PART and PROTRANSP programmes. Other priority dimensions to maintain the progress in this SDG are also to encourage more sustainable urban and community lifestyles and promoting sustainable mobility through other alternative means of transport, such as the use of bicycles.

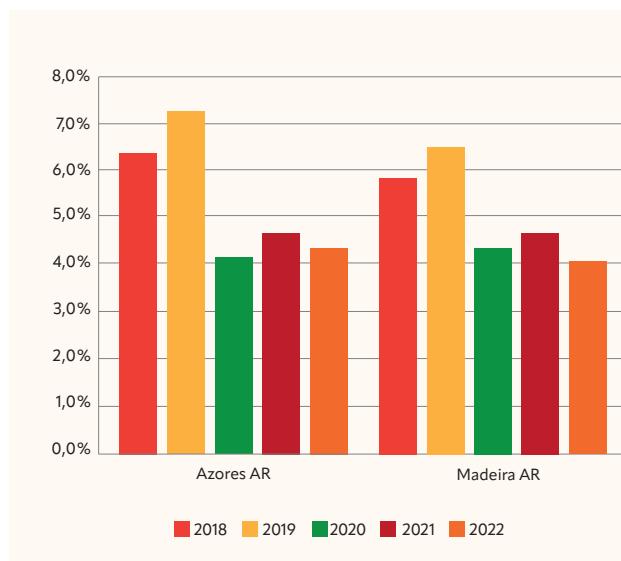
ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Mostly positive developments in the overall indicators with data made available by NUTS II. Decrease in both regions in the housing cost overburden rate and in the severe housing deprivation rate.

On the other hand, with a view to reducing the adverse *per capita* environmental impact of cities, it should be noted that the urban waste collected in the ARA in 2020 evolved unfavourably compared to 2017, while in the ARM there was a slight improvement of this relevant indicator in 2020 compared to 2017.

Figure 45 – Housing Cost Overburden Rate, (by autonomous regions)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The Mid-term Assessment of the Azores OP 2014-

2020 (2021) shows that this programme has mobilised a number of support measures which affect the performance of this SDG, in particular in terms of infrastructure investment. The adequate mobilisation of funds for the creation of logistics circuits; a network of roads on land linking ports, airports and tourist and economic points of interest, and improved operating conditions in the network of regional aerodromes are very important outcomes for the ARA, for reasons of competitiveness and territorial cohesion.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The Mid-term assessment of the Madeira OP 2014-

2020 (2022) concludes that the objectives of the OP, aligned with the promotion of environmental sustainability, have been broadly met in the field of sustainability and by means of investment in the improvement of transport infrastructure. However, they show very modest results in terms of heritage renovation and improvement. Urban regeneration interventions recorded very low implementation rates and there have been difficulties in the implementation of natural and cultural heritage conservation and protection operations.

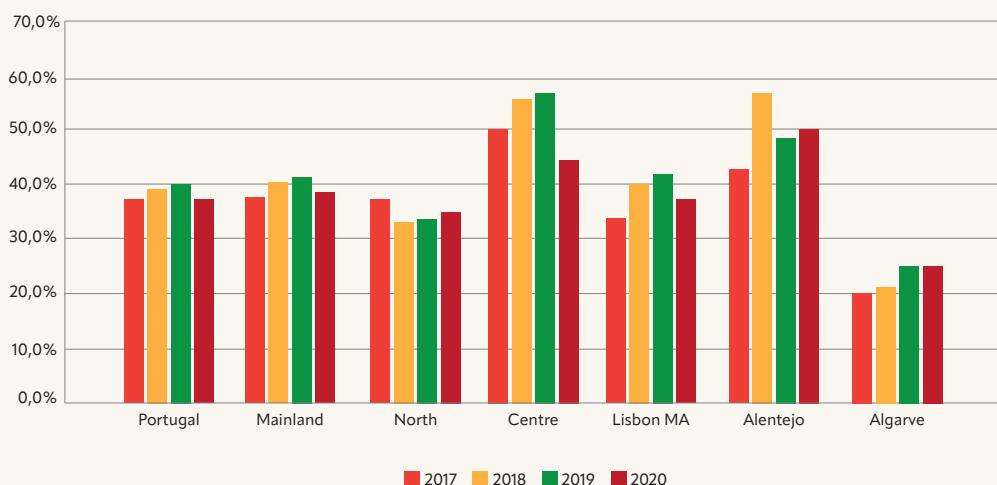


5.2.12 SDG 12 - ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	TARGETS	EVOLUTION	
	12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production	X	
	12.2 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	—	
	12.3 Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	X	
	12.4 Achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle	—	
	12.5 Reduce waste generation	✓	
	12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	X	
	12.7 Promote sustainable public procurement practices	◆	
	12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	X	
	12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	X	
	12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	◆	
	12.c Rationalise inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies	X	

SDG 12 has 46% indicator coverage						
✓	—	X	◆		X	
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 46 – Proportion of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling, per NUTS II (2017-2020)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

SDG 12 has, on the one hand, relatively low availability of indicators for its monitoring, and on the other hand, inconclusive evolution has been observed. This is also coupled with the fact that not all existing indicators yet fully reflect the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, the following are of note: the progress in domestic material consumption *per capita*, that decreased in 2021 (15.9 tonnes *per capita* - provisional value) compared to 2017 (16.5 tonnes *per capita*), as well as in the *per capita* material footprint, which decreased in 2020 (most recent value), compared to 2017, with a fall from 17.1 to 15.6 tonnes *per capita* in comparison between both periods. Similarly, a favourable trend was observed in domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per unit of GDP, material footprint and material footprint per unit of GDP. The proportion of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling rose by 3 percentage points between 2017 and 2019, which should also be highlighted (38% and 41%, respectively), and this trend was broken in 2020 (most recent figures available), albeit remaining higher than the figure recorded in 2015.

On a less favourable note, the area of hazardous waste shows an increase, illustrated by the increase of hazardous sectoral waste *per capita*. It is also indicated by the general trend in the various sectors of activity, with the emphasis on the sectors of waste management and trade and services recording more significant increases, in which the

increases in the generation of this waste in 2021 varied in scale, compared with 2017.

Consumption patterns in the more developed countries, including Portugal, may generate spillover effects in less developed countries and should be taken into account from a viewpoint of global sustainability.

In terms of sustainable public procurement, the United Nations Environment Programme rated the degree of implementation of public procurement policies and sustainable action plans in 2020 as medium-high. It is worth noting, in the field of monitoring the sustainability of tourism, that Portugal has standardised accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of the sustainability of tourism, in particular the satellite accounts: Tourism Satellite Account, Atmospheric Emissions Account and Physical Energy Flow Account.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **Assessment of the RDP of Mainland Portugal 2014-2020**, (2019), highlights significant contributions to sustainable management and efficient use of resources; to the increase of energy efficiency by 30% in the agricultural sector and the food industry; the synergy between the nature and type of the commitments of the operations entered in relation to the objective of carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture, with reference to the objective of carbon sequestration in agriculture and forestry and also the expected positive effect on the conservation of biodiversity and the countryside promoted under the program-



me considering the objectives of preserving and enhancing biodiversity.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns is a core issue of the challenges posed by the successful pursuit of SDG 12. It will be important to look at these objectives through a coordinated and integrated vision of sustainable consumption and production policies such as those that are compatible with an economy based on resource-efficient energy policies, environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste, and promoting the reduction of waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse, with a view to implementing a circular economy.

Environmental degradation, alongside climate change, poses a real threat to mankind. It is therefore necessary to adopt measures to reduce the pressure on resources and ensure the transition to an economy where economic growth is decoupled from environmental impacts. This transformation, due to its cross-cutting nature, requires public policy instruments that benefit those who choose more conscious and responsible production and consumption models, who effectively reduce the consumption of raw materials, resources and energy, and who preserve the value of products, materials and other resources in the economy for as long as possible. The realignment of the productive fabric and consumers is therefore fostered, taking advantage of the opportunities generated by new processes, new materials, new products and new services needed for the circular economy. The **PNR** highlights, among the main responses to the current economic challenges, the development of the circular economy in all sectors of activity. Its aim is to promote rational resource management with a particular focus on material resources, energy, water and land use, allowing a clear link between environmental and socio-economic performance.

The main challenges in this regard are to pursue a policy orientation based on the desire to change and consolidate production and consumption models by creating value, using less resources, optimising production factors, increasing efficiency, reducing costs and minimising environmental impacts.

Also noteworthy is the **2020-2023 Tourism+Sustainable Plan**, which, together with industry players, defined sustainability goals and performance measures for sustainability, such as the creation of Regional Sustainability Observatories and the preparation of Annual Sustainability Reports of *Turismo de Portugal* and the sector. In the context of the autonomous regions, the certification of ARA and ARM as sustainable destinations stands out.

In the field of the circular economy, a new **Action Plan for the Circular Economy** is under discussion, which

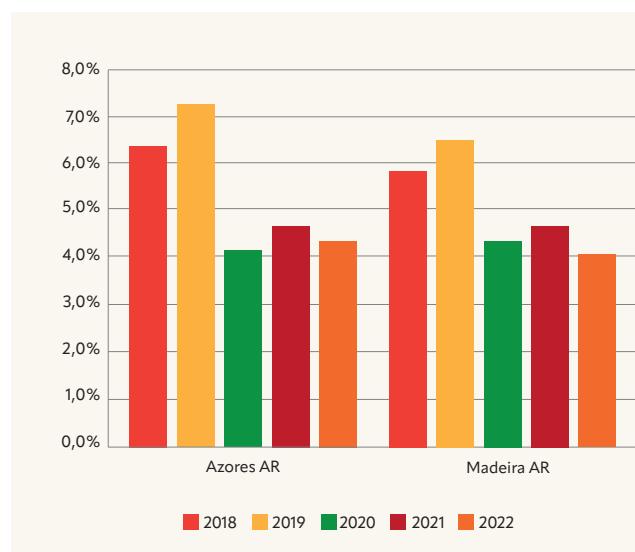
will incorporate, in the national dimension, the 35 measures defined at European level, such as the improvement of battery collection and recycling rates and the reduction of excess packaging and packaging waste.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

In view of the scarcity of indicators, the assessment of the progress made in the autonomous regions in relation to SDG 12 is restricted to monitoring the indicator on the proportion of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling. This helps to measure island progress in the aim of substantially reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. This has been progressing well. In fact, in the ARA the recycling rate increased from 35.9% in 2017 to 43% in 2020 (most recent period with data), and from 15.6% in 2017 to 19% in 2020 (most recent period with data) in the ARM.

Figure 47 – Proportion of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling, by autonomous region)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **Evaluation of the Azores RDP, PRORURAL+** (2019) concludes, qualitatively, that the programme has an expected positive contribution in preserving biodiversity, reducing GHGs from agriculture, improving the quality of water and reducing soil loss due to water erosion.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The Evaluation of the RDP of the ARM of 2014-

2020 (PRODERAM 2020) (2019) concludes that the programme has contributed to the objective of ensuring sustainable resource management in the areas of: preservation of the traditional landscapes of the region and

of natural and cultivated biodiversity by maintaining agricultural activity; supporting traditional irrigation systems and contributing to the maintenance of agricultural activity and supporting the restoration and maintenance of walls and forest investments that are important in reducing erosion.

5.2.13 SDG 13 - TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

	METAS	EVOLUÇÃO	
	13.1 Strengthen resilience and capacity for adaptation to climate-related hazards and natural disasters	✓	☒
	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	✓	☒ ⏵
	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	✗	
	13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilising jointly USD 100 billion annually	◊	
	13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on the more vulnerable groups	✗	
SDG 13 has 63% indicator coverage			
✓	⊖	✗	◊ ☒ ⏵
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation Impacted by COVID-19
			No indicators
			The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators



Figure 48 – Evolution of national greenhouse gas emissions (Mt CO₂_{eq}), Portugal (1990-2020)



Source: APA, submission of the national inventory carried out in July 2022 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Portugal is particularly exposed to phenomena related to climate change, such as rising sea levels, significant heat waves or severe droughts. Obvious reasons why it was adopted in 2017 as one of the six priority SDGs for Portugal.

The **National Climate Change Programme (PNAC)** has set a path for reducing national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to reach a reduction target of -18% to -23% in 2020 (68-72 Mt CO₂_{eq}) compared to 2005, ensuring compliance with national mitigation commitments and aligning Portugal with European and international targets. GHG emissions in 2020 without accounting for LULUCF (land use, land use change and forestry) emissions are estimated at about 57.6 Mt CO₂_{eq}, representing a decrease of 1.5% compared to 1990 and 9.5% compared to 2019. The emissions recorded in 2020 confirm the achievement of the emission reduction targets for this year, representing a reduction of about 33% compared to 2005 levels. This result exceeds the national target set in the PNAC for 2020.

The decrease in GHG emissions in 2020 was accentuated by the pandemic situation that started that year, which led to a decrease in economic activity and the movement of various forms of transport. It should be noted that this assessment is based on past progress and does

not take into account subsequent developments. Another of the most important indicators for monitoring progress in this SDG is the number of deaths attributed to disasters, where the pandemic situation (considered as a disaster for this purpose) largely affected the significant increase that occurred in 2020. The score for the adoption and implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in line with the Sendai Framework has increased since 2015 (from 0.35 in 2015 to 0.90 in 2020), which demonstrates a clear evolution in another of the benchmark indicators.

A final comment is appropriate regarding the fact that the indicators used to monitor this SDG do not show a geographical breakdown exceeding the national scope (no data for NUTS II), which makes it impossible to make an overall assessment of the reality of these indicators in the autonomous regions.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Decarbonising the economy as a path to sustainable growth was one of the thematic objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, notably through its **Energy-Climate Package**. The results of the **Assessment of the implementation of the measures to strengthen the transition to a low-carbon economy (OT4)** during the PT2020 financing cycle, in Portugal, show that this instrument, as a catalyst for the implementation of the measures to strengthen the

transition to a low-carbon economy, was important for the continuation of the structuring actions and measures set out in the public policy and sectorial planning instruments.

Nevertheless, results with different but generally reduced intensities of the expected contributions/impacts of this instrument, in its three vectors of activity, were noted: 1. Greater incorporation of renewable energies into the national energy mix/Reduce dependence on external energy; 2. Reduce the carbon intensity of the economy; 3. Reduce national GHG emissions.

The evaluations of programmes such as **PART**, which started in 2019, and **PROTransP**, which started in 2020, estimated that the financing of the offer using funds from both programmes would have allowed a reduction of around 450,800 tonnes of CO_{2eq} and 145,300 tep. This indicates the importance of this type of policy programme for the pursuit of the goals of decarbonising the economy and mitigating its effects.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The guarantee must exist, in order to ensure the achievement of the goals of this SDG, that the State, the private sector and civil society will implement commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and strengthen the capacity of energy interconnections. Portugal is a signatory of several international instruments that focus in particular on combating climate change and its adverse effects. In those instruments it has committed, together with other States, to adopt policies and take the necessary measures to mitigate these changes (i.e. the 1992 UNFCCC; 1998 Kyoto Protocol and 2015 Paris Agreement). One of the most emblematic and impactful measures was the Paris Agreement, where the EU committed itself to reducing GHG emissions by 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The **Climate Law**, passed in 2021, reflects the vision and intentions with regard to the climate transition objectives in Portugal. **RNC 2050** and **PNEC 2030** are the main strategic documents and frameworks for the country's policy in this field. The latter is the main energy and climate policy instrument for the decade 2021-2030

In Portugal, despite having assumed carbon neutrality by 2050 as an objective, bringing this target to 2045 has been the object of study in the country, which is indicative of the country's good trend in this indicator.



ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **Mid-term Assessment of the Azores OP 2014-2020** (2021) concludes that sustainable development policies have a cross-cutting component. The climate change theme is noted as having several interventions spread across different priority axes, thus enhancing the effectiveness and the planned results.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Assessment of the RDP of the PRODERAM 2020** (2019) concludes that the programme RAM had a reduced contribution to energy efficiency, renewable energy production and the decrease of GHGs and ammonia emissions. However, it highlights the very important effect of forest-related support on conservation and carbon sequestration.

The **Mid-term Assessment of the Madeira OP 2014-2020** (2022) acknowledges that the existence of funds is making it possible to tread a path of greater awareness about the problems associated with the energy transition, the environment and climate change mitigation.



5.2.14 SDG 14 - CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

14 LIFE BELOW WATER	TARGETS	EVOLUTION
	14.1 Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	✗
	14.2 Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	✗
	14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	✗
	14.4 Effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices	◆
	14.5 Conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas	◆
	14.6 Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies	✓
	14.7 Increase the economic benefits to small island developing states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	✗
	14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology in developing countries in terms of ocean health	✗ ⁴⁵
	14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	✓
	14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources	✗

SDG 14 has 50% indicator coverage

✓	⊖	✗	◆	●	✗	◎
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

⁴⁵ Evolution determined not by a disinvestment but by an increase in R&D in maritime technologies lower than the significant increase recorded for the total investment in R&D

Figure 49 – Proportion of R&D services investment in marine technology of the total investment in intellectual property products (2017-2020)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The data available for SDG 14 are still rather limited in scope, which restricts an overall assessment of that SDG. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Portugal has a maximum rating (level 5) as regards the degree of implementation of international instruments aimed at combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Likewise, the indicator on the degree of implementation of a legal/regulatory/political/institutional framework recognising and protecting the right of access for small-scale fisheries also recorded a maximum value (level 5) in the most recent data period (2022). This demonstrates an evolution from the values (level 4) obtained in previous periods (2018 and 2020), for which we have data for this indicator.

The only goal with a negative evolution is associated with increasing knowledge of domains related to the oceans. It is pertinent to note that this does not result from any divestment, but rather from a loss of its relative weight. There was a significant increase in the volume of the indicator associated with scientific investment in marine technology. However, this increase did not follow the even more significant rise in the global indicator associated with scientific investment not specifically in the domains related to the oceans.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The Assessment of the implementation of the Sea

2020 OP (2020), with an indicative EUR 392.5 million of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (12 March 2020), concludes that the four thematic objectives of the Programme contributed to the three dimensions of the European growth agenda, the smart growth agenda (enhancing business competitiveness); the sustainable growth agenda (supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy and preserving and protecting the environment) and the inclusive growth agenda (which includes the objective of sustainability and quality of employment and support for labour mobility). Also, concerns about the sustainability of resources and the environment formed the basis for the design of the Programme and they are present in its implementation, in many forms, i.e. the bulk of the funds provided and even the Programme's limitations stemming from the regulatory framework have their roots in sustainable development concerns.

The assessment also concludes that the Programme embodies in its support and measures an arbitration between the objectives of promoting a more competitive and resource-efficient sector, on the one hand, and the need to preserve the sustainability of the resources themselves. This trade-off shows a deep awareness of the necessary and sensitive balance between the two factors - competi-



tiveness versus sustainability. It is acknowledged that the sector's competitiveness in the long run encompasses and depends on its sustainability.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The 2030 Agenda concern with the ocean lies not only in a single SDG, i.e., SDG 14, whose focus regards the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean. On the contrary, several other SDGs also contribute to that matter. The objectives and targets of the 2030 Agenda also have, on the other hand, multiple interlinkages that are expressed in a wide range of initiatives, and many of these contribute to the conservation of the ocean. The national approach to the challenges that the 2030 Agenda establishes for the ocean follows an integrated maritime policy approach. Portugal faces major challenges in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources.

The main challenges for the successful pursuit of sustainability in these areas primarily concern the need for multi-level cooperation and consultation policies. Partnerships for development and action, and which ensure monitoring of the environmental status of marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as maritime spatial planning, are also challenges, in order to guarantee that human and economic activities are carried out in a sustainable manner and with respect for environmental values. Accordingly, three important pillars have to be highlighted in relation to these challenges:

- Increase knowledge and literacy of the oceans, seas and marine resources through technical-scientific collaboration of the scientific community and collaborative networks, as well as through investment in science and technology
- Classification and management of marine areas through a concerted policy contributing to good management of the ocean, its areas and its relationship with the space, with the imperative need to reinvent and redesign activities that have to be increasingly sustainable (transformation of marine transport, in ports, reconversion of fisheries, new forms of aquaculture, among others)
- The challenge associated with climate change, and more specifically the energy transition, where

Portugal is faced with a major challenge of implementing ocean-based renewable energy

Some of these national challenges also have a global scale, such as pollution, and in particular marine litter, which cannot be addressed in isolation by any country. International cooperation is therefore required in this and other areas. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and more specifically with regard to the successful achievement of the objectives of SDG 14, therefore requires strong international cooperation in the various policies and projects, coordination of the various bodies and initiatives, and close monitoring by all stakeholders.

Due to its geostrategic position, Portugal is facing a challenge based on the development of its maritime space and the ability to influence all EU and global maritime policies for the oceans. The sea's potential can only be fulfilled if the oceans remain healthy systems that allow sufficient and efficient exploitation of resources, guaranteeing sustainability. This also has to be combined with a strategy that promotes the competitiveness and resilience of the fisheries and processing industry, in order to guarantee supply and food security. These are, therefore, the main challenges in this field.

In this regard, it should also be highlighted the allocation made available by the **RRP** under the heading – Blue Hub, Infrastructure Network for the Blue Economy, with considerable funds (EUR 87 million).

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The national response to the indicator for fish stocks within sustainable biological limits results from the combination of sub-indicators, defined on the basis of the available information on stocks. Assessments of the state of fish stocks in the Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to the mainland and the ARA, most of which are shared with other Member States, are carried out by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). A strictly national analytical assessment is carried out in the ARM. All stocks of mainland Portugal that have undergone analytical assessment by ICES over the last two years have been considered sustainable (see Figure 50).

Figure 50 – Proportion of fisheries managed stocks (stocks) with analytical evaluation (ICES Category 1)

	2015 2016 2017	2018 2019	2020	2021	2022	Legend
Horse mackerel	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Sustainable
Black-bellied anglerfish	Green	White	Green	Green	Green	Unsustainable
White anglerfish	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Overexploited
Hake	Yellow	Orange	White	White	Green	Subject to precautionary assessment (see 14.4.1.b)
Four-spot megrim	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Megrim	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Sardinhe (*) (**)	Red	White	Green	Green	Green	

Source: IPMA, I.P. and PDO - Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores.

Geographical location: Bay of Biscay and Iberian Peninsula Ecoregion / Geographic location: Ecoregion of Bay of Biscay and Iberian Peninsula.

(*) 2020 - ICES advice on the Iberian sardine stock was reviewed and published on 18 June 2021.

According to the review, the stock is now classified as sustainable as fishing mortality in 2020 is below the FMSY reference point (ICES, 2021 - The Workshop for the evaluation of the Iberian sardine HCR (WKSARHCR). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:49. 115 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7926>). / The advice for Iberian sardine stock was reviewed in 18th of June of 2021. According to this review, the stock was considered sustainable, as the fishing mortality in 2020 was then below the FMSY reference point (ICES, 2021 - The Workshop for the evaluation of the Iberian sardine HCR (WKSARHCR). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:49. 115 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7926>).

(**) 2021 - Classification assigned according to the adopted Pluriannual Management Plan for the Iberian Sardine stock (2021-2026), whose harvest control rule was evaluated in 2021 by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES/ICES), which considered it consistent with the ICES precautionary criterion under a low productivity scenario (ICES, 2021 - The Workshop for the evaluation of the Iberian sardine HCR (WKSARHCR). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:49. 115 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7926>). / Classification assigned according to the adopted Pluriannual Management Plan for the Iberian sardine stock (2021-2026), whose harvest control rule was evaluated by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), which considered it to be consistent with the ICES precautionary criterion under the low productivity scenario (ICES, 2021 - The Workshop for the evaluation of the Iberian sardine HCR (WKSARHCR). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:49. 115 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7926>).

Figure 51 – Proportion of fisheries managed stocks (stocks) with evaluation based on a precautionary approach (ICES Category 3)

	2015 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Legend
Blue -bellied anglerfish	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Sustainable
Hake	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Unsustainable
Blue jack mackerel	Green	Green	Light Blue	Year with no assessment				
Thornback ray	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Greater forkbeard	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
Red seabream (ARM)	Yellow	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	
Thornback ray (ARM)	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	
Black scabbardfish	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	

Source: IPMA, I.P. and PDO - Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores.

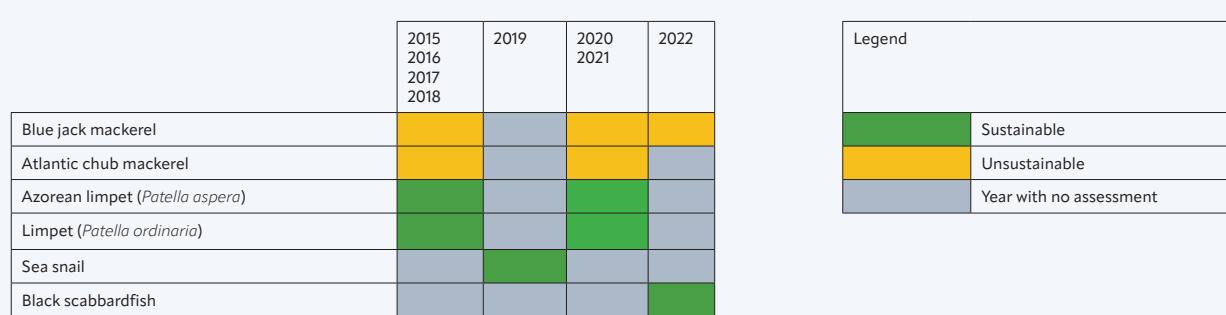
Geographical location: Bay of Biscay and Iberian Peninsula Ecoregion / Geographic location: Ecoregion of Bay of Biscay and Iberian Peninsula; Azores and Northeast Atlantic



An analytical evaluation of the harvest situation of the blackfin horse mackerel was carried out in the ARM in 2022. This evaluation demonstrated that the harvest is still above the desired level. In response, a process is underway to decommission one of the three vessels engaged in fishing for

small pelagic species. On the contrary, the evaluation of the black scabbardfish, based on the evolution of the catches, revealed that the resource is being harvested in a sustainable manner (Figure 52).

Figure 52 – Proportion of fisheries managed stocks (stocks) with national level analytical evaluation (ICES Category 3)



Source: Madeira Regional Directorate of the Sea

Geographical location: Madeira / Geographic location: Madeira

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The Mid-Term Assessment of the Azores OP 2014-

2020 (2021) concludes that the investment funds were essential for the added value of the existing scientific and technological infrastructure in Faial and that the focus will be on the opportunities for the development of innovative products and services in the area of the sea (taking advan-

tage of the existence of the Institute of the Sea, IMAR, and the School of the Sea). In addition, the assessment identifies the existence of space and opportunity for the ARA to enter a cycle of greater innovation in the management and recovery of marine ecosystems and habitats, as the Region has knowledge and research in the field.

5.2.15 SDG 15 - PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

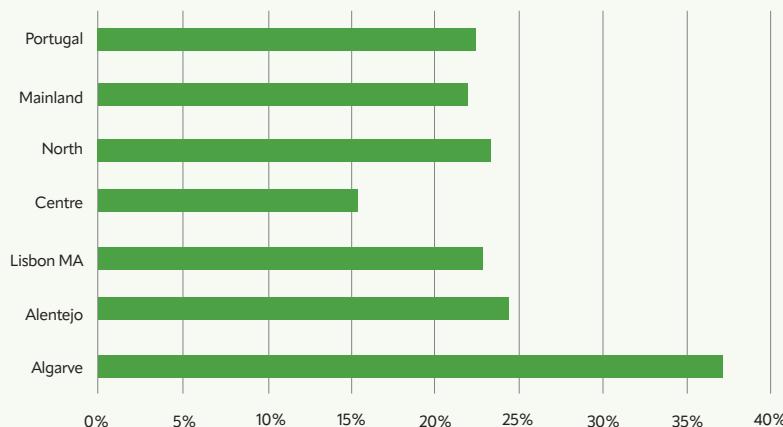
 15 LIFE ON LAND	TARGETS	EVOLUTION	
	15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services	—	
	15.2 Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	◆	
	15.3 Combat desertification and restore degraded land and soil	◆	
	15.4 Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems	—	
	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	X	
	15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources	✓	🎯
	15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	X	
	15.8 Introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	✓	🎯
	15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	✓	🎯
	15.a Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	✓	
	15.b Mobilise significant resources to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to promote sustainable forest management	✓	
	15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities	X	

SDG 15 has 79% indicator coverage

✓	—	✗	◆	☒	✗	🎯
Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators



Figure 53 – Proportion of classified areas, by NUTS II (2021)



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. the 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The overall assessment of Portugal's progress in achieving the SDG 15 objectives is limited due to the outdated nature of some of its main indicators.

Nevertheless, the overall trend is stable, according to the information available.

Portugal is a member of the group of countries that are contracting parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) and that have legislative, administrative and political tools or measures that are reported to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing House. Portugal is also, and in another positive development, among the countries that have the relevant national legislation and the allocation of adequate resources for the prevention or control of invasive alien species. It also has implemented the **ENCNB 2030**. The values of biodiversity are integrated into the national systems of accounts, defined with the implementation of the System of Economic and Environmental Accounts. The analysis of the achievement of the targets of this SDG may possibly benefit from an analysis of interlinkage with other SDGs, especially considering that the action taken to achieve the targets may be interlinked with action taken on exposure to the effects of climate change (SDG 13).

According to the report by the Integrated Management Agency for Rural Fires on rural fires, within the scope of the Integrated Management System for Rural Fires and the **National Plan for Integrated Management of Rural Fires 20-30**, between 2018-2022 there was a halving of the number of fires,

including on the worst weather days, 1/3 of the historical average of burned area, with no direct fatal civilian victims in fires.

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

The **Assessment of the RDP of Mainland Portugal 2014-2020** (2019) indicates that PDR2020 has included a set of operations with expected positive effects on the conservation of biodiversity and the countryside. It is, however, emphasised that the programme's effects on biodiversity and the countryside are not immediate. Therefore, the potential of initiatives must be considered with due reservations. The assessment considers, nevertheless, that PDR2020 made a positive contribution, aligned with that planned in terms of biodiversity conservation. This is in harmony with the objective of the EU biodiversity strategy to halt biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services and to promote their restoration. It also concludes that agricultural intensification is a threat to the preservation of areas of high natural value. The Programme is, in this sense, a leverage mechanism for the conservation of these areas and for promoting competitiveness from a balanced and sustainable perspective of the agroforestry complex.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Portugal has the enormous challenge of continuing to invest in active policies of action focused on the definition and implementation of correct planning, both as a goal to be achieved and as a specific activity to be developed. This aims to effectively implement social, cultural and environmental rights and to achieve the objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Hence, the country's main challenge is to enhance the natural capital and the socio-ecological resilience of the territories within the framework of sustainable management of natural resources, taking into account their environmental, social and economic value. One of these challenges is the sustainable management of forest ecosystems. This is an area facing various risks which include, in addition to climate change, the need to organise and revitalise forest areas and promote their active management in a rational, efficient and professional manner. Another of the main challenges is closely linked to the conservation of nature and biodiversity, as a guarantor of the country's natural heritage.

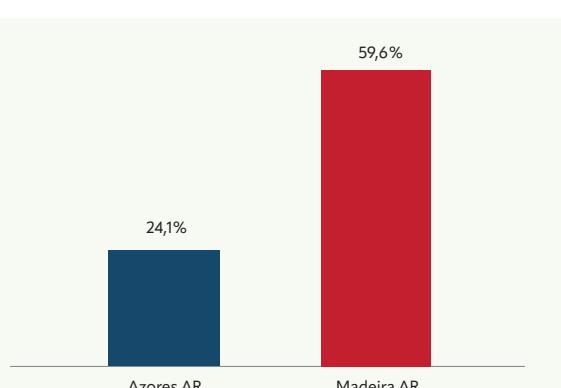
The **ENCNB 2030**, responding to some of these challenges, is developed in three strategic axes: i) improve the state of conservation of natural heritage; ii) promote recognition of the value of natural heritage; and iii) encourage the appropriation of natural values and biodiversity by society.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

The data available for SDG 15 in the autonomous regions, as stated in the national global assessment, are (even more) limited in availability and timeliness, which limits the overall assessment. However, the data for the indicators that may be used to measure progress in these island regions since 2017 is mostly favourable. The indicator for the proportion of classified areas is to be highlighted in relation to the goals of ensuring the conservation, recovery and sustainable use of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, as

**Figure 54 – Proportion of classified areas,
by autonomous regions (2021)**



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»



well as ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity. That indicator did not show differences between 2017 and 2021 in the ARA (24.1% in both years) and it showed a slight increase in the ARM in the same time period (59.3% in 2017 and 59.6% in 2021).

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **mid-term Assessment of the Azores OP 2014-2020** (2021) shows that the major strategic purpose of promoting a distinctive landscape, environment and experience, supported on defined urban areas, a differentiated and internationally recognised natural and cultural heritage, with effective responses to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and adaptation to climate change, plays a crucial role in the contribution of the 2014-2020 planning to the regional strategy. That regional strategy is based on three axes: Decarbonisation; Adapting to climate change; Environment and resource efficiency, which directly and indirectly contribute in a relevant manner to the successful pursuit of the objectives of SDG 15.

The **evaluation of PRORURAL+** (2019) concludes that the programme had a positive impact in reducing soil erosion, through support for forest areas (production, protection and conservation)..

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Assessment of the PRD of PRODERAM 2020** (2019) concludes that the programme's contribution is evident in the improvement and efficiency of water use and in the conservation, improvement and expansion of regional forest areas. This has significant impacts on natural and cultivated biodiversity, soil preservation and the reduction of erosion, and the prevention and mitigation of fires.



5.2.16 SDG 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

 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	TARGETS		EVOLUTION	
	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere			
	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children			⁴⁶
	16.3 Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice			⁴⁷
	16.4 Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime			
	16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms			
	16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels			
	16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels			
	16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance			
	16.9 Provide legal identity for all			
	16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms			
	16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime			
	16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development			

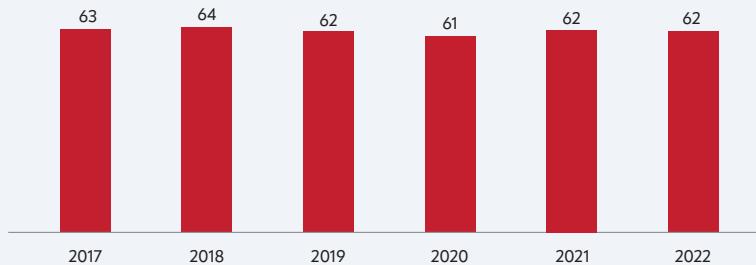
SDG 16 has 58% indicator coverage

Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

⁴⁶ This assessment is the result of an increase in the number of crimes of human trafficking, registered by the authorities, in 2021

⁴⁷ Regarding the increase in the proportion of preventive detainees as a result of the decrease in the inmate population. This was impacted, among other factors, by the entry into force of Law No. 9/2020, of 10 April, that established an Exceptional regime for flexibility in the execution of sentences and grace measures, as part of the fight against the COVID-19 disease pandemic

Figure 55 – Corruption Perceptions Index, Portugal



Source: NE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

Note: The Corruption Perceptions Index is constructed from the perceptions of the different actors analyzed, which are translated into a score between 0 (least transparent) and 100 (most transparent)

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Some of the indicators used to measure progress in SDG 16 evolved favourably from 2017, while others have followed trends in the opposite direction. It is notable that the corruption perceptions index slightly decreased between 2017 and 2021. The increase in the number of women managers in the PA sector should be highlighted, for its influence in ensuring that decision-making at all levels is responsible, inclusive, participatory and representative. It advanced from 6,024 in 2017, 52% of the sector, to 7,668 in 2021, representing 55% of all managers. However, the number of women elected to the AR, on the other hand, decreased in 2022 (85 women) compared to the previous legislative elections in 2019 (89 women), as noted in the progress of SDG 5.

The highlight in relation to the aim of significantly reducing illegal financial and weapons flows, as well as strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets and combating all forms of organised crime, is that the number of firearms seized, delivered/recovered by the police increased from 2017 to 2021.

Also noteworthy is the freezing and seizure of financial flows, including the suspension of financial transactions, within the framework of preventing and combating money laundering. The approval of a **National Anti-Corruption Strategy** and the reinforcement of resources of the National Unit Against Corruption of the Criminal Police (PJ) has allowed greater efficiency in this domain, in terms of investigation and the constitution of defendants. On a preventive level, the creation and operationalization of the National Anti-Corruption Mechanism will make it

possible to contribute, in this way, to the reduction of corruption and bribery.

Furthermore, Portugal promotes active international cooperation, bilaterally and multilaterally, in preventing and combating crime, including organised crime and terrorism, specifically through the action of the National Unit against Terrorism (of the PJ), with emphasis on the recent update of Law no. 52/2003, of 22 August, and the approval of a new **National Strategy against Terrorism**.

It should be noted that there is a deterioration in the indicator of the proportion of preventive inmates in the total inmate population. This evolution is essentially determined by a denominator effect. The total number of the prison population has decreased by 13.8% since 2017 as a result, among other factors, of the entry into force of Law No. 9/2020, of 10 April, that established an Exceptional regime for flexibility in the execution of sentences and grace measures, as part of the fight against the COVID-19 disease pandemic. On the other hand, the number of preventive detainees has registered a marginal increase of 2% since 2017, which is still 6.7% lower than the value recorded in 2015. Since 2015, the total inmate population has decreased by 18.5%.

On a less positive note, homicide deaths increased from 76 in 2017 to 82 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021. In the same period, there is an increase in the number of crimes of human trafficking registered by the authorities in 2021.

A final comment is appropriate regarding the fact that the indicators used to monitor this SDG do not show a geographical breakdown exceeding the national scope (no data for NUTS II), which makes it impossible to make an overall assessment of the reality of these indicators in the autonomous regions.



ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Assessment of the contribution of the ESI Funds to the Modernisation and Capacity-Building of the PA (2021) shows that the operations supported by the **National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)** and by **PT2020** have made it possible to generate significant and structuring contributions towards achieving the overarching objectives pursued by the public policy of modernisation and capacity-building, namely improvement of the efficiency of the PA services and the reduction of public context costs for citizens and enterprises.

The **Participatory Budget of Portugal (OPP)** particularly stands out in target 16.7, which promotes more inclusive, representative and democratic decision-making processes, strengthening the set of rights, freedoms and guarantees established in the Portuguese Constitution. The first OPP, launched in 2017, proved to be a pioneering initiative worldwide. It was repeated in 2018 and a third edition is expected in 2023. This initiative transposes to national level other successful initiatives such as the Youth Participatory Budget and the Participatory Budget of the Schools.

Also noteworthy is the role of the **Commission for the Integrated Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency and Violent Crime**, created in 2022, which presented its first Interim Report in January 2023. The Commission's mission is to present proposals for the reduction of juvenile delinquency and violent crime, in particular: (i) its current characterisation in a comprehensive and integrated manner, as well as an analysis of its severity and any emerging modus operandi; (ii) the survey of geographic areas, contexts and population groups that deserve special attention; (iii) the prospective identification of the main international trends, their specificities and adopted responses/strategies; (iv) the

production of recommendations to promote objective and subjective security, reduce juvenile delinquency, violent crime and its severity; and (v) the proposition of regular analysis methodologies in the previous terms.

In this sense, a proposal from the Ministry of Home Affairs is in the legislative circuit, which aims to approve the Integrated Urban Security Strategy (EISU). This Strategy, which reflects an integrated planning of the various prevention instruments, fulfils the objectives defined in the Government Programme, namely with regard to the prevention of phenomena of violence, whether in the context of school, sports, nightlife or of a youth or group nature, and defines lines of action to protect the most vulnerable citizens and protect the public space. Likewise, it also articulates plans to prevent and combat terrorism, radicalisation, hate speech and racism, xenophobic, sexist behaviour and other manifestations of intolerance, as well as reinforcing proximity and visibility policing, geared towards achieving the well-being of populations.

EISU favours articulation with local authorities, through **local security contracts**, whose structure guarantees coordination between the various levels of intervention, strengthening relevant national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime. Thus, in addition to the current 33 existing **local security contracts**, new local security contracts are expected to be concluded, based on an updated model of Local Security Diagnoses, promoting a concerted approach by the different social actors to local realities, with a view to strengthening citizens' sense of security, preventing juvenile delinquency, reducing social vulnerabilities, eliminating criminogenic urban factors and promoting citizenship and gender equality.



In terms of domestic violence, in addition to the materialisation of the **Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Database**, the following stand out: i) the inclusion, in 2021, in the new models of victim status, the status of a particularly vulnerable victim, for the crime of domestic violence; ii) the implementation, in 2022, by the Security Forces and Services (SFS) of the new standard report/report model of domestic violence; iii) the continuity of the training effort carried out in the context of the Joint Annual Training Plan on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, added to that regularly carried out internally (participation of the SFS, throughout 2022, in 263 of the training actions organised by the INA, I.P., with a total of 3257 participants); iv) the work carried out in the definition of technical specifications for the purposes of the revision process of the risk assessment instrument in force; and v) the planned implementation of pilot projects for integrated risk assessment and management and reinforcement of action within the 72 hours following the presentation of a complaint.

Finally, the **Plan for the Prevention of Manifestations of Discrimination in the Security Forces and Services** (SFS), in force since 2021, coordinated by the Inspectorate General of Home Affairs (IGAI) and involving the National Republican Guard, the Public Security Police and the Foreigners and Borders Service. This Plan contemplates five areas of intervention (recruitment; training; interaction of SFS members with other citizens and with other elements of the SFS; promotion and image of the SFS; and preventive mechanisms and monitoring), for a total of 15 objectives, translated into 23 measurements.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The main challenges in the successful pursuit of the objectives of the SDG 16 are, in general, associated with the processes and instruments for improving and consolidating the democratic and decision-making processes that contribute to strengthening the set of rights, freedoms and guarantees provided for in the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic. This is the case because the Portuguese Republic is a democratic State governed by the rule of law, based on popular sovereignty, pluralism of expression, democratic political organisation, respect for and guarantee of the effectiveness of fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as on the separation and interdependence of powers.

Democracy is in permanent construction. It is not a guaranteed value. The evidence of this has been reinforced by the fact that the democratic project has been under more frequent and heavier threats, which pose a huge challenge in this area. To combat phenomena of populism and extremism that may undermine the democratic rule of law, it is essential to pursue the path of improving the quality of democratic institutions and their functioning, promo-

te the participation of citizens, renew and qualify the political class, bring legislation closer to its addressees, protect fundamental rights and freedoms, and invest in effective education for citizenship.

It is important to defend and disseminate the essential values on which the Portuguese political system is based, as well as to improve the quality of democracy. Accordingly, the main lines of action in this area are: (i) promote democratic literacy and citizenship; (ii) guarantee freedom of access to the professions; (iii) pursue public policies and instruments contributing to transparency and the determined fight against corruption; (iv) promote confidence in the PA by eliminating bureaucratic acts and administrative barriers; (v) strengthen national security at all levels and in all its aspects; (vi) continue the administrative modernisation effort; (vii) increase the number of legislative and regulatory acts made available for public discussion; viii) enhance regional autonomy and deepen the decentralisation of powers.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The **Mid-Term Assessment of the Azores OP 2014-**

2020 (2021) shows that the operations of the «Improve Access to Information and Communication Technologies, as well as their Use and Quality» priority axis have made a fundamental contribution to reducing context costs in the ARA. It is stated in the assessment of the «Institutional capacity and regional and local PA» priority axis that, although its effectiveness (which seems to contribute to the achievement of targets) is not at stake, the operations have fallen short of that planned in terms of linkage with the Improving Access to Information and Communication Technologies axis. The assessment therefore concludes that this dimension of institutional capacity needs new impetus in terms of a strategic guiding framework.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **Mid-Term Assessment of the Madeira Regional**

OP 2014-2020 (2022) highlights the contributions of the OP to the pursuit of SDG 16 by mobilising the strategic axis of institutional capacity building, which is, in turn, operationally implemented in the thematic objective of *Improving the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and the effectiveness of the PA*. This results in investment in institutional capacities and in the efficiency of the PAs and services, in order to carry out reforms, to legislate better and to govern well, ensuring the qualification of public service provision by improving the capacity of services and the training of workers in public functions.



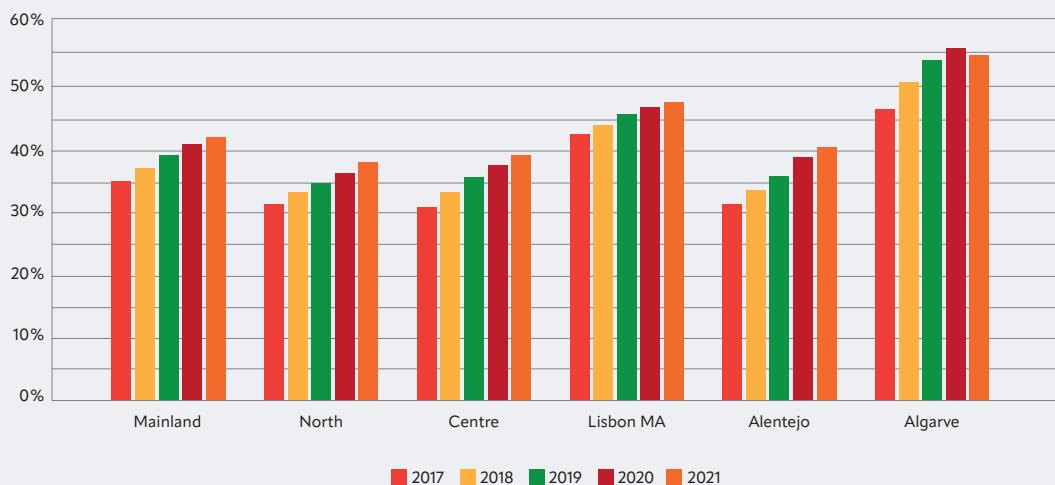
5.2.17 SDG 17 - STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TARGETS	EVOLUTION		
17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	✓		
17.2 Fully implement commitments on official development assistance	✓		
17.3 Mobilise additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	✗		
17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring	✗		
17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries	✗		
17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms	✓		
17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development developing countries on favourable terms	✗		
17.8 Fully operationalise the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries and enhance the use of enabling technology	✓		
17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals	✓		
17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organisation, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda	✗		
17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports	✗		
17.12 Realise timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organisation decisions	✗		
17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability	◆		
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	✗		
17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development	◆		
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries	✗		
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships	✓		
17.18 Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data that is also disaggregated	✓		
17.19 Develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries	—		

SDG 17 has 63% indicator coverage

Positive evolution	No evolution	Negative evolution	No evaluation	Impacted by COVID-19	No indicators	The target has been reached in at least one of the indicators

Figure 56 – Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, per NUTS II



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Portugal has improved its capacity to raise tax revenue between 2017 and 2021, especially the share of indirect taxes in GDP. The share of tax revenue in GDP remained low in Portugal, despite having followed the upward trajectory of the EU. The share of State Budget (OE) financing through tax revenue also evolved upwards. The highest value over the period was in 2019 (69.2%), the lowest was in 2020 (58.0%). It has been growing steadily since 2021 (66.1% in 2023).

The main macroeconomic indicators were affected by the pandemic in this period. GDP growth has evolved upwards. That growth was interrupted in 2020, and then resumed in 2021. In 2022, GDP growth was 6.9%. Government debt was also decreasing until 2020, when the trend was reversed and the highest figure of the period was recorded in that year (139.1%). The inflation rate has performed adversely in recent times. It started at 1.4% in 2017 and remained relatively stable until the abrupt rise in 2022 (7.8%).

Access to technology grew over the period. Of note is the percentage of the population using the internet, which increased from 73.8% in 2017 to 84.5% in 2022. Portugal remains below the EU in this indicator too, despite growth, especially since the beginning of the pandemic.

Investment in public-private partnerships declined from EUR 1.336 billion in 2017 to 1.226 billion in 2021, moving the country away from this target.

Portugal is one of the countries with a government-funded statistical plan and legislation that ensures compliance with official statistical principles. A general census of the population was held in 2021. By 2020, there was a complete record of at least 90% of births and 75% of deaths.

In international cooperation, despite the negative assessment of evolution in target 17.3, it should be noted that the data show an increase in ODA (mainly in 2022, reaching EUR 401 million), an increase of 17.5% in real terms compared to 2021, approaching the internationally defined target of 0.7% of GNI.

MAIN CHALLENGES

The main strategic challenges in the field of SDG 17 relate to the promotion of cooperation within the CPLP, notably through the strengthening of economic cooperation, through the ratification of the **Strategic Agenda for Consolidation of Economic Cooperation of the CPLP 2022-2027**.

The Forum of Agencies for the Promotion of Investment and External Trade of the CPLP was also established, to stimulate cooperation between companies and professional organisations from different Member States, creating new conditions for investment and trade. This is further boosted by the strategic objective of implementing the new framework for Portuguese cooperation. It is to be achieved by broadening partnerships and diversifying financing arrangements, with a view to strengthening the coordination and efficiency of the programmes. It is also important to note the adoption of the new **ECP 2030**, which



ch aims to deepen the impact of national external action. That is to be done, in particular, through the greater involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, local authorities, academia and the private sector, in a complementary way, thereby promoting and strengthening financing mechanisms.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Portugal participated in the monitoring rounds of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2016 and 2018, the official source of data on the SDG 17.15 and 17.16 indicators. ODA has the OE as its framework, as a general aspect of the management of financial resources. It is annual, and establishes the legal framework to be taken into account in the implementation of programmes and actions with a multi-year dimension.

Portugal has used 50% of the results frameworks and planning tools of the partner countries for indicator 17.15.1. 91% of the results objectives of the new cooperation programmes are aligned with the national strategies of the partner countries, in the data from the 2018 Round; 35% of the results indicators of new programmes were drawn from results frameworks of partner countries, and 23% of all results indicators can be monitored by governmental systems and statistics.

In indicator 17.16.1 we note the significant improvement in the medium-term predictability of cooperation (2016: 18% and 2018: 93%), and in untied aid (2016: 49% and 2018: 76%). The use of partner countries' results frameworks and planning tools, the use of their public finance management systems, and also annual predictability are the areas where it appears that increased efforts are needed to make progress. This also implies the need to work more closely with partners, bearing in mind the need to respect the principles of ownership, harmonisation and alignment.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

OVERALL EVALUATION

Developments with regard to SDG 17 in the autonomous regions were mostly positive, as in the national overall assessment. In fact, it is to be emphasised regarding the plan to improve access to technology, the increase in the number of fixed broadband internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants - in the ARA it went from 33% in 2017 to 40.1% in 2021, and in the ARM it grew from 34.2% in 2017 to 40.8% in 2021. Of note regarding the target alluding to the increased use of capacity-building technologies, in particular ICT, is the increased use of the internet. The proportion of individuals aged between 16 and 74 years in the ARA who use the internet was 75.4% in 2017 and then 86.3% in 2022, while in the ARM it went from 75.9% in 2017 to 86.1% in 2022.

Figure 57 – Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by autonomous region



Source: INE (2023), Statistical Annex in «Sustainable Development Goals. Indicators for Portugal. The 2030 Agenda»

5.3 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY AND THE 2030 AGENDA

Development cooperation policy plays a key role in implementing the external dimension of the 2030 Agenda. All SDGs integrate targets linked to partnerships and cooperation relationships in their specific scope, with support for the developing countries and contributing to global development. The multitude of current challenges of the international community put the achievement of the SDGs at risk, demonstrating the importance of international cooperation and solidarity and the need for a strong multilateral system, as well as capacity-building and resilience to absorb, adapt to and recover from shocks at all levels.

In order to enhance the quality of its external action in the framework of international cooperation, Portugal has guided its actions on the basis of principles that enable the implementation of partnerships for the pursuit of the SDGs. The following actions stand out: (i) commitment to institutional and human capacity-building to facilitate the mobilisation of investment and trade and promote sustainability; (ii) the transition to a co-financing approach, using various sources of funding and partnerships with stakeholders of a different nature, including local authorities, civil society, academia and the private sector, as well as multilateral partners such as the EU, through a strengthening of Delegated Cooperation, and with other donors, through a clear commitment to Triangular Cooperation.

Portuguese bilateral ODA accounts for, on average, 33% of total ODA, confirming the geographical concentration in Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOP) and East Timor (65% of gross bilateral ODA). ODA in 2022 grew for the second consecutive year, to EUR 480 millions. It increased by 17.5% in real terms compared to 2021, which is the largest increase recorded since 2010. The value corresponds to 0.23% of GNI. This increase reflects Portugal's commitment to continued support for the sustainable development of partner countries, notably in Africa, as well as humanitarian aid to Ukraine in the framework of combined efforts at the multilateral level, with a focus on the EU.

Mozambique, Ukraine and São Tomé and Príncipe stood out as the main beneficiaries of Portugal's bilateral ODA in 2022, followed by Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. The ODA considers the challenges these countries face in coping with the cumulative effects of different crises, including those arising from climate change, food insecurity, the war against Ukraine and the impact of the COVID-19 disease pandemic.

ECP 2030 - which replaces the Strategic Concept of Portuguese Cooperation 2014-2020 - embodies and rein-

forces a cooperation policy that is an integral and fundamental axis of Portuguese foreign policy, addressing global challenges of an interdependent nature. It is a State policy of continuity, based on a broad national consensus.

The Portuguese Cooperation model is a decentralised model, where Camões, I.P. plays the role of coordinator, while at political level the sectorial ministries coordinate the overall approach for cooperation in the CIC. At the operational level of Portuguese Cooperation, Camões, I.P. coordinates the strategies and sectorial interventions with the various focal points of the Permanent Secretariat of the CIC. The sectorial ministries are structural partners in planning, implementation and monitoring. Institutes and public entities of varied kinds (such as public institutes and laboratories), local government (municipalities and networks) also participate in Portuguese Cooperation, acting at the intersection between local and global development, universities, polytechnics and research centres, civil society organisations and the private sector.

ECP 2030, as the guiding framework for Portuguese cooperation policy until the end of the current decade, is strategically oriented towards the pursuit of the SDGs, building on the progress made in aligning national development cooperation policy with the 2030 Agenda. Its thematic axes are organised in accordance with the P's of the 2030 Agenda: People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships. ECP 2030 also incorporates, at the same time, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a cross-cutting priority, with all Portuguese Cooperation programmes having to integrate and demonstrate *ex ante* their contribution to this goal.

Portuguese Cooperation policy, in geographical terms, has provided for different degrees of geographical prioritisation, according to the principles of concentration and differentiation. The inner circle of priority action is the PALOP and East Timor, with which the policy has focused on long-term and structured cooperation, continuing the long-standing partnership relationship and exploring new opportunities. A second circle includes countries and regions of strategic interest where Portugal enjoys comparative advantages, namely in Africa, particularly in North Africa and West Africa, as well as in Latin America.

Portugal has focused on priority partner countries that fall into the categories of LDCs, SIDSs and/or fragile countries, while also implementing approaches adapted to countries that are undergoing graduation or have recently graduated. It has maintained, in this way, its strategy of concentrating ODA in this group of countries, earmarking 60% of gross bilateral ODA to LDCs and 33% to SIDS, between 2018 and 2022.

The Portuguese cooperation policy is based on integrated and comprehensive policies, focusing on three



dimensions of action: (i) Development Cooperation; (ii) Development Education and (iii) Humanitarian and Emergency Action.

Portuguese Cooperation has strategically affirmed the core nature of cooperation as a driver of development, strengthening its relevance and visibility. It has increased its capacity for intervention by consolidating the forms of cooperation that have been pursued:

i) Bilateral cooperation

Portugal, in bilateral terms, has strengthened cooperation with priority partner countries, consolidating the intervention model of the multi-annual Strategic Cooperation Programmes (SCP). The planned interventions of the SCP in each of the priority areas are aligned with and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Portugal implements the SCP with six countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and East Timor. Over the past few years, these programmes have contributed to the convergence between the strategic priorities and policies of the respective partners and the added value of Portuguese cooperation in key sectors for the pursuit of the SDGs, such as: education; health; labour and social affairs; humanitarian action and resilience; consolidation of the rule of law and good governance; justice, security and defence; energy, water and the environment; infrastructure; agriculture; public finances; economy and private sector.

Bilateral cooperation has also sought to strengthen the implementation of Programmes, Projects and Actions with more robust, structuring and medium and long-term approaches. The priority focus of these has been on education and health, such as the following projects: (i) Health for All in São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Centre of Haemodialysis in Mindelo in Cape Verde; (ii) the Education System Capacity-Building Programme in Guinea-Bissau; the Integrated Support Programme for the Education Sector in São Tomé and Príncipe; the Saber+ programme in Angola; Pro-Portuguese and FOCO.UNTL in East Timor; (iii) and the Cluster of Portuguese Cooperation on the Island of Mozambique, in the area of integrated development.

Over the last few years, all these projects reflect the focus of Portuguese Cooperation on promoting human development, through investment in people - in their skills, competences, rights and opportunities - as a driving force for transformation with a positive impact within the respective communities of the partner countries.

Portugal has followed the same policy of support for the development of education systems in partner countries, promoting the technical qualification of their human resources - including the training of teachers, managers and other professionals in the sector - the creation of new course curricula and textbooks. The Portuguese Cooper-

ation Scholarship Programme has contributed to the enhancement of human resources and institutions of the partner countries, while promoting values such as equality, equal opportunities and value of merit. Camões, I.P. has provided cooperation grants for the PALOP, East Timor, Senegal and Colombia. It aims, in the short term, to extend the geographical scope of this programme.

In the area of health, the support provided to the PALOP and East Timor is to be mentioned in the context of the health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. An Action Plan was created in 2020, based on three intervention axes: provision of personal protective materials to health professionals and diagnostic tools; training and capacity-building of health professionals; and provision of vaccines. The amounts spent in this Action Plan, taking into account all its stages, totalled approximately EUR 11 million and dozens of training courses, covering more than one thousand participants.

Portugal has also contributed financially, through the MNE and the Ministry of Health, to the Global Fund for the Fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This Fund has enabled support to be given to the fight against these diseases on a global scale, and specifically in the PALOP and East Timor, contributing to ensuring a healthier and safer future for the populations of these countries.

It should be noted that between 2018 and 2022 Portugal concentrated most of its gross bilateral ODA on addressing the social goals of the 2030 Agenda, such as education (30%), health (9%), governance, civil society and other social infrastructure (10%), together accounting for 50% of ODA. It also devoted 30% of its bilateral component to gender equality and women's empowerment.

In the field of justice and security, through the Technical-Police and Civil Protection Cooperation Programme and the Justice Cooperation Programme, the Ministries of Home Affairs and Justice have adopted a cross-cutting, multi-country approach with more flexible programmes and, where possible, with a focus on multiannuality. These Programmes have contributed to the capacity-building and institutional strengthening of partner countries, with the development of specialisation activities in functional areas. In the field of internal security: (i) Technical-Police and Civil Protection Cooperation; (ii) scholarships for the training of police officers; and (iii) electoral cooperation, including technical and logistical support for elections in Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe. Training courses have been undertaken in the Justice fields, specifically in the fields of criminal investigation, forensic medicine and registry and notary services. Equipment and supporting literature in this area have also been made available.

Bilateral cooperation has also been extended to new countries (Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, India and

Panama) with the creation of six new Small Project Funds (FPF) at the Portuguese Embassies of those countries, to support local initiatives.

ii) Multilateral cooperation

At the multilateral level, the EU, the UN system, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), CPLP, the Ibero-American Summit (CIB) and International Financial Institutions (IFI), including the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, are gaining prominence. The multilateral component of Portuguese ODA has gradually gained predominant weight between 2018 and 2022. Multilateral flows (preliminary figures) increased by 19 p.p. in 2022, compared to the previous year, amounting to EUR 294 million. That sum is mainly a result of the strengthening of Portugal's contribution to partnerships with the EU, the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group's International Development Association, for the sustainable and inclusive development of partner countries.

At the UN, Portugal has argued that the vulnerabilities and challenges of the graduation process must be taken into consideration when supporting the partner countries' truly sustainable development processes. In this respect, the support provided to São Tomé and Príncipe and Angola in the current transition process should be highlighted.

A new strategic orientation of Community cooperation was defined and agreed with the CPLP in 2021. It focuses on the promotion of efforts to coordinate, systematise and specialise cooperation policies in order to speed up the Member States' collective contribution to pursuing the 2030 Agenda. This has underpinned the strengthening of the Community to serve as a platform for the exchange of good practices in the improvement of public policies and their alignment with the 2030 Agenda, as well as to enhance the regular practice of sharing information on national SDG implementation plans. The Programmes, Projects and Actions undertaken in the framework of the financing of the CPLP Special Fund all contribute, in general, to the achievement of the targets set out in the 17 SDGs, with particular focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13 and 17.

Portugal has been an active promoter of the development of measures and actions in the field of non-discrimination and gender equality within the CPLP. In 2021, the CPLP Defence Component Action Plan was approved in order to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Also of note in the CPLP are: (i) projects for defence cooperation through technical advice, training and instruction, infrastructure restoration, provision of equipment; (ii) activities contributing to the strengthening of the safety and authority of the State at sea; (iii) incorporation of the

work of military field advisors within the scope of the projects included in the Framework Programmes.

The support that INE has provided in this context to the project for technical training in the area of statistics - CPLP Programme for Training National Statistical Systems of Portuguese-Speaking Countries - is also essential. The aim of that Programme is to strengthen the statistical capacities of the Portuguese-speaking countries, in particular in the areas of the SDGs, dissemination, geoinformation, statistical classifications, legislation and coordination.

The Ministry of Infrastructure, too, has conducted training courses within the scope of the CPLP, including: (i) the Engineering Laboratories of the CPLP Capacity-Building Programme; (ii) the Capacity-Building Course on Aeronautical Supervision and Mobile Service, Maritime Mobile Service and Radio-Determination Service.

Cooperation in the Ibero-American region is a unique model thanks to its multidimensional and multi-stakeholder regional approach, horizontal in nature, with voluntary participation and in which countries participate according to their national priorities in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The cooperation programmes and activities in implementation have supported Member States' capacity-building and development processes and act in the areas targeted by the 17 SDGs.

The main instruments of Ibero-American cooperation are the Programmes, Initiatives and Associated Projects (PIPA), approved at the summits. Portugal currently participates in 12, with several sectorial Ministries and other entities, including the local government, involved.

The Portuguese action which led to the adoption at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of Andorra (2021) of the Global Citizenship Initiative for Sustainable Development is to be highlighted, which contributes to the 17 SDGs, in general, and more specifically to SDG 4 (4.7) and 17. It considers that the understanding by citizens of the role of international cooperation is essential, since it jointly addresses the political, economic, social and environmental challenges at local and global level, which the 2030 Agenda seeks to address. Included here are the new challenges that demonstrate the growing interdependence between peoples and countries.

The last Peer Review of the OECD's DAC of Portuguese Cooperation took place in 2021-2022. The final report acknowledged the progress and unique added value of the decentralised system of Portuguese Cooperation and made recommendations that will help to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation.

Portugal endorsed, in this regard, the latest DAC recommendations on issues that are cross-cutting priorities for Portuguese Cooperation, namely, in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach of 2019, the elimina-



tion of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the context of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action; and, in 2021, strengthening civil society in development cooperation and humanitarian action.

Notable in relation to the EU framework, the Neighbourhood, Development Cooperation and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI - Global Europe) was adopted during the 2021 Portuguese Presidency of the EU and the negotiations on the future Partnership Agreement with the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (post-Cotonou Agreement) were concluded.

In the case of joint work at EU level, Portugal has implemented, under indirect management (delegated cooperation), a significant portfolio of projects in partner countries in various sectors, including education, health, labour and economic growth, justice, climate action, tourism and food security. It has also promoted and supported the design and implementation of EU-funded projects, managed by Portuguese civil society partner entities, enabling interventions in new countries such as Colombia and Gambia.

The actions undertaken in the defence area contribute to the pursuit of SDG 5, SDG 16 and SDG 17, in particular national participation in the European Peace Facility (EPF). This Facility has been used to support various EU and Portuguese countries and partners, notably Mozambique, for the training of the Mozambican armed forces in combating the terrorist threat in Cabo Delgado.

Portuguese cooperation regarding the environmental component of sustainable development has primarily been through the EF. It has been particularly focused on climate action and support to partner countries so that they can successfully reach the NDCs presented under the Paris Agreement, to enable resilient low-carbon development. This activity has been reflected across different areas, covering several SDGs and comprising the strengthening of institutional capacity-building in the fields of water and sanitation, nature conservation and support for the creation of protected areas (Biosphere Reserves/UNESCO), integrated management of solid waste (including environmental education) and sustainable energy. Also in the form of direct work with local populations through activities focused on adaptation to the negative impacts of climate change and food security.

iii) Triangular cooperation

Portugal recognises that triangular cooperation is a way of going beyond traditional donor-recipient relationships. It also promotes horizontal and more equitable partnerships in a true spirit of shared responsibilities, in the light of effective development principles. Portugal has reaffirmed the central importance and relevance of this form

of cooperation in the pursuit of the SDGs, in the multilateral framework with emphasis on the OECD, CIB, CPLP and the United Nations. Portugal has accepted that triangular cooperation complements and strengthens traditional models of bilateral cooperation, allowing for the development of new capabilities. It can mobilise more resources and investment and thus achieve greater impact and visibility. The co-organisation by Portugal and the OECD of international meetings on this form of cooperation has become increasingly important and is more in the spotlight. The last edition took place in 2022 in Lisbon.

Portugal has been signing Memoranda of Understanding on triangular cooperation, with partner countries from Latin America, North America, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and the priority countries of Portuguese Cooperation are the main beneficiaries. It has implemented several triangular cooperation projects in this framework. One of note is the project of sustainable coffee production in the Gorongosa mountain range in Mozambique, in partnership with Brazil, and the response to COVID-19 in Guinea-Bissau, in triangulation with Israel. A project in São Tomé and Príncipe is being implemented in the cocoa sector, in a partnership with Colombia.

IV) Partnerships with civil society

Partnerships with civil society and the defence of the civic space are of the utmost importance for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, the capacity of non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs) to mobilise communities and citizens should also be considered. The focus, in this regard, has been to involve and support the capacity of Portuguese civil society to act in relation to the three pillars of Portuguese Cooperation. Mechanisms have also been developed to support and work directly with civil society in priority partner countries.

A number of (co)financing instruments have been created and strengthened, exclusively to support projects that are the initiative of NGDOs. Portugal earmarks, on average, EUR 12 million annually for all national, international and local NGOs, representing 6% of gross bilateral ODA.

The political recognition of the role of the Portuguese Platform of NGDOs is also acknowledged as an important vector in promoting the NGDOs' capacity to act. The Agreement signed with that organisation establishes a regular framework for institutional collaboration in the definition of policies and strategies, fostering its involvement in the identification, implementation and evaluation of policies and projects within the existing coordination and consultation structures.

The Development Cooperation Forum was established in 2005 for political dialogue. It is a forum for promoting the coherence and complementarity of Portuguese

cooperation, allowing reflection and dialogue between the state, local government, the private sector, academia and civil society, in order to foster the development of joint projects, partnership actions, proposals and opinions on cooperation. As foreseen in the ECP 2030, the governance model, functioning and composition of this Forum will be aligned to correspond to the needs of the development cooperation policy and the expectations of the different stakeholders.

The private sector also plays a central role in achieving the SDGs. Portugal has strengthened its support for private investment in partner countries, with this in mind. This is done through the creation of innovative instruments such as the Development Financing Compact in the PA-LOP (Portuguese-speaking Compact) and the promotion of access to the financing opportunities existing in the framework of the IFIs, at European and international level. It is also done by the integration of the private sector as a partner in the implementation of development programmes, projects and actions in partner countries, along with interventions to promote the improvement of the respective business environment and the capacity-building of the local private sector.

5.4 ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Domestic, foreign and regional public policy planning, as has been mentioned in the previous chapters, has increasingly incorporated the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

EP 2030, as the general guiding framework for the definition and implementation of structural public policies in the next decade, is based on four thematic agendas for the development of Portugal in the 2030 horizon and aligned with the dimensions of sustainability.

The PIs and policy measures are a decisive element in the implementation of the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development. A set of public policies implemented during the period under review that have recently come into force and that have proven to be important in the pursuit of the SDGs have been highlighted throughout sub-chapter 5.2 and the respective Annex.

The following table presents a set of PIs and/or policy measures⁴⁸ that fit into the perspective of accelerating the 2030 Agenda, organised by the five P's, which have recently been approved or are in the process of preparation/review.

Figure 58 – PI and Policy Measures Relevant to the Decade of Action

5P		Planning Instruments and Policy Measures
	PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Action Plan on the Childhood Guarantee 2022-2030 ➢ National Long-Term Strategy for Combating Energy Poverty 2023-2050 ➢ National Health Plan 2021-2030
	PROSPERITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ National Strategy for Connectivity in Very High Capacity Electronic Communications Networks 2023-2030 ➢ Decent Work Agenda ➢ National Railway Plan ➢ National Housing Programme (PNH)
	PLANET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ PENSAARP 2030 ➢ Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 ➢ MAR 2030 programme ➢ National Green Public Procurement Strategy 2030 - ECO 360 ➢ «Forest Valley» Programme (policy measure to be launched in 1st half of 2023) ➢ National Smart Territories Strategy ➢ Climate Action and Sustainability Programme
	PEACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ National Defence Strategic Concept (under review) ➢ Internal Security Strategic Concept ➢ EISU (in preparation) ➢ Integrated Urban Security Strategy ➢ National Data Strategy (in preparation)
	PARTNERSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Portuguese Cooperation Strategy 2030

Source: PlanAPP, PCM

⁴⁸ The list is not exhaustive but illustrative



The Partnerships, which correspond to SDG 17, are extremely relevant, since any initiative aimed at accelerating the pursuit of the SDGs must be based on the principles of participation and collaboration as well as the exchange of information and experience within a framework of collective learning. SDG 17 advocates in one of its targets, on the other hand, the increase of overall macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and coherence. Most PIs and public policy measures intrinsically contribute to this goal, highlighting the following initiatives that foster this vision:

- It is envisaged, within the scope of the programmes that make the PT2030 a reality, that the selection criteria, the evaluation of applications and the evaluation of projects will incorporate the «2030 Agenda» benchmark and its SDGs;
- The CCDRs and the Inter-municipal Community (CIM) envisage the development of inter-council plans oriented towards the SDGs, at regional level;
- At local level, municipalities have been playing a leading role in the implementation of municipal-wide projects in partnership with local stakeholders.

Another dimension to be taken into account for accelerating the 2030 Agenda and promoting policy coherence concerns the legislative impact assessment mechanisms of these policies. In this regard, the various questionnaires underlying the social impact assessment have recently been reviewed. These questionnaires focus on gender equality, poverty, disability, and risks of fraud, corruption and related offences, pending entry into force.

These reviews broaden the scope of the preliminary legislative impact assessment for each of the thematic areas. This enables an analysis illustrated by the risk-based regulation approach which produces results by considering various indicators, in order to ensure that public policy is aligned with the objectives of the different areas, as is currently the case in the AIAC.

Furthermore, the implementation of the SDGs recommends that they be integrated at an early stage in the preparation of strategic laws, regulations and policies, and in all areas of government. In this respect, some EU Member States have already started to integrate the SDGs in their *ex ante* legislative impact assessment mechanisms (see, for example, the [report of the «Peer 2 Peer for Mainstreaming the SDGs in Regulatory Impact Assessment» project](#)).

Like the non-economic analysis components, there is room for improvement in the current legislative impact assessment model that enables, in a clear and objective manner, the integration of the SDGs in the procedures associated with this assessment. Having tools for this purpose that ensure measurement in terms of the alignment of public policy with the SDGs, within the scope of the *ex ante* legislative impact assessment, may contribute not only to the coherence of public policy, but also to the collection of information that would enable monitoring indicators and/or metrics to be established. Metrics and monitoring indicators are essential for the verification, monitoring and achievement of the SDGs at national level. Moreover, retrospective improvements can be made, namely the verification of the contribution of public policy to achieve the targets set by Portugal, in the framework of *ex post* analyses.



6

**PURSUIT
OF THE SDGS
AT REGIONAL
AND LOCAL
LEVEL**



The following analysis focuses on the challenges and contributions that each group of stakeholders, excluding the government, considers relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, supplemented with information gathered via desk research. These contributions were collected from two WG: one at the regional level with the CCDRs, and another at sub-regional level in the two entities representing local authorities (ANMP and ANAFRE).

6.1 REGIONAL LEVEL

The CCDRs are generally aware of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, as well as specific tasks and competences that contribute to the achievement of SDGs in particular, adding different levels of ownership and integration, related to some of these, within the framework of their missions and competences.

The following stand out considering the common competences and initiatives of the CCDRs:

- Management of the contributions of cohesion policy through the streamlining and implementation of European funds and other regional development financing instruments for the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda;
 - Alignment of guidance documents with the 2030 Agenda, such as RIS3 or Regional Agenda for the Circular Economy;
 - Air quality assessment and air quality network management (SDGs 3, 11, 15);
 - Industrial licensing (SDGs 8, 9 and 12);
 - Waste management (SDG 12);
 - Licensing of mineral extraction units with the approval of Landscape Recovery Plans and verification of their implementation (SDGs 12 and 13);
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) authority for certain project types, as a member of the EIA Assessment Committees for other project types
- and as an Entity with Specific Environmental Responsibility (ERAЕ) for various SEAs (SDGs 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15);
- Drawing up/reviewing Regional Spatial Planning Plans (PROTs) and monitoring of spatial management tools (SDGs 11, 13, 14 and 15);
 - Definition of Regional Strategies, leading to the implementation of regional development policies in the various fields, also incorporate objectives for the pursuit of the SDGs, oriented according to their respective areas;
 - Technical support by the CCDR to local authorities and their associations in the region, involving Metropolitan Areas or Intermunicipal Communities, also contributing to the pursuit of the SDGs at local level, in the urban and rural context of the implementation of public policies and projects;
 - Chairing and supporting the Regional Commissions for Integrated Rural Fire Management, developing the Regional Action Programme of the Integrated Rural Fire Management System, which it chairs, and monitoring its implementation, also contributing to the pursuit of the SDGs, in particular SDGs 13 and 15;
 - Healthy Neighbourhoods Programme;
 - T-INVEST Platform;
 - National Network of Teleworking/Coworking Spaces in Inland Regions;
 - New Generation Enterprise Reception Areas that are more resilient, greener and more digital (SDGs 9 and 13);
 - Participation in Council Education Boards (SDG 4);
 - Implementation of State incentives for regional and social media, promoting information and awareness raising (SDG 16);
 - Coordination, in the context of its areas of competence, with central government entities, local authorities, sectoral associations and NGOs, which contribute to the implementation of the various SDGs, with a focus on partnership building (SDG 17).

LINES OF ACTION OF CCDRS FROM THE SDGS

› **CCDR. NORTH** - The region's circular economy strategy focuses on three dimensions: agri-food; cities and circular territories; Construction and Demolition Waste (CDW). PROT-North will present all the dimensions correlated with the SDGs, including critical, sustainability and strategic factors.

› **CCDR CENTRE** - In the Regional Strategy 2030 as well as in its Smart Specialisation Strategy, it has set regional priorities linked to the SDGs. The annual regional monitoring framework for the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) is aligned with the respective SDGs, as several targets and indicators are of common ownership. The EPSR monitoring serves, to date, to monitor some SDGs in the region. Work is being carried out to cross-reference the indicators for monitoring regional success published in the Central Portugal Barometer (*Barómetro Centro de Portugal*) with their contribution to the SDGs (each indicator will be linked to the SDGs to which it contributes). At the same time, a methodology for allocating projects financed by European funds to the SDGs is being considered. The region is involved as a pilot region in an international project (with nine more European regions) developed by the JRC with the support of the EP, in collaboration with EP (DG Regio) and Eurostat, which aims to work on a harmonised and coherent framework of indicators for monitoring the progress of the SDGs in European regions. The CCDR Centro also involved INE in this work and the results can be replicated in other regions.

› **CCDR LVT** - This includes the construction of a European capital region aligned with the SDGs, in the institution's first strategic objective. It identifies in the Lisbon 2030 the SDGs to which each strategic objective contributes, with contributions to all SDGs, and a major focus on SDGs 8, 9, 13 and 14. It implements or participates in programmes and projects with own contributions to the SDGs, which include the Healthy Neighbourhoods Programme, which, in the Lisbon and Tagus Valley Region, supported 96 projects promoted by associations, collectives, NGOs, civic movements and residents' organisations, with direct contributions to the SDGs and registered on the ODSlocal platform (see subchapter 4.2).

› **CCDR ALENTEJO** - A monitoring system is planned for the Smart Specialisation Strategy aligned with the SDG. This Commission has signed a commitment with

the CIMs of the region (see Annex II) for each project financed by the Alentejo 2030 to explain the contribution to the SDGs and the respective monitoring to be done on the basis of a battery of geo-referenced indicators. This CCDR coordinates and gives impetus to the Forum of Circular Economy of Alentejo, involving a wide range of regional and national partners and aiming to reflect and discuss the theme in the Region. The CCDR is or has been involved in projects related to circular public procurement, construction and demolition waste, mineral resources, agri-food, financing models or development of circular systemic solutions related to water, energy, waste and plastics. It also develops the Regional Action Programme of Integrated Management of Rural Fires of Alentejo, the Regional Strategy of Adaptation to Climate Change and the dissemination/promotion of the Soil Mission, among others.

› **CCDR ALGARVE** - The Regional Agenda of Transition to the Circular Economy and its implementation, with awareness and information actions, waste management in various activities such as fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, tourism. The reuse of waste water is one of the objectives and the implementation of the Action Plan on CDW. The following projects, including Action Plans, which are scheduled to be implemented and monitored, stand out because of their relevance in integrating the objectives of the 2030 Agenda: Action Plan for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity in the Algarve; Contribution of the Algarve Region to Decarbonisation - Action Plan; Regional Strategy for Sustainable Nautical Tourism - Action Plan; Project Atlazul; Regional Blue Growth Strategy; Joint Project of Intervention III; The Mediterranean diet project; Project Algarve Welcomes; Regional Climate Action Plan; the Circular City Network project; project AI4PA Portugal. The CCDR welcomes EuropeDirect Algarve, which develops actions throughout the year, specifically aimed at implementing the SDGs in the Algarve. It has diverse partnerships, involving schools, public entities, local development associations and NGOs, such as the LIXArte project, with 24 partners.



The CCDR consultation process makes the following suggestions:

- Promote the standardisation of practices between CCDRs by setting up a WG on SDGs to encourage the exchange of knowledge and experience (e.g. the initiative of the Central Region to create a sustainability label recognising entities with these concerns seems to be of interest to other regions) and collective learning;
- Conduct downstream analysis and planning of strategies and actions, interlinked with functions and activities of the CCDRs that have the potential to contribute to the SDGs;
- Promote the systematic internalisation of SDGs, in particular within the CIMs and civil society.
- Adapt indicators and targets to the national, regional and local context, as the UN's official scoreboard of indicators is still heavily set to developing countries and, on the other hand, there is no indicators localised.

6.2 SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL

Sustainable development at a local level implies that all stakeholders in the territory interact, with SDG 17 being a reference framework to promote leverage and accelerate the 2030 Agenda implementation process at this level, in which Local Authorities play a decisive role.

Although the intersection between daily action and the 2030 Agenda is not always expressed at the local level, namely through a monitoring process, the truth is that its intervention in the field of water supply and waste collection, action on climate change, education and teaching, the eradication of poverty, the infrastructure of the territory, the reduction of inequalities, the construction of sustainable cities, civil protection and the safety of populations, are decisive contributions to the implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

As the [Sustainable Cities 2020 Strategy](#) states, cities are prime stages of sustainable development, and this illustrates the key role they play in pursuing the SDGs.

COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY (SDGs 13 AND 17)

[Lisbon City Business Mobility Pact](#) is a commitment- promoted by World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Lisbon Municipality (CML), Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) Portugal and the companies and institutions that signed it. The aim is to contribute to more sustainable mobility in the city of Lisbon, through specific actions, to which the companies commit, in interaction with the CML, involving their employees, suppliers and customers.

[Braga Business Mobility Pact](#) is a project promoted by BCSD Portugal and Braga Municipality that aims to contribute to more sustainable mobility in the municipality of Braga, through specific actions, to which companies commit.

PROJECT «GAMING+SAÚDE»

Aiming at disease prevention, the Cascais Municipality and the Regional Health Administration of Lisbon and Tagus Valley signed a collaboration protocol to promote Mental Hygiene and Physical Activity, valuing Primary Health Care services and aligning them with the SDGs.

In this context, joint actions will be developed, with the involvement of all stakeholders - school and family communities, among other partners - with a view to promoting healthy lifestyles, thus providing better quality of life and well-being to all residents of Cascais.

Thus, the Gaming+Saúde project was born, which aims to contribute to promoting healthy habits and anticipating risks among young gamers. A survey was

carried out on a «gaming» online platform, which recreates an online game environment. In addition to the usual sociodemographic component of the sample, the survey has a behavioral component that seeks to understand the access, navigation and practice of online games by these young people.

Based on the results obtained – which are in the analysis and interpretation phase – measures and activities to promote health and well-being will be outlined, to be implemented together.

The Lisbon and Tagus Valley Regional Health Administration aims to scale this project to other municipalities in the region by 2030.

The growing national awareness of the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the urgency of its implementation gave rise to several movements during the preparation phase (2015 to 2020) with the aim of supporting municipalities for the decade of implementation (2020-2030).

The BCSD has published a [Handbook to support policy-makers in pursuing the SDGs in municipalities](#), and it is clear from the report [Rumo 2030](#) that there is greater ownership and pursuit of the SDGs by municipalities.

Below are some relevant examples of such movements:

ODSlocal Platform

(Refer to subchapter 4.2)

Rumo a 2030, Local Authorities and SDGs

To support municipalities in the pursuit of the SDGs, the Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr, in collaboration with other entities, published in 2020 the [Municipalities and Sustainable Development Goals - Local Action Manual for Global Transformation](#) manual.

Healthy Cities Network (SDGs 3 and 17)

The Rede Portuguesa de Municípios Saudáveis (Portuguese Network of Healthy Municipalities), formally established in 1997, is an association of 65 municipalities whose mission is to support the dissemination, implementation and development of the Healthy Cities project in municipalities that intend to make health promotion a priority on the agenda of policy makers.

The Network is working on two guidelines: support and promote the development of local strategies to encourage health gains; promote and intensify cooperation and communication between the municipalities that make up the Network and between the other national networks participating in the WHO project Healthy Cities.

CESOP-Local Network

(Refer to subchapter 4.2)

Educational Cities Network (SDGs 4 and 17)

Portuguese network affiliated to the International Association of Educating Cities (Asociación Internacional de Ciudades Educadoras) (AICE), a non-profit association. It comprises a permanent structure of collaboration between local authorities committed to the Charter of Educational Cities. The Portuguese network has 90 members and is a member of several of the thematic working groups. The «Inclusive Cities» WG coordinated by Almada Municipality, includes 36 Portuguese municipalities and is regularly active in terms of participation in national congresses, holding thematic meetings or holdings censuses and the dissemination of municipalities' activity around the axes: «inclusion» and «educational cities».

Portuguese Network of Smart Cities (RPCI)

Also known as RENER Living Lab, this network of 120 municipalities was established in 2009 as the Pilot Network



for Electrical Mobility. RPCI is managed by INTELI (a private non-profit association). This dedicated digital transition network impacts on SDG 11.

RPCI assigns a seal that distinguishes projects associated with the «Smart City» concept, promoting innovation, creativity, sustainability, inclusion, participation and quality of life, in a context of «reinvention of cities».

INTELI has established the Smart Cities Index 2020 Smart Cities Index 2020 that aims to measure the attractiveness of cities to talent, visitors and investors by linking innovation, environmental quality and social and cultural inclusion.

SDG PROGRESS

Local authorities play a key role in pursuing the 2030 Agenda. Their competences and tasks in various areas, based on their daily activities (water supply, waste collection, education, infrastructure, civil protection and public safety, among many others), are intrinsically linked to the actions leading to the achievement of the SDGs.

The acceleration of the pursuit of the SDGs is dependent on the facilitating transformations of the incorporation of the SDGs into the dedicated strategies and action plans. This chapter aims to highlight some of the transformations that have occurred in the last 5 years, based on documentary research and sessions with ANMP, to complement the information collected.

The ANMP, as a representative association of Portuguese municipalities, incorporated the challenges arising from the SDGs into its political agenda, registering in its operating structure working structures (sections) dedicated to SDG matters within the scope of which these themes are debated in more detail. Resulting from this are work proposals and technical and political solutions that embody the implementation and desire to accelerate the 2030 Agenda. Examples of these structures are:

- i) The «Smart Cities» Section of Municipalities, with more than a hundred Municipalities, dedicates its attention to matters such as work and economic growth (SDG 8), innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), creation of sustainable communities (SDG 11) partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs (SDG 17);
- ii) The Municipalities Section for Climate Action, with more than 70 Municipalities, which dedicates its efforts on sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), climate action (SDG 13) and protecting life on earth (SDG 15);
- iii) The Section of Municipalities with Fishing Activity and Ports which, bringing together the majority of coastal Municipalities, dedicating particular attention, among other matters, to the protection of marine life (SDG 14);

- iv) The Section of Municipalities for Renewable Energies with 130 Municipalities that work together on matters related to renewable and accessible energies (ODS 7);
- v) The Section of Municipalities for Low Density and the Rural World which, bringing together more than 130 Municipalities, focuses its activity on reducing inequalities (ODS10);
- vi) The Municipalities with Spa Section, with around 60 Municipalities, devotes its attention to quality health issues (SDG 3) seeking to guarantee local responses to promote well-being for everyone, at all ages.

In recent years, the ANMP has been negotiating with the Government an in-depth process of competence transfer, with a view to bringing decision-making centres closer to local communities in order to better adapt public policies and services to the reality of the territory and the needs of the communities. In this sense, Portuguese Municipalities have recently seen their competences in the field of social action reinforced, allowing them to intervene in the eradication of poverty (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2), in the reduction of inequalities (SDG 10); in the field of health, or the promotion of quality health (SDG 3); in the field of education, acting more decisively in promoting quality education (ODS 4); in the field of justice, allowing them to intervene in the field of violence against women (SDG 5), in supporting victims of crime and in cooperation with other areas of justice (SDG 16).

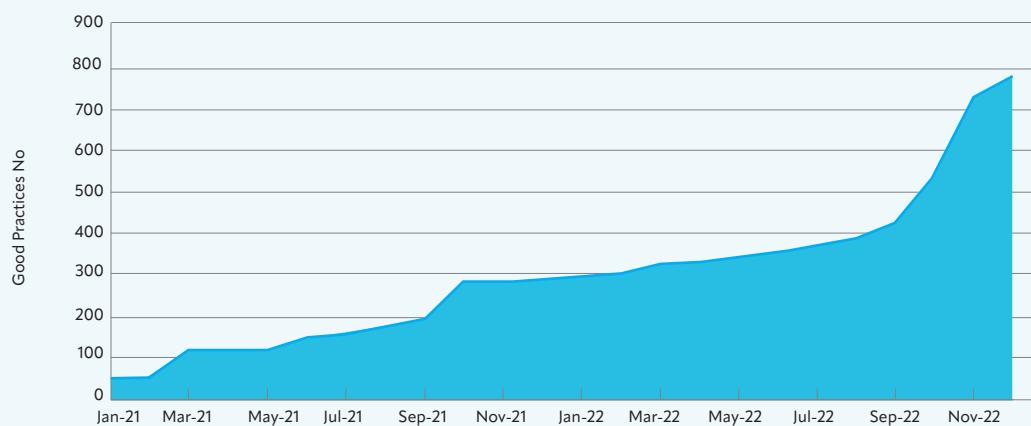
One of the areas of the 2030 Agenda that has also been receiving particular attention from the ANMP and Portuguese municipalities is gender equality (SDG 5). In this sense, the ANMP has been encouraging Municipalities to subscribe to the European Charter for the Equality of Women and Men in Local Life (initiative of the Council of Municipalities and Regions of Europe), with more than 160 Municipalities currently committed to putting their skills at the service of greater equality for the communities they represent and to make gender equality a reality in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life.

Specifically for the 2030 Agenda, the ANMP recently created a [section entirely devoted to the SDGs](#), to support its member in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs, based on collective learning and the exchange of knowledge and experiences. Municipalities can join the department on a voluntary basis. At the time of reporting, 79 municipalities are members of this section that has five priority axes: (i) Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR); (ii) the financing framework for SDG initiatives; (iii) training and empowerment of technicians and elected representatives; (iv) Internal and external SDG communication and

also (v) LABS SDG, a national and Portuguese-speaking world HUB. The Action Plan was adopted for the period 2023-25. This section is currently carrying out a survey of the municipalities that have signed up, that is still at the analysis stage.

The information available on the ODSlocal Platform demonstrates that the number of municipalities that have signed up and the best practices uploaded are growing, which demonstrates the positive evolution of progress towards the SDGs at local level.

Figure 59 – Cumulative evolution of the number of Good Practices uploaded to the SDGlocal portal, up to 31 December 2022⁴⁹



Source: Adapted from the ODSlocal report and the [Practical Contributions Report for the SDGs in Portugal – An analysis of Municipalities best practices and local projects in the portal of ODSlocal, March 2023](#).

The analysis of the 790 Good Municipalities Practices and the 699 Projects promoted by local entities, registered on the ODSlocal Platform, shows that both make positive contributions to all 17 SDGs, without exception. However, good practices are the initiative of the municipalities and the projects are the initiative of local civil society stakeholders and geo-referenced to the territory. In the [platform's report](#) it is interesting to see the complementarity between these two universes, since good council practices focus more on the Prosperity strand (SDGs 10 and 11) and the projects focus more on the People strand (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), and both contribute in a similar way to the SDGs of the other strands (Planet, Peace and Partnerships).

It can be seen that Good Municipalities Practices contribute mainly to SDGs 11, 4, 3, 13 and 17. On the other hand, they are less targeted at SDGs 7, 2, 5, 6 and 14.

The ODSlocal Platform Report also highlights the following conclusions:

- The SDGs that most benefit (co-benefits), consistently, all other SDGs are: SDG 8 and 17;
- The SDG pairs with most consistent reciprocal benefits are SDGs 1 and 2 and SDGs 13 and 15;
- The SDGs that show the most side effects (trade-offs) with all the others are SDGs 4 and 13;
- The SDG pairs that require a greater commitment to each other are SDGs 1 and 13.

⁴⁹ Practical contributions to the SDGs in Portugal: An Analysis of Council Good Practices and Local Projects Mapped in the Local SDG Platform Portal, March 2023



As mentioned above, the existing information on the strategic incorporation of SDGs into council planning is partial. Thus, to cite some concrete examples on different themes, the [Golden Energy ranking of Sustainable Municipalities](#) and the information from the ODSlocal Platform as well as the municipalities applying for the Green Flag (ECO XXI⁵⁰) was used.

CHALLENGES INHERENT IN PURSUING THE SDGS

It was highlighted, following the consultation with organisations representing local government, that:

- The value offered in pursuing the SDGs is still not clear to all municipalities and only when this happens will the theme and the 2030 Agenda be put on the priorities of council agendas. It is essential to bring the Council Strategy into line with the SDGs.
- Limitations in terms of both human and financial resources are also a common difficulty. This situation is a consequence of the frequent lack of alignment of public funding (RRP and PT2030), as well as the lack of specialist training of technicians. This capacity-building must have a wide coverage, including elected council members as well.

■ The larger municipalities, usually with more resources, are more aware and therefore have another level of commitment. Individual initiatives are often registered in the smaller municipalities, driven by the mayors who are more aware of the 2030 Agenda, and who make it possible to promote implementation actions. This political leadership is essential.

- The inclusion of training mechanisms, mainly for municipalities with less financial capacity, would allow for Local Authorities to better implement the 2030 Agenda, within the scope of the priority stages of the National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030, and constitute an incentive for the preparation of VLR;
- Establishment of coordination mechanisms for all entities operating at the sub-regional level, namely CCDRs, CIMs, Metropolitan Areas and Local Authorities.

The following are standard initiatives by thematic area, undertaken by local authorities. The examples should be considered illustrative and do not suggest any kind of promotion or comparison with the other municipalities that do not appear in these highlights.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The city of Porto has focused on three pillars of sustainability: energy transition, mobility and the creation of more sustainable services and products. The municipality also reports on the sustainability measures taken. In 2020, EUR 315 million was invested in the transition to a more sustainable city. The highlights are the municipalities urban mobility programmes and the implemented projects Revitalise Porto and Porto of Tradition,

focusing on the (re)creation of greener spaces and the [Porto Energy Hub](#) - specialised support for projects that promote energy efficiency and renewable energies to mitigate energy poverty and promote better living conditions. Porto also stood out in the People sphere, with the project to support the homeless.

⁵⁰ The ECOXXI Project, coordinated by the European Blue Flag Association, aims to identify and recognise good sustainability practices developed at council level, highlighting a number of aspects considered fundamental to the construction of sustainable development. In 2022, 59 municipalities (19% of Portuguese municipalities) applied for the ECOXXI Green Flag. This is one of the largest participations registered over the 16 editions of the Programme. 54 ECOXXI Green Flags were awarded (91.5% of participating municipalities). Green Flags have been awarded to municipalities since 2006, and in 2016 it was extended to include parishes (ECO Parishes XXI)

PUBLIC LIGHTING

Cascais has made important investments in the design and renovation of its urban spaces, in particular by reducing the costs of public lighting and in the frequency and quality of transport in the city. It has also invested in solutions based on management systems, aimed at promoting efficiency in the most diverse sectors covered by energy and mobility.

SELECTIVE WASTE COLLECTION

Moura, a town in Alentejo, almost on the border with Spain, has implemented a PAYT (Pay-As-You-Throw) system for waste collection. The town is very concerned about this issue and is currently drawing up, in collaboration with other relevant local players, an action plan to improve sustainability in its municipal area. This project is part of a new initiative of the DGT, which is called InC2 - Circular Cities.

WASTE RECYCLING

Guimarães is part of an URBACT network to transfer good practices from the city of Santiago de Compostela. The network's aim is to create incentives and empower citizens to adhere to selective waste collection and the recycling of waste. (GREEN TROOP)

In 2020, the EC awarded the city a prize due to it being part of the «100 Smart Cities» of Europe.

The municipality intends to be a real «Future Lab» this decade and, to this end, it is working on projects that aim to transform some of the most challenging public sectors for the urban centres: energy, water, mobility, housing, employment and waste.

DIGITAL TRANSITION

Aveiro has developed a project financed by the European Urban Innovative Actions Programme - called «Aveiro Tech City». This project aims to use technology as a means to achieve important improvements in the quality of life of its citizens and the local governance system, through the increasing digitisation of council services that contribute to the sustainability of the city and to the greater participation of citizens in the process.

MOBILITY

The city of Braga was the winner of the **European Mobility Week 2022 Award** having distinguished itself by the implementation and improvement of permanent infrastructure and for raising awareness of sustainable mobility among residents, universities and companies. The initiatives implemented in Braga include the «School Bus» project for schools, the creation of cycle paths and new bicycle parking spaces, the creation of a

shared bicycle hire system, the extension of pedestrian zones and new green spaces, the modernisation of the public transport fleet to electric vehicles, the reduction of speed limits in areas around schools, the creation of conditions for people with reduced mobility and a safer road infrastructure.



STRATEGIC PLANNING ALIGNED WITH SDGs

Loulé is a pioneer municipality in the commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its implementation. It worked on the design of the ODSlocal Platform and has held numerous training sessions for its staff on the theme of SDGs.

It has a Municipal Climate Action Plan. The council's Strategic Plan and the municipal budget, as well as all municipal publications, are aligned with the 17 SDGs. The Loulé MunicipalHandbook, distributed monthly

to the population, is dedicated to a specific SDG each month. It promotes the dissemination and explanation of the SDG, with examples of good council practices. It is now committed to promoting a large-scale communication campaign to reach the general public. Currently, Loulé Municipality presides over the department of the ANMP exclusively dedicated to the SDGs. Loulé is working on the production of the VLR.



ODSLOCAL AWARD

In 2022, Torres Vedras won three awards at the fringe event of the Annual Conference of the ODSlocal Platform: the ODSlocal Award - Subcategory «Best Set of Good Practices», a «Dynamic Seal» and a «Performance Seal».

This was due to the numerous [initiatives, projects and programmes](#) (140 good practices and 14 projects registered on the Platform) aimed at pursuing the various SDGs.

GLOBAL INITIATIVE SDG CITIES AND VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW (VLR)

Mafra Municipality has made a firm commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda, which it has put into practice by signing the declaration of intent and formalising its collaboration with UN Habitat - United Nations Human Settlements Programme - «More Sustainable Mafra».

As a result of the work carried out, Mafra is the first Portuguese council to be awarded Silver Certification, in recognition of its integration into «Global SDG Cities Initiative».

Within the scope of its activities, reference should also be made to the supra-municipal project for the creation of «Regional SDG laboratories» (regional centre of excellence, with functions of applied research, training and capacity building and knowledge sharing) in Mafra, Braga, Loulé and Quelimane (Mozambique).

Mafra was also the first municipality to prepare a VLR, unanimously approved by the Municipal Assembly, in a session held on April 19. The format of this report was based on the [global guidelines for the preparation of VLR](#), developed by the United Nations De-

partment for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Mafra's VLR was prepared by the municipal internal multidisciplinary team, with the support of external consultants, taking inspiration from the reports from Bristol (United Kingdom) and Tokyo (Japan). For this purpose, active listening to mayors, directors and municipal technicians, civil society, companies and academia was implemented, through VEP (Vision, Strategy and Projects) workshops, with this work being deepened through the collection of data and the choice of indicators from the MSI of the CESOP-Local (see subchapter 4.2), in conjunction with the Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) of the United Nations. The ambition is for the RVL to be an instrument, either to support local decision-makers in decision-making processes, or by providing a cognitive tool to facilitate internal and external dialogue, or even to motivate the involvement of civil society.

Mafra has developed several communication actions, the most relevant being the creation of a [musical and video production on the subject](#).



A networking structure operating at council level and at supra-council level in some territories is also considered to be important - the *Rede Social*. These networks, with national coverage, are chaired by the council but contain representation of the significant stakeholders of the public services at local level (health, employment and education), as well as most civil society organisations and, in some cases, representatives of the private sector. They aim to promote social cohesion through balanced social development.

Social Networks are responsible for drawing up a Social Development Plan. These networks are further broken down into smaller networks, at the level of the parishes, to facilitate the diagnosis and solution of local social problems. These networks have contributed significantly to supporting the most disadvantaged groups in each territory and to minimising inequalities.

FUTURE PLANNING

ANMP, by creating a department dedicated exclusively to the pursuit of the SDGs, is accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, although it is still at the beginning of the process.

One priority is to support local authorities in the alignment of their strategies and action plans with the SDGs, given that these documents and their implementation are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, even though many are not aware of this. Areas of great concern and priority for local authorities are, for example, water, energy and waste (the legal framework and the transposition of European directives require them to be a priority), but the linkage of these fields to the pursuit of the SDGs is not usually explicitly made.

However, it is acknowledged that there is no general framework for sustainable development that fosters and catalyses integration and thus bridges the existing fragmentation.

The Inter-council Development Cooperation Network (RICD)⁵¹ has created a Local Roadmap for the Pursuit of the SDGs, further embodying evidence of the active role of Municipalities and stakeholders in the pursuit and success of the SDGs.

Lessons learned and progress made indicate that multilevel and cross-sectoral progress must be accelerated, with the localisation of the SDGs being an important step towards building a path of full inclusion in the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

⁵¹ Established in 2013, it is composed of an association of municipalities and aims to strengthen inter-municipal development cooperation. It aims to contribute to the sustainable development of the territories, to the improvement of the quality of life and to development cooperation in Portuguese-speaking countries

7



PURSUIT OF SDGs AMONG CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS





The main consultation of civil society in its different groupings was the organisation of focus groups, at two different sessions, one in-person and the other remotely. In order to speed up the collection of information, the sessions took place with organisations representing the different sectors and which are actively involved in the processes of raising awareness, implementation and monitoring of SDGs in the private sector.

It is also important to highlight the willingness of the invited stakeholders to participate in the sessions and the way they have contributed to a better understanding of the current state of the art of SDGs in the sector, in Portugal.

7.1 COMPANIES

SDG PROGRESS

The level of progress of the SDGs in the corporate sector in Portugal is still at an early stage of development and it is assumed that progress is not fast enough to achieve the ambitious SDGs targets by 2030.

It became clear from the «Survey for preparation of the 2023 VNR» collected from business sector representatives and, mainly, from the contributions collected during the sessions of the Focal Group, that the time horizon for action in relation to the different SDGs is, for most companies, medium term, i.e. between one and five years.

The business sector recognises the quality of and easy access to information about the SDGs, through actions developed by organisations such as UN Global Compact Network Portugal (UN GCNP) or GRACE - Responsible Companies, among others. Access to information is also facilitated by collective initiatives promoted by business associations and by proximity to local authorities, as shown by the correlation between businesses and local government in the SDGlocal platform report.

The Portuguese business sector has been increasing its interest in making a commitment to setting ambitious targets, prioritising actions with a direct impact on meeting the 2030 Agenda, integrating the SDGs into business units and consolidating its overall sustainability strategy. A mirror of this reality is the growing adherence of companies to training and information initiatives such as the master-class on SDGs jointly promoted by GRACE and the BCSD or the training courses on the ESG - Environmental, Social

and Governance analysis and work benchmark, which aim to accelerate the transition from commitment to action.

However, the maturity for integrating the SDGs into business strategies is not homogeneous in the corporate fabric, and large companies, especially multinationals, have a greater knowledge of the SDGs, while Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) still demonstrate low integration of the SDGs into their operations. However, it is important to note that technology-based start-ups are highly aware of the importance of incorporating the 2030 Agenda into their activity and growth strategies for global markets.

There is mostly no alignment of business models, value chain management and growth strategies with integration of the SDGs, such as practices to relate sustainability goals to existing management and processes, in all the types of companies mentioned.

Regarding «progress towards the SDGs» in the corporate sector, and in a sensitivity analysis with a «**low**», «**moderate**» and «**high**» scoring, the results for companies were as follows:

- **high** business interest in sustainable practices;
- **low** representativeness of formal governance structures and a department responsible for sustainability;
- **moderate** number of organisations that have social and/or environmental certification;
- **low** number of companies that have already taken concrete steps to incorporate the SDGs into their strategy;
- **high** number of companies indicate that the SDGs represent the most important challenges for global sustainability.

ECONOMIA+CIRCULAR PROJECT

Promoted by the associative network of CIP - *Confederação Empresarial de Portugal* (Portuguese Confederation of Enterprises), this project has two core purposes: (i) carrying out a current diagnosis regarding the barriers to the development of the circular economy in national companies and (ii) the application of a circular economy maturity assessment tool (developed by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation) that allows the identification of opportunities for progress in terms of circular economy. Despite being especially connected with SDG 12, there

is potential for impact in other areas such as decarbonising the economy (SDG 7) and reducing emissions (SDG 13), but also in the commitment to innovation and eco-design (SDG 9), among others.

The project being developed by CIP allowed and allows, not only analysis of the state of the art in Portugal regarding circular economy options, but also development of recommendations and good practices, as well as the organisation and promotion of forums for sharing and fostering partnerships

EDP AND SUSTAINABILITY

EDP - *Energias de Portugal* is committed to the pursuit of the SDGs and has set specific and concrete objectives in 9 of the 17 SDGs, namely: SDG 7 (Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), which have an impact stemming directly from their core business.

It is also contributing to the strategic transformation required by the «Prosperity» strand through major investments in renewable energy in collaboration with the Academic community and research centres. (SDGs 7, 8, 9 and 11).

This large company also contributes to SDGs 5, 8, 12, 15 and 17 through a strategy involving its upstream and downstream partners in the value chain in order to create the necessary balance.

SONAE COMMITMENT

Under the banner of Sonae «For All», it has acted to improve the quality and accessibility of Education. In partnership with Junior Achievement Portugal (**JAP**), it supports the education of disadvantaged young people, and with «42Porto» and «Brave Generation Academy», it implements new educational models with differentiated approaches. It also supports **NGO ENSICO** to bring the teaching of computer science and technology to public schools.

It collaborates with the Serralves Foundation, Casa da Música and the Biodiversity Gallery so that their educational activities are available to all.

The Continente Mission has spent the past 20 years focused on supporting local communities with a rapid and proactive response, promoting healthy habits and environmental awareness.

SONAE is committed to contributing to the achievement of SDG 4, creating a more equal and sustainable world for all.



ÁGUAS DE PORTUGAL (ADP) GROUP AND ENERGY NEUTRALITY

Águas de Portugal Group is committed to eliminating GHG emissions from electricity consumption by 2030, through energy efficiency measures of infrastructure and operations and by investing heavily in its own production of electricity from 100% renewable sources for self-consumption, known as the ZERO programme. This Programme also includes energy audits in the main facilities of the Group, monitoring, control and management of consumption, awareness raising and training of employees and the promotion of innovation and technological development.

An integrated production mix is foreseen, considering solar photovoltaic, wind, hydro and cogeneration systems using biogas, with electrical and thermal utilisation, promoting the maximisation of self-consumption and, where possible, energy storage, adjusting the operation of infrastructure.

The Programme also promotes the maximisation of the energy produced for self-consumption by changing/adjusting the operating standard, incorporating the production and storage of energy into the core activity of water supply, sanitation and reuse, promoting the reengineering of systems and processes to increase efficiency, boosting technical solutions of innovation and increasing the sustainability and resilience of the systems. It is also investing in the digitisation and professional requalification of employees, as well as regional development and social support, increasing the competitiveness of the regional economic fabric, creating value for the country, contributing to the differentiation of the competencies of the Portuguese water sector in the international market.

An appropriate and intelligent management of consumption from operations in view of the production of 100% renewable electricity involves the continuous monitoring of the production of renewable energy and the adaptation of the operation to that production, using advanced technologies and management systems that optimise and leverage the use of available renewable energy sources in order to maximise their use. This shall ensure a more efficient and sustainable operation, reduce dependence on non-renewable sources, and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Managing energy flows is a major challenge of this ZERO Programme: when dealing with intermittent pro-

duction technologies (wind, solar, etc.). It requires the development of sophisticated forecasting tools and means there must be greater consumption flexibility (which varies from infrastructure to infrastructure). For this reason, the ZERO Programme provides for the creation of a Renewable Energy Community vital for the energy balance between production and consumer units. It is proposed that this shall be national in scope, involving all companies and territories where operations occur.

The investment foreseen in the AdP Group's ZERO programme is EUR 363 million, not only for the implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy production, but also involving investments in digitisation aimed at integrated consumption management.

Additionally, the implementation of the Programme allows for a reduction of 185,070 tonnes/year of CO₂ emissions (in 2031), totalling about 2.776 million tonnes in the 15 subsequent years of the project (from 2031 to 2045).

Considering the impact of the Energy Neutrality Programme of the AdP Group on the targets set by the various national instruments adopted in the plan to combat climate change and decarbonisation, investments related to the ZERO Programme were authorised by Order No 77/SEAENE/2022 of 9 November, of the Deputy Secretary of State for Environment and Energy.

Alongside the development of the ZERO programme, AdP Group is running the NEUTRO programme, with a view to quantifying and reducing GHG emissions within the Group. One of the objectives of this Programme is the development of a tool to guide and support the periodic compilation of an inventory that forms the physical basis of the annual GHG inventories of the AdP Group and its companies.

A set of measures will be implemented per company, following the development of this tool, to be completed by the end of the 1st quarter of 2023. These measures aim to reduce emissions over the coming years and in line with the reduction target that will be accepted in the AdP Group.

The effective implementation of these programmes will enable the AdP Group to contribute directly to SDGs 6 and 7 and to position itself as one of the first, of an international dimension, to achieve energy neutrality in all its national and international activities worldwide.

ROADMAP OF THE NATIONAL CEMENT INDUSTRY FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY 2050

Presented in 2021, it defines the strategic alignment along the cement and concrete value chain with the challenges, commitments and goals assumed by Portugal, at national level and in the European and international context, through a "5C" approach: Clinker, Cement, Concrete, Construction, and (Re)Carbonation.

The Roadmap is complemented with the "Cement and Concrete Manifesto for Sustainable Construction and for the Cities of the Future – New European Bauhaus" (Manifesto) launched in 2023 and which is structured around 10 fundamental values: 1) sustainability and carbon neutrality, 2) responsible sourcing, 3) local pro-

duction and circularity, 4) energy positivity, 5) durability and adaptability, 6) expansion of green and blue spaces, 7) respect for different building materials, 8) digitisation and affordability, 9) sustainable mobility and 10) transforming cities into carbon sinks.

CHALLENGES INHERENT IN PURSUING THE SDGs

The business sector generally acknowledges the importance of integrating the environmental, social and economic dimensions into its business models. This theme is appropriate for larger companies that have a strong interest in contributing to the development deficits that the 2030 Agenda represents. It is less well known among the SMEs. The factors contributing to this are lower international exposure, lower access to information and less knowledge about global challenges affecting companies.

The challenges in pursuing the SDGs in the corporate sector can be framed in the following four areas of intervention:

- *Political leadership and external business environment:* that influences how companies perceive the «value offering» of the SDGs for their business. Incentives and regulation, which do not always act in a coordinated and clear manner,

have been identified as a challenge to the pursuit of the SDGs.

■ *Financial Resources:* in particular, the investment required is a barrier to adopting the SDGs that is identified by companies.

■ *Adapting the SDGs to business:* in addition to the factors that motivate business sustainability, there are also internal goals to be achieved and the SDGs need to be adapted to the organisational strategy of companies, their production processes and methods, operational costs, among others. This adaptation is presented as an added challenge to the pursuit of the SDGs.

■ *Awareness and empowerment:* companies recognise that actions to raise awareness about SDGs have had an impact. However, the coaching and mentoring capacity-building activities in relation to the SDGs are still not easily accessible by companies.



ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

The [UN Global Compact Network Portugal](#) (UN GCNP) integrates into its mission the incorporation of Ten Principles and the contribution to the SDGs in the strategy and operations of companies, with a view to the transition to a new development model.

With the approval of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the [ALIANÇA ODS PORTUGAL was created in Portugal by the UN GCNP and the Portuguese Association of Business Ethics](#) as an instrument to disseminate the SDGs to companies, non-business organisations and civil society. ALIANÇA ODS PORTUGAL brings together associations, foundations, NGOs, among other civil

society organisations, and has also benefited from the contribution of a group of experts in various fields, who we call Ambassadors.

ALIANÇA ODS PORTUGAL organized several events and carried out several interventions to disseminate the SDGs as a new roadmap for humanity. The first interventions aimed to support these organisations in understanding the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as in the applicability of their targets and their «reading» from an organisational point of view.

MOST RELEVANT RESULTS

The process of involving the business sector in the SDGs can be classified as embryonic in general, even if businesses are increasingly aware of the impact of SDGs on business activity, image and reputation, social responsibility actions and influence on innovation processes.

The most significant results of companies are identified in the following SDG:

- *SDG 4:* companies have contributed to a favourable development in several indicators, notably indicators 4.3.1⁵² and 4.4.1⁵³.
- *SDG 5:* shows favourable development in indicator 5.2.2.⁵⁴ Despite these improvements, the gender situation remains far from parity and requires continued work.
- *SDG 8:* although heavily influenced by the pandemic in 2020, this SDG is characterised by improvements in the economic and employment situation, in virtually all indicators.
- *SDG 9:* direct business contributions to the favourable development of 6 indicators, most notably 9.4.1⁵⁵, 9.5.1⁵⁶ and 9.5.2⁵⁷.
- *SDG 12:* the contribution of companies is somewhat inconclusive in relation to the progress made in some indicators.

THE LNOB PRINCIPLE IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR

The LNOB principle is understood by the business sector as essential for its sustainability. Companies are people and communities formed by them and, as such, they must act with social responsibility and seek sustainable development in their operations. Companies recognise the need to have policies that promote equal opportunities and fair treatment for all their employees, regardless of race, gender, age or social background.

Companies, therefore, recognise the importance of social and environmental certifications, such as: ISO 9001 (Quality), ISO 14001 (Environment), ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety), ISO 50001 (Energy), ISO 55001 (Asset Management), SA 8000 (Social Responsibility), NP 4552 (Conciliating work, family and personal life), as well as other sector-specific processes, as drivers of practices and processes that contribute to a better response to the LNOB principle set out in the Agenda 2030.

However, there is the perception in the group surveyed that the number of companies with all certifications in the national business environment is still low.

⁵² Proportion of individuals aged 18 to 64 years who have participated in lifelong learning activities

⁵³ Proportion of individuals aged 16 to 74 years with digital skills at basic level or above basic level

⁵⁴ Proportion of the employed population in managerial positions by gender; Managers in the general government sector, by gender

⁵⁵ CO2 emissions per unit value added

⁵⁶ Share of R&D expenditure in GDP

⁵⁷ Proportion of FTE researchers per one thousand inhabitants

FUTURE PLANNING

The business sector acknowledges that the 2030 Agenda is a working basis that can be appropriated and integrated into its strategic agendas, as principles of sustainability. Companies are able to understand the goals of the SDGs and adapt them to their business model.

Companies suggest initiatives related to:

- Public funding programmes, in particular, with the RRP and PT2030, where concrete targets should be entered that enhance the sustainability of the initiatives financed;
- Adaptation of the SDGs to companies and alignment of expectations; make the «Value Offering» of the SDGs clear for enterprises and the notion that much of the work of companies contributes directly and indirectly to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda targets;
- Implementation of Training and Teaching programmes (in partnership with the Academic community), in order to strengthen and optimise organisational performance and its capacity to act and contribute to the development of skills in sustainability and the training of new leaders capable of promoting the necessary transformation;
- Promote the alignment of nationally defined priorities for the pursuit of the SDGs and new European legislation and measures with short-term impact on SMEs, such as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive;
- Apply balanced and progressive regulation, recognising the importance of regulation to accelerate sustainable practices and processes; however, a simplification of these regulations should be considered. Companies acknowledge that a punitive approach, rather than a pedagogical and rewarding one, may not be the most effective. Likewise, the progressive nature of the measures should be considered in order not to leave any company behind;
- Partnerships and business ecosystems to raise awareness, build capacity, pursue and monitor SDGs;
- Public procurement that stimulates the adoption and pursuit of the SDGs in the value chains of supply of goods and services to the public sector;
- Value chains of large companies that should be encouraged to implement good practices programmes and sustainability strategies among their suppliers;
- Sharing sustainable good practices in the business sector;
- Establishment of an integrated monitoring system focused on supporting SMEs in the process of transition to sustainability and implementation of targets, capable of establishing guidelines and consolidating lessons learned;
- Development and investment in improving infrastructure and international connectivity, ensuring cross-border approaches aligned with sustainable development;
- Access to capital (loans, venture capital, etc.) linked to an appropriate Sustainability Strategy.





FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Companies recognise the key role of their participation as economic and social stakeholders of civil society, with possible high impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Sustainability, still a growing theme within the corporate sector, needs more resources and awareness for a greater contribution of companies in achieving the goals of the SDGs. To this end, it is essential to foster capacity-building and economic incentives.

7.2 ACADEMIA

SDG PROGRESS

Education and Curricula

In 2021, the Sustainable Campus Network initiative carried out a diagnosis⁵⁸, based on an online survey of the member HEIs. Its aim was to collect information for the years 2017 to 2019, to analyse the relevant dimensions of sustainability in the framework of the duties of the HEIs.

The characterisation of the HEIs that replied was based on the following information requirements:

- Characterisation of the sample, in particular in terms of human resources, number of students, type of courses taught, among others;
- Themes, from a sustainability perspective, to which some of the SDGs can be linked
 - Governance and Strategy (SDG 17);
 - Education and curricula (SDG 4);
 - Gender equality (SDG 5);
 - Production and food consumption (SDG 12);

- Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11);
- Sustainable mobility (SDG 9);
- Energy efficiency (SDG 7);
- Water management (SDG 6);
- Waste management (SDG 12);
- Circular economics (SDG 12).

The report resulting from the HEI survey, although there is no specific legislation for higher education concerning the pursuit of sustainability, in any of its different roles and functions, shows that the leaders of these institutions are beginning to show some sensitivity to the subject, in particular, observable at the level of the institutions' governing bodies. It also shows that existing activities arise to a large extent through initiatives of the academic community, in particular teachers.

In terms of education and curricula, it was found that most of the responding HEIs offer formal and lifelong learning courses exclusively devoted to sustainability issues and often in an integrated manner, while also promoting sustainability in teaching practices.

EXAMPLES OF CURRICULA DEVOTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

› **UCP - Portuguese Catholic University** – Observatory of the SDGs in Portuguese Companies, an initiative promoted by the Centre for Responsible Business & Leadership of CATÓLICA-LISBON, in partnership with BPI – Fundação la Caixa, and with the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation, focused on the study of a representative group of large and SMEs Portuguese companies, so that their context and the challenges they face can be understood, assuming the sharing of knowledge generated in the civil society, firstly with the Portuguese business sector, with a view to promoting its positive and active contribution to the progress of the 2030 Agen-

da, through the sharing of best practices and academic training, with companies and academia;
› **UCP - CESOP Local** (see subchapter 4.2);
› **IPL - Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon** - Doctorate in Sustainability;
› **ISCSP - Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences** - course on Sustainable Development for Companies;
› **ISCAL - Lisbon Higher Institute of Accounting and Administration** has a training scheme, with monthly seminars per SDG;
› **University of Lisbon** – presenting a PhD in Sustaina-

bility Sciences, as well as offering Curricular Units in sustainability with a focus on the SDGs for the various cycles (both in the 1st cycle curricular unit of Sustainability and in the 3rd cycle as Advanced Studies in Sustainability). Additionally, it offers a PhD in Biology and Ecology of Global Change, PhD in Sustainable Energy Systems, and PhD in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies.

› **The University of the Algarve (UAlg)** presents lifelong training that bridges with the African continent and integrates various dimensions of sustainable development and the SDGs, which are an example of the «Leave no one behind» principle. At this level, the Vocational Master's Degree in Biodiversity, Fisheries and Marine Conservation, developed under the AGA-KHAN/FCT MarAfrica programme is of note, with specific grants for African students;

› **UAlg** coordinates the Consortium of Schools of Sea Sciences - CEMAR, in the scope of the UNESCO-FCT-Portuguese Language Science Centre (LP). Its mission is

to contribute to the dynamisation of scientific and technological structures in Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly in Africa, and to the development of the advanced training of their human resources, with the award of 20 annual doctorate grants, for the development of *in situ* training in Africa, in the area of sustainable blue growth.

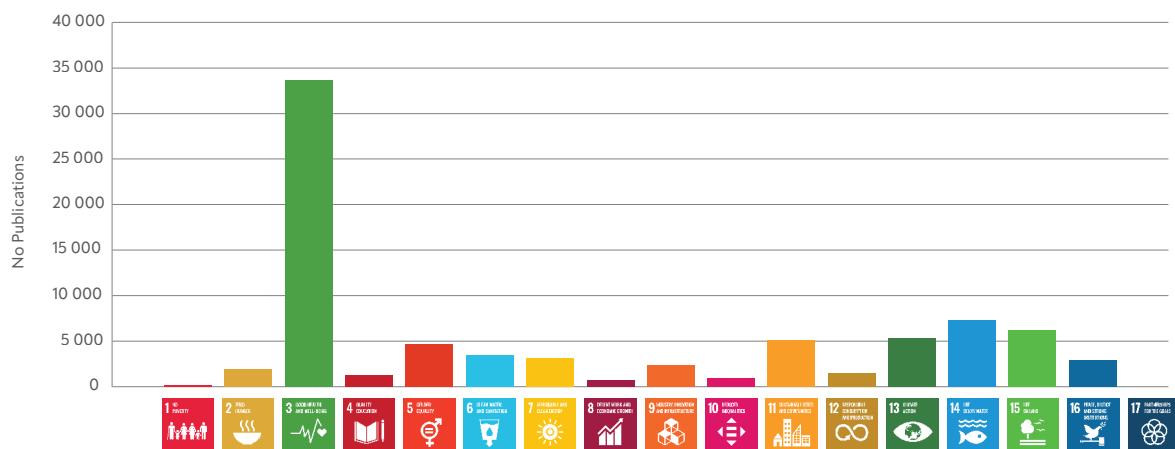
› **The «UMinho Graduate Alliance - Skills for the Future»** offers a portfolio of short courses aimed at the specific needs of the labour market and society. It aims to meet the needs of updating and retraining professionals from various sectors of activity. It provides grants for professionals-students in a weak economic situation as a result of the pandemic crisis. The 112 courses will be launched gradually up to 2026, totalling 2,730 places and 13,409 contact hours. Education Programmes in progress: Business Management and Innovation, Architecture and Built Environment, Communication, Culture, Society and Digital Inclusion and Transition.

Scientific production

As regards scientific production on SDGs, a [recent DGEEC publication](#) provides an analysis from 2001 to 2021. Although it does not include all the Portuguese publications indexed on the *Web of Science* (many are classified in areas that do not fall under any of the SDGs), it shows that after the entry into force of the 2030 Agenda, 50% of

the publications were already classified in at least one SDG (2017-2021). If we compare this figure with the 29% of the publications covered by the SDGs between 2001 and 2005, then we note a marked increase of 21%. It should be noted that this figure does not include publications related to SDG 17. SDG 3 stands out from all the others, possibly related to the COVID-19 disease pandemic.

Figure 60 – Scientific Production on SDGs



Source: DGEEC - Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics, InCitesTM database, Clarivate Analytics (updated 25/11/2022)

Note: Portuguese scientific production indexed on the *Web of Science* (core collection). It includes only those citable documents classified as articles and reviews. Each publication can be counted in more than one SDG area



The National Open Science Policy, sponsored by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, has been one of the major drivers for the sharing and dissemination of scientific knowledge. It is verified that the trend of open access has been increasing over the years, having registered values that vary between 50% and 60% for the SDGs in general. SDG 3 has the highest percentage (61.8%) and SDG 6 has the lowest value (49.8%).

Compared to EU figures for the share of publications in the top 10%, Portugal is slightly below EU results in nine of the SDGs and aligned with or slightly above in the remaining seven.

CHALLENGES INHERENT IN PURSUING THE SDGS

The following challenges were identified in the **focus group dedicated to Academia**:

- Lack of policy coordination between the different levels of governance (WoG) to create a coherent framework with instruments and mechanisms that facilitate the pursuit of the SDGs. In almost all the institutions there is already an alignment of the Strategic Plans with the 2030 Agenda, but without the appropriate framework in a national public policy for sustainability;
- Existing information is dispersed and disconnected, lacking a clear structure to allow alignment between government guidelines and internal policies/strategic plans of the institutions;
- Lack of generalised training for teachers and students to enable everyone to own the SDGs and thus facilitate commitment to their pursuit. These capacity-building initiatives should also involve the top teams (leaders of the HEIs). Some institutions already carry out some training measures, but without the generalisation that is required, due to the lack of financial resources;
- The lack of human resources allocated to the pursuit of the SDGs, which would enable coordination of the areas of Education with Research associated with the SDGs, as well as lack of financial resources;
- The lack of a uniform public procurement policy in which mechanisms are created to reward the good implementation of the principles of sustainability.

MOST RELEVANT RESULTS

1) The Survey on the Implementation of sustainability in HEI⁵⁹ mentioned above also generates some important results:

- Practices and initiatives associated with gender equality (SDG 5) are still very small in the reporting HEIs;
- In production and food consumption there are experiences in various fields, but most focus on the relationship of food to health and the pressure for the low-cost supply of balanced and healthy meals, showing that this topic is still dealt with in a very incipient way at the level of such institutions (SDGs 12 and 3);
- A large number of initiatives or projects target sustainable cities and communities and involve a large number of stakeholders (SDGs 11 and 17);
- Most HEIs do not develop or implement consistent and integrated sustainable mobility policies. There are some sundry practices related to bicycle parking and parking for electric vehicles (SDGs 7 and 13);
- Procedures are in place for monitoring energy consumption, water consumption and waste production (lower in this area), although often in a disaggregated way and with low investments in efficiency measures (SDGs 6, 7, 12);
- Most of the HEIs surveyed do not monitor the procedures associated with the circular economy, but several promote various actions for their implementation and promotion, albeit in a fragmented manner and without large investments (SDG 12)⁶⁰.

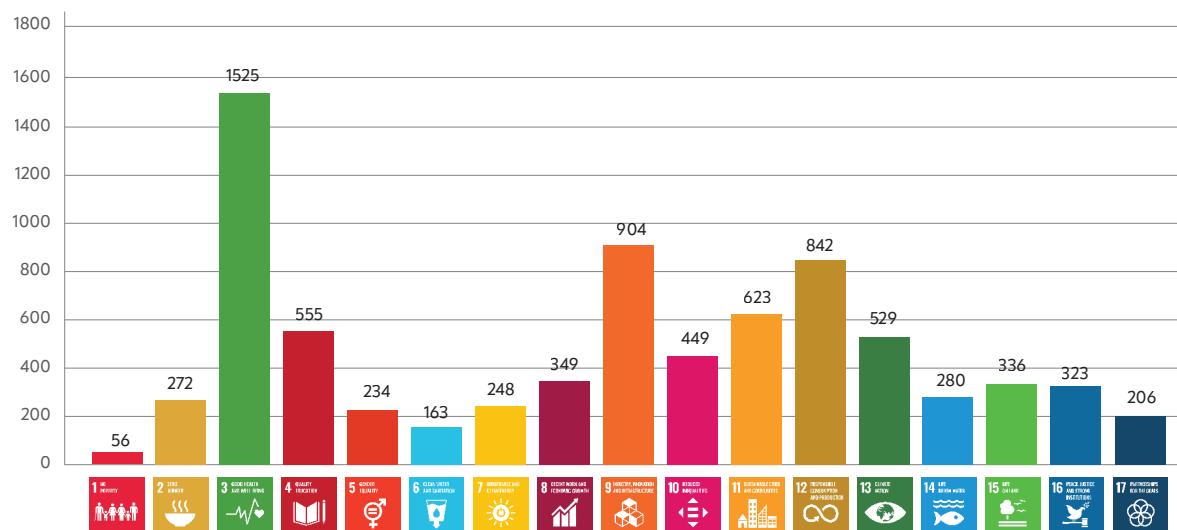
2) The focus group identified that:

- Some HEIs have established Councils for Sustainability and several establish the alignment of their Strategic Plans, but without subsequently assessing the respective results and impacts;
 - FCT has already implemented a "Scientific Employment Plans" Programme, in which it is necessary for PhDs to think about how they can contribute to the SDGs in their theses, that resulted in an event involving doctorate holders from various areas to foster the multidisciplinarity inherent to the integrated pursuit of the SDGs. However, the difficulty lies in the lack of criteria for evaluating research centres that make it possible to integrate multidisciplinarity;
 - Based on the information provided in applications by PhD students, professors and PhD researchers in calls for PhD Scholarships, R&D Projects and Stimulation of Scientific Employment, FCT holds data indexed to contributions to the SDGs.

⁵⁹ First diagnosis on the implementation of sustainability in higher education in Portugal. Analysis of the results of a survey - Promoted by RCS (Sustainable Campus Network), April 2022

⁶⁰ The HEIs that have responded to the questionnaire are potentially the most aware, which may, in a certain way, show that the scenario is quite optimistic.

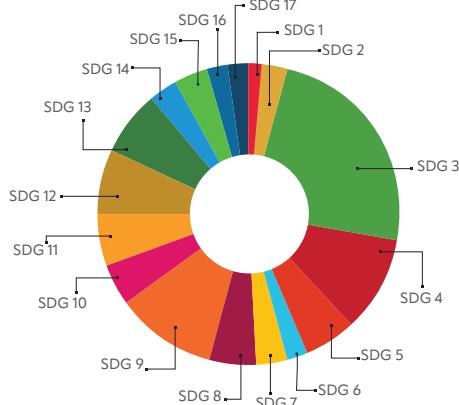
Figure 61 – Doctoral Scholarships (BD) recommended for funding, for the period 2020-2022 whose scientific plans are aligned with the SDGs. Each BD can contribute to more than one SDG



Source: DGEEC - Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics, InCites™ database, Clarivate Analytics (updated 25/11/2022)

Note: Portuguese scientific production indexed on the Web of Science (core collection). It includes only those citable documents classified as articles and reviews. Each publication can be counted in more than one SDG area

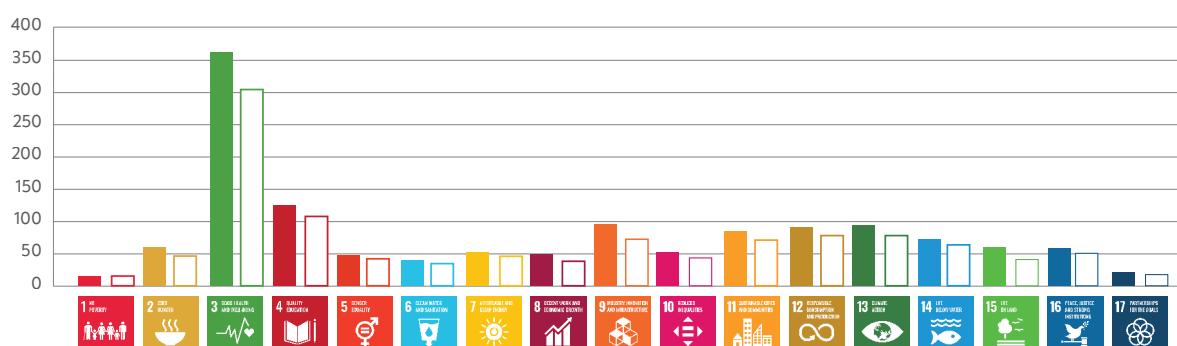
Figure 62 – R&D projects funded by FCT in the period 2021-2022 whose scientific activities are aligned with the SDGs. Each project can contribute to more than one SDG



Source: DGEEC - Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics, InCites™ database, Clarivate Analytics (updated 25/11/2022)

Note: Portuguese scientific production indexed on the Web of Science (core collection). It includes only those citable documents classified as articles and reviews. Each publication can be counted in more than one SDG area

Figure 63 – Employment contracts within the scope of the Stimulus to Individual Scientific Employment Contest concluded in the period 2018-2022, whose scientific plan is aligned with the SDGs (filled columns – financed contracts | empty columns – active contracts)



Source: DGEEC - Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics, InCites™ database, Clarivate Analytics (updated 25/11/2022)

Note: Portuguese scientific production indexed on the Web of Science (core collection). It includes only those citable documents classified as articles and reviews. Each publication can be counted in more than one SDG area



SUSTAINABILITY AS A STRATEGIC ASSET

NOVA UNIVERSITY OF LISBON

NOVA University of Lisbon has assumed sustainability as a strategic asset for its missions (Teaching, R&D and Value Creation) and for the functioning of its infrastructure and services, aligned with the SDGs (alongside the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement).

The pursuit of the SDGs across missions and infrastructure and services is developed through a number of existing mechanisms, including:

- a) NOVA4theGlobe platform, which brings together academics and staff (24 pax) from NOVA's 9 organic units (OU), to discuss strategies and action plans, report sustainability-related data (SDGs in particular) for public disclosure in reports and for the international rankings in which it is placed;
- b) NOVAgora Forum brings together 16 students from the 9 OU to contribute and mobilise the student community in the OU;
- c) Specific WGs, with representatives of the 9 OU, on specific topics such as NOVA ZeroWaste, the WG dedicated to the implementation of green public procurement, the NOVA Clean&Sustainable Energy WG that streamlines actions for NOVA's energy transition and NOVA Green Labs WG dedicated to sustainability in «wet» laboratories at 4 OU with a high laboratorial burden.

The proposals of the WGs are presented and discussed in the College of Directors, with a view to deciding on their implementation. The whole process is coordinated and facilitated by the vice-dean, responding directly to the Dean. This ensures an integrated strategy for the pursuit of the SDGs, running from the university's leadership to the stakeholders in each OU, including faculty, researchers, students, administrators and staff. This is considered essential for the effective consideration and pursuit of the SDGs.

There has been a vice-dean's office for sustainability since November 2021, which has opened up a specific working and decision space for the topic. Due to the models of governance and engagement, there has been, up to now, greater commitment and dedicated actions, better performance in multiple aspects (e.g. incorporation of SDGs in research outputs, reduction of energy consumption) and better internal coordination between

faculty directors (e.g. joint decisions, in the field of CU⁶¹ focused on Sustainability) and between services for specific actions (e.g. monitoring and management of waste produced in the OUs).

UNIVERSITY OF LISBON – FACULTY OF SCIENCES (ULISBOA SCIENCES)

At ULisboa Sciences, the main objective of the sustainability policies adopted, which foster a culture of environmental, social and economic responsibility, has been the promotion of an innovation ecosystem for sustainability, in balance with the well-being of all elements of Sciences and that of the community in which it operates, as well as the preservation of natural resources and the environment.

It seeks to give coherence and visibility to a diverse set of activities already in progress and to enhance both the involvement of the scientific community and the surrounding reality in the challenge of sustainable development, in all its dimensions - social, environmental and economic - through its [«Living Lab for Sustainability»](#). Over the last few years, it has analyzed and monitored its progress in achieving and contributing to the SDGs, as can be seen in its latest report Science Sustainability Report 2023, which seeks to demonstrate how committed it is to a sustainable future, and the interest in establishing the SDGs in all its sectors of activity.

UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA - UC

The University of Coimbra is clearly committed to sustainable development and to the 2030 Agenda. According to the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2022, UC is considered the most sustainable higher education institution in Portugal and 26th in the world. It was ranked in 2022 among 1,406 institutions as the 4th best in the world in terms of SDG 9. The drivers of this result were the number of university spin-offs created since 2000 (113), the capacity of the university to generate new research revenues from industry and commerce (EUR 55 million), the number of patents referring to research conducted by the university and the volume of research undertaken by the institution demonstrated as being relevant for industry, innovation and infrastructure.

⁶¹ Course Units

The compliance with SDG 2 is also to be highlighted, reaching 12th position worldwide. The drivers of that result were the campaigns to combat food waste, the existence of the social menu (at affordable prices) in the canteens, the creation of research projects related to sustainable fishing or the initiative of volunteering to deliver meals to students in isolation due to disease were some of the actions that boosted the score in this indicator.

In terms of SDG 16, the 36th position in 2022 is due to the financial support of the institution to the Academic Association of Coimbra, the existence of policies for the promotion of academic freedom, the existence of a plan for the prevention of management risks and corruption, active collaboration with local and national government bodies and the promotion of training course for magistrates from Portuguese-speaking countries.

It should also be noted that this commitment to sustainability is mirrored in the Strategic Plan 2019-2023, an important tool that guides the University's action in the achievement of its Vision and accompanying the incorporation of the SDGs in the institution.

The Observatory for Sustainable Development of the UC was recently created, which encompasses the entire academic community. It aims to reflect on issues related to sustainability aspects and the dimensions of the SDGs.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTO - FEUP

The Commission for Sustainability was created by FEUP in 2015, to raise awareness of sustainable development issues in the academic community. It acts through a diverse set of initiatives, the most notable of which are the organisation of «More Sustainable Ideas» competitions, which aim to recognise, at the institution, innovation in relation to sustainability or to promote the soft modes of sustainability; the creation of repair workshops - Repair Cafés (in partnership with Lípor); the adaptation of vending machines to include a «no cup» option, to promote the use of reusable cups (in partnership with AFEUP).

LNOB PRINCIPLE

HEIs in general are concerned with bringing knowledge to everyone, especially in view of the digital transition. In the major population centres they play an important role in the implementation of this principle.

In addition, universities in rural areas and polytechnics, par excellence, have a key role in connecting with the communities in which they are located and in creating trustworthy relationships based on the opportunities they provide, which would otherwise not exist. They are able to promote, through this close relationship, awareness and training tailored to local needs. Particular emphasis in this context is placed on the CTEsPs (Professional Higher Technical Courses), which are often not given due credit in local development projects. In its relationship with the municipalities located in the areas of intervention of these HEIs, their priority is to support those that are furthest from the SDGs, with tools that are easy to implement and which do not require much for their use.

CULATRA 2030 - SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY - UALGARVE

Culatra Island, with the coordination of the UAlg, wants to be self-sustaining by 2030. Since the right to inhabit the Ria Formosa has been won, fishermen and shellfish farmers work in teams with the UAlg and various local associations, in order to initiate a transition that includes, among other goals, harnessing the sun and wind, the fight against plastic and the coexistence with threatened species and habitats. The project is one of the 6 selected to be a pilot renewable energy community.



FUTURE PLANNING

The entities heard in this focus group clearly invest in SDG 17, working in partnership to speed up the pursuit of the SDGs.

In addition to SDG 17, ongoing projects focus particularly on promoting gender equality and reducing inequalities (SDGs 5 and 10), climate action and energy (SDGs 7

and 13), water use (SDG 6), sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12) and also quality job creation (SDG 8).

The institutions plan to continue working on the already ongoing SDGs over the next five years, which will be joined by improving the quality of health and welfare services (SDG 3), improving the quality of education (SDG 4), housing (SDG 11) and the sustainable use of soils (SDG 15)

GUARDIANS PROJECT - CLIMATE CHANGE (SDGs 13 AND 17)

This is an example of inter-institutional collaboration, between CCDR Alentejo (regional authority), IPP (Portalegre Polytechnic) (Academia) and the Forum for Energy and Climate (civil society) to promote awareness and information among civil society, through a wide range of initiatives. These initiatives include content creation, actions in various institutions (PA, schools and the community in general) or conferences on issues related to climate change, bringing to Alentejo the best national and international knowledge.

The initiatives that have already taken place in the school community are to be highlighted. Also of note are the different conferences that have hosted experts in the

different areas, leading to growing awareness not only of the problems associated with climate change, but, above all, of possible solutions for the Alentejo region. It also involves, as a transnational project, teachers, researchers and other international stakeholders, in particular the PALOPs. There are also commitments with some institutions in these countries, in particular to disseminate and create common courses on climate change.

This project is co-financed by the Alentejo Regional OP/ PT2020.

CESOP LOCAL (see subchapter 4.2)

COMMITMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT⁶² (SDG 17)

Anthropogenic pressure on the environment today reaches limits that are difficult for the biosphere to bear, making the challenges of sustainable development increasingly visible throughout the world. HEIs have a unique combination of skills that enable them to play a central role in the fields of education, scientific research, social responsibility and the defence of the common good, must be particularly active in the global movement of looking for ways in which humanity can learn to meet its present needs without jeopardising the possibility of future generations also doing so.

In this context, the HEIs that are signatories to this document are firmly committed to playing a central role in the development towards a sustainable, free, fair, solidarity-based and tolerant society. They commit to a society characterised by the respect for nature and the human person, incorporating the 2030 Agenda in all their activities in order to achieve the SDGs and they also commit, *inter alia*, to developing a set of initiatives. The [Letter of Intent](#) - Commitment to Sustainability has so far been endorsed by 37 HEIs (A summary of the Principles of Action forming this Commitment is set out in Annex II).

⁶² Adapted from «COPERNICUS – The University charter for sustainable development», [Copernicus Alliance, Association of European Universities, 1994; COPERNICUS CHARTA 2.0/2011](#), European Commitment to Higher Education for Sustainable Development; Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI); and ENEA 2020

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Improve the system of governance of the HEIs as regards the SDGs (better communication and multi-level vertical coordination - and between the different stakeholders - horizontal) thus ensuring coherence of policies involving the SDGs;
- Multiply the training courses, involving INA, I.P., at all levels and for all audiences (including municipalities) available for students, teachers and other staff, using leisure-based learning techniques and creating tools to facilitate implementation (guides). Partnerships between schools and HEIs can allow the development of joint monitoring and development schemes (University of Lisbon already does this), as many schools already have programmes for sustainable development ([Eco-Schools Programme](#));
- There is not always consistency between the descriptions of the SDGs and the targets and indicators, and the perception of the government (definition of policies and strategies) is sometimes not aligned with the real situation of the organisations;
- Establish the 2030 Agenda as a political priority, as a multi-sectorial national urgency, allocate more financial and human resources to its implementation, communication and promotion of its coherence;
- Territorial partnerships are useful for success (see [Guardians Project](#));
- Introduce greater focus on SDGs through global (online) training but with clear guidance for local problems (University of Algarve has already successfully done this);
- Align academic work, including doctoral theses, with the SDGs;
- Introduce procurement procedures that can contribute to rewarding the pursuit of the SDGs;
- Recognition of Sustainability Sciences as an interdisciplinary scientific domain - «Sustainable Horizons» (SHEs), European project coordinated by the UAlgarve;
- International benchmarks are an incentive for the successful pursuit of the SDGs, as they are objectives to be achieved and increase the level of ambition. International references include working together with partner universities (e.g. NOVA University is a member of the Eutopia Alliance) and international rankings that encourage performance improvement.

7.3 ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY

SDG PROGRESS

SDG progress in organised civil society has occurred in a dispersed manner due to the lack of a plan to systematise the national approach to promoting sustainable development. The lack of a clear definition of priorities, targets, timetables, governance model and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms has had an impact on the achievement and/or systematisation of the 17 SDGs and their targets.

It was evident at the sessions that civil society is calling for greater political involvement in the efforts to pursue the SDGs, as it has been recommending in recent years.

The SDGs with the highest level of achievement based on the results obtained in the survey carried out with representatives of civil society and given the specificity of the projects implemented by the parties consulted, are: SDGs 17, 3, 4, 5 and 10.

CHALLENGES INHERENT IN PURSUING THE SDGs

The pursuit of the SDGs by organised civil society has been adapted and transposed into the virtual space⁶³ due to the COVID-19 disease pandemic. The definition of a National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030 (as foreseen in CMR No. 5/2023 of 23 January) is a step that has been long awaited by Civil Society. The expectation is that the Roadmap will set ambitious, achievable targets for between 2023 and 2030, considering partnerships between public and private entities, such as associations, cooperatives and foundations. It will necessarily have associated a budget, and defined responsibilities.

The challenges most emphasised by civil society in pursuing the SDGs are:

- *Lack of resources*: limitations of financial, technical and human resources to implement SDG-related projects and initiatives.
- *Lack of knowledge*: although some civil society organisations are well-informed about the SDGs, there is in some cases a lack of widespread knowledge about the objectives and how to work on them.
- *SDG complexity*: the pursuit of SDGs can be complex due to the interlinkage of the goals and the need to address multiple dimensions of sustainable development.
- *Coordination of activities*: civil society represents a wide variety of stakeholders, including commu-

⁶³ An example is the [webinar «UN75 Post 2020: Review and prospects in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda»](#) organised by the Civil Society Forum in September 2020



nity organisations, human rights groups and religious groups. Coordinating activities and effective collaboration are challenging.

- *Business sector involvement:* collaboration with the business sector is necessary for the effective pursuit of the SDGs. Civil society may, in some cases, find it difficult to work with the private sector, due to differences in views on objectives. This may also be the case where some business strategies are based on the over-exploitation of natural and human resources and there may be a lack of practices that safeguard human rights throughout the production and marketing chain.
- *Monitoring and evaluation:* measuring progress towards the SDGs and evaluating the results is challenging due to the complexity of the targets and indicators.
- *Political and legal influence:* as there is no clear and systematic legal framework to promote sustainable development and the pursuit of the SDGs, civil society is experiencing difficulties and little influence in promoting the necessary political change.
- *Strengthening partnerships:* there are already some positive results, mentioned below, but there is still a need to strengthen partnerships between sectors (public, private and third sector), which must adopt a bottom-up integrated governance perspective considering multi-level and cross-sectorial partnerships.

MOST RELEVANT RESULTS

The most relevant results make significant contributions to all SDGs, in particular:

- *SDG 17:* developments with regard to this SDG are considered to be mostly positive. It has been particularly important for the work of organised civil society as it is based on a clear notion of the need for articulation, where the promotion of the coherence of policies plays a key role.
- *SDG 3:* in the period of the COVID-19 disease pandemic, organised civil society played a key role in supporting communities and government structures that provide support to health services. It is acknowledged that it is important to capitalise on the learning and practices developed during this period and create the conditions to continue them, valuing the associated professionals, in all the health intervention fields.
- *SDG 4:* civil society has highlighted its influence on the good performance of SDG 4 in activities dedicated to the formal or non-formal education of adults and young people participating in lifelong learning activities. Another criterion mentioned was the con-

tribution to the increase of digital competences in the resident population aged between 16 and 74 years.

- *SDGs 5 and 10:* Linking these SDGs, the achievement of gender equality finds a necessary parallelism in reducing social inequalities. As stated by the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are at the heart of the Agenda. SDG 5 is a transversal objective for all others, which refers to gender mainstreaming in the perspective of multiple discrimination. An example of this is the work carried out by the [ACM's Intersectional Inequalities Project Team](#), whose objective is to improve knowledge, through statistics disaggregated by gender, in all policy domains. This provides a gender analysis of the impact of policies, to make them effective by ensuring their cross-cutting nature in public policies and budgets.

LNOB PRINCIPLE

Civil society is key to ensuring that no-one is left behind in terms of access to basic rights and resources such as health, education, decent work, decent housing and social protection. People unite through civil society organisations, social movements, community groups and voluntary initiatives, to demand changes and measures to eradicate inequality and poverty, combat discrimination, promote social inclusion and meet the needs of those in situations of particular socio-economic vulnerability and social marginalisation.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PORTUGAL (JAP)

JAP has contributed directly to SDG 4, as it is an organisation that is characterised by the development of competences linked to the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship of young people.

JAP is part of a larger network, Junior Achievement Worldwide, founded more than 100 years ago, which was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in two consecutive years. It has been operating in Portugal since 2005 and has since impacted more than 430,000 students, with the involvement of 24,300 volunteers from across mainland Portugal and the islands.

The programmes are implemented in a corporate volunteering scheme by employees of companies, who go to the classrooms and fulfil the objectives and dynamics designed for each session.

Civil society demands greater influence from the government to act for human and social rights, to monitor public policies, to report violations and to ensure the active and informed participation of the population in democratic

processes. In addition, civil society aims to contribute to the development of innovative solutions and community-based experiences by addressing the root causes of inequalities and creating opportunities so that all may realize their potential.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL PORTUGAL (TI PORTUGAL)

The fight against corruption and the promotion of human rights and the values of democracy are the mission of TI Portugal.

The scope of its action is broadly related to some of the targets set out in SDG 16 and SDG 17, for example activities and projects that have been developed in the fight against corruption, strengthening integrity mechanisms in local and central politics and in the fight against illicit financial flows and money laundering.

In the fight against corruption, TI Portugal adopted the Corruption Perceptions Index created by Rede Internacional as an instrument for evaluating and compar-

ing countries, and it was found that, despite the efforts made in recent years, the fight against corruption in our country in 2022 was fragile and had not made significant progress.

It should be highlighted, in terms of partnerships, the agreements signed with the National Assembly of Municipal Assemblies, which aims to raise awareness on the strengthening of transparency and integrity in the local government, and also that signed with DGEG, with the aim of supporting the implementation of two of the measures of the Corruption and Related Offences Risk Management Plan.

It is considered essential, in order to better implement the model of coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure the broad participation of civil society organisations, to ensure:

- Transparent consultation procedures with participation of the general public, ensuring in particular that women and young people, as well as marginalised groups, effectively participate and that their views are heard and reflected in both the VNR and the roadmap that is envisaged;
- Implement effective communication mechanisms, ensuring the availability of and early access to all relevant and necessary information by the entities consulted and those which are to be involved;

- Particular care must be taken in the form and content of the communication, taking into account the diverse social, economic and educational training/qualification, academic and professional contexts;
- Adopt a monitoring and reporting methodology that allows for a constructive approach and drives meaningful debate to produce concrete recommendations;
- Ensure systematic dialogue between government bodies, public bodies and organised civil society.

In short, civil society is key to ensuring the LNOB principle, promoting social inclusion and justice for all people. The respect for the principle is compromised unless there is the active and committed participation of civil society.





CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM FOR THE SDGs

In 2014, several platforms and umbrella organisations of Portuguese civil society started working together in the framework of the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the SDGs and their implementation in Portugal. Several organisations joined together to create the Civil Society Forum for the SDGs. The aim is to work in an even more articulated and consistent way, aware of the responsibility, skills, proximity and role to be played by CSOs in implementing the 2030 Agenda, based on the realisation of the human rights of all people and supported by work of political influence and public awareness on the relevance of the 2030 Agenda.

The Civil Society Forum for the SDGs is an in-

formal structure, the purpose of which is to develop a long-term intervention, coinciding with the validity of the 2030 Agenda, but with variable geometry and intensity. It functions and intervenes in a flexible way, enhancing the knowledge, skills and areas of interest of its members. The Forum currently consists of nine national networks and platforms, representing about 440 CSOs working in different areas. For more information, see the annex, [Civil Society Forum for the SDGs - The path: from 2014 to 2030](#).

FUTURE PLANNING

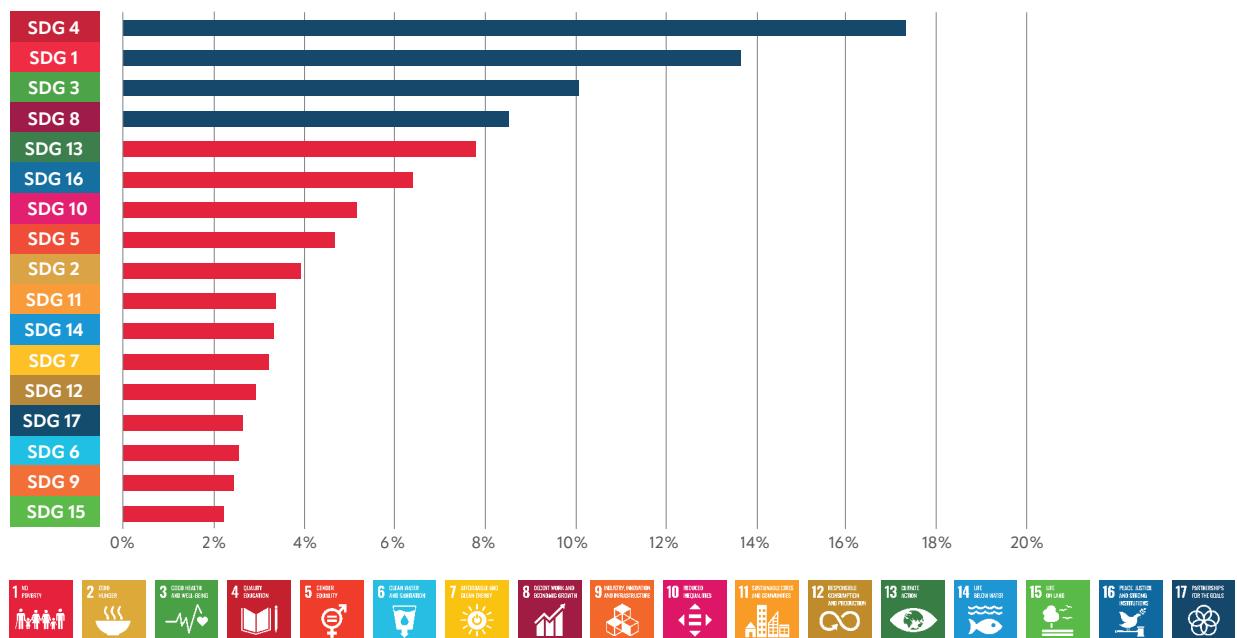
Organised civil society is committed to contributing to the goals of the 2030 Agenda and suggests the following initiatives:

- Greater government commitment to the SDGs, translated into concrete public policies and investments in the implementation of objectives, improving the coherence of policies for sustainable development;
- Contextualising existing national policies, processes and mechanisms with a view to the necessary alignment of policies. This is not solely confined to policies for equality between women and men, but all policies, since they all have an impact on women and girls and should be monitored as a cross-cutting requirement for gender equality;
- Encourage and promote effective public-private partnerships and partnerships with civil society, building on the experience of the strategies for mobilising resources from such partnerships;
- The need to guarantee effective participation of civil society in the SDG-related decision-making processes, not only at the design stage but throughout the whole process (including monitoring, prioritisation and evaluation in a bottom-up approach), ensuring representativeness and open dialogue, with more ambitious consultation mechanisms that take place on a regular, predictable, permanent and transversal basis, so as to ensure the continuity of dialogue;
- Greater emphasis on promoting social justice, with measures to reduce inequalities and guarantee universal access to basic rights such as health, education and housing;
- Create conditions for own budget, with adequate financial resources, sustainable for all actions, such as robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with realistic and ambitious indicators and targets to measure progress;
- Specific action for environmental protection and mitigation of the impacts of global warming, in particular in the face of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Greater encouragement for training, innovation and technology for sustainable solutions, with investments in research and development;
- Strengthening international cooperation by seeking joint solutions to global challenges such as migration, fair trade and the eradication of poverty;
- Development of a cross-sectorial and monitoring action plan, within the framework of the ENCP as a structural instrument in the pursuit of various SDGs (notably SDGs 1, 2, 4 and 10), aimed at the eradication of poverty and social exclusion;
- Localisation of the SDGs. The essential elements of this are: incorporation of territorial knowledge and perspectives into public policies; raising awareness and empowering local stakeholders (local authorities, businesses, the third sector and citizens) to take ownership of the SDGs and to take action to achieve them.

In the review of the 2030 Agenda Tour, the 3 SDGs that received most votes in the seven Town Halls in the answer to the question: «What are the three Sustainable

Development Goals for priority implementation in Portugal?» were SDGs 4, 1 and 3 (see figure below).

Figure 64 – in the Meetings of the 2030 Agenda Tour Total weighted votes by Priority SDG



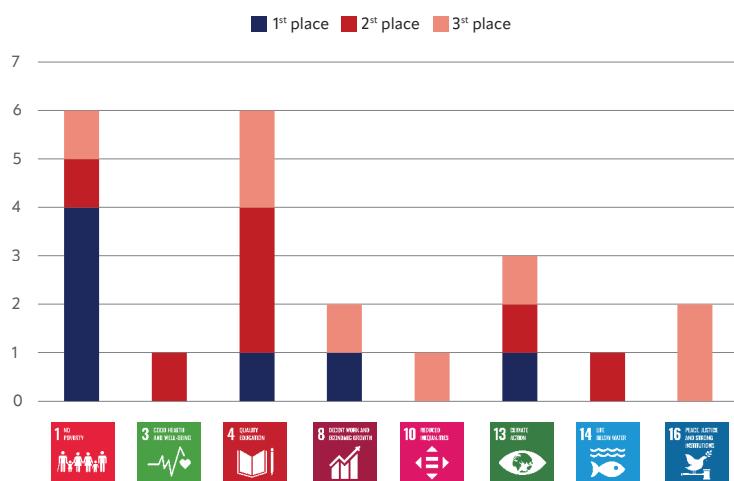
Source: Results of the 2030 Agenda Tour, March 2023

Note: Weighted votes of the 3 main SDGs (1st, 2nd and 3rd in terms of votes)

The figure above highlights that SDGs 1, 3, 4 and 8 account for half of the priority preferences of respondents, with special emphasis on SDG 4, which, with significant margin, tops the list of priorities indicated during the Tour.

It is concluded, by Town Hall, that SDG 1 ranked 1st in four Town Halls, SDG 4 in 2nd place in three Town Halls and in 3rd place in two Town Halls, just like SDG 16.

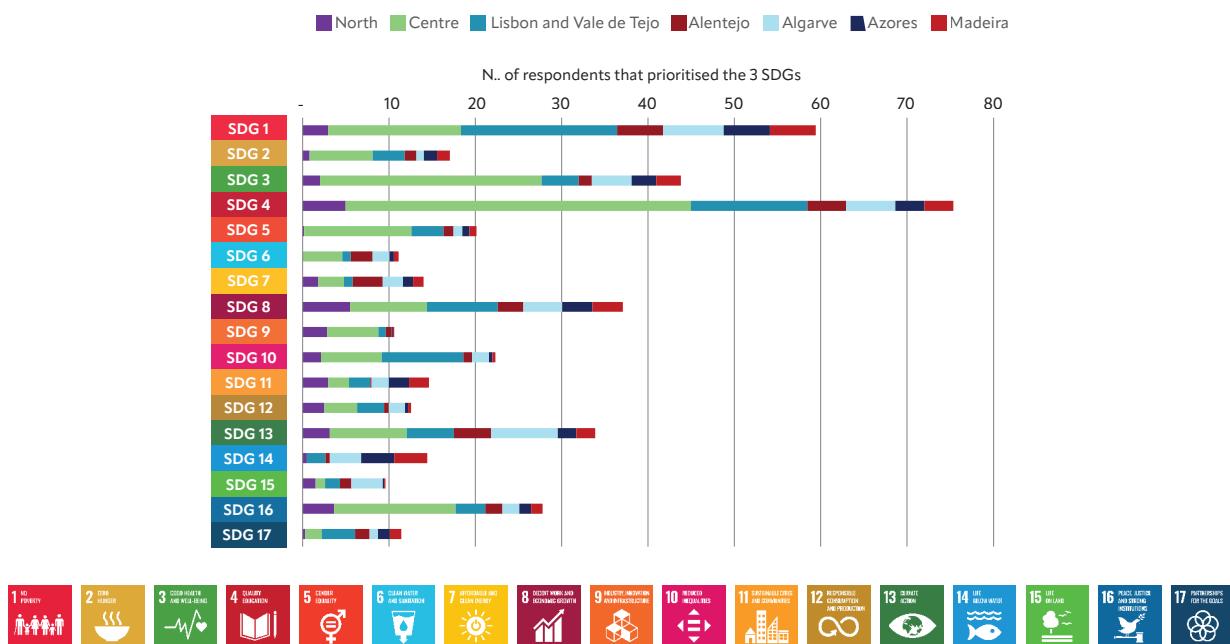
Figures 65 – SDG Prioritisation in the Town Halls of the 2030 Agenda Tour



Source: Results of the 2030 Agenda Tour, March 2023



Figures 66– Priority SDGs by Region of the 2030 Agenda Tour



Source: Results of the 2030 Agenda Tour, March 2023

It can also be observed in relation to the Town Halls that the Centre region was the one that presented the largest number of participants (162 persons), due to it coinciding with National Student Day (24 March) and the range of participants was widened in order to allow for the representativeness of all education cycles (from primary to higher education). The preference of participants from this region contributes to enhancing the prioritisation of SDGs 4 and 3.

It was also possible to observe and identify some associations between SDGs, from a regional perspective:

North: Education (SDG 4) as a structural pillar for economic growth (SDG 8) based on partnerships and collaboration between the various sectors of activity, academia and governance (SDG 16).

Centre: No poverty (SDG 1) is essential, meeting basic needs and thus allowing greater openness to climate concerns (SDG 13) and investment in quality education (SDG 4).

Lisbon and Tagus Valley: Eradicate pockets of persistent poverty (SDG 1) is the way to a more equal society (SDG 10) where education plays a central role in reducing inequalities and providing social uplift (SDG 4).

Alentejo: In an ageing region, an elderly population with low incomes (SDG 1), investing in quality educational

infrastructure is fundamental for retaining and attracting young people (SDG 4), as well as in mitigating the effects of climate change that impact nature conservation and biodiversity, also affecting the quality and availability of water, a scarce asset in this region (SDG 13).

Algarve: on the coast there are also many asymmetries in the territory in the level of poverty (SDG 1) and in the educational structures (SDG 4) that need to be corrected. On the other hand, the region faces specific problems, related to the scarcity of water and the potential impact on land management in the face of rising sea levels that need to be taken care of (SDG 13).

Azores: Significant asymmetries of social and economic cohesion (SDG 1) persist, with Decent Work being a central part in eliminating persistent cycles of poverty (SDG 8), possible through internationally recognised environmental and tourism sustainability (SDG 14), as key to a future for all people.

Madeira: the main aim of the region is no poverty (SDG 1). Education (SDG 4) is the best instrument for reducing poverty and inequalities (more skills, more knowledge, more opportunities), and the region (small, island, precipitation, terrain, planning) is a challenge with regard to climate change (SDG 13).

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Organised civil society emphasises the importance of addressing the 17 SDGs in an interlinked way. There is a significant correlation between the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, as all are interlinked and the policies, initiatives and actions to be implemented contribute to the overall objective of a fairer, more sustainable and more prosperous world.

It is important to expand on the analysis and reflection about the correlations and interlinkages between SDGs. It is necessary to act in an integrated manner in all SDGs, ensuring understanding and concerted action at different levels. Some of the correlations between the different SDGs are identified below:

- No poverty (SDG 1) and Zero hunger (SDG 2)⁶⁴: the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable agriculture are fundamental to ending hunger and guaranteeing food security.

- Good health (SDG 3) and Reduced inequalities (SDG 10): good health is a fundamental human right and its promotion is directly linked to the reduction of social inequalities.
- Quality education (SDG 4) and Decent Work and economic growth (SDG 8): quality education is fundamental to economic and social development, ensuring skills and knowledge for a well-prepared workforce and sustainable economic growth.
- Gender equality (SDG 5) and Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16): the promotion of gender equality is fundamental to the development of fair and democratic societies, where institutions are strong and peace is guaranteed.

⁶⁴ As an example, SDG 1 relates to other SDGs in addition to SDG 2, as people in poverty, in addition to suffering from hunger/food insecurity (SDG 2), may also suffer impacts in terms of lack of access to quality education (SDG 4), good health (SDG 3) and others



8

CHALLENGES

8.1 CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION

The analysis of the various documents and the results of the focus groups carried out shows the need to reinforce the importance of prioritising and aligning the national, regional and local agendas with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. Specific use must also be made of sustainable development targets and indicators for monitoring and benchmarking ongoing implementation. The importance of highlighting the results of this monitoring is also emphasised, as well as the lessons learned as elements to be incorporated into the process of developing public policies.

The following challenges have been identified as part of the consultation process for this Review:

The country strategy papers should follow the universal language of the SDGs, although the priorities are materially guided, in their spirit and content, by the principles of sustainable development and it is possible to link the government's defined strategic lines with the overall goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;

1. Aligning the strategic planning process with the 2030 Agenda allows it to become the main overarching reference for sustainable development, at all levels, that should be translated into specific plans and targets specific for the country;
2. Financing and transparency – the mapping of financial resources and executed budgets should exhaustively quantify the financial resources allocated to the pursuit of the SDGs, making sure financial resources are aligned with the strategic priorities that implement the SDGs at national level.
3. Challenge related to the current inflation and war situation in Europe - economic and social impacts are not yet sufficiently estimated. However, a scenario is emerging in which indirect effects are significant and these should not be neglected in the monitoring of the progress of the SDGs;

Monitoring of the SDGs should be clearer: Some of the goals in each SDG, and the respective indicators, are designed for the context of a country's public policy and

not for organisations. Organisations therefore have to make a specific interpretation of their context, which makes it difficult to compare with similar organisations;

Although SDG 17 is the one most commonly featured in the implementation of the various initiatives linked to the SDGs, it is necessary to make the collaboration broader, both horizontally and vertically. That collaboration must have a multidisciplinary nature, promoting dialogue and seeking synergies between the various sectors, under the aegis and in the language of the SDGs. Partnerships between Academia, the multi-level public sector and civil society are crucial, in a joint effort of coordination and acceleration during this decade of implementation.

8.2 EMERGING CHALLENGES

8.2.1 GLOBAL SCALE

Although progress has been made in the last few decades towards a more sustainable way of life, there are now new and pressing challenges that Portugal must face in the three areas of sustainable development - environment, economy and social - and the 2030 Agenda could serve as a meaningful guide for action, construction and consolidation of public policies.

8.2.1.1 COVID-19 pandemic

One of the main challenges today is the economic and social post-health crisis recovery caused by the COVID-19 disease pandemic, as well as the mitigation of the negative impacts felt, which are exacerbated by the war against Ukraine.

There was, up to 2020, a gradual improvement in the main indicators measuring the country's inequality situation. The pandemic crisis interrupted this trend, because of the sudden disruptive effect it generated. The at-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers, which decreased from 19.0% in 2015 to 16.2% in 2019, was 16.4% in 2021. The Gini coefficient decreased from 33.9% in 2015 to 31.2% in 2019, before rising to [32.0%](#) in 2021. The indicators of income inequality calculated on the basis of the ratio between the 10% (S90/S10) and the 20% (S80/S20) of people with higher and lower incomes followed the same trend. S80/S20 decreased from 5.9 to 5.0 between 2015 and 2019, while it was 5.1 in 2021.

On the other hand, the pandemic had a huge economic impact, following the adoption of measures to control the transmission of COVID-19. The containment of the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus, depending on the epidemiological context, led to the successive declaration of states of emergency, many of them linked to the definition of pe-



riods of restriction on the movements of the population. This had unprecedented consequences on economic activity and the well-being of citizens.

The civic sense of the Portuguese, the commitment of the health professionals and, in a second phase, the success of the vaccination campaign were decisive for the good national response to the health crisis. Equally decisive were the strengthening of material and human resources in the SNS and the extraordinary measures to support the protection of jobs and incomes of families and the maintenance of the productive capacity of companies. These had positive results in mitigating the adverse economic effect that was generated.

In fact, the Portuguese Government's creation of a set of emergency measures at an early stage of the pandemic in Portugal and, subsequently, the creation of the Economic and Social Stabilisation Programme guided the implementation of tools and instruments of an extraordinary nature to support the smooth functioning of the labour market and to protect households. These included social protection measures to support those who were not part of the labour market (prior to or because of the pandemic) and those who were part of it, but who suffered a reduction in income. The following measures in this field are highlighted:

(i) Teleworking has been strongly recommended where possible;

(ii) Companies that faced decreasing turnover were able to make use of the simplified layoff mechanism, where part of the salary of the employees who were in this scheme was paid by the State;

(iii) Employers' social security contributions were changed, with only part of the immediate contribution being compulsory and the remainder could be deferred. Furthermore, companies that had used the simplified layoff mechanism and were returning to their activities were exempted from paying social security contributions for a period of time;

(iv) The rapid strengthening of existing social protection benefits and the extension of their coverage;

(v) Existing benefits to support people with dependants, and therefore unable to work, were redesigned to become more inclusive;

(vi) As schools were closed down, an emergency fund was set up to support families (employed and self-employed workers) with children up to the age of 12 years;

(vii) Support was also provided to those who had to remain in isolation (due to contraction or suspected contraction of the virus) and therefore could not go to work.

On the other hand, the massive shock on economic chains, both on the supply side and on the demand side, also accelerated some of the challenges that were already

happening and that remain, such as those of the green and digital transition. This demonstrated how important it is that the country is equipped with strong and capable public services, particularly in terms of the NHS, but also as regards the provision of social welfare responses, to guarantee the necessary resilience and the capacity to react to contingent events. GDP fell 8.3% in 2020.

8.2.1.2 War against Ukraine

More recently, the unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by Russia has intensified the disruption of distribution chains around the world, pushing prices to historical highs. These effects derive from the strategic role that both Russia and Ukraine have in international markets for goods, especially food, raw materials and energy. It can therefore be expected that markets will continue to exhibit extreme volatility with possible significant impacts on the still fragile and recovering global economies.

The impact of the war has been particularly noticeable on inflation. Before the war began, the [EC winter forecast for 2022](#), prepared in December 2021, projected the inflation figures for 2022: 1.2% in Portugal and 1.5% in the EU. These inflation figures soared to forecasts of 7.4% for Portugal, due to the impact of the war against Ukraine. The official inflation rate recorded for 2022 at the start of 2023 was 7.8% in Portugal and 8.4% in the EU, higher than previous forecasts.

As a result of rising inflation on oil products and energy, fertilisers, cereals and food products, the Portuguese Government has pursued a policy of adopting extraordinary measures aimed at the social segments and the most vulnerable sectors of activity, through policy instruments and measures such as the Plan to Respond to Price Increases, Families First or the Energy Package to Advance. Thus, in addition to general price suppression measures, such as the reduction of the tax special on fuels and VAT on electricity, extraordinary support was given to the most deprived households, notably to support the increases in food and gas costs or through measures such as the extraordinary supplement to pensioners, exceptional income support for adult and exceptional support for children and adults. Support has been given to the most vulnerable sectors of activity to reduce the costs of the agriculture sector, and support has also been given to companies severely affected by the increase in energy prices, such as textiles, glass or steel firms. That support covers 30% of the increase in gas costs.

The Portuguese Government has, in addition to these targeted measures, also adopted more general measures to curb inflation, such as reducing the tax on petroleum products (equivalent to a 13% reduction in VAT), reducing VAT to 6% on electricity bills up to the

first 100 kWh (150 kWh in large households) per month, or the exceptional and temporary mechanism for adjusting electricity production costs, limiting the role of natural gas thermoelectric power plants in price formation, within the Iberian Electricity Market, until 31 December 2023, with the objective of limiting the price escalation.

The implementation of measures for the green and energy transition, already a priority, has also been accelerated in Portugal. It is also in response to the adoption of the REPowerEU Plan launched by the EC, with the dual purpose of reducing/eliminating the EU's energy dependence on Russia by accelerating the green energy transition.

8.2.1.3 Triple Planetary Crisis - Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution

Another of the challenges to be highlighted are those represented by the triple planetary crisis - climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution. As this is a mega-trend, these impacts are not homogeneously felt worldwide. This trend has specific repercussions in Portugal, resulting in an increase in prolonged drought periods, jeopardising the availability of water resources and agricultural production, as well as the increase in the occurrence and intensity of wildfires. The frequency of heavy rainfall, resulting in floods causing severe damage, is also increasing.

At the same time, rising sea levels will put pressure on coastal areas, where most of the population and economic activity (estuary of the Tagus, Ria de Aveiro, Ria Formosa) are concentrated. Heat waves will pose an additional risk to human health.

In order to mitigate the effects of this mega-trend, a policy line has been pursued which aims to contribute to the slowing down and reduction of GHGs, the increase of CO₂ sequestration capacity, the increase of renewable energy production, the sustainability of resources, sustainable mobility, more fire-resistant landscapes, the adaptation of territories and society and the promotion of the circular economy in business models and among the general population.

8.2.2 NATIONAL SCALE

8.2.2.1. Demographic dynamics

Another trend that Portugal has sought to mitigate is demographic dynamics, which is one of the core challenges for the successful pursuit of some of the SDGs. Portugal is facing a situation that indicates a declining population rate that needs to be countered, as well as the problem of progressive ageing.

Despite the recent positive trend, according to the 2021 Census Results, over the last decade Portugal has recorded a population decrease of 2.1%, as the result of a negative natural balance. The migratory balance, although positive in recent years, was insufficient to reverse this population decline. All age groups, with the exception of the elderly population (aged 65 years and over), have experienced a decrease in their population. This has worsened the phenomenon of double ageing, driving up the number of elderly people for every 100 young people aged up to 14 years to 182 in 2021.

The birth rate in Portugal has been steadily declining since the beginning of the 21st century, and this trend is greater than the fall in mortality in all age groups. Portugal has lost more than 40% of the number of children and adolescents since 1980. The population is expected to have declined by between 10% and 30% in 2050, to 8.4 million, with the population reduction reaching 30% in rural and inland areas.

The synthetic fertility rate (TFR), which is the average number of children born from each woman of childbearing age (between 15 and 49 years of age), is 1.35 children per woman in 2021, well below the TFR value of 2.1 that is required for generation replacement to be ensured.

This is a Europe-wide problem, since no EU country currently attains the necessary value to ensure the replacement of the generations. Portugal is the leading member of the group of countries with the lowest TFR, having the [fifth lowest value among EU 27⁶⁵](#) countries in 2021.

The synthetic fertility rate has made progress in recent years, in line with improvements in the living conditions of the population, leveraged on the policy of restoration of income, the creation of quality jobs and the improvement of the response by public services. The rate rose from 1.31 in 2015 to 1.42 in 2019, the highest since 2005. However, the synthetic fertility rate fell back to 1.35 in 2021, due to the health crisis. Despite the recent improvement, there is still a marked difference to the desired fertility rate of households - 2.19 children per woman.

The cross-cutting nature of the Agenda and the SDGs also makes it possible to adapt policy measures to broader objectives, such as, in this context, the changes to the «free nursery schools for households with fewer resources» policy measure, following the [National Strategy for Children's Rights 2021-2024](#), reformulated with the approval of Law No. 2/22 of 3 January and Ordinances No. 198/2022 of 27 July, No. 304/2022 and No. 305/2022 both of 22 December. This change takes into account protection for the most vulnera-

⁶⁵ Eurostat (DEMO_FIND)

ble and the fight against poverty and social exclusion, while simultaneously fostering support to achieve the desired birth rate, support to conciliate personal and family life with work and the support for gender equality.

Migration policies, based on the attraction of regulated and integrated immigration and the encouragement of the return of emigrants and Portuguese descendants, are essential for the response to the demographic challenges. A reversal of the migratory balance has been possible in recent years, as a result of economic dynamism and the success of integration policies, such as changes to the legal framework for entry, stay, exit, the creation of a job search visa and family reunification facilities. In 2021, 698,887 foreign citizens with valid residence permits resided in Portugal, representing 6.8% of the total residents of the country. This generates a positive population balance.

The current demographic picture is also the product of positive developments, such as the decrease in mortality and the increase in average life expectancy. This requires the definition of a longevity policy, which includes improving social responses to support ageing, implementing an action plan for Active and Healthy Ageing, but also new responses and strategies that strengthen civic and social participation.

8.2.2.2 Social challenges

Both the strategic challenge of Inequalities and the Demography challenge (GO 2022-2026) aim to respond to the social and economic challenges that have been identified. Inequalities have intensified, from a multidimensional point of view, due to the effects of the health and economic shock and they have been the object of interventions to remedy the situation. However, in-depth intervention is required to guarantee more equitable living conditions and opportunities and a balanced and harmonious development of the national territory.

Two public policy initiatives, from this year, are to be highlighted in this regard, both aimed at alleviating the problems that have become more acute in the field of inequalities: on the one hand, the Decent Work Agenda, which aims to combat job precariousness, reconcile family and professional life, enhance young people in the labour market and boost collective bargaining. It intends to introduce a number of changes to labour laws, such as: the extension of death leave, extension of parental leave of the father, establishment of a fixed value for expenses in teleworking and outsourcing closed to firms making redundancies. On the

other hand, the NHP was approved in the AR on 20 January 2023. This programme, drafted due to the housing crisis, which has had a very extensive impact on the younger population, will be one of the governmental planning tools, ensuring it is acknowledged as a national priority in the 2022-2026 multiannual framework.

Social housing accounts for 2% of total housing in Portugal, which is one of the lowest in Europe. [Public expenditure on housing as a percentage of GDP is between 1.3% and 0.5% in Portugal](#) in this century, in the last 20 years. According to more recent data from Eurostat, relating to 2020 and 2021, this is now 0.6%, converging with the EU average (0.1 p.p more than in 2019).

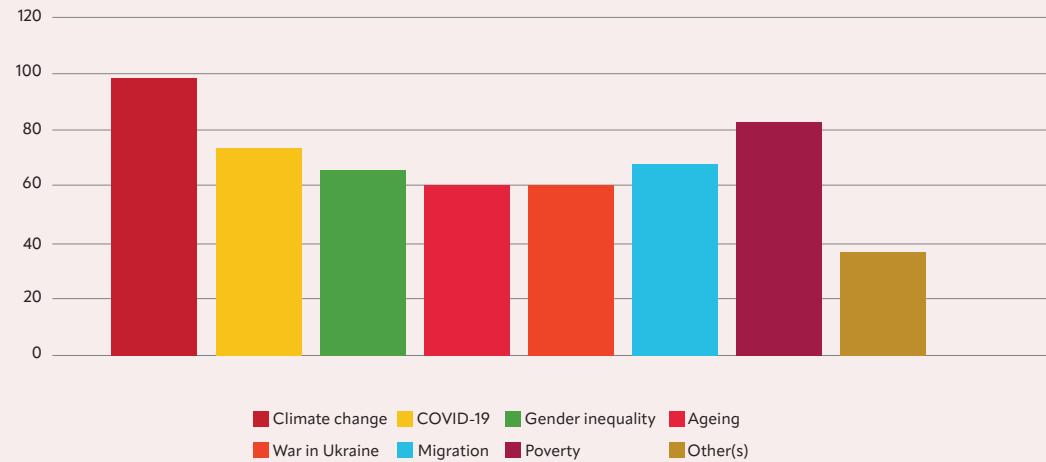
The low level of qualifications of the adult population remains one of the greatest structural weaknesses of the country, despite the progress made, through the continued public policies of the last 20 years and substantially co-financed by European Funds. In this regard, 37% of the adult population (aged between 25 and 64 years) still had, in 2022, a level of qualification lower than secondary⁶⁶.

In addition, and notwithstanding the progress, it is acknowledged that structural inequalities between women and men continue to persist. This inequality is based on gender stereotypes which give rise to direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of gender. This inequality manifest itself in the persistent imbalance in the distribution of care and domestic work between the genders; high levels of horizontal segregation, in addition to the gender gap in wages (11.9% in 2021) and pensions (20.2% in 2021); the feminisation of the risk of poverty and social exclusion ([20.2% compared to 19.4% among men in 2021](#)); conciliation difficulties and barriers to women's access to decision-making posts (26% in the management of listed companies in 2020). Furthermore, women are more heavily unemployed (55.8%, January 2023), including among young people ([53.0%](#)), and are significantly under-represented in the digital and green transition professions (20.7% of ICT specialists that are employed are women, compared to 79.3% of men).

The results of the survey of the governmental areas show that Climate Change is the emerging challenge, with the greatest presence in the universe of Public Policy Instruments. Climate Change accounts for almost one hundred PIs and measures, demonstrating this concern in a cross-cutting manner, while Poverty accounts for about 80 instruments.

The following figure presents the distribution of PIs and measures by emerging challenges.

Figure 67 – Number of PIs that incorporate emerging themes, by incorporated theme



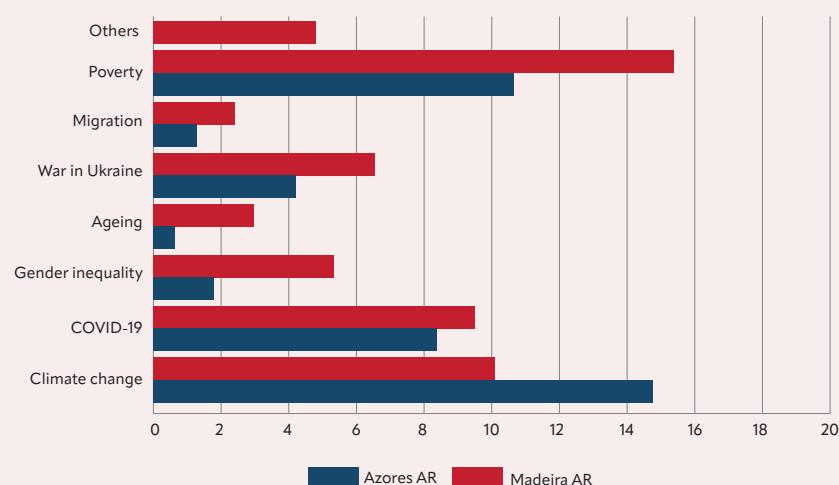
Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

Note: Each PI incorporates one or more emerging themes.

The emerging themes of Poverty and Climate Change are also associated with most of the measures of the autonomous regions, as the following figure highlights. However, while in the ARA, as on the mainland, Climate

Change is more prevalent as the main emerging theme, in the case of the ARM, Poverty stands out as the main emerging theme. In both cases the two emerging themes stand out from the others as a priority.

Figure 68 – Number of measures incorporating emerging themes, by incorporated theme, autonomous regions



Source: Governmental Area Survey, March 2023

Note: Each measure incorporates one or more emerging themes



8.3 FOREIGN POLICY RESPONSES

Many of the current challenges are transnational in nature and therefore require global responses. Strengthening multilateralism is therefore not an option, but an absolute necessity to address these problems.

It is essential, in this context, to reaffirm and strengthen the leading role of the UN as the multilateral entity responsible for peace, security, sustainable development, human rights, climate defence, youth and digital issues. Portugal also supports a more systematic involvement of the UN Security Council with regard to the Climate-Security Nexus. This is the reason why Portugal is applying for membership of the Security Council for the 2027-28 period, with the aim of facilitating and seeking global solutions to these threats, with an emphasis on dialogue about the implications of climate change for international peace and security.

Portugal is deeply committed to the implementation of multilateral agendas and initiatives, highlighting the «Our Common Agenda», the SDG Summit in 2023, the Future Summit in 2024 (and the respective Ministerial Preparatory Meeting earlier this year) and the World Social Summit in 2025.

Furthermore, ECP 2030 integrates climate action and environmental protection as a cross-cutting principle of its policies and practices. It proposes to strengthen the resilience of partner countries, populations, communities to extreme events and natural disasters by acting on the prevention, risk management and disaster response systems in line with the Sendai Framework (2015-2030) for disaster risk prevention and reduction.

Portugal also recognises the relationship between climate change and migration, from the human security perspective. People also migrate because of the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and this situation is likely to get worse. The impacts of climate change are also felt by exacerbating the combination of social, political, economic, environmental

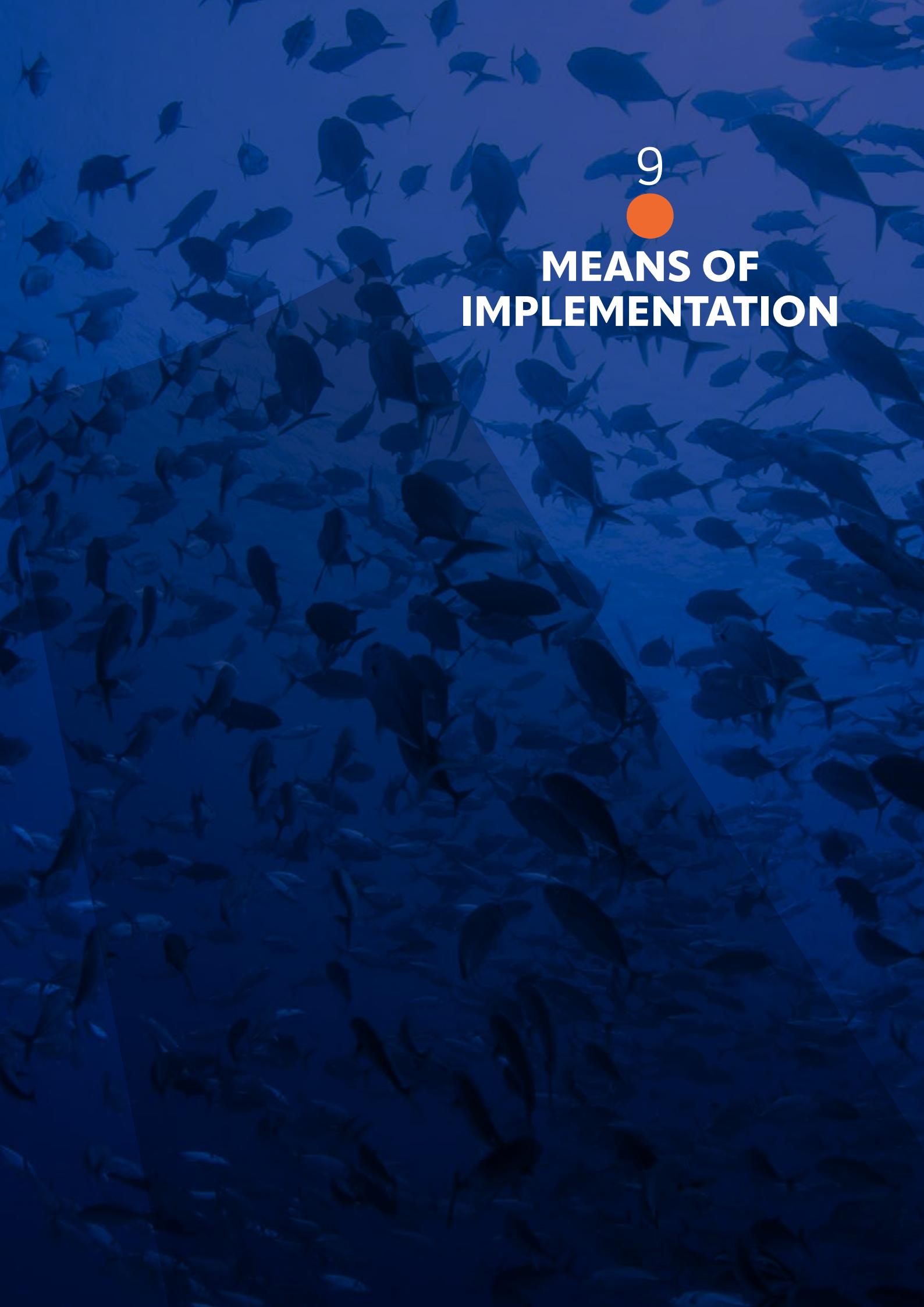
and demographic factors that boost migration. The most vulnerable people must be at the heart of our responses. Hence, Portugal will continue to promote inclusive, supportive and sustainable migration policies and practices.

Portugal has traditionally been in favour of international cooperation in relation to the economic and financial challenge of the Global South countries. It has notably been in support of financial assistance programmes such as the Poverty Reduction and Growth Funding Programme and the newly created Resilience and Sustainability Trust, in particular of an economic-structural nature, to low income and vulnerable countries. This position has been particularly strengthened as a result of the events that have affected economies since 2020, with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine.

Thus, Portugal has committed to strengthening its contribution to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Funding Programme by channelling 264 million Special Drawing Rights into the Deposit and Investment Account of that Programme. The amount will contribute to the sustainability of this important international solidarity instrument.

The international community, with the COVID-19 pandemic, felt the need to anticipate similar future situations. It is for this purpose that Portugal, in addition to supporting the creation of a «Pandemic Treaty» by the WHO and the strengthening of the International Health Regulations of 2005, is one of the pilot countries of the «Universal Health and Preparedness Review» (UHPR). The objective of this initiative of the WHO is to assess the preparedness and response of countries to public health emergencies.

The current challenges, as has been made clear, are interconnected. Shocks that occur in a country or a particular sector can quickly have global consequences, often in an unpredictable way. Thus, to strengthen the international response to complex global shocks, Portugal supports the UNSG proposal to create an Emergency Platform. This Platform will be capable of promoting the UN's capabilities to call and mobilise resources at global level, in order to put into practice a coordinated response, based on solidarity, equality and the LNOB principle.

The background of the slide features a dense, dark blue school of fish swimming in various directions, creating a sense of movement and depth. A large, semi-transparent diagonal shape, consisting of a dark blue triangle on top and a light blue rectangle below, cuts across the center of the image.

9



MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION



9.1 FINANCING INSTRUMENTS AND THE SDGs

Several policy measures, funding instruments, PI and public policy instruments contribute to the pursuit of the SDGs in a direct, indirect and cross-cutting manner, given the lack of a defined strategy or instrument for sustainable development with a dedicated budget. In Portugal, however, there are several funding instruments that are aligned with the SDGs.

The preparation of the VNR also highlighted the need for coordinating entities of budget programmes, which contribute to the achievement of specific objectives related to public policies, to ensure the provision of information,

on a quarterly basis, regarding the actions that contribute to the fulfilment of the SDGs. For this reason, in May of this year, a decree-law was approved that amends the rules for implementing the OE for 2023, which, among other changes, institutes a regime that allows for in-depth monitoring of actions that contribute to compliance with the SDGs, promoting the alignment of budget execution with the 2030 Agenda.

The development strategies advocated by Portugal since the beginning of the 2030 Agenda, as detailed in Chapter 4, reflect the components of sustainable development, are aligned with European policies and have as one of their main sources of funding the ESI⁶⁷ Funds and the RRF.

PT2020, for the funding period between 2014 and 2020, although signed before signing to the 2030 Agenda, also mirrored the three dimensions of sustainability in its defined thematic areas and its programme planning structure. PT2020, given its cross-cutting nature, has funded a wide range of public and private initiatives and projects that implement in material terms public policies that contribute to the SDGs.

Figure 69 – PT 2020 alignment with the SDGs

Strategic Objectives	Planned Value ⁶⁸ (1000€)	Direct SDGs Alignment	Cross Alignment
PORUGAL 2020			
Social Inclusion and Employment	5 006 320,8		
Human Capital	5 551 340,6		
Competitiveness and Internationalisation	10 372 777,5		
Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources	4 139 605,4		

Source: AD&C and Open Data Portal of the Public Administration: transparencia.gov.pt

67 The ESI Funds include cohesion policy funds (comprising the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FTF and Interreg), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

68 Total Support Approved in force - amount of European Structural and Investment Funds approved and earmarked in the financing decision in force for each project

PT2020, in addition to the OPs incorporating the thematic areas (financed by the cohesion funds), includes Technical Assistance and the specific allocation of the ultra-peripheral regions, as well as the Programmes targeting maritime and fisheries affairs (total approved support of around EUR five billion) and rural development (total approved support of around EUR 400 million).

According to the [Information Bulletin on EU Funds](#), with information reported to 31 December 2022, the planned financial allocation of ESI Funds for PT2020 is EUR 26.89 billion, with an overall implementation rate⁶⁹ of 85% at that time.

Following the COVID-19 disease pandemic, the Next-GenerationEU initiative of REACT-EU (Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe) was launched. This reinforcement for the programmes of the Cohesion and Rural Development Funds for the 2014-2020 period was aimed at speeding up economic and social recovery. Its

action was directed towards supporting companies in the most affected sectors, maintaining employment, strengthening social responses, in particular promoting the resilience of the health system (vaccination, medicines, primary health care) and restoring learning and promoting investments geared towards climate change.

The financial package linked to the pandemic recovery measures was EUR 2,139 million in REACT-EU and around EUR 354 million in rural development. The commitment rates were 88% and 76% respectively, on 28 February 2023⁷⁰.

According to the [Report on Portugal](#), the implementation of the cohesion policy funds is an effective and predominant contribution to 11 of the 17 SDGs, with, according to the associated expenditure, SDGs 8, 4, 9 and 1 standing out.

PT2030, as part of the EP 2030 and as explained above, is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

Figure 70 – PT2030 alignment with the SDGs

Strategic Objectives 	Planned Value ⁷¹ (1000€)	Direct SDGs Alignment	Cross Alignment
Portugal + Smart	5 260 689,84		
Portugal + Green	5 446 069,15		
Portugal + Connected	1 827 791,42		
Portugal + Social	7 994 734,06		
Portugal + Closer to Citizens	1 560 122,13		

Source: AD&C and [Transparency Portal](#)

The financing of the Demography, Qualifications and Inclusion Plan (DQIP) includes mechanisms to mitigate the food and material deprivation of the most deprived persons,

specifically: (i) the direct purchase and distribution of food and basic goods; (ii) the supply of food products and basic goods through the use of electronic cards; (iii) monitoring measures.

⁶⁹ Implementation rate is equal to value of the implemented fund / value of the planned fund allocation, where the implemented fund corresponds to the validation of eligible expenditure which is considered necessary for the satisfactory implementation of the operation and the fund allocation corresponds to the value of the European Structural and Investment Funds defined for the current planning period

⁷⁰ Source: [Barometer \(transparencia.gov.pt\)](#). The commitment rate corresponds to the ratio of the approved value to be invested in the implementation of the projects to the total value of the programme

⁷¹ Corresponds to the planned amount of the European Funds



In addition to five strategic objectives, PT2030 also has two other dimensions (Fair Transition and Technical Assistance). The planned overall value of European funds for the 2021-2027 period is around EUR 23 billion.

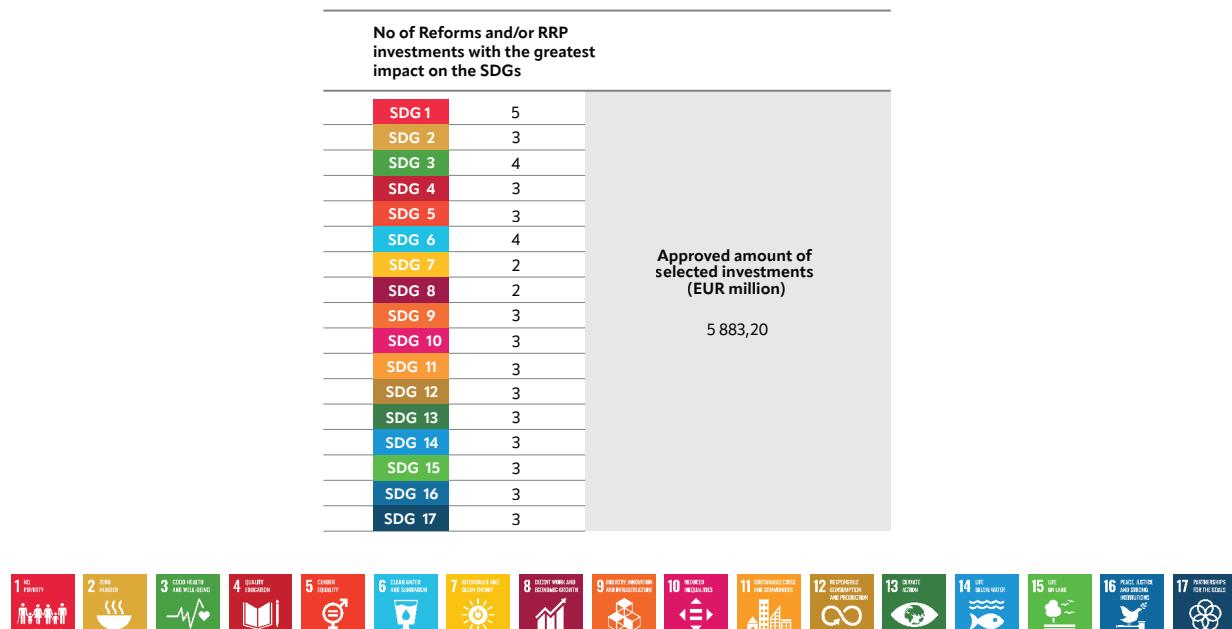
The RRP, on the other hand, within the framework of the RRF, aims to respond to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, integrated into three dimensions (Resilience, Climate Transition and Digital Transition), which are defined in material form as a set of reforms (37) and investments (83) organised into components (20). The total value of the funds foreseen in the RRP up to 2026 is EUR 16.6 billion⁷² (grants and loans).

PNR 2023⁷³ identifies the reforms and investments of the RRP that are most relevant for the SDGs. The full table of this alignment is attached as an annex, with a breakdown by component, reforms (totalling 13) and investments (totalling 30).

The following summary table aggregates the total number of investments and reforms impacting on each of the SDGs. SDGs 1, 3 and 4 are, as can be seen, those that have a greater number of associated reforms / investments.

In addition, it is the reform of the Decent Work Agenda (C06-R17) and the investments associated with the sustainable employment commitment (C06-i02) that impact more SDGs simultaneously (SDGs 5, 8 and 10).

Figure 71 – Summary of the RRP Alignment with the SDGs



Source: PNR 2022

According to a [study published in 2022](#), which analyses the synergies between the SDGs and the RRP, it is apparent in the case of Portugal that, in terms of the level of incorporation of the SDGs, grouped by size, this is higher in the economic dimension (around 50%), followed by the social and environmental dimension (around 30%) and finally the political dimension (below 20%). The same study states that SDGs 3 and 9 are explicitly mentioned, and that no reference is made to SDGs 2 and 17. The other SDGs are implicitly mentioned.

Although there is an alignment and contribution of the multi-annual financial frameworks described above to the SDGs, at the level of the national budgetary years there is still a way to go as regards the quantification of the financial resources allocated to the SDGs (estimated and implemented) as referred to in the [Court of Auditors' opinion on the State General Account 2020](#).

It should be noted, with regard to gender-sensitive budgets, that Portugal has provided in its budget law, since 2018, for the obligation of government departments to

⁷² Source: [Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan \(recuperarportugal.gov.pt\)](#)

⁷³ PNR 2023, Table 4

present a strategic report on gender analysis in their sectorial public policies and its translation into the construction of gender-impacted budgets. According to the Government's programme and the GO 2022-2026, a report is being prepared on Inequalities, annexed to the State Budget, which will include this analysis component.

It should be noted at the local level, as mentioned in Chapter 6, that more and more municipalities are including the 2030 Agenda in their financial planning instruments, such as business plans and budgets.

Other initiatives have aimed to accelerate the implementation of a sustainable financing framework in Portugal. A Reflection Group for Sustainable Financing was established in 2019 for this purpose, coordinated by the then-Ministry of Environment and Energy Transition (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action), in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy and with the participation of the main stakeholders of the financial sector (regulators, banks and insurance companies). It resulted in the publication of the [Guidelines for accelerating Sustainable Financing](#).

Funding for climate action has been, on the other hand, one of the main axes of national climate policy, also

within the EU framework. The EU's Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and the EU's Next Generation establish that the expenditure incurred must be compatible with: (i) the EU climate neutrality target by 2050; (ii) the EU's climate targets for 2030 (55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions) and (iii) the Paris Agreement.

One of the most important sources of revenue at national level for climate action funding comes from the auctioning of Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) allowances. All of this revenue is transferred to the EF and then used to develop a more competitive, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

The EF established in 2016 and managed by the APA, is the investment instrument in support of environmental policies and climate action for the pursuit of the sustainable development goals. It is used to finance entities, activities or projects that contribute to capacity-building and raising awareness regarding the environment. The financing of 167 projects cost around EUR 6.4 million (ENEA Report 2020, p.14, p20). The EF expenditure quadrupled between 2017 and 2020, as can be seen in the table below. Climate action and tariff support are the areas with the greatest contribution to the increase in total EF expenditure.

Figure 72 – Environmental Fund Expenditure

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND EXPENDITURE (EUR M)	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tariff support	56.18	160.41	152.15	151.56
Other	25.23	12.69	8.70	11.73
Cooperation	3.03	2.66	1.91	1.33
Water resources and sustainability of water services	16.20	30.20	25.29	37.24
Waste and circular economy	1.00	3.61	1.67	3.22
Nature conservation and biodiversity	3.28	5.13	5.97	17.81
Recovery of environmental damage	3.24	8.06	12.41	5.93
Raising environmental awareness	1.88	2.16	3.44	1.74
Climate action	25.89	21.54	176.03	339.25
Total	135.92	246.45	387.57	569.82

Source: Environmental Fund



9.2 ALIGNMENT OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INSTRUMENTS WITH THE SDGs

In the framework of the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action, which established the support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, it was agreed to follow up a mechanism for assessing progress, identifying obstacles and challenges, promoting good practice and producing policy recommendations on development financing (i.e. The United Nations Financing for Development Forum). Portugal acknowledges that strengthening and diversifying development financing, by pooling public and private resources, is essential for the achievement of the SDGs.

Nevertheless, it should be acknowledged that since the presentation of the first VNR the international economic and social environment has undergone several fluctuations resulting from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to which multiple crises have been added. These have evidently made it difficult for States to achieve the SDGs and have demonstrated the urgency of speeding up the achievement of the targets agreed in the 2030 Agenda and of leveraging the commitments on financing for development.

The 2030 Agenda, encompassing seven main areas, covers several key themes of financing for development⁷⁴. It also implies a commitment on the part of the beneficiary countries to create the conditions for sustainability of the aid provided, in particular in terms of institutional consolidation, good governance, the rule of law, transparency, human rights, human development, social inclusion, equitable distribution of goods, gender equality and promotion of the status of women. These are areas where Portuguese cooperation has been committed to supporting partner countries in bilateral and multilateral terms.

This vision calls for a new understanding of the concept of ODA - not restricted to the financial dimension. The effectiveness of this process also involves establishing a better pooling of policies and resources among the different stakeholders, namely governments, the private sector and civil society, in order to examine the progress achieved and propose future actions of alignment and mobilisation of resources for the SDGs, supplemented by the adoption of appropriate policies by the beneficiary countries.

In terms of financial responsibilities in the broader framework of the financing for development processes, Portugal agrees to channel 0.7% of GNI to ODA by 2030, of which 0.15-0.20% to LDCs, a category which includes partner countries such as Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and East-Timor.

Portugal has deepened its relationship with the EU institutions at various levels in its efforts to progressively foster these processes, notably through active participation in the debate and adoption of the Neighbourhood, Development and NDICI - Global Europe and the European Sustainable Development Fund (FEDS+), as well as strengthening delegated cooperation. Supplementary vectors of action that give added value to bilateral cooperation action include moving closer to IFIs, in particular to Multilateral Development Banks and strengthening triangular cooperation policies, which can have a multiplier effect on the investments made.

These processes bring obvious advantages in terms of strengthening multilateralism and diversifying sources of financing, which have enabled challenges to be met in a more focused and resolute way in the global context, particularly with the most vulnerable countries, LDCs and SIDS.

Portugal has advocated in all international fora the need to pool public and private funds. The idea is to go beyond the traditional definition of ODA, and to mobilise the resources needed to achieve the SDGs, considering and encouraging forms of innovative and alternative investment in third countries. It has also argued that IFIs have to adapt their financing to more sustainable objectives, recognising that a process of examining their role, size and functioning needs to be established.

Portugal contributes to the capital of the IFIs, to special funds and thematic funds, seeking to pursue an effective and consistent strategic approach. The aim is to increase the resources deployed, in particular for the benefit of the partner countries of Portuguese Cooperation. It has promoted, in this framework, the diversification and the combination of the financing sources, the identification of common projects, as well as the sharing and assimilation of good practices.

Portuguese cooperation has additionally made efforts, either through its institutional arrangements, which include mechanisms for inter-ministerial coordination and coordination of a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, or through its financing instruments, to promote a common understanding of

⁷⁴ The mobilisation of domestic resources; private, national, and international investment; development cooperation; the role of international trade as a driver for development; debt sustainability; key systemic issues such as policy coherence, financial market regulation and improved global governance; and Science, Technology, Innovation and capacity-building at all levels



development principles. It has also made an effort to ensure the alignment of activities with the priorities of the countries, the strengthening of ownership by developing partners - governments and local stakeholders - the strengthening of partnerships, increased transparency and mutual accountability. Likewise, the participation of non-state stakeholders in the national cooperation fora and in development cooperation activities has helped Portuguese Cooperation reach the marginalised and most vulnerable communities.

Portugal, at the same time, actively participates in discussions within the EU, the OECD, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other relevant international fora on the promotion of innovative financial instruments with an impact on development. The need for innovative and transformative but financially sustainable approaches is crucial in order to meet needs and achieve a greater return in terms of social, environmental and financial impact. It is also important to create and strengthen data collection and systematisation systems, in this field, to guarantee the credibility of the information collected, especially for those who work mainly with fragile countries, as is the case with Portugal. Working according to the impact in countries where information (both in operations and results) is unreliable or even non-existent remains one of the major challenges.

LDCs are the countries where the lack of investment is most noticeable. The risk-sharing of investments, together with the creation of favourable regulatory environments, are fundamental and determining factors to attract the private sector and ensure they act. Private stakeholders expect this dual role from the beneficiaries. Donors are expected to share the risk of investment and, by their long relationship of trust with partner countries, to contribute, in accordance with the principle of ownership, to the creation of regulatory environments conducive to private sector action.

Portugal is thus building partnerships and developing projects that stimulate local economies and strengthen the already existing links between the public and private sector, in particular through blended finance mechanisms. This type of mechanism is of the utmost importance for investment in projects with a significant impact on sustainable development, and which are unable to attract private investment. This involves paying attention to the appropriate use of resources, the balance between risk and return, alignment with the SDGs, clear mechanisms of accountability, transparency, management effectiveness, accounting and budgeting, debt sustainability, alignment with the partner country's national priorities, as well as other relevant principles in the area of development, such as aid coherence and effectiveness.



The work of the Company for the Financing of Development (SOFID) and the Portuguese Business Cooperation Fund (FECOP) as instruments of Portuguese Cooperation is to be noted in this context, especially in support of the development of SMEs, which constitute the bulk of the business fabric of the partner countries of Portuguese Cooperation. SOFID has recorded a trend of growth in its volume of support between 2018 and 2022, from 28 projects, totalling EUR 27.42 million in 2018, to EUR 41.2 million and 35 projects supported in 14 countries in 2022. The importance of the Portuguese Business Cooperation Fund (FECOP) is also emphasised for its role as a financial instrument established by the Portuguese and Mozambican Governments to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Mozambique. It is aimed at strengthening and restoring economic activity and investment in that country, particularly in view of the negative impacts caused by the pandemic. FECOP increased by 23% from 2020 to 2022, compared to its initial allocation, exceeding EUR 16.4 million. FECOP has quintupled the number of applications approved (from 3 to 17 - 467% growth), compared to the period 2014/2019, and its implementation rate has almost doubled (from 4.35% to 8.01% - 84.13% growth). In partnership with the African Development Bank (BAfD), Portugal established the Portuguese-speaking Compact initiative, which aims to combine financing, guarantees and technical assistance for investment projects in the PALOPs. This partnership makes it possible to promote private investment in those countries and to develop structural projects and potential public-private partnerships, including new renewable energy projects. The Portuguese Government has set up a guarantee mechanism of up to EUR 400 million to unblock financing by the BAfD, which will, according to the Bank, make it possible to mobilise EUR 1.6 and 2.8 million.

The recognition of the potential of partnerships as a driver of investment, job creation and production of goods and services, has allowed Portuguese Cooperation to expand its ODA action and bring it closer to various economic stakeholders, focused on the prospect of sustained and resilient economic growth, as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda. It blends different resources to catalyse and leverage additional private sector funds, strengthening the development cooperation strategy with priority countries. These development finance efforts have been viewed in a perspective of working together between different stakeholders, both at national and international level, which requires a clear commitment to partnerships. This represents a shift of the paradigm in this field.

Portuguese Cooperation considers the development of partner capacities as a priority in the public finance area. The focus is on reform and sound management of public finances, the improvement of the regulatory and tech-

nological environment of partner countries' systems, the strengthening of debt management capacities and tax administration policy, while contributing to the mobilisation of internal resources for development and to support the fight against corruption and tax evasion. These efforts, highly focused on the development of stable, modern and innovative legal and regulatory frameworks, have resulted in the strengthening of financial institutions in priority partner countries, making them more effective, accountable and transparent.

Portugal has specifically implemented a number of technical cooperation actions in the area of public finances during the period covered by this Review. The main objective has been to strengthen the tax base of the partner countries, a key element in the necessary mobilisation of domestic resources for their development. This is illustrated by the technical assistance provided to introduce value added tax in the tax systems of various countries, which will make a significant contribution to overcoming tax evasion, mainly due to the high prevalence of undeclared relationships in economic activity.

Particular attention was also paid to collaboration in the field of customs revenues, which was the continuation of an integrated programme of cooperation and technical assistance in the customs area between the CPLP countries. This issue is particularly relevant for the mobilisation of domestic resources in many developing countries, as their revenue structure is largely dependent on the collection effectiveness of customs duties. In addition to driving increases in revenue, this cooperation has also aimed to minimise the negative effects of customs checks and charges on the fluidity of international trade, since this is also essential to the development process.

The area of public debt management has also been the subject of several technical cooperation initiatives. The aim in these cases has been to reduce the cost of financing borne by partner countries, thus reducing the burden of their debt services. This then frees up budgetary funds and foreign exchange reserves to meet the most pressing needs. Portugal has also joined the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative.

Portugal maintains, at the same time, close links with different CSOs, which have benefited from new sources of state co-financing to carry out their work, notably in the development cooperation, humanitarian action and development education areas. Net bilateral ODA to non-governmental organisations ranged from 8% to 12% between 2018 and 2022 (preliminary data).

Portugal, as a member state of the OECD DAC, applies the methodology of markers of Rio, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, to the funding determined by the CRS (Creditor Reporting System), regarding the calculation of financial flows related to climate change Bilat-

eral financial flows related to climate change between 2017 and 2021, vary from USD 3.2 million to USD 2.7 million. The EF is the main source of funding in this area, accounting for a share between 75% and 82%, in different sectors, notably water and sanitation, environmental policy support and rural development. The EF - although it is national in scope - has a window for financing development cooperation projects, in particular related to nature-based adaptation solutions. In terms of combating desertification and soil degradation, Portugal supported bilateral actions in partner countries totalling USD 1.6 million, in the period 2017-2019.

In the area of human development, Portuguese Cooperation has prioritised the areas of education and health as drivers of positive social transformations. It includes projects to improve the quality and capabilities of the education and public health systems of the partner countries. Notable in the area of education of Portuguese Cooperation is the Scholarship Programme and the teacher training projects, which have contributed to the technical training of human resources and the promotion of equal opportunities.

The Action Plan in terms of the health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, between Portugal and the PALOPs and East Timor, started in 2020 and concluded in 2022. Its bilateral and multilateral contributions exceeded EUR 11 million. This plan was initially based on two main strands: resources and training. The resources strand comprised making personal protection materials available to health professionals of the PALOPs and East Timor, providing financial support through multilateral bodies involved in the fight against COVID-19 and bilateral financial contributions were made and support for health-related NGDO projects operating in the target countries was guaranteed. The training strand of the Plan provided for the implementation of training courses, made available in the online, in-person and B-Learning modalities, covering the areas of education for public health, training of health professionals, training in analysis and performance of COVID-19 tests, and technical assistance and cooperation in the research area. When vaccines started to become available in Portugal in 2021, this Action Plan entered a second phase. Portugal assessed, in close coordination with the authorities of the PALOPs and East Timor, the various possibilities for supporting its main cooperation partners, enabling them to prepare the vaccination process. This was without neglecting the provision of additional personal protection equipment (PPE) and further support in the provision of diagnostic facilities, including the delivery of PCR tests.

MAIN FEATURES OF PORTUGUESE ODA 2018-2022

Portuguese ODA has been on a growth trend since 2018 (EUR 329 million) reaffirmed in 2021 (EUR 378 million)

and accentuated in 2022 (EUR 480 million). 2022 registered an increase of 17.5% in real terms compared to 2021, the largest increase since 2010. The ODA/GNI ratio ranged from 0.17% to 0.23% between 2018 and 2022, placing Portugal in 25th place among the 30 DAC donors. The overall volume of ODA in 2022 reached its highest level since 2010. This figure also ensured the country was able to contribute to Ukraine's humanitarian aid needs, in a multilateral framework of combined efforts, with focus on the EU. This support did not negatively affect flows with the traditional partner countries of Portuguese Cooperation, as was evident through the increase that was also registered in the figures of bilateral cooperation with our African partners. Portugal has been gradually increasing the share of its untied bilateral ODA by progressively reducing tied credit lines and increasing the weight of the grants component.

As for the thematic priorities, Portugal maintains and values its strategic choice to focus ODA on LDCs and SIDS, and is committed to the LNOB principle, promoting inclusion, universality, equality and sustainability in all sectors. Portugal stands firm in its commitment to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, promoting the link between peace, security and development.

The country promotes partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, aiming to make more efficient use of existing capacities throughout its system, including in the private sector, civil society and academia, and seeking to maximise opportunities existing in networks and partnerships. Portugal assigns, on average, EUR 12 million annually for all national, international and local NGOs, representing 6% of gross bilateral ODA.

It should be noted that between 2018 and 2022, in terms of sectoral priorities, Portugal concentrated most of its gross bilateral ODA on addressing the social goals of the 2030 Agenda, such as education (30%), health (9%), governance, civil society and other social infrastructure (10%), together accounting for 50% of ODA (EUR 465 million). In the area of economic infrastructure and services (Transport, Communications, Banks and Financial Services) with multisectorial or cross-cutting characteristics, several sectors have benefited simultaneously (environment, rural development and food security), covering 7%.

The non-sectorally earmarked components, such as ODA to programmes (9%), debt-related actions (17%), humanitarian aid (6%) or refugee support (5%), account for 42% of gross ODA. These result from the use of concessional credit lines/loans by some partner countries, the gradual increase in support for refugees and humanitarian aid, the increase of budget support in 2022 for fiscal and economic consolidation plans in São Tomé and Príncipe, Guiné-Bissau and Cape Verde.



The multilateral component of ODA has gradually gained a determinant weight (average 67%), growing from EUR 217 million in 2018 to EUR 294 million in 2022, as a result of the strengthening of Portugal's contribution to financing mechanisms and partnerships primarily with the EU, UN, African Development Fund and Bank and the World Bank's International Development Association.

TOSSD - TOTAL OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The statistical indicator called TOSSD - Total Official Support for Sustainable Development - developed following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, is the result of the need to ascertain the financing of the SDGs, in addition to the calculation of ODA financing.

Portugal has valued the importance of this indicator, which makes it possible to capture the entire spectrum of officially supported resources for sustainable development, and so the country has participated in all the annual surveys.

In 2021, Portugal's contributions accounted for 66% of the total of Pillar II (financing of development enhancers and global challenges at regional and global level) and 34% of Pillar I (relative to developing countries). The largest contributions were earmarked for SDG 1 with EUR 224 million; SDG 17 with EUR 79 million; SDG 4 with EUR 59 million and SDG 16 with EUR 58 million. EUR 39 million was invested in initiatives covering multiple SDGs.

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together, palm against palm, set against a dark, moody background. The lighting is low, creating deep shadows and highlights on the skin.

10



CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS



10.1 LESSONS LEARNED

Portugal is committed and engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its fulfilment in an integrated and inclusive manner, taking into account the LNOB principle. In institutional terms, a new, more robust framework was defined by CMR No. 5/2023, which leveraged the present VNR, and which repositions the coordination of the 2030 Agenda at the heart of the Government. It has created a monitoring structure that aims to achieve it in the dual WoG and WoS approach.

Several lines of work were mobilised in methodological terms. These aimed to gather information, engage stakeholders and measure degrees of knowledge about and incorporation of the SDGs. The new governance structure of the 2030 Agenda created an impetus that benefited those lines of work and made it possible to establish and/or reactivate work processes, participation models and common learning, essential for the Decade of Action.

In the policy and enabling environment, in terms of institutional mechanisms, the ownership of the SDGs and the concern with the effectiveness of the 2030 Agenda was evident in the approval of the already mentioned CMR and the new implementation and monitoring architecture. That new architecture will drive greater coordination of the various PI and public policy measures.

The emphasis in institutional terms is on the autonomous regions (ARA and ARM) which have a highly developed collaborative and multilevel structure and have clear linkages to the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development.

The body responsible for monitoring the legality of public expenditure, the Court of Auditors, has in recent years developed and intensified the audit work in areas related to the pursuit of the SDGs, while the constitutional body with advisory and social consultation powers, the ESC, has issued opinions on policies directly related to the SDGs.

The CCDRs are well aware of the 2030 Agenda, but with different levels of integration. However, the recent approval of the decree-law that has reorganised the decentralised government services at a regional level and converted the CCDRs into public institutes will enable them to play a more active role in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, based on their in-depth knowledge of the territorial specificities. Ownership has also been differentiated at the level of municipalities, and there is a growing number of projects,

as well as planning and budgeting instruments, which incorporate the 2030 Agenda.

The incorporation of the dimensions of sustainable development is also present in Portuguese foreign policy. Of note during the 2030 Agenda negotiations and pre-approval is Portugal's endeavour to envisage an autonomous SDG dedicated to the Oceans (SDG 14) - reiterated with the co-organisation of UNOC, in Lisbon, in 2022, and at which the Lisbon Declaration «Our Ocean, our future, our responsibility» was published and signed, which aims to define the means and actions to accelerate the achievement of the goals of this SDG. Also to be highlighted is national support for various UN initiatives, such as «Our Common Agenda», the Joint Fund for the SDGs, including during the PPUE.

This incorporation is demonstrated at national level in EP 2030 and its Thematic Agendas, and its consistency and alignment with other policy instruments and measures, notably in the high-level planning instruments (GO 2022-2026, PNR 2023, RRP, PT2030). The inclusion of the RIA in the legislative procedure is worth mentioning, in the different aspects of sustainable development. In terms of ESD, it has been integrated into various areas of public policies, but the capacity of technicians and stakeholders who develop and implement them should be strengthened.

Good examples of explicit references to alignments and direct contributions between strategic axes/actions and the targets of the 17 SDGs are found in the sectorial planning instruments. Other instruments only refer to the SDG they actually contribute to. Of note is the creation in 2016 of a single EF to support activities, namely the pursuit of SDGs 6, 11, 12 and 13. However, despite the efforts and good examples mentioned, over 60% of the current PIs analysed do not contain any reference to the 2030 Agenda.

The LNOB principle has been incorporated into the different political dimensions. There has been an upward trend in the national implementation of the LNOB and an approximation to the EU average, as shown by one of the comparative indices constructed by the SDSN. However, Portugal is still far from gender parity, namely in the exercise of public and political office, leadership positions, with persistent social inequalities and poverty and difficulties in access to housing. In order to better assess these systematic vulnerabilities, the disaggregation of statistical data is required. In foreign policy, Portugal recognises the positive contribution of migration, when appropriate conditions are met, as a factor that enhances sustainable development. It is one of the «Champion Countries» of the GCM, promoting gender equality in all projects with cooperation partners, and acting as a strategic partner of the UNFPA.

Portugal has some structural weaknesses which, together with the risk of exposure to global economic im-

pacts, may limit compliance with the 2030 Agenda. At European level these impacts should be minimised through the implementation of the RRP. This tool identifies the lack of national resilience, when compared to the other EU countries, in resisting external shocks resulting from financial globalisation or in addressing social inequalities, as well as mitigating climate change, despite having the highest capacity and least vulnerability in the digital transition.

The pursuit of the 2030 Agenda can only be achieved through a holistic and integrated approach: the SDGs are interdependent and their targets are intrinsically linked. The result is the importance of policy coherence, and cooperation and coordination between government areas is necessary. Examples of a national response are: (i) the recent creation of PlanAPP; (ii) the alignment of GO with the SDGs; (iii) RIA with new modules dedicated to social and environmental impact; (iv) the new model for coordinating and monitoring the pursuit of the SDGs.

Progress and current status on the SDGs is monitored by INE through 170 indicators (coverage rate of 69%), having increased by 17 p.p. since 2018, 74% of the targets with at least one indicator associated - the highlight is SDG 9 with 100% of the targets with at least one indicator associated and at the opposite end is SDG 12 with 46%. 59.4% of the indicators monitored have a positive trajectory, compared to 2015.

The SDSN Network presents [six major transformations](#) that can lead to a more integrated view of the SDGs. Therefore, starting from an adaptation of this vision, the summary of the progress detailed in chapter 5 is presented.

1. Education, skills and innovation

Primary, secondary and tertiary education completion rates have increased, but challenges remain, especially at the level of lifelong learning, but also at the level of educational skills (reading and science). According to INE, the volume of aid for scholarships has increased compared to 2015, although there has been a significant reduction between 2019 and 2020, possibly associated with the pandemic. ODA in this field recovers in 2021. The large decline in the school dropout rate ensures greater equality of opportunity for groups with more difficulties and lower socioeconomic status. There remains, however, a major challenge in promoting school success. There is also the need to increase school success in more rural areas, namely by adapting the school offer to the degree of attractiveness, as demanded by more difficult audiences, through investments in innovative systems.

One area where Portugal continues to need to invest more is the area of Lifelong Education/Training, aimed at workers and students, in order ensure digital and other key competences for a sustainable economy.

In the area of Innovation and Development, although there has been a positive development in the number of

Portuguese entities participating in major projects, it is necessary to continue to focus on projects aligned with the pursuit of the SDGs, as defined by the European Green Deal: adaptation to climate change, oceans, cities and soils.

2. Sustainable energy

There has been an increase in the share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption and its production is growing through the use of various forms of generation (geothermal, biomass, tidal, wind, etc.). Renewable and Affordable Energy is performing well and energy efficiency is increasing.

However, challenges remain in combating energy poverty and there is margin for improvement in the full use of renewable energy to be produced. A programme to support the thermal comfort of the residential sector and public buildings has recently been launched by the EF.

There is also ample room for growth in the field of creating new jobs linked to the green economy and alternative sources of energy.

3. Sustainable communities, mobility and housing

In Portuguese cities, good air quality and prospects for improvement in the supply of public transport generally exist. However, in terms of land use, the urbanised area grows faster than the population, and there is also a lack of monitoring of the economic and environmental impact of tourism. Although it still falls short of what is needed, there is, however, a trend towards improvement in the access of the urban population to green spaces. The challenges are also great in terms of the recycling of municipal waste, which is exhibiting an unfavourable trend.

Municipalities require an overall sustainable development policy framework that serves as a common guideline for all strategies at the various levels, which are aligned with available funding and thus enable a coordinated pooling of efforts to pursue the SDGs.

Another key element for the sustainability of communities is Decent Work and Economic Growth, which is developing positively, with a high employment rate and a sharp decline in long-term unemployment. The challenge lies in the continuing high disparities in employment, youth unemployment, which remains high, and problems persist at the level of productivity and wages, as well as at the level of the effectiveness of labour rights.

SDG 10 has evolved positively, although it is the one in which Portugal is globally furthest from the desired progress. Net income has been increasing since 2015, although it decreased between 2019 and 2020 for the 40% of the population with the lowest resources. It grew again in 2021. Income inequalities also decreased until 2019, but will have intensified in 2020. SDG 1 is also a factor impacting on the



sustainability of communities. Poverty in the older segment of the population has not developed favourably and needs greater focus. Furthermore, mechanisms are foreseen in the financing of the DQIP to mitigate food and material deprivation of the more vulnerable groups.

Progress is being made in terms of financial soundness (with a reduction in bad credit), the inclusion of ethnic and racial minorities and migration policies.

The same is true of SDG 5, which has been developing positively in general, but which still registers marked inequalities, especially wage inequalities (pay gap) and parity is also far from being achieved.

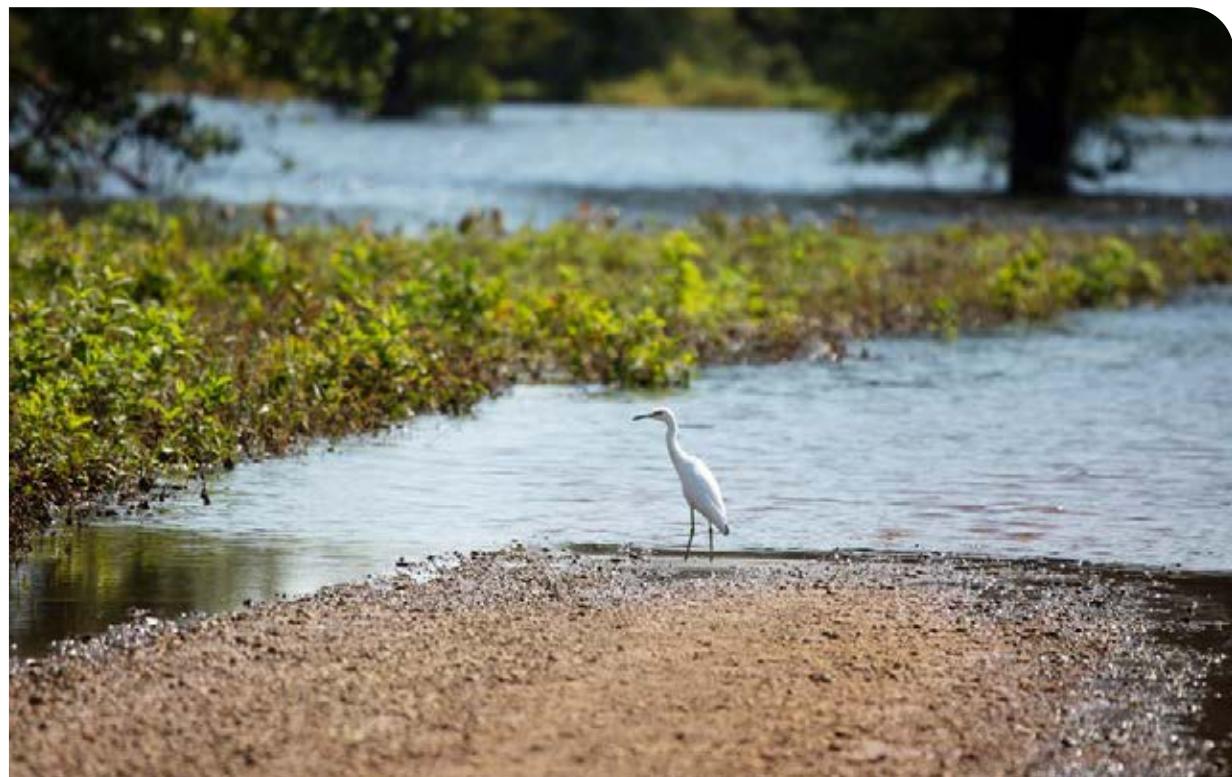
4. Sustainable food production, healthy diets and biodiversity

Progress has been made in the area of collection, recycling and composting, but less so in the area of recovering materials to be incorporated back into the value chain and also in combating food waste. Sustainable Production and Consumption shows an unfavourable trend, with many challenges in terms of responsible consumption and production, in particular as regards the management of chemical and hazardous waste, including waste electrical and electronic equipment. The export performance for plastic waste is also very negative. Challenges

are high in terms of the circular economy, with a low percentage of circular raw material use. There is also a negative trend in emissions of some pollutant parameters such as sulphur dioxide (SO_2). While the eradication of hunger has improved substantially over the years, it will be necessary to analyse the impact of the current inflationary crisis on prices. Challenges with regard to obesity rates also need attention. There is also a perception that the state of health varies a lot depending on the income levels of the population.

Protecting Marine Life is an SDG defined as strategic for Portugal, but it has recorded a negative trend. There is a lot of missing data regarding the indicators for this SDG. As regard the known data, there is good performance in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (INE) and in terms of bathing water quality. The challenges in this SDG are the protection of biodiversity in marine areas, the quality and cleanliness of ocean waters, overfishing and the disposal of fish. There is a need to increase investment in research and development in marine technology, which is decreasing in terms of total investment in intellectual property products.

Although data is scarce, significant loss of biodiversity and high rates of soil degradation can still be observed. It is therefore a challenge to strengthen the SDG of Life on Land.



5. Clean and circular economy with zero pollution

SDG 13 on Climate Action (defined as strategic for Portugal) has registered a trend of continuous improvement. Progress is positive and favourable, but further reinforcement is needed to meet the target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 2005) by 2030. The level of emissions incorporated into imports is high and shows a negative trend. Good performance in SDG 7, 9 and 12, whose challenges have already been mentioned, must also contribute towards a clean economy. In any case, this is an area in which Municipalities have made large investments.

6. Digital Transformation

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure have registered a favourable trend, but still present many challenges in terms of research and development for digital transformation. The basic digital skills of individuals over the age of 55 years, at a low performance level, are an example of this. There are challenges with regard to the added value of industrial micro-enterprises in the country's economy and in the share of research and development expenditure in GDP. The situation remains well below the EU average.

Information was collected at the sub-regional and local level on governance, academia, business and civil society, from the perspective of the group of stakeholders and entities consulted. The general opinion is that there is a lack of coordination and a comprehensive framework strategy. The level of achievement of the SDGs is based on initiatives for which each entity is responsible. It is therefore of the utmost importance to strengthen the prioritisation and political alignment of the national, regional and local agendas with the Agenda, with the support of and in close cooperation with civil society. Also to be noted is the importance of highlighting the results of this monitoring and the lessons learned from it as elements to be incorporated into the projects and challenges implemented by the various stakeholders and stakeholders.

From this consultation exercise it was also possible to highlight the importance of improving the monitoring and scope of certain targets and indicators. The inclusion of greater granularity in the data collected regarding the most vulnerable (especially children, as highlighted by UNICEF Portugal within the scope of the public consultation) is essential to guarantee greater efficiency and adequacy of public policies in relation to these groups. Likewise, the 2030 Agenda must consider, at the national level, the protection and analysis of other minority groups that do not find express reference in any SDG (as is the case of people with special needs or LGBTQI+).

At the transversal level, it also emphasised the importance of using culture as a means of dissemination and appropriation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. This ap-

propriation also involves the expansion and multiplication of projects such as the Pilot Project [«Thematic Indicators for Culture in the 2030 Agenda»](#) which allowed the analysis of specific indicators that measured the impact of culture in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, subdivided into four dimensions: (i) environment and resilience; (ii) prosperity and living conditions; (iii) knowledge and skills and (iv) inclusion and participation. The Report of this initiative, promoted by UNESCO, will be published in 2023.

New and emerging challenges may compromise the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It can be seen that events such as the COVID-19 disease pandemic and the war against Ukraine, still causing a systematic shock, can have a global and unpredictable impact. As such, extraordinary policy measures have been implemented in Portugal to support the protection of jobs and the incomes of the most vulnerable families and groups and to maintain the productive capacity of companies.

The funding instruments that have the greatest impact on the 2030 Agenda are mainly derived from the ESI Funds, the RRF and the EF. PT2030 and the RRP are aligned with the 17 SDGs. However, there are still gaps in the quantification of the financial resources allocated to the SDGs, as the Court of Auditors already pointed out in 2020.

All the above-mentioned challenges should be considered in the preparation of the National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030, to be developed with the broad involvement of the various stakeholders and linking the national strategic instruments with the SDGs and other national commitments at European level.

10.2 PRIORITY STEPS

The new institutional framework for governance in the 2030 Agenda commits itself, as a first priority step, to the definition of a National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030.

The preparation of the VNR 2023 and the advances, challenges and gaps that were identified provide a very dense and broad framework of lessons learned that will be the starting point for the definition of this Roadmap.

In the first analysis, the Roadmap will have to address the different dimensions of the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Portugal, by analysing the current state and defining the actions for a phased development by 2030. One of the main objectives of this Roadmap will be to define and map the linkage of national strategic instruments with the SDGs, as well as commitments made at European level, ensuring the overall coherence of public policies.

In the short term, the next step in the preparation of this report will be the definition of the action axes that, from a WoS perspective, should be implemented and mobi-



lised. The process of implementing this definition and planning stage should involve stakeholders and the Portuguese Government.

The HLMC, established under CMR No. 5/2023 of 23 January, should be a constant platform for dialogue, consultation, validation of the most relevant processes and initiatives to be developed under the new Roadmap for SDGs in Portugal. It can be updated by integrating new structures or networks which by their nature should participate in this body.

The National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030 should then, by the end of 2023, envisage actions which achieve the following objectives:

- improve the coherence and alignment of public policies with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- improve the monitoring and assessment activity of Portugal's progress towards the SDGs by considering upstream methodological assumptions and respecting the multi-level nature of implementation;
- increase the levels of ownership and public knowledge of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to the definition of the aforementioned Roadmap, in the short term, the stage that follows the preparation of this BNR will be the definition of the axes of action that, from a WoS perspective, should be implemented and mobilized. The process inherent to the implementation of this definition and planning stage should involve the interested parties and the Portuguese Government.

Externally and in terms of cooperation, Portugal will maintain its commitment in the various international fora, with initiatives contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, namely «Our Common Agenda» - and in particular the SDG Summit in 2023, the Future Summit in 2024 (and the respective Ministerial Preparatory Meeting this year) and the World Social Summit in 2025 -, in addition to the annual HLPFs.

In the near future, with a view to the SDG Summit in September this year, Portugal will remain committed to making this a mid-term review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in an open, transparent and fact-based manner, focusing on the changes needed to speed up its activities up to 2030. Within this framework of enhanced action, Portugal will work towards a concise and operational Political Declaration. That Declaration will be capable of providing guidance, at the highest level, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the 2023 Global Report on Sustainable Development.

In the light of the Resolution on the form of the HLPF ([A/RES/75/290 B](#)) adopted in June 2021, which encourages Member States to conduct at least one review during each HLPF cycle, Portugal also commits to submitting its third VNR by 2027, thus meeting UN recommendations.

Speeding up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is also promoted in the EU context. Portugal argues, in this regard, that there should be more direct and higher political ownership of the 2030 Agenda, as has been requested in the Council (2030 Agenda Working Party). Portugal intends to continue working to promote and optimise the integration of the 2030 Agenda into Union strategies and other initiatives. It will also continue to advocate better coordination and policy coherence internally within the EU area, as well as with its partners, in order to minimise spillover effects and trade-offs by developing effective measures.

In the broader context of the international community, Portugal will continue to promote multilateralism as well as the UN's leading role on issues of peace, security, sustainable development and human rights. Portugal is committed to contributing to a stronger United Nations, by applying for membership of the Security Council in the 2027-28 biennium.



ANNEX II

PUBLICATION DATA

Title
2023 Voluntary National Review - Annex II

Date
3 May 2023



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I.

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

I.1 INTEGRATION OF THE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

I.1.1 INTEGRATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Figure 1 – Alignment of the agendas and strategic areas of the EP 2030 with the policy pillars established by the EU RRF

Agendas	Strategic Areas	Green Transition	Digital Transition	Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	Social and territorial cohesion	Health and economic, social and institutional resilience	Next-generation policies
People first: better demographic balance, greater inclusion, less inequality	Demographic sustainability			•	•	•	•
	Promoting inclusion and fighting exclusion	•		•	•	•	•
	Resilience of the health system	•			•	•	
	Ensuring decent and affordable housing	•		•	•	•	•
	Combating inequality and discrimination	•		•	•		
Digitisation, innovation and qualifications as drivers of development	Promoting the knowledge society	•		•	•		
	Digitisation and business innovation	•		•			
	Qualification of human resources	•		•	•		•
	Qualification of institutions	•				•	
Climate transition and sustainability of resources	Decarbonising society and promoting energy transition	•					
	Making the economy circular	•			•		
	Reducing risks and enhancing the value of environmental assets	•			•		•
	Sustainable agriculture and forests	•			•	•	•
	Sustainable economy of the sea	•			•		
An externally competitive and internally cohesive country	Competitiveness of urban networks					•	
	Competitiveness and cohesion in low density					•	
	Projection of the Atlantic coastline				•	•	
	Territorial insertion in the Iberian market				•	•	

Source: [PNR 2022](#)

Figure 2 – Alignment of the RRP with the EP 2030

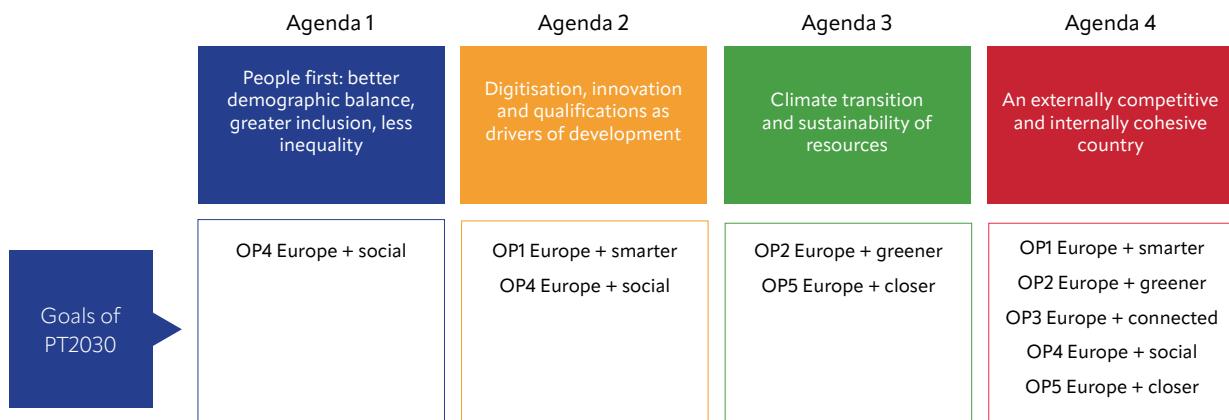
RRP		AGENDA OF THE PORTUGAL 2030 STRATEGY			
Dimension	Component	People first	Digitisation, innovation and qualifications	Climate transition and sustainability	A competitive and cohesive country
Resilience	C01 - NHS	•			
	C02 - Housing	•		•	
	C03 - Social responses	•			•
	C04 - Culture		•		•
	C05 - Investment and innovation		•		
	C06 - Qualifications and skills	•	•		
	C07 - Infrastructure			•	•
	C08 - Forests		•	•	•
	C09 - Water management			•	
Climate Transition	C10 - Sea		•	•	•
	C11 - Decarbonisation of industry			•	
	C12 - Bioeconomy		•	•	
	C13 - Energy efficiency of buildings	•		•	
	C14 - Hydrogen and renewables			•	
	C15 - Sustainable mobility			•	•
Digital transition	C16 - Companies 4.0		•		
	C17 - Quality and sustainability of the State's financial management		•	•	
	C18 - Economic justice and business environment		•		
	C19 - Digital public administration	•	•		
	C20 - Digital school	•	•		

Source: [PNR 2022](#)

Figure 3 – Alignment of the (GO) 2022-2026 with the EP 2030

		Portugal 2030 strategy			
		Thematic agenda 1	Thematic agenda 2	Thematic agenda 3	Thematic agenda 4
		People first: better demographic balance, greater inclusion, less inequality	Digitisation, innovation and qualifications as drivers of development	Climate transition and sustainability of resources	An externally competitive and internally cohesive country
Good governance	Recovery and convergence	•	•	•	•
	Responding to the increase in prices	•••	•	••	•
	Quality of public services		•••		••
	National Health Service	•••			
	Social pact for education	••	•••		
	Quality of democracy	••			••
	Sovereignty functions				•
Climate change and climate transition	Energy transition			•••	
	Sustainable mobility			•••	••
	Circular economy			•••	
	Enhancing the value of the territory			•••	•••
Demography	Birth rate	•••			
	Employment	•••	••		•
	Housing	•••			•
	Migrations	•••			
	Ageing and quality of life	•••			
Inequalities	Gender equality and combating discrimination	•••			
	Income and tax justice	•••			
	No poverty	•••			••
	Education	•••	•••		
	Territorial cohesion			•	•••
Digital society, creativity and innovation	Economy 4.0		•••	•	•
	Digital skills		•••		•
	Culture		•••		•
	Enhancing the value of consumer activities and consumer protection			•	•••
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ••• Very relevant direct contribution •• Relevant direct contribution • Indirect contribution 					

Source: Major Options Law 2022-2026 (Law No. 24-C/2022 of 30 December)

Figure 4 – Alignment of PT2030 with the thematic agendas of the EP 2030**Figure 5 – PT2020 results by thematic area**

Thematic Area	Indicator	Unit	Total
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Companies supported in the field of processing fishery and aquaculture products	No	140
	Companies supported in the field of productive investments in aquaculture	No	78
	Investment supported in the field of processing fishery and aquaculture products	euro	191 729 020
	Investment supported in the field of productive investments in aquaculture	euro	108 543 003
	No. of Local Development Strategy projects	No	322
	Projects supported in the field of investments on board	No	503
	Projects relating to innovation, advisory services in aquaculture	N°	59
	Integrated maritime policy (integrated maritime surveillance and Marine Knowledge) projects	N°	15
	Projects in the field of protection and restoration of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change	No	102
	Projects in the field of increasing the potential of aquaculture sites and measures concerning public and animal health	No	204
Human Capital	Projects in the field of fisheries control and data collection	No	31
	Projects in the field of added value, quality, use of unwanted catches and fishing ports, landing sites, fish auction halls and shelters	No	145
	Adults supported in long-term double certification arrangements	No	111 529
	Social action scholarships in higher education	No	118 008
	Scholarships in advanced training	No	7 769
	Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure	No	381 954
	Young people supported in vocational pathways (primary and secondary education)	No	312 736

Thematic Area	Indicator	Unit	Total
Competitiveness and Internationalisation	Companies supported under the Incentive Systems	No	43835
	Companies in cooperation with research institutions	No	1955
	Companies benefiting from internationalisation support	No	6398
	Eligible investment supported under Incentive Systems	euro	13570
	Intervention on railway lines	Km	1088
	New companies/start-ups supported	No	988
	Collective action projects supported	No	750
	R&D and knowledge transfer projects supported	No	4982
	Public Administration services supported	No	824
	Workers supported in training activities in a business context	No	102967
Rural Development	Support for investment in agricultural holdings, processing and marketing of agricultural products and irrigation infrastructures	euro	1942305343
	Area supported with surface/animal measures	ha	5509944
	Area supported with forestry measures	ha	642900
	Area supported by agri-environmental and climate commitments	ha	1869595
	No. of actions/operations supported	No	34101
	No. of beneficiaries counselled	No	17256
	No. of contracts with forestry-environmental, agri-environmental and climate commitments	No	105549
	Number of agricultural holdings/beneficiaries supported	No	61554
	No. of EIP operations	No	1239
	No. of trainees	No	22473
	No. of LEADER project	No	8102
	No. of EIP groups	No	1239
Social Inclusion and Employment	Supported social and health facilities	No	979
	Open spaces created or rehabilitated in urban areas	M2	1833360
	Rehabilitated housing in urban areas	No	6861
	Participation of people with disabilities in training sessions	No	26389
	Participation in training courses	No	2762782
	Participants in socially necessary work	No	73767
	Persons benefitting from staff hiring subsidies	No	109175
	Persons benefitting from professional internships	No	155431
Sustainability and Resource Efficiency	Households with improved energy consumption	No	9429
	Additional waste recycling capacity	Ton./year	1023562
	Estimated annual decrease of greenhouse gas emissions	No	170286
	Energy savings in supported projects in the transport sector	tep	10559
	Public or commercial buildings constructed or renovated in urban areas	M2	772573
	Open spaces created or rehabilitated in urban areas	M2	9628
	Stretch of the coastal strip where work carried out to protect people and property	Km	93
	Extension of Wastewater Drainage Systems to be built/refurbished	Km	3409
	Civil protection infrastructure	No	86

Thematic Area	Indicator	Unidade	Total
Sustainability and Resource Efficiency	Households with improved energy consumption	No	9429
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	Open spaces created or rehabilitated in urban areas	M2	9628
	Stretch of the coastal strip where work was carried out to protect people and property	Km	93
	Extension of Wastewater Drainage Systems to be built/refurbished	Km	3409
	Civil protection infrastructure	No	86
	Population benefitting from forest fire protection measures	People	9123932
	Annual reduction of primary energy consumption in public buildings	KWh/year	369964
	Area of habitats supported to achieve better conservation status	ha	2002852

Source: (Last updated 15/02/2023): <https://transparencia.gov.pt/pt/fundos-europeus/pt2020/resultados-praticos/>

I.2 LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

I.2.1 THE LNOB PRINCIPLE AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTRUMENTS

Figure 6 - Articulation of the LNOB principle in Public PI and Measures

LNOB Principle	Planning Instruments	Policy Measures	Interaction with SDGs
Economic Status, Geography	National Strategy for Combating Poverty (ENCP)	- Strengthen support to households with children - Stimulate hiring staff on contracts of unlimited duration and Decent Work Agenda	
Governance		- Social tariff for electricity and natural gas - Social Internet tariff	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 10
Discrimination		- Qualifications (Qualifica) Programme - Ativar.PT Internships	
Discrimination	National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination (ENIND), Portugal + Equality	- Action Plan for equality between women and men (PAIMH);	
Economic status		- Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (PAVMVD)	SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10
Vulnerability to shocks		- Action plan to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sexual characteristics (PAOIEC).	

LNOB Principle	Planning Instruments	Policy Measures	Interaction with SDGs
Economic status Discrimination		- Enhancing and Strengthening the Social Integration Benefits	
Governance	National Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (ENIPD)	- Employment Programme and Support for the Qualification of People with Disabilities	SDG 4, SDG 10
Geography		- New Support Model for Independent Living (MAVI), which relies on the provision of personal assistance to people with disabilities	
Vulnerability to shocks		- Update of Solidarity Supplement for the Elderly - Update of Social Integration Income - Update of Social Pensions - Update of the Social Support Index (IAS)	
Economic status	Social Transfers	- Increase in amounts of Family Benefit - Extraordinary social support to energy consumers - Extension of Social Integration Benefit to Children and Young People - New social benefit: Childhood Guarantee Support	SDG 10, SDG 1
Discrimination		- Increase knowledge and information about the Roma population (statistics, observatory, practices)	
Vulnerability to shocks	National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities (ENICC)	- Fight discrimination and anti-Roma sentiments (campaigns, rights' literacy, civic participation)	
Governance		- Intercultural mediation	SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 10
Economic status		- Promoting the integration of Roma women in work and in society - Promoting successful education and continuing education - Training technicians for the intervention	
Economic status		- Monitoring and knowledge of the phenomenon	
Discrimination	National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless Persons, ENIPSSA	- Permanent accommodation in individual dwellings (Housing First or other types)	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 10
Governance		- Migrant Support Line	
Vulnerability to shocks			
Economic status	National Strategy for Children's Rights (ENDC)	- Free daycare for low-income families - Capacity-building of Protection professionals in hearing and filing reports by children - Prevention and evaluation of Human Trafficking	SDG 1, SDG 10, SDG 16

LNOB Principle	Planning Instruments	Policy Measures	Interaction with SDGs
Economic status Vulnerability to shocks	Plan 21 23 School+, integrated learning recovery plan (PIRA)	- Strengthen Reading and Writing - Support for Home Study - Digital School	SDG 4
Economic status	National Plan of Accommodation for Higher Education (PNAES)	Refurbishment and construction of residences for higher education students	SDG 4, SDG 10, SDG 11
Economic status Discrimination	National Plan for Urgent and Temporary Accommodation (PNAUT)	- National Pool of Urgent Accommodation and Housing First for situations of risk and / or social emergency	SDG 11
Discrimination Economic status Vulnerability to shocks Governance	National Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination (PNCRD)	- Promote access to higher education for people from discriminated groups, from TEIP schools (the «Priority Intervention Educational Territories» programme - TEIP), - OPRE Programme - Higher education scholarships for Roma students - Strengthen the ROMA Educational Programme - Third-cycle and secondary education scholarships for Roma students - Access to higher education for students in a humanitarian emergency situation - Increase in the number of scholarships awarded by the Camões Institute to students from the PALOPs and East Timor - Portuguese, Host Language Courses	SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 16
Economic status	National Plan for the Implementation of a Youth Guarantee (PNIUMJ)	- Ativar.PT Measures - Sustainable Employment Commitment - INOV-Contact - Professional Internships in Public Administration «EstágioAP XXI» - Continuity of the Enterprise Now (Enterprise Now 2.0) - Enterprise XXI - Entrepreneurship and self-employment Programme	SDG 8
Economic status Discrimination	National Reading Plan (PNL)	- Strengthen multiple literacy skills in the population - Articulation of interrelations between reading and other areas	SDG 4

LNOB Principle	Planning Instruments	Policy Measures	Interaction with SDGs
Economic status		- I Am Digital	
Discrimination	National Digital Skills Initiative Programme (e.2030 - INCoDe.2030)	- Training for Inclusion - Creative Communities for Social Inclusion	SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 16
Governance			
Geography			
Economic status	1.º Direito (1st Right) - Programme to support access to housing	- Creating housing solutions for people living in undignified housing conditions who cannot afford the cost of housing	SDG 11
Economic status	Medium-term agreement to improve income, wages and competitiveness	- Progressive evolution of the national minimum wage up to 2026, agreed with social partners	SDG 1, SDG 10, SDG 17
Economic status	Operational Programme to Support the Most Deprived (POAPMC)	- Food Programme to provide foodstuffs or distribute meals to the needy (Social Canteen)	SDG 2, SDG 1
Economic status	Action Plan for the Children's Guarantee 2022-2030 (PAGPI 2022-2030)	- Childhood Guarantee Social Benefit - Linking with other programmes and strategies to combat poverty and socioeconomic exclusion	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4
Discrimination			
Geography	Inland Regions Enhancement Programme (PVI)	- Health + Closer - + CO3SO Employment - + CO3SO Proximity	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 15, SDG 16, SDG 17

Source: Governmental Areas Survey, List of Public Policy Instruments and Law on Major Options 2022-2026

II. PROGRESS ON OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS AND EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND MEASURES TAKEN SO FAR FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT

II.1 PROGRESS AND CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SDGs

The main planning tools and public policy measures that are most relevant to the progress made in each of the SDGs are set out below. The results of the general govern-

ment survey and what is established in the high-level strategic documents, notably GO 2022-2026 and PNR 2022.

II.1.1 SDG 1 - END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Key planning instruments and policy measures in force (2017-2022) making a relevant contribution to the SDG targets:

- National Strategy for the Integration of Homeless People (2017-2023), with particular emphasis on measures targeting housing support responses and support for social inclusion (housing first and temporary housing);

1 NO POVERTY



- National Strategy for Children's Rights 2021-2024, the highlights of which are measures to reinforce support for the attendance of nursery schools and pre-schools, ensuring that families with lower incomes have access to these facilities free of charge (in progress since September 2021) and the promotion of educational success and reduction of students being held back in the same academic year and the dropout rate of Portuguese Roma children and youth;
- Programme to Support Public Transport Fares Reduction (approved in 2019), with its contribution to the fight against social exclusion;
- The implementation of the Social Tariff for Electricity and Natural Gas measures, which was made possible automatically in 2016 for low-income households and recipients of social benefits subject to means testing, is also a relevant milestone in the access to basic services by households (these two measures benefitted, in December 2022, respectively 757,232 and 50,541 households).

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- Measures to ensure sufficient effective social protection and income support, as a whole approved and implemented between 2020 and 2022, including the general updating of social benefits under the contributory (pension) and non-contributory system (solidarity supplement for the elderly, social integration benefit, social integration income and increase of unemployment, social unemployment and termination of business activity benefits); adjustments to social protection schemes (protection in sickness and parenthood, etc.); tax measures that promote the reduction of taxes on employment, with a particular focus on those that promote the income of the lower classes and households with children, strengthening the family benefits;

- Implementation of the social internet tariff (approved in 2022), which allows affordable access to broadband internet access services by low-income consumers or those with special needs;
- Annual increase of the national minimum wage, promoting the increase of lower monetary income;
- Implementation of extraordinary mechanisms (throughout 2022) to support households, in particular the most vulnerable, and pensioners in response to rising prices.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instrument** and policy measure instrument referred to by the **ARA government** is the Regional Strategy for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2018-2028, aligned with the provisions of the PNR.

- There are also other ARA measures to mitigate wage inequality, namely:
- Guaranteed minimum monthly remuneration;
- Complementary regional remuneration;
- Review of the Salary Compensation Fund for Fishing Professionals;
- The Azorean supplement to the family allowance for children and young people;
- The regional pension complement;
- Social Tariff for the Supply of Electricity.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main planning instruments and policy measures referred to by the government of the **ARM** with impact on this SDG are:

- Regional Plan for the Integration of Homeless People 2018-2022;
- The Regional Strategy for Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty (ERISCP) 2021-2030, which includes measures to stimulate collective bargaining and to extend collective labour regulation instruments to sectors not covered, through social consultation and in a tripartite model, classifying administrative intervention preferably as subsidiary and complementary (having already resulted in the publication of 49 collective labour agreements covering some 62,000 workers) and the PROAGES programme (support to ensure social stability) which aims to provide households with additional income support to cope with the high inflation rate (covering more than 3,000 households in 2022);

- Regional Employment Plan 2021-2027, highlighting the measures that prioritise the access of specific groups to employment programmes (100 differences, Reactivate, Stimulus to Active Life (EVA), Programme for the Temporary Occupation of the Unemployed (POT), Integration Companies);
- Regional Strategy for the Integration of People with Disabilities 2022-2030.

In addition, the PNR also highlights the strengthening of social responses in the ARM, including homelessness integration projects as one of the relevant measures in this area.

II.1.2 SDG 2 - END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

Linked to the evolution of the indicators/targets of this SDG are a set of public policy measures aimed at promoting healthy eating, the provision and supply of essential products in the food chain, preventing external dependencies and uncontrolled effects on final prices and promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture.

- **National Strategy for the Implementation of the School Scheme (2017-2023)** | It has sought to meet the objectives of promoting the consumption of fruit and vegetables and milk among school-age children, of creating eating habits for a healthy diet;
- For the indicator assessing food price anomalies, and although it has a negative value due to Covid-19, the **National Strategy for the Promotion of Cereal Production (ENPPC 2018-2023)** must be considered, which incorporates the goal of self-sufficiency in cereal production contributing to a stronger and more efficient sector, with greater capacity for resistance to market volatility, with the capacity to give consumers a high-quality product, better adapted to climate change and which contributes significantly to the protection of soil, water and biodiversity, should be considered.

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- **Support for investment in precision and smart agriculture** with funding of EUR 12 million. Implement PEPAC from January 2023, through the measures established therein for fairer and more

inclusive agriculture, promoting active management of the territory. This is based on innovative and sustainable agricultural and forestry production, with a better redistribution of support, particularly for small-scale farming and the rejuvenation of the activity and ensuring access to direct payments for all eligible areas;

- **Research and innovation agenda for the sustainability of agriculture**, food and agro-industry (EUR 93 million), which will contribute to one of the targets of SDG 2 that aims to boost one hundred research and innovation programmes and projects and five structuring projects focused on the 15 flagship initiatives recommended in the **Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture 2020-2030**. Also, the implementation of a pilot project for the monitoring of the nutritional status of children under 5 years of age and the continuation of the system for monitoring the nutritional status of school children aged 6-9 years enrolled in the National Programme for the Promotion of Healthy Eating 2022 -2030. This will hopefully contribute to the improvement of the situation in two indicators foreseen in this SDG and which were registered for the first time in statistical terms.



ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the **ARA** are:

- Implementation of the **food donation measure** for the most deprived through the Regional Social Action Fund created by Government Council Resolution which resulted in 855 tonnes of food donations in 2021 (an increase of 270 tonnes compared to the previous year);

- The **measure to support 28,568 Azorean households in need** by the Azores social security is also highlighted, through a EUR 60 subsidy to address the increase in food prices, as a result of the armed conflict in Ukraine, through Government Council Resolution 80/2020 of 30 March 2020.
- A support measure was created for the Lunch Regime during Holidays and School Interruptions, as well as Social Canteens aimed at providing meals to the most vulnerable populations. Several sectoral plans were also approved, namely the Strategy for the Development of Organic Agriculture and the Action Plan for the Production and Promotion of Organic Agricultural Products in the Autonomous Region of the Azores (2019-2029) and the Strategic Plan for Beekeeping in the ARA (2019-2029).

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools and policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Implementation of good circular economy practices** in the Santo António da Serra Mini Cider Brewery - Machico, where other projects related to the application of the circular economy in other areas of the agri-food sector have also been highlighted;
- In the field of **food safety and quality, development and promotion of training and capacity-building** through the Training Plan of the Agricultural School of Madeira and activities of the Agri-Food Innovation Division. It is important to emphasise in this field the signing of an agreement between the Madeira Food Bank and the Regional Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development, through the Agri-Food Innovation Division;
- Also highlighted was the monthly publication in DICAS (TIPS) of the column called «**100% of Our Land Without Waste**», which aims to establish the parallelism between the promotion of the consumption of ARM products and giving value to the proximity between production and consumption, with the reduction of ecological losses along the food production chains and food waste.

Support was provided to the network for distributing meals to homeless people, with the aim of guaranteeing a response to 100% of meal requests. In the year 2022, 100% of meal orders were guaranteed. The project «Give knowledge, feed to live» is aimed at training people in the daily practice of low-cost, healthy eating. Between 2021-2022, 626 families were covered by these awareness-raising actions.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



II.1.3 SDG 3 - ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures according to the assessment of the governance areas:

- **National Programme for Oncological Diseases**, of 2016, in which the establishment of population-based screening for breast cancer, cervical cancer and colon and rectal cancer is highlighted;
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Plan**, the implementation of which proved effective in combating the disease;
- **National Diabetes Prevention and Control Programme**, 2016, in which the highlights were the measures for risk assessment of type 2 diabetes in primary health care in the adult population, population-based screening for diabetic retinopathy and access to diabetic foot consultations in all primary health care units, as well as the implementation of the integrated diabetes management model;
- **National Programme for Smoking Prevention and Control (PNPCT)**, 2016, which sets as its 1st objective the reduction to below 17.0% of the prevalence of smokers in the population aged 15 years or over, its 2nd objective is to halt the increase in tobacco consumption among women, its 3rd objective is the elimination of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and its 4th objective is the reduction of inequalities in the proportion of smokers according to the country's regions;
- **National Programme for the Promotion of Physical Activity (PNPAF)**, 2016, highlights of which

are the measures to encourage and improve the quality of the promotion of activity in health care and the capacity-building of professionals in this regard. It also aims to promote epidemiological surveillance and the monitoring of behaviour related to physical activity/sedentary lifestyles and their determinants, as well as improving the population's empowerment to choose and implement an active lifestyle throughout life;

- **National Programme for Mental Health (PNSM)**, 2016, highlights of which are the measures to monitor the mental health of the Portuguese population, with regards to the main indicators of morbidity and the use of services, to implement programmes to promote the mental well-being and health of the population and the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of mental illnesses, and to articulate specialised mental health care with primary health care;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- **Strategic Management Programme for NHS Human Resources**, the main objective of which is to enhance the value of NHS professionals and establish a planned recruitment system that makes it possible to respond to demands, aiming to increase the quality of the organisation and the provision of the necessary health services to the population;
- Promotion of sustainability through the association of therapeutic innovation with the use of generic and biosimilar medications.
- Strengthen hospital management autonomy in terms of hiring health professionals;
- Reform of primary health care with the completion of the process of decentralisation to Municipalities of health responsibilities.

Also, emphasis should be given to the creation of the Regional Integrated Care Network and the New Elderly Programme, designed to create a proximity response that allows the elderly to continue living at home and in the community.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- **Regional Health Plan 2014-2016** (with extension to 2020), issued by Government Council Resolution No. 133/2014 of 6 August 2014;

- **Public health measures** - combat the spread of emerging infections in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the production of daily and weekly reports to monitor the pandemic situation and more than 1 million COVID-19 tests;
- The **Regional Vaccination Plan against COVID-19** is also to be highlighted, where weekly vaccination reports were presented, showing the sum of half a million doses administered; 92.7% of the population with complete vaccination and 55.5% of the population with a booster vaccination.
- Projects such as **Operation Periphery** with the support of the Ministry of National Defence and the Nurses' Association, referring to the mass vaccination of islands without a hospital, are also to be highlighted in this context;
- Creation of **COVID-19 Testing Centres**;
- Creation of the **Platform** for Monitoring the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic, created by DRS;
- Public health control measures on entry to the ARA, as well as the creation of the **Special Monitoring Committee** for the Fight Against the Covid-19 Pandemic.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools and policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Strengthen early intervention in the control of risk factors for non-communicable diseases**, such as chronic diseases and neoplasms, for communicable diseases and for accidents;
- **Strengthen early detection of diseases** (i.e. cardiovascular diseases, oncological diseases, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic liver diseases and viral hepatitis, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, vector-borne diseases);
- Promotion of policies and practices aimed at preventing injury and poisoning events, including occupational risks and suicide risks, throughout life. This set of highlighted measures is the result of the **Regional Health Plan 2021-2030** which is the main planning instrument of the ARM for the achievement of SDG 3.
- In addition, awareness-raising campaigns for healthy behaviour and to seek out health are also highlighted, as well as the **A Pause for Prevention** project, which is a workplace-based project to raise awareness, educate and train managers and workers on the issue of psychoactive substances use in the workplace.

II.1.4 SDG 4 - ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures according to the assessment of the governance areas:

- **Educational Priority Intervention Territories Programme (TEIP)**, in which the following are to be highlighted: measures for strengthening the hourly credit in 3 hours per class, the possibility of hiring specialised technicians (psychologists, mediators, activity coordinators, social service technicians) to set up multidisciplinary teams and the extension of the TEIP programme to 10 new Organic Units with a high percentage of migrant students and large diversity of mother tongues. These measures resulted in a decrease in the school failure rate in the period 2018-2022 at all levels of education (from first cycle to secondary education).
- **National Strategy for Environmental Education 2017-2020**, which includes the measure to strengthen cooperation between the governmental areas of Education and Environment, the certification of participation in environmental volunteering activities and the implementation of awareness-raising/information campaigns to promote public participation;
- **Plan 21|23 School+**, an integrated plan for the recovery of learning, following the Covid-19 pandemic, in which the following measures stand out: the creation of the «#EstudoEmCasaApoia» (Study at Home Support) platform, which resulted in 250 daily accesses to the platform, the «Recover Inclusively» measure that resulted in the involvement of 4,057 students and 1,154 teachers and the «Recover by Digital means» measure, boosting the use of remote work tools;
- **School Sports Programme 2021-2025**, the highlights of which are the measures for the creation and promotion of school water sports, school sports on wheels and community school sports. The results in these areas are the establishment of 295 team groups and the mobilisation of 4,848 participants in school water sports, 135 team groups and 3,267 participants in school sports on wheels and 107 team groups and 1,057 participants in community school sports;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

■ **Citizenship Education Strategy (2015-2025)**, an instrument that promotes the education of Portuguese children and young people in the values of democratic citizenship, equality and respect for human rights;

■ Completion of the **process of modernising and updating the teaching of mathematics**;

■ Continuity of the **free school textbooks** measure for the period 2022-2026 financed by the State Budget (EUR 475 million);

Continued promotion of the **digital transition in education** with an allocation of EUR 470 million by the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), which promotes the strengthening of instruments and means of technological modernisation.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- **The programme of the 13th Regional Government of the Azores**, which includes measures to provide dual-certification professional courses in the area of tourism and agriculture for young people in the vocational schools of the Azores, resulting in 15 courses, 10 of which are in tourism and 5 in agriculture, covering a total of 295 trainees - 187 in the area of tourism and 108 in the area of agriculture;
- **Eco-Schools Programme**, originating from Government Council Resolution No. 79/2018 of 16 July 2018, resulting in the fact that 58 schools enrolled in the 2020/2021 academic year, 53 of which won awards;

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



- Short/medium-term **training courses** for unemployed persons and employees in tourism and agriculture, as set out in Government Council Resolution 242/2020 of 25 September 2020, which resulted in 95 training courses covering a total of 1,674 trainees;
- Partnership with the University of the Azores (UAC), with the Vocational Schools and other certified trainers of the ARA to conduct training courses in the blue and green economy fields, as well as technical-professional courses in tourism to qualify human resources for the sector;
- The **Educate for a Blue Generation (EGA)** project should be highlighted, as well as other measures to promote the increase of academic and professional qualifications, namely the Support Programme for the payment of fees to higher education students or the Programme for the Attribution of Scholarships to Higher Education Students.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Strategic Action Plan for Educational Innovation**, implemented since 2018 in the ARM schools, which integrates, among others, the **Digital Manuals Project** for all students of the region's state schools from the 5th grade upwards. It encompassed 9,235 students in the current academic year;
- Support and resources to overcome learning barriers in the context of an **inclusive school**. It was possible to measure a **reduction of the early school leaving rate (from 23.6% in 2015 to 9.4% in 2022)** and the registering of a **primary education completion rate in the 2020/21 academic rate of 97.2%**;

The stand-out projects in this area are «**AaZ**», which aims to fill and overcome gaps in initial reading and writing learning skills, the «**Classes +**» project and the «**English teaching in the 1st cycle**» project.

II.1.5 SDG 5 - ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

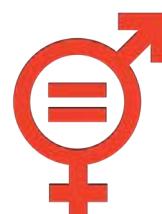
Main planning instruments and policy measures according to the assessment of the governance areas:

- **National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination «Portugal + Equal» (ENIND 2018-2030)**,

in which the Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (PAVMVD) and the Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men (2018-2021) (PAIMH) stand out, with emphasis on the following measures:

- **Creation of partnership projects in the education system** to encourage educational practices involving girls and boys in gender-segregated professional areas, namely ICT.
- The partnership programme in the education sector has already reached more than 12,500 young people in primary and secondary education, through various activities, including laboratory practices, role model sessions and mentoring. 52 School groups/Schools, 19 HEIs, 75 partner entities and 11 Municipalities are participating.
- **Establishment and maintenance of sheltering facilities for women victims of domestic violence**, including district-level emergency facilities and municipal-level support structures. The average number of victims received per quarter is 1,374, according to data from the Violence Portal, for the period from 2019 to 2021.
- **Extension of the balanced representation regime in the Public Administration (PA)**, through the Gender Equality Plan and the implementation of awareness-raising actions and embodied in the publication of Law no. 26/2019, of 28 March - balanced representation between men and women - management staff and bodies of the public administration.
- **National Defence Sectorial Plan for Equality 2022-2025**, the percentage of women in the military rose from 11% to 14% between 2015 and 2022. Progress has been consistent within the central services of the Ministry of National Defence, which exceeded the minimum threshold of balanced representation between men and women

5 GENDER EQUALITY



in management positions (set at 40%). Finally, it should be noted that since 2018, five women have been promoted to general in the Portuguese armed forces, which currently has three women generals on active service;

- **Creation of the Men and Women «Equality Index» (IIMH) Portal**, which enables the monitoring of the progress in terms of equality between women and men;
- **Creation of the «Equality Plans» portal** for drawing up Equality Plans.

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- Develop an integrated system of urgent action of territorial scope and ensure full coverage of the territory, involving and training police, judicial staff and members of the response services and structures of the **National Domestic Violence Support Network**;
- Complete the unification of the **Domestic Violence Database** by establishing an information processing system based on a comprehensive and integrated view of homicides and other forms of violence against women and domestic violence.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instrument** and **policy measure** highlighted by the ARM government is the **3rd Regional Plan to Prevent and Combat Domestic and Gender-Based Violence** (2019-2022), which is based on four strategic axes: (i) preventing domestic and gender violence by promoting a culture of citizenship, non-violence and non-discrimination; (ii) to ensure protection and support for victims and to consolidate victim-oriented and aggressor-oriented intervention strategies by promoting specific programmes and by promoting the quality and effectiveness of services; (iii) to train and qualify professionals on domestic and gender violence, violence in dating and new forms of violence, as well as on forms of intervention, through training and sharing of best practices; iv) to understand, monitor and evaluate the phenomenon, enhancing the development of scientific studies that allow expansion of knowledge about domestic and gender violence, violence in dating and new forms of violence.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Regional Employment Plan 2020-2027**, which

presents measures to reconcile work and family life and to promote awareness of gender equality or promotion of partnerships to implement gender equality measures, already started in 2019;

- The **4th Regional Plan for Equality and Active Citizenship (PRICA) 2021-2025** is to be emphasised for its pursuit of work and family life balance. Two of its awareness-raising actions are notable, covering a total of 97 people;
- **3rd Regional Plan against Domestic Violence 2021-2025**, which establishes a set of protection measures for victims of domestic violence, in particular gender violence and other types of violence against women and which resulted in the creation of three shelter homes, two support structures, an emergency home and a protected room in the court for victims of domestic violence;
- The **PROFAMILIA** programme to support entities hiring unemployed people registered in the IEM IP-RAM and the Regional Guide to the Conciliation of Professional, Family and Personal Life, whose mission is to deconstruct «traditional» prejudices/concepts/ideas attributed to different genders and family situations, have also been highlighted.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



II.1.5 SDG 6 - ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **National Irrigation Programme (PN Regadias 2014-2023)**, which aims to develop sustainable irrigation in Portugal as part of a medium/long-

term strategy. The PN Regadios programme promotes the expansion, rehabilitation and modernisation of existing irrigation and the creation of new irrigated areas, in particular with potential to connect with existing ones. The aim is to promote irrigation and other collective infrastructure, from a perspective of sustainability, contributing to adaptation to climate change, combating desertification and the more efficient use of resources;

- **National Water Plan (PNA 2016-2026)**, which sets out the main options for national water policy and the principles and guidelines to be applied by the hydrographic region management plans and other water planning instruments;
- **National Programme for the Efficient Use of Water 2020 (PNUEA)**, which is a national environmental policy instrument that has as its main objective the promotion of the Efficient Use of Water in Portugal, especially in the urban, agricultural and industrial sectors, contributing to minimise the risks of water scarcity and to improve environmental conditions in water environments, without jeopardising vital needs and the quality of life of the populations, as well as the socio-economic development of the country. PNUEA associates the improvement in the efficiency of water use with the consolidation of a new water culture in Portugal, through which this resource is increasingly valued, not only for its importance for human and economic development, but also for the preservation of the natural environment, with a view to sustainable development and respect for future generations.

The programme also aims to reduce the volume of pollutants discharged into water and to reduce energy consumption, which are heavily influential aspects of water use;

- **Action Plan for the Circular Economy (PAEC 2017-2030)**, through the principles underlying the circular economy regarding use and consumption, reuse and regeneration, establishes a set of initiatives aimed at promoting water efficiency in the urban, agricultural and industrial sectors, the development of accredited water efficiency labelling and certification systems, the setting of targets by hydrographic region, the promotion of the integration of water reuse in water resource planning and management, as well as the promotion of organic farming and sustainable agriculture practices as a vehicle for the efficient use of water.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments** and **policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- **The Azores Hydrographic Region Management Plan 2022-2027 (PGRH 2022-2027)**, the highlights of which are the implementation of a system for monitoring water losses and for the infrastructural improvement of public supply systems of water for human consumption, **which has already resulted in the reduction of water losses**. The programme also highlights support for the purchase and installation of drinking water meters, resulting in a total of 5,743 meters installed, at a total investment of EUR 97,567.93
- **The Azores Flood Risk Management Plan initiated in 2015**, which aims to reduce the potential harmful consequences of floods in the ARA on human health, the environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure and economic activities by defining prevention, protection, preparedness and response measures appropriate to the specific nature of each of the areas identified as posing a significant potential risk. The **hydro-meteorological network of the Azores** contributes to this goal - knowledge of relevant water balance parameters. That network monitors the water cycle of the archipelago through a network of udo, hydro, meteorological and limnigraphic stations distributed across the nine islands of the ARA.

It is to be noted in this field that 99.01% of the water in the Azores is safe for human consumption.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Measures leveraged by financing from Community funds (POSEUR/ PRODERAM/ RRP)** which contribute to: (i) the increase in water reserves at altitude resulting in an increase of the same at altitude, in ponds and storage reservoirs (1.5 million m³ of stored water); (ii) work on supply networks to prevent losses and hydraulic and energy inefficiencies, which resulted in a 20% reduction of losses in the networks of urban systems; (iii) Improvements in the networks and final wastewater treatment, resulting in a 20% increase of the drainage area and population served.

Also of note in this area are the operations carried out by **Águas e Resíduos da Madeira, S.A (ARM)** to recover North Water Channel - South Section - Pedregal Tunnel, to

optimise and improve the water quality of the supply systems and to remodel and extend the drainage systems of the western zone - Câmara de Lobos and Ribeira Brava municipalities.

II.1.7 SDG 7 - ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

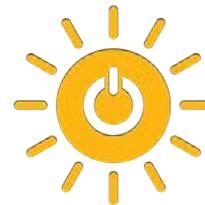
- **National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (PNEC 2030)**, partly financed by the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) (**Component 11**)- Decarbonisation of Industry, with a special focus on the «Decarbonisation Roadmaps» initiative, which has a total incentive of almost EUR 9.8 million applied and which contributes to the promotion of decarbonisation of industry through electrification, the incorporation of energy from renewable sources and alternative fuels and the promotion of energy and resource efficiency through efficient technologies;
- **National Investment Programme 2030 (PNI 2030)** establishes measures to support the offshore energy production industry through the production of offshore towers;

- **National Programme for Dams with High Hydroelectric Potential (2007-2020)**, the objective of which was to harness the national hydroelectric potential, by establishing strict criteria for the selection of sites for the implementation of large hydroelectric power plants that contribute to the fulfilment of the established energy targets, considering and weighting in an integrated manner environmental, social and economic components;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- **National Hydrogen Strategy (2020)**, which focuses on the production and incorporation of increasing volumes of green hydrogen, promoting the more intensive replacement of fossil fuels in sectors of the economy where electrification does not appear to be the most efficient solution, or is not even technically feasible;
- **Programme for Resource Efficiency in the Public Administration (ECO.AP 2020)**, which replaced the previous energy efficiency programme of the Portuguese Public Administration. It is a programme aimed at ensuring compliance with the goals and objectives of PNEC 2030 by estab-

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



lishing a set of objectives and targets that contribute to the decarbonisation and energy transition of the activities carried out by the State;

- **Long-term Strategy for Renovation of Buildings (ELPRE)**, adopted in 2021, which contributes to the promotion of the energy efficiency in existing buildings, with a view to their transformation into NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Buildings) buildings, by investing and reinforcing the focus on renewable energies and favouring local energy production;

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- The ARA has chosen, through the **2019/2027 Action Plan - Sustainability of the Azores Tourism Destination**, this SDG among the 10 priority SDGs it has committed to, establishing a set of goals, namely: by 2023, to ensure that 56% of the ARA's electricity is produced from renewable and endogenous sources; by 2024, reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 700 tonnes through the replacement of conventional vehicles with electric vehicles;

- **Regional Energy Efficiency Action Plan (PRAEE)**, with emphasis on measures to boost self-consumption of renewable energy, by reinforcing incentives for households, businesses, cooperatives, private charity institutions (IPSS) and non-profit institutions (**Proenergia** - System of incentives for the production and storage of energy from renewable sources), as well as the **Plan for Electrical Mobility in the Azores (PMEA)**, which focuses on measures associated with the installation of

charging points for electric vehicles and the earmarking of financial incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles;

- The «**Gerações em Movimento**» (**Generations in Movement**) Programme (GER-MOV), which aims to finance, until 2025, the acquisition of electric vehicles by Private Institutions of Social Solidarity, Charities and similar entities;
- Also highlighted was the project of Graciosa island called «**Graciolic Project**» (Projeto Graciólica) which is aimed at the production of electricity from wind, geothermal and solar sources. It is an example of good sustainability and self-sufficiency practices. **The share of renewables in Graciosa was 64.9% in 2021, and the island had 144 days in which renewable energy accounted for 100% of generation.**

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

- The main **planning instruments** and **policy measures** emphasised by the ARM government focused on measures and projects that relate to the **decarbonisation targets for the economy**, namely those that contribute to the maximisation of renewable energies, the implementation of energy storage and stabilisation systems for the region's power supply grid, and to the electrification of consumption and digitisation of the electricity grids and metering;
- In addition, the **Plan for Economic and Social Development of the ARM 2030 (PDES Madeira 2030)** is of note, in particular its Strategic Challenge «Promoting innovative experiences of adaptation to climate change and energy transition», which through its Strategic Objective of «Encourage the production and use of renewable energy (energy share in the electricity-producing system and decentralisation)» contributes to the successful achievement of the objectives set out in SDG 7;
- The 2022-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Madeira Tourism Destination should also be emphasised, in its pursuit of the same objectives. Of particular note are the objectives set out in its Commitment 1 - Increase the production of electricity from renewable sources by reducing dependence on external sources of energy and GHG emissions.

Also worthy of mention is the PRIAPER-RAM programme (Incentive Programme for the Production and Storage of Energy from Renewable Sources in the ARM), which contributed to boosting regional production of electricity from renewable sources for self-consumption.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



II.1.8 SDG 8 - PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **Multi-annual Agreement for Enhancing the Value of the Public Administration's Workers (2022)**, a preponderant element in the continuity of the process of restoring the rights of public workers that started in 2016, which included, among other measures, the restoration of wages, the unfreezing of careers, the reopening of admissions in Public Administration (PA), and laid the foundations for a new trajectory of increases in the remuneration of all AP workers, through the increase of the wage bill by 6.6% and the average increase in monthly basic remuneration by 4.6%. The amounts resulting from these increases are also impacted by the update of the meal allowance, which is now €6 per day, corresponding to €27.06/month (25.8%) more than in 2022. In general terms, these measures represent an overall increase of between 10.9% and 3.3%.
- **1st and 2nd National Plan for Youth (2018-2024)**, in which the stand-out measure is Youth Personal Income Tax - employed and self-employed workers, which establishes a more favourable personal income tax rate for young people;
- **The Inland Regions Enhancement Programme (PVI) created in 2018**, included measures to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and employment with good results in creating em-

ployment in inland territories through increased investment in the hiring of highly qualified human resources. This grew from 28%, in relation to the total, to 60%, both for companies and for entities of the scientific and technological system;

- **Extraordinary Programme for the Alteration of Insecure Employment Contracts in the Public Administration (2017)**, which promoted the adjustment of employment contractual ties in the public administration by changing the employment relationship of workers. It resulted in 7,400 open recruitment procedures, 23,500 jobs created and 17,800 workers recruited;
- **Action Plan for Digital Transition (PATD) — Portugal Digital (2020)** in which 17 digital innovation hubs were created. These include specific digital competence centres, with the aim of disseminating and adopting advanced digital technologies by companies, in particular SMEs, through the development, testing and experimentation of these same technologies. The aim is to increase competitiveness. It aims to support/engage 4,000 companies by 2025;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- Strengthening of **public employment** policies and **services** so that they contribute to a more inclusive labour market and sustainable employment, particularly in the groups and contexts of greater vulnerability in relation to employment, as is the case of young people;
- **Sustainable Employment Commitment** (EUR 230 million) — to promote incentives for the permanent hiring of unemployed people. It is an exceptional measure that will probably be in force for a limited period of time, deployed within the context of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP);
- Encourage entrepreneurship by starting a new cycle of the **National Entrepreneurship Strategy for the three-year period of 2022-2024**, aiming to double the main indicators (number of start-ups, weight in GDP, jobs and attracting investment), earmarking EUR 125 million of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) specifically for start-ups and incubators.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments** and **policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- The **Entrepreneurial Academy - School of Leaders programme**, which is an education programme for entrepreneurship in school, in social action institutions and in the university environment, promotes skills through a learning-by-doing **methodology** and which provides educational programmes adapted to the different target audiences. The programme covers the 9 islands of the ARA, comprising about 38 schools, 4 social action institutions, 63 teachers and technicians, 1,800 pupils in primary, secondary and vocational education and 60 pupils in higher education;
- The **FORM.AÇORES** programme contributes to the promotion of measures to support professional qualifications and has covered 768 active participants.
- The **TURIS.ESTAVEL** programme contributes to the promotion and creation of new jobs through the provision of support to the promoters for permanent, full-time employment, resulting in 312 workers covered by the measure.

Another highlight of this area is the **CERTIFY** platform, which is a database of certified professionals in the ARA, aiming to disseminate these professionals among companies in the region, as well as the creation of the **EmploymentAzores** and **YouthEmploymentAzores** platforms, which help promote employability.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- The **Invest ARM Covid-19** line of credit proved to be an important and highly successful mechanism to support companies in the ARM, due to the measures adopted to contain the outbreak of COVID-19. 4,867 applications from companies were approved, worth EUR 94 million, with 44,000 jobs covered and EUR 50 million converted to non-refundable funds;
- **Requalify +Digital** is a joint programme of the Regional Secretariat of the Economy, Startup Madeira and the University of Madeira, which aims to retrain the working population with higher education for the area of programming. It resulted in a total of 40 participants, 33 of whom completed the course. The employability rate, after completing the course, exceeded 87% (29 students who completed the course were employed).
- The **Digital Nomads** Project has so far yielded results of 14,400 registrations from 130 countries, and more than 7,600 digital nomads have passed through ARM. If we consider the survey

of the programme's users, where each digital nomad consumes, on average, around EUR 1,800 a month, the expected economic and social impact is around EUR 41 million.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



II.1.9 SDG 9 - BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **Creation Capitalisation Instrument (2021)**, in which the measure to establish the Banco Português de Fomento (BFP), corresponding to component 5 - Capitalisation and Business Innovation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, stands out. The results achieved by the BFP activities were to support, in the first half of 2022, approximately 1,600 Portuguese companies, via EUR 556 million of guaranteed financing and the co-investment of EUR 44.7 million in companies, using capitalisation instruments;
- **Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Plan 2014-2020 (PETI 3+)**, in which notable measures were the construction of the section of road of the IP5 (A25) between Vilar Formoso and the border with Spain, which contributed to the improvement of accessibility and strengthened road infrastructure safety. Also to be highlighted is the rehabilitation of the sections of the IP3 road from Penacova junction to the bridge over the River Dão, which increased traffic safety;
- **National Investment Programme 2030 (PNI**

2030), the measures of note are the modernisation of railway infrastructure and the purchase of railway rolling stock, the programme for electrification and reinforcement of the National Rail Network and the programme for increasing capacity on the rail network of metropolitan areas. The measures for works on roads and public transport, under the Transport and Mobility programme, are also of note. The highlights of the results of the implementation of public policy to date are the expansion and electrification of the railway infrastructure already carried out and the purchase of about 200 new railway vehicles;

- **Strategy for Digital Transformation in the Public Administration**, in which the measures implementing the Traffic Exchange Point (ESPAP) and the creation of the CloudAP Project (CTIC) are highlighted, which resulted in the creation of common communication structures, allowing connection through a common point and thereby eliminating redundancies. Another result is the implementation of Cloud mechanisms that allow easy access to systems in any location;
- **Action Plan for Digital Transition (PATD) — Portugal Digita (2020)**, in which the measures for the creation of the National Network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) and the National Test Bed Network are to be emphasised. These measures have resulted in 17 DIHs integrated into the National Network of DIHs (collaborative networks including specific digital skills centres, aiming at the dissemination and adoption of advanced digital technologies by companies, especially SMEs). 16 of these DIHs will become part of the European DIH Network. The results for the second measure indicate the selection of 30 Test Beds to be part of the National Network (total investment of about EUR 140 million). Test beds will act as accelerators of digital transition and innovation for SMEs and start-ups, providing equipment and infrastructure for testing and experimenting on products and services;
- **Policy of internationalisation of higher education and science and technology**, in which we highlight the creation of the «Study and Research in Portugal» days, which resulted in more than 69,000 foreign students enrolled in higher education in the 2021/22 academic year, including mobility students and students with «international student» status in the various study cycles (undergraduate, master's and doctorate degree courses). This figure corresponds to about 16%

of the total students enrolled in higher education in Portugal. This is a 100% increase compared to 2014/2015, when about 33,000 students of foreign nationalities were enrolled in Portugal.

- **Thematic Agendas for Research and Innovation;** This is embodied in the goal of achieving an overall investment in R&D of 3% of GDP by 2030 through the implementation of the technological and business innovation strategy for Portugal 2018-2030. This strategy prioritises the strengthening of the trajectory of increasing R&D expenditure, in order to achieve an overall investment up to the target value set, with a split of around 1/3 originating from public funds and around 2/3 from private sources. **It is also important to highlight the incentive for the creation of Collaborative Laboratories (CoLAB)** with the aim of strengthening the current structure of technological interface centres and other intermediary institutions in Portugal, diversifying and supplementing the existing structure and the performance of the R&D units and Member Laboratories. **The highlight of the results achieved by the measures is that the total expenditure on Research & Development (R&D) in 2021 reached a new historical peak in Portugal of 1.69% of GDP**, totalling EUR 3.565 billion. This result is an increase of 10% from 2020. Central to the evolution of R&D research are the stimuli from the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), where the financial funds implemented by FCT reached a historical maximum of EUR 618 million in 2022. There are 35 CoLAB, to which 6 CoLAB currently under construction are to be added, which are active in about 300 entities, including more than 120 companies for the development of their research and innovation agendas. These agendas cover, in particular, strategic areas such as health and ageing, green hydrogen, thermal waters, data science, sustainable aquaculture and tourism. The CoLAB contribute to the strengthening of the objectives of implementing research and innovation agendas of international relevance and with national impact.

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- Continue the Interface Programme by continuing work with the Interface Centres with the recognition of more entities and more funds to provide multi-annual funding;
- Strengthen the Banco Português de Fomento;
- Continue the implementation of the Strategy for Increasing the Competitiveness of the Commer-

cial Port Network of Mainland Portugal - Horizon 2026 and related investments, using the PT 2030 and the Connecting Europe facilities

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- **Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the ARA (RIS3 Azores 2022-2027)**, which is an economic development strategy. It is implemented through selective support for research and innovation activities, covering a number of priority areas, which may arise in response to specific challenges facing the ARA: agriculture and agro-industry; sea and blue growth; tourism and heritage; space and data science and health
- Programme of the 13th Regional Government of the Azores, namely the measure on **Rehabilitation of community infrastructure**, where the Rehabilitation of Arifões School, in Ponta Delgada, is notable. This aims to improve the learning and living conditions of the local school community. The Government of the Azores has proposed the construction of a new building with three floors, with more than 35 rooms, three laboratories, a kitchen, a cafeteria, a media library and an auditorium seating 124 people
- **Network of Incubators of Companies of the Azores (RIEA)**, which provides hosting spaces and support to entrepreneurs in the creation and setting-up of companies, in the development of new business during the start-up period, empowering companies and offering diversified services. The fact that the platform has a network of 16 incubators available to help entrepreneurship projects is to be emphasised;

The **Regional Entrepreneurship Contest (CRE)** is also a highlight in this area, which aims to stimulate the initiative capacity, creativity and entrepreneurial behaviour of the competitors, as well as the **Entrepreneurial Academy - School of Leaders Programme** (already mentioned in SDG 8).

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The **planning tools and policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- Measures for the **Rehabilitation, modernisation and upgrading of infrastructure of the regional**

school network, the highlights being the results presented in the prevention and reduction of early school leaving and school failure, the adaptation of the schools infrastructure to new innovative educational and training opportunities, the increase of comfort and safety levels for the school community and the promotion of inclusive architecture;

- **Regional Health Plan 2021-2030:** highlights in this area include measures for **Modernisation of the health infrastructure of the ARM**, which contribute to improving the health care provided, increasing the safety of medical acts, promoting inclusive architecture and increasing the supply of integrated continuous care.

The planning of the New Central and University Hospital of Madeira and the New Local Health Unit of Porto Santo stand out in this regard.

II.1.10 SDG 10 - REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities (ENICC 2013-2022)**, in which the measures for the creation of the Operational Programme for the Promotion of Education - OPRE and the Roma Educa Programme stand out. These programmes have resulted in 207 scholarships corresponding to OPRE and 409 scholarships related to Roma Educa respectively;

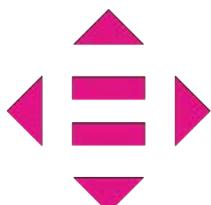
■ **The Strategic Plan for Migration 2015-2020**, the highlights of which are the measures to strengthen the teaching of Portuguese through the launch of the Portuguese Online e-learning platform, the creation of the Immigrant Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme (PEI) and the organisation of training courses for migrant entrepreneurs aiming at building their capacities. It also highlights the definition of local strategies to ensure concerted action by the various entities involved in migration, aiming at the promotion and attraction, as well as the integration, of migrants through the design and implementation of Council Migrant Integration Plans (PMIM). It should be noted that the results of the implementation of these measures translate, in the first case, into the use of the Portuguese Online platform by a total of 30,170 users from 193 countries, in the period between 2016 and the end of 2020. In the second case listed above, the PEI resulted in 41 Immigrant Entrepreneurship Promotion courses and 161 businesses created by migrants. Lastly, in the third case listed above, the reported results are **44 designed and implemented Council Plans for the Integration of Immigrants**;

■ **National Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination 2021-2025 (PNCRD)**, highlights of which include measures to strengthen intervention against harmful traditional practices, to create and distribute a Guide of Recommendations for preventing and combating discrimination in schools and to promote advisory, guidance and information services for victims of discrimination, in particular in conjunction with the Portuguese Bar Association. There are also initiatives and campaigns of literacy concerning rights and access to law, to empower victims of discrimination and racism, and to increase trust in the institutions and knowledge about how they can intervene. The results of these measures consist of financial support for CSOs working against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriages, supporting 9 associations in the amount of EUR 60,000.00, in 2021. Most of the work in the field was in respect of FGM;

■ **Choices programme**, in which the creation of 59 projects carrying out activities under SDG 10 stands out;

■ **Action Plan for Digital Transition (PATD) — Portugal Digital (2020)**: the stand-out components are the creation of the Adult Digital Inclusion Programme «I AM DIGITAL» which aims to promote

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



the digital literacy of people without digital skills (adults, especially aged over 45 years) through mentoring actions, in the 5 regions of the mainland. This initiative has already impacted 6,615 people and has a network of 5,779 mentors;

- **National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (ENIPD 2021-2025):** the stand-out measures are to strengthen the capacity of the educational community to consolidate inclusive education, to produce handbooks in accessible formats, to distribute support products, to enhance and expand the Social Integration Benefit and to simplify the eligibility procedures. It also aims to strengthen the Support Model for Independent Living - Personal Assistance (MAVI) by defining a definitive model that will reap the results of the evaluation of the pilot projects established by Decree-Law No. 129/2017 of 9 October. Other measures are to create an information aggregation platform for people with disabilities and a Portuguese Sign Language service to support interaction between deaf people and public services - Platform + Access;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- Promote and strengthen programmes for the integration of refugees in society.
- Promote the conversion of critical and complex territories, such as areas that have been illegally occupied and informal construction, by eliminating aspects that make it difficult to resolve those situations and mobilising the financial support available for this purpose.
- Strengthen access to family support services and facilities by gradually ensuring free-of-charge attendance of social, solidarity-based, and private nursery schools (by 2024), as well as private, implementing, in partnership with and the involvement of different stakeholders, including Municipalities, a programme to extend social support for households. This will be directed, in particular, at children and in areas with a more fragile network, notably by extending the network of nursery schools, with a further 20,000 new vacancies and modernising 18,000 vacancies, thereby achieving the universalisation of pre-school education.

Establish a model for the territorial distribution of public services, defining minimum levels of in-person or digital access at sub-regional level, harmonising the territorial boundaries of the State's devolved administration, which will be integrated into the CCDRs, without prejudice to the expansion of the decentralisation process.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The implementation of the Azores Tariff, which sets a maximum value for inter-island travel by residents, allows for greater mobility and reinforces the territorial, social and economic cohesion of the ARA.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** deployed by the ARM government correspond to the planning instruments already mentioned in SDG 1. They are seen as significant for reducing inequalities: ERISCP 2021-2030, Regional Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2022-2030 and Regional Employment Plan 2021-2027.

II.1.11 SDG 11 - MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **Sustainable Cities Strategy 2014-2020** with a specific low-carbon measure, which advocated reducing carbon intensity in urban mobility, including passengers and freight;
- **National Strategy for Active Cycling Mobility (ENMAC 2020-2030)**, in which the stand-out measures are to develop a national reference framework to teach cycling, the inclusion of cycling as an extracurricular subject and intervention with school-age youth to practice this form of mobility;

- **Spain-Portugal Common Cross-Border Development Strategy (ECDT 2020-2030)**, including the measures for the creation of a **Common Cultural Agenda**, the establishment of the **Cross-Border Tourism Sustainability Strategy 2022-2024** and the prioritisation of territorial connectivity through the completion of the infrastructure of the Atlantic Corridor in the territories concerned;
- **National Programme for Spatial Planning Policy (PNPOT 2015-2025)**, in which the measure to build the fundamental infrastructure network stands out, in order to achieve more balanced territorial development of the objective of consolidation of the connectivity system;
- **New Generation of Housing Policies**, in which the stand-out measures are **1.º Direito - Programme of Support for Access to Housing, Porta de Entrada** and **Porta 65 Programme - Youth**. The objective of these measures is to increase the signing of Collaboration Agreements between the Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation (IHRU) and Municipalities, with the results measured by the number of agreements signed. By 2020, 10 Collaboration Agreements had been signed, and this number had reached 224 by the end of 2022;
- **National Programme to Support Investment in the Diaspora (PNAID)**, approved in 2020. This establishes the allocation of financial incentives targeted at investment in the diaspora and special benefits for low-density territories, prioritising innovation and the qualification of human resources and companies - issuing more than 250 diaspora investor statutes. The 10,809 people covered by the Return programme embodied an investment of EUR 16 million.

Establishment and operation of the Diaspora Investor Support Network - 300 entities, 123 investment projects representing an investment potential higher than EUR 122 million were supported.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments** and **policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- Measures for the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage, such as **Support schemes for the preservation of the ARA's immovable and movable cultural heritage**, which contributed fi-

nancial support (19 grants in 2022) for the conservation and restoration of cultural assets;

- **Legal scheme to support stakeholders carrying out cultural activities of interest** to the ARA, which contributes to affirming and supporting the most significant cultural events and festivities of each island in the region, highlighting that financial support was allocated 159 times in 2022, for the development of activities of cultural interest
- **INTERREG-MAC project - Margullar 2 (2021-2027)**, which contributes to the promotion of close cooperation between the tourism, environment and culture sectors, in the conservation, enhancement and knowledge of the territory and the movable and immovable cultural heritage of the ARA. 3 books and 3 documentaries have been created and 3 awareness and knowledge centres for the underwater cultural heritage of the ARA will soon be set up;

In this area, the policy measure on the implementation of a **Deposit System for Non-Reusable Beverage Packaging** in the ARA is also to be highlighted. It awards a prize of five cents for each beverage package collected, and aims to increase the region's recycling rate.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- Policy measure on the construction of **access and safety infrastructure in the high areas of Funchal** that contributes to the increase of fire safety and protection of the city of Funchal
- **Policy for the management of the sustainability of tourism in Madeira**, with emphasis on the **Certification of the ARM as a Sustainable Tourism-Destination**, by EarthCheck. The first level of the silver seal was obtained as well as the award of the bronze seal, in the framework of the assessment of the destination's sustainability performance.

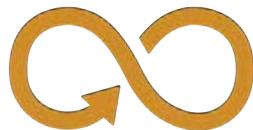
II.1.12 SDG 12 - ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **Strategic Plan for Urban Waste 2020 (PER-SU 2030)**, which is the strategic instrument for the management of urban waste for the period

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



2023-2030, defining the vision and objectives for the management of urban waste, within the framework of urban waste management systems (SGRU), as well as the targets for each of these systems. It sets as its priorities the management of waste as endogenous resources, efficiency in the use and management of primary and secondary resources, decoupling economic growth from material consumption and waste production, the gradual elimination of waste disposal in landfills, harnessing the potential of the urban waste sector to stimulate local economies and the national economy and, finally, the direct involvement of citizens in the urban waste strategy;

- **National Strategy to Combat Food Waste (EN-CDA 2018-2021)**, which aims to «combat food waste, a shared responsibility from producer to consumer» and includes 3 strategic objectives - Prevent, Reduce and Monitor. 14 targeted measures to combat food waste are defined in the Action Plan;
- **National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security (ENSANP 2021-2030)**, which aims to contribute to the definition of an integrated vision of food and nutrition security matters, in the framework of the progressive realisation of the human right to adequate food, and in line with the United Nations guidelines in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- **National Strategy for Organic Farming (ENAB 2017-2027)**, which aims to encourage the production and promotion of organic agricultural products and foodstuffs, considering its operational objectives and a medium- and long-term implementation framework. This will enable it to evolve progressively towards strengthening the economic dimension and competitiveness of the organic farming business sector, as well as increase the

supply and consumption of organic products on the market at national level and foster the export of products;

- **National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products (PANUSPF 2018-2023)**, which seeks to strengthen preventive measures to protect crops by increasing integrated production and protection practices, promoting an innovative and competitive agriculture and forestry industry that retain rural populations, creating jobs but at the same time protecting natural environments, waters and the diversity of fauna and flora;

- **National Strategy for Green Public Procurement 2030**, which highlights the measure of increasing adherence to ECO360 procurement, in particular through the increasing introduction of ecological criteria in the public procurement of products, services and public works contracts;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- **Action Plan for the Circular Economy (PAEC 2018-2030)**, which sets out a strategy based on the prevention, reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling of materials and energy. Replacing the «end-of-life» concept of linear economics with new circular flows of reuse, restoration and renovation, in an integrated process, the circular economy is seen as a key element in promoting the decoupling of economic growth from the increase in resource consumption, a relationship traditionally seen as inexorable.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- **Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Management of Waste of the Azores 2016-2020 (PEP-GRA 20+)**, which is currently under review (Government Council Resolution No. 6/2021 of 23 March. The proposal has been completed and it is in the process of being adopted by the ALRAA) and has become the instrument for implementing the regional urban waste management policy;
- Policy measures to **reduce the consumption of single-use products and to promote reuse and recycling** (Regional Legislative Decree No. 5/2022/A), with a focus on achieving a reduction in the consumption of plastic bags, increasing awareness of

recycling and implementing a pilot beverage packaging deposit project across the ARA;

- In this area, initiatives such as the **European Waste Prevention Week (EWWR)** are promoted, which takes place annually in the Azores. It aims to promote the implementation of awareness-raising actions on the sustainable management of resources and waste with the aim of changing the behaviour of citizens in relation to their consumption patterns and habits.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools and policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **PRIPAER-RAM (2021-2022)**, which is an incentive programme for the production and storage of energy from renewable sources in the ARM, supporting 534 households and companies.
- **UPACs - Self-consumption of Renewable Energy (2022-2022)**, which is about promoting and encouraging the consumption of electricity produced by Units Producing Power for Self-Consumption (UPACs). The highlight here is the result of 640 installed production units.

Policy measures aimed at **energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in companies**, where EUR1.2 million in support for this purpose is highlighted.

II.1.12 SDG 13 - TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - ENAAC 2020 (2015-2025)**, which sets targets and the format for the implementation of solutions to adapt different sectors to the effects of climate change;
- **National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (PNA-EE)**, adopted in 2016. The significant measures implemented are in the field of energy efficiency in buildings, which resulted in a reduction of energy consumption;
- **National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (PNEC 2030)**, in which measures contained in the **Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)** in its **Component 11 - Decarbonisation of Industry** are highlighted, with a special focus on the «Decarbonisation Roadmaps» initiative, which had a total incentive of almost EUR 9.8 million applied with the aim of supporting the investment needed to promote the transition to a circular and carbon-neutral economy;
- **Electric Mobility Programme**, launched in 2020, which highlighted measures to boost electric mobility, resulting in a reduction of the use of fossil fuels;
- **National Programme for Controlled Fire (2017-2022)**, which sets out the national plan for using controlled fires to contain the expansion of wild-fires;
- **Programme to Support Public Transport Fare Reductions (PART)**, initiated in 2019, which highlights support measures to combat negative spill-overs associated with mobility, including social exclusion, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, congestion, noise and energy consumption;
- **Programme to Support the Densification and Strengthening of Public Transport Supply (PRO-TransP)**, started in 2020, of which are highlighted the support measures that promote the transfer of users from individual transport to collective passenger transport, thus contributing to the induction of more sustainable mobility patterns and the decarbonisation of mobility.

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

13 CLIMATE ACTION



- **National Renewable Energy Action Plan (PNA-ER 2020)** which was replaced at the beginning of 2021 by **PNEC 2030** and which has been translated into the country's energy efficiency strategy, with the aim of making energy efficiency a priority of national energy policy;
- **National Climate Change Plan 2030** which was also replaced at the beginning of 2021 by **PNEC 2030** and which has been established as the central instrument of mitigation policies. It also includes specific objectives to promote the integration of mitigation into sectorial policies and to ensure compliance with national commitments in the European Community and international frameworks.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments** and **policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- **Regional Climate Change Programme (PRAC)**, adopted in 2019, presents itself as a strategic benchmark for the area of climate change in the ARA. The PRAC as a sectorial plan is binding on all public bodies, and the special, inter-council and council spatial planning plans must also ensure that the established policies and objectives are implemented. According to the first evaluation report of the PRAC, in December 2022, of the 145 recommended measures, 52% are already in implementation and 9% are fully implemented;
- **Regional Climate Change Strategy (ERAC)**, which follows a set of mitigation policies, focusing primarily on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well as through adaptation initiatives and policies enabling societies to cope with change;
- The processes for evaluating and amending/revising the **Azores Regional Land Management Plan (PROTA)** which are under way;
- Projects such as **Life IP Climaz** or the **Action Plan for Marine Debris in the Azores (PALMA)** are also to be highlighted in this area, as they are projects contributing to the proper achievement of the objectives associated with SDG 13, as well as the adoption of legislation in the ARA on single-use products (notably plastic-based);
- The **2019/2027 Action Plan - Sustainability of the Azores Tourism Destination**, as an ARA management and planning instrument, provides

additional cross-cutting measures in a very wide range of areas: Energy Efficiency; Greenhouse Gases/Decarbonisation; Drinking Water Resources; Wastewater and Sewage; Ecosystem and Biodiversity; Transport; Solid Waste; Economy

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Programme of the 13th Government of the ARM**, with a special focus on the implementation of the Regional Inventory of Emissions by Sources and Removals of Air Pollutants by Sinks that enable an understanding of the reality, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions;
- **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the ARM (CLIMA-Madeira Strategy, adopted in 2015)**, with emphasis on the implementation of the Integrated System of Monitoring and Natural Risk Alerts of the ARM that contributes to the improvement of preventive and early warning capacity;
- **Integrated and Strategic Transport Plan of the ARM**, in particular its **Programme to Support the Public Transport Fare Reduction in the ARM (PARTRAM)** which has enabled the reduction of land transport fares, allowing public transport to be used by some 25 million passengers in 2022, an increase of 20.8% compared to 2021;
- Projects such as the **Expansion of the Calheta Hydroelectric Power Plant**, the **Life Dunas** project or the **Fuel Management Strip in 32.18 hectares to Caminho dos Pretos** were also highlighted for the commendable pursuit of the objectives associated with SDG 13;
- In addition, the **Plan for Economic and Social Development of the ARM 2030 (PDES Madeira 2030)** is of note, in particular its Strategic Challenge «Promoting innovative experiences of adaptation to climate change and energy transition», which through its Strategic Objective of «Transition to a digital and low-carbon economy» contributes to the successful achievement of the objectives set out in SDG 13;
- The **2022-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Madeira Tourism Destination** should also be emphasised, in its pursuit of the same objectives. Of particular note are the objectives set out in its «Commitment 1 - Increase the production of electricity from renewable sources by reducing dependence on external sources of energy and GHG emissions.»

II.1.14 SDG 14 - CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

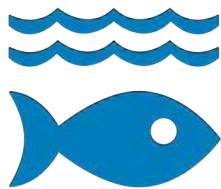
- **Strategic guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of a National Network of Marine Protected Areas (RNAMP - 2019)** in which measures are highlighted to protect representative areas for species with specific needs in terms of conservation or recovery of biological cycles that are relevant to them, to protect areas of high biological diversity and to strengthen the participation and representation of the various stakeholders in the design, establishment, implementation and monitoring of the network's marine protected areas. Measures to promote the development of new renewable capacity have also been highlighted, notably through the implementation of an auction system for the assignment of injection capacity in the electricity grid, as well as measures to promote distributed generation and self-consumption from renewable sources and incentives to purchase and renew heating and cooling systems from renewable energy sources;
- **Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2021-2030**, which sets out measures for sustainable aquaculture production, focusing on the sustainable use of natural resources, mitigating any effects that may arise from the more intensive farming systems, but in particular focusing on farming that contributes both to the sustainability of species and the planet;
- **National Data Collection Programme**, which is a tool associated with data collection in the framework of the adoption of a programme for the collection and management of the data essential for steering the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Such data are necessary to assess the state of fish stocks, the profitability and social situation of the different segments of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and the effects of these activities on the ecosystem;
- **National Ocean Strategy (ENM 2021-2030)**, which is the instrument that sets the course for the public policy of the Sea in this decade and is based on the importance of scientific knowledge, the protection of the Ocean, the enhancement

of the marine ecosystems services and the recognition of their role as a vector for sustainable development and, in parallel, the robustness of the traditional and emerging sectors of the blue economy;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- **National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030 (ENCNB)**, which is an instrument for pursuing environmental policy and responding to national and international responsibilities to reduce biodiversity loss. This should be specifically highlighted in this area as one of the objectives under «Axis 1 Improving the conservation status of natural heritage,» which refers to the consolidation of the National System of Classified Areas (SNAC), particularly at sea, and their management through effective instruments, including those of spatial planning. In this context, the target commitment is aimed at contributing to the achievement of Aichi Goal 17 and Goal 14.5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for 10% of the global marine surface to be covered by protected areas, by consolidating the network of marine areas of the SNAC;
- Measures based on investment in ocean renewable energy and support for ocean innovation projects;
- Measures to support innovative and sustainable fishing and aquaculture, through the restructuring and modernisation of the fishing fleet, making them more energy efficient, with a view to increasing the attractiveness of the sector, continuing to invest in research and deepening knowledge about the resources;
- Measures to promote the sustainability of fishing activity and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources, to promote sustainable aquaculture activities and the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products;
- The Government will pursue the ecosystem reforms of infrastructure supporting the blue economy, under the scope of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) - Component 10, aiming to build a more competitive, decarbonised and sustainable maritime economy. Under the RRP and framed in this policy area, the development of the sea economy (EUR 108 million) consists of the development of the **Blue Hub**, Infrastructure Network for the Blue Economy (EUR 87 million) and the support of the Green and Digital Transition and Fisheries Security (EUR 21 million). The

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



renovation/construction and equipment acquisition procurement procedures are in preparation as well as the start of the tendering procedures.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments** and **policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA:

- **Instruments to support and encourage the collection of information and the production of knowledge to support decision-making**, where measures to monitor the state of conservation of resources of major commercial interest stand out, in particular the fact that about 90% of the stocks of commercial interest for the region are subject to monitoring programmes in order to assess environmental status and to allow the fishing effort to be adapted to the available resources;
- **Instruments aimed at regulating the extraction of resources**, with a particular focus on applied management measures (i.e. catch limits, closed seasons, minimum catch sizes, etc.), which have resulted in some 95% of the resources exploited by the regional fleet being subject to strict management measures. This has ensured that the quota is distributed throughout the year and that the income is distributed to those working in the sector;
- Measures aimed at reducing the production of waste produced by fishing that include various awareness-raising actions, «garbage fishing» and

the acquisition of selective collection equipment which have been carried out in the various islands of the archipelago. These actions have led to greater awareness of this issue.

Other stand-out projects were:

- **OCEANLIT**, which has the overall objective of reducing marine debris, helping to conserve and restore protected coastal and marine natural spaces in the oceanic archipelagos;
- **Plasmar +**, which aims to contribute to the advancement of the maritime spatial planning process (MSP) in the Macaronesian archipelagos, developing new tools based on scientific and technological knowledge, with a view to the implementation period (post-2021) and supporting the sustainability of blue growth;
- **Blue Azores**, working closely with the scientific teams of the University of the Azores, is a programme that focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of the Azores Sea, contributing to the protection, promotion and enhancement of the archipelago's marine resources, creating new avenues for the sustainable economic development of the region;
- The **2019/2027 Action Plan - Sustainability of the Azores Tourism Destination**, as an ARA management and planning instrument, provides additional cross-cutting measures in a very wide range of areas that directly impact on the successful pursuit of the SDG 14 goals: Wastewater and Sewage; Ecosystem and Biodiversity; Solid Waste; Society and Culture; Economy.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Programme of the 13th Regional Government of Madeira**, plans for implementation of an effective inspection and control system and the results achieved are embodied in the creation of a body of fisheries inspectors whose task is to ensure that fishing activities are conducted in accordance with the rules of the common fisheries policy;
- Other measures have also been developed, in an integrated vision with the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**, to create the largest marine area of total protection of the North Atlantic in the Selvagens Islands and which will result in the contribution to the protection of natural assets, genetic wealth, marine diversity and the reproductive capacity of species;
- **Integrated Maritime Policy**, where the measures

relating to the definition of the Monitoring Programme for the 2nd cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (DQEM) were highlighted, resulting in 28 monitoring programmes;

- Other stand-out projects include the **system for the traceability of fishery products landed in the region**, the **Raspa Project - Atlantic Network for the Health Surveillance of Fishery and Aquaculture Products** or the study **«Assessing the Ecosystem Values of the Selvagens Islands in Madeira from a socio-economic perspective using an ESG approach»** for the implementation of good practices in the management of the Marine Protected Area and the attraction of funding;
- The **Economic and Social Development Plan of the ARM 2030 (PDES Madeira 2030)** is also of note, particularly in the field of «Innovation and Knowledge» with the emphasis on the promotion of innovation in the Blue Economy by: (i) research applied to fisheries and marine resources; (ii) monitoring and mapping marine resources and oceanographic modelling, marine life conservation and observation, energy use and aquaculture; and (iii) applied research to promote blue biotechnology and industry.

II.1.15 SDG 15 - PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG:

- **National Forestry Strategy (ENF) (2015-2030)**, which sets as a major objective the sustainable management of forests in harmony with the EU Strategy for Forests and the Forestry Sector. It is underpinned by the need to develop a model for national forest territories, addressing their functions and vocations, and with a view to sustainable growth and economic competitiveness, social targets such as inclusion and employment, as well as increasing their contribution to environmental targets;
- **Investment Plan for Forest Territories under Management of Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, I.P.**, beginning in 2021, which embodies a strategic document that contributes to the resilience, sustainability and enhancement of the value of national forests and other areas subject to the forest scheme;
- **National Plan for Integrated Rural Fire Management (PNGIFR 2020-2030)**, which is embodied in four strategic guidelines - Enhancing rural areas, Caring for rural areas, Changing behaviours and Efficient risk management - and where the National, Regional and Sub-Regional Action Programmes of the PNGIFR were highlights;
- **National Apiculture Programme (PAN 2020-2022)**, which is based on two fundamental pillars - the professionalisation of the sector and the strengthening of beekeeping and the concentration of supply. Its main strategic objectives are the improvement of health and beekeeping management and the strengthening of the organisation and concentration of supply, the improvement of honey quality, as well as the improvement of market access;
- **National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PANCD 2014-2024)**, in which the significant strategic objectives are: (i) OE1. promote the improvement of the living conditions of populations in susceptible areas; (ii) OE2. Promote the

15 LIFE
ON LAND



sustainable management of the ecosystems in susceptible areas and the recovery of the affected areas; (iii) OE3. Generate global benefits and leverage synergies with the processes of climate change and biodiversity in susceptible areas. In addition, highlighted measures are to draw up management plans or equivalent instruments for Natura 2000 SCIs, implement a system of prevention, early warning and rapid response to the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and establish a collaborative network at national level for the conservation, evaluation and enhancement of the value of pollinators;

- **Inland Pine Forest Revitalisation Programme (PRPI 2018-2030)**, which is an instrument created to mitigate the tragic consequences of the 2017 fires in terms of loss of human life and destruction of the forest and the associated goods and services and where transformative projects in the thematic areas were highlighted: (i) people, social innovation, demography and housing; (ii) economy, competitiveness and internationalisation; (iii) environment, forests, agriculture and land management;

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- **National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ENCNB 2030)**, which is an instrument for pursuing environmental policy and responding to national and international responsibilities to reduce biodiversity loss, based on three pillars: (i) improve the conservation status of natural heritage; (ii) promote the recognition of the value of natural heritage; (iii) promote the ownership of natural assets and biodiversity by society
- **Mainland Portugal Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**, which sets as guiding principles the sustainable growth of agroforestry activities throughout the national territory, through measures, actions and operations integrated into four major areas of intervention: Innovation and knowledge; Competitiveness and organisation of production; Environment, resource efficiency and climate; Local development.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA:

- **Management Plans for the Land Areas of the Natural Parks** of the Islands of São Miguel, Pico

and Faial, which in the scope of LIFE projects, hired human resources and acquired varied pieces of equipment for the 3 islands;

- **Priority Action Framework (QAP) for Natura 2000 in the Azores**, in which the highlights are the implementation of priority action measures for Natura 2000 in the Azores, resulting in the application and approval of 5 LIFE projects of the EU - *Life IP Azores Natura, Life Vidalia, Life Beetles and Life Snails*.

- Additionally, and related to the aforementioned projects, the **Regional Strategy for the prevention and control of invasive alien species** was also mentioned in the context of the successful pursuit of the objectives of this SDG, which currently still lacks the legal instrument to foster its implementation;
- The 2019/2027 Action Plan - Sustainability of the Azores Tourism Destination, as an ARA management and planning instrument, provides additional cross-cutting measures in a very wide range of areas that directly impact on the successful pursuit of the SDG 15 goals: Ecosystem and Biodiversity; Solid Waste; Society and Culture; Economy

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools and policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government:

- **European 2030 Biodiversity Strategy**, which emphasises the implementation of measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land ecosystems, controlling and/or eradicating invasive species, and the creation of classified areas;
- **Regional Strategy for Forests**, which sets out the implementation of the **Regional Forest Management Plan for the Autonomous Region of Madeira (PROF-RAM)** and where the creation of a sectorial plan for the regional territorial management system is a notable result of that plan, developing at regional level the options and objectives of the Regional Strategy for Forests for the promotion and implementation of sustainable management of forest areas.

The **2022-2030 Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Madeira Tourism Destination** should also be emphasised for its efforts to successfully achieve the objectives of SDG 15, and in particular the objectives of its «Commitment 3 - Protect biodiversity and ecosystems, control the spread of invasive species, reforest and maintain forests, improve forestry support infrastructures and prevent the occurrence of wildfires.»

Additionally, aiming at the protection and sustainable management of forest resources and fire prevention, various measures have been implemented, especially the creation of a special and pioneering position at national level, the **Special Position of Sapador Florestal (Forest Sapper) of the ARM**. These operators make a fundamental contribution to preventing and fighting fires, maintaining forest spaces and ensuring control of invasive species, through their direct and/or indirect intervention and through awareness-raising actions among local populations.

The values of biodiversity and ecosystems have also been integrated into ARM's territorial management systems. For example, the **Regional Land Management Programme for the ARM - PROTRAM**, approved by Regional Legislative Decree No. 9/2023/M, of 18 January, establishes the regional territorial development strategy for the next decade, and assumes as one of its five fundamental strategic objectives the contribution to safeguard, upgrade and enhance natural, landscape and cultural resources, enhancing tourist, agricultural and forestry activities.

II.1.16 SDG 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

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG

- **National Strategy to Fight Terrorism**, launched in 2015, the highlights of which are the measures for the preparation and implementation of various action plans stemming from the strategy that resulted in the development of effective coordination between the various entities with responsibility for preventing and combating terrorism;
- **4th Action Plan for Preventing and Combating the Traffic in Human Beings (PAPCTSH 2018-2021)**, in which the measures to strengthen the legal framework by creating the statute of victim of trafficking and the drafting of the procedural protocol for action aimed at the prevention, detection and protection of child victims of trafficking in human beings are highlighted. The results achieved are the creation of the statute of victim of human trafficking and the creation of the Reference System for the Prevention, Detection and Protection of Child Victims of human trafficking;

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



- **National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2020-2024**, the highlights of which are measures to promote education for citizenship at school level, with particular focus on the prevention of corruption, the improvement of knowledge, training and institutional practices on transparency and integrity, and the framing of the statute establishing a legal regime for the protection of whistleblowers and alerting and raising awareness among citizens of the channels for reporting corruption. The results of the measures listed may include the establishment of a pilot project for a «legislative footprint register» (2021) and the adoption of Law No. 92/2021 of 20 December laying down general rules for the protection of whistleblowers;
- **Strategy for Digital Transformation in the Public Administration (2021-2026)**, in which the measures for setting up the Transparency Portal, the establishment of the Platform of Indicators and Statistics on Justice and training under projects to improve budgetary transparency through open data are highlighted. The results obtained in connection with the first measure are the access through the Portal to detailed information on public expenditure and public funding, grouped

by thematic groups relating to the State Budget, European Funds and Municipalities. As regards the second measure, the results point to integration with data sources by creating data access services in the source Information Systems and connectors on the platform as a transparency inducer. Finally, the third measure resulted in the participation of the Directorate-General for Budget in the framework of the Data.gov portal and other transparency portals that are part of the approved government policies and the European Union guidelines and where the data on public finances are of great relevance;

- **Simplex Programme**, which highlights the measures of digitisation of old documentation, digitisation of Portuguese films, digitisation of health examinations, implementation of telemonitoring in health and the biometric authentication for interacting with the public administration.

The main results of these measures were the digitisation of old and physically inaccessible documentation, the increase of the contents of the National Digital Library for the general public, teaching and research, the digitisation of 100 Portuguese films, thus fostering the enjoyment of Portuguese cinema and the full dematerialisation of all prescriptions for supplementary means of diagnosis and therapy, covering all areas of examination, which are made available for the patient to view in the NHS Portal and on the SNS24 app.

- **Distance Service Platform**, is a platform (launched in October 2022) that made it possible to carry out notarial acts at a distance, by videoconference, promoting the territorial cohesion of the country.
- **Practical Guide for Justice Access**: since March 2023 citizens have had at their disposal, on the Justice Portal, a new digital interaction tool, based on an artificial intelligence component, which aims to be a fast, accessible and understandable communication channel providing access to legal information for citizens and companies.
- **SNS 24 in Prisons** aims to strengthen the access of inmates to health care and the NHS, honouring the commitment assumed regarding protection of inmates' rights.
- **Nacionalidade** (Nationality), a service made available on February 2023 and aimed at improving interfaces and online services for citizens, such as the online application for Portuguese nationality that is available on the *Portal da Justiça* (Justice Portal) for stakeholders (lawyers and solicitors).
- **Nascer + Cidadão**: this project is dedicated to developing a new birth registration system by creating a new interface for health professionals.

■ **Nascimento Online** (Online birth), the online birth registration, allows parents to register a child under one year old and simultaneously apply for the first Citizen Card, without having to go to a service desk.

- **Automatic Citizen Card Renewal**: via this method, the Citizen Card renewal process begins 60 days before the card expires, at the initiative of the respective department, with the «automatic» sending of a letter to the citizen's address to notify them of the imminent expiry of their Citizen Card and with a bank reference that allows the citizen to pay the renewal fee.

In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:

- Promote interoperability to ensure that citizens and businesses are not asked or suggested to deliver documents that the public administration already possesses;
- Continue and further develop the Better Lawmaking Programme in its five pillars: (i) less lawmaking (policy of legislative restraint and continuation of the Revoga+ measure); (ii) legislate fully (due regulation of legislative acts); (iii) legislate on time (meeting the deadline for transposition of Community directives and combating goldplating practices); (iv) legislate rigorously (consolidating the assessment of the economic and social impacts of the legislation adopted, including the impact on combating poverty, corruption and climate change); v) legislate clearly (make the law more accessible to all citizens);
- Encourage the return of emigrants and descendants of Portuguese emigrants by implementing and strengthening the Return Programme.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools and policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Protection of victims in the justice system** (Law No. 93/99 of 14 July), in which the creation of specific areas and procedures is highlighted;
- **Regional Strategy for the Integration of People with Disabilities 2023-2030**, also mentioned in SDGs 1 and 10, and which stands out in this area as contributing to the elimination of discrimination factors and the promotion of positive differentiation measures, as well as promoting inclusion and

equality and the prevention of violence in organisations and in the community;

- **3rd Regional Plan against Domestic Violence 2021-2025**, also mentioned in SDG 5, which establishes a set of measures to protect victims of domestic violence, in particular gender violence and other types of violence against women;
- **Regional Plan for Children and Youth (PRI) 2022-2026**, which works on three axes: (i) the creation and upgrading of social responses to support families in their natural environment and hosting environments; (ii) preventing and combating violence against children and young people; (iii) promoting inclusive and quality education for children and young people at educational risk.
- The implementation of the «**Contact System for the Security Forces of the Elderly**» was also consolidated, for all elderly people in social isolation, with the aim of allocating equipment to all eligible persons. The initiative started with 60 eligible seniors, with a coverage percentage of all seniors of 12%.
- Axis 5 of the **ERISCP** includes the creation of a scientific instrument that promotes new and better interventions. It is a diagnosis that will be supported by specific objectives, targets and effective indicators, and participation-based, reflecting and demonstrating the causes of poverty, its specificities, characteristics and consequences. The action is in the study phase.
- It should be noted that the data presented is based on the first 2021-2022 mid-term review of the ERISCP.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



II.1.17 SDG 17 - STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

Main planning instruments and policy measures with relevant contribution to the SDG

- **GovTech 2018 and 2019**, a public policy measure promoted by the Government with the aim of awarding and supporting innovative products and services, created by start-ups, that fit into the resolution of one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in a national response to the challenges that are posed in Portugal and in the world. Each of the 3 winners received a prize of EUR 30,000 and were also entitled to sign a collaboration agreement with the State to develop and test the product or service, space in a national incubator, support for internationalisation and 2 Alpha tickets for the Websummit, with the possibility of publicising the product or service during one day at the event;
- **National Plan for Youth (2018-2021)**, the highlight in this area is the promotion of the Youth Participatory Budget Portugal, which resulted in the presentation of 829 proposals;
- In addition, other **planning instruments and policy measures included in the GO and PNR** stand out:
 - Define a level of public service that must be available in all parishes, through Citizen Spaces or mobile outreach units.
 - Improve information for citizens, in particular by incorporating compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals in the award criteria for PME Líder (SME Leader) and PME Excelência (SME Excellence), developing and applying environmental information labels, especially in retail, among others;
 - Continue interaction with the UN Commission on Limits for the implementation of the extension of the Portuguese continental shelf.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES

The main **planning instruments and policy measures** highlighted by the Government of the ARA are:

- **Strategic and Marketing Plan of the Azores Tourist Destination**, where the Sustainable Tour-

ist Destination Certification process is a highlight. The ARA became the first archipelago in the world to be certified as a sustainable tourist destination. It has constantly improved in the KPA (Key Performance Areas) which are embodied in the management policy of the destination and in the region's sustainability report. It should be noted that two annual meetings are held with the monitoring group, advisory committee and the Green teams on the nine islands of the archipelago.

- **Azores Sustainability Booklet**, which was created in 2017 at the initiative of the Government of the Azores and which brings together the public, private and associative sectors in a joint endeavour to speed up the adoption of the principles of sustainable development of the UN's 2030 Agenda in the Archipelago. The results are 300 signatories, 800 sustainable commitments made, approximately 370 hours of free consultancy, 55 networking events, workshops, and presentation sessions and 300 people attending those workshops.
- **Blue Azores**, which is a project already mentioned in SDG 14, and in this area, the measures contributing to the increase of marine protected areas in the ARA should be emphasised
- **Azores Route Project**, which is a project of a touristic and cultural nature, which enhances the human assets that the islands of the archipelago have, that is, the people, the communities and the traditions and customs that support them.

In relation to this SDG, it is also worth highlighting the fact that the ARA was one of the 50 European destinations selected to be part of the «**Smart Tourism Destinations» Project**, an initiative of the European Commission aimed at supporting European Union destinations to improve tourism services and experiences through innovative digital solutions.

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

The main **planning tools** and **policy measures** highlighted by the ARM government are:

- **Programme of the 13th Regional Government of Madeira**: in this area the measures that stand out are those to encourage cooperation between the ARM, the ARA, the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands and the Republic of Cape Verde, in the framework of the Conference of the Governments of Macaronesia, as well as in the framework of the **European Madeira-Azores-Canaries MAC Programme**. The results of these relations should be emphasised, in particular with regard to networking days, with a view to establishing partnerships, project days in third countries, coordination meetings between the EDF and the ERDF and other European funding lines, conferences in Macaronesia and a multidisciplinary meeting in a third country;
- The **Integra** project and the **Hexagone** project should also be emphasised in this area as good examples of cooperation.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS AT REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL

III.1 LIST OF ENTITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK SESSIONS

Figure 7 – List of participating entities

Entity	Scope of intervention
ANMP - National Association of Portuguese Town Councils	Regional / Local
National Association of Parishes	Regional / Local
Alentejo Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR	Regional / Local
Algarve Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR	Regional / Local
Centro Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR	Regional / Local
LVT Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR	Regional / Local
Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR	Regional / Local
Loulé Municipality	Regional / Local

III.2 SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITMENT TO INTER-COUNCIL COMMUNITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE SDGS IN THE 2030 ACTION PLANS

The Alentejo region considers a significant transformation of the regional economic model as its focus, in conjunction with the strategic challenges defined in the Alentejo 2030 Regional Strategy, with the national/European agendas and strategies and with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is more closely aligned with the following SDGs, considering the structural objectives of increasing environmental sustainability, enhancing the value of regional productive chains and increasing the qualification of human resources: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 14 (Life below Water).

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Alentejo 2030 Regional Programme considers that there is potential to contribute significantly to the evolution in

the achievement of various SDGs, with a particular focus on SDG 1 (No Poverty); SDG 3 (Quality Health), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), although indirectly or less significantly, they end up contributing to the others.

The Management Authority of Alentejo 2030 and the Inter-Council Communities of the Alentejo Region should evaluate the progress of compliance with the SDGs in the framework of the monitoring reports and in the management information system. One of the fields of information to be dealt with for approved operations should be the identification of the 2030 SDGs to which the project contributes or is associated with the inclusion of indicators in the respective SDG that allow the project's positioning to be assessed in relation to the goals of these SDGs.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS BY STAKEHOLDERS

IV.1 LIST OF ENTITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE FOCUS GROUPS

Figure 8 – List of participating entities

Entidade	Âmbito de Intervenção
FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology	Academic community
Beja Polytechnic (IP Beja)	Academic community
Lisbon Polytechnic (IP Lisboa)	Academic community
Portalegre Polytechnic (IP Portalegre)	Academic community
Dean's Office of the University of Lisbon	Academic community
Catholic University (SDG Observatory) - Cesop	Academic community
University of the Algarve	Academic community
UTAD	Academic community
Sustainable Campus Network - Portugal (RCS-PT)	Academic community
Global Compact	Company
Grace	Company
Entrepreneur Network	Company
ANIMAR - Portuguese Association for Local Development	NGO/ Other
Portuguese Centre of Foundations (Centro Português de Fundações)	NGO/ Other
CNJ - National Youth Council	NGO/ Other
National Confederation of Action on Child Labour (Confederação Nacional de Ação sobre Trabalho Infantil)	NGO/ Other
Economic and Social Council	NGO/ Other
CPV - Portuguese Confederation for Volunteering	NGO/ Other
EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network	NGO/ Other
Federação Minha Terra - Portuguese Federation of Local Development Associations	NGO/ Other
FNAJ - National Federation of Youth Associations	NGO/ Other
Civil Society Forum for the SDGs (Fórum da Sociedade Civil para os ODS)	NGO/ Other
Portuguese NGDO Platform (Plataforma Portuguesa das ONG para o Desenvolvimento)	NGO/ Other
PpDM - Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights	NGO/ Other
Transparency International Portugal	NGO/ Other
General Workers Union (União Geral de Trabalhadores)	NGO/ Other

IV.2 ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

PRINCIPLES OF ACTION FOR HEIs

1. Institutional commitment

The signatories Higher education institutions will demonstrate through their daily practice a real commitment to the principles and practice of sustainable development in all its relevant dimensions - environmental, social and economic - following a holistic approach;

2. Promote ethics for sustainability

The signatories Higher Education Institutions will promote literacy in the area of sustainability among their academic community and the general public, seeking to contribute to the conscious adoption of socially responsible attitudes, environmental best practices and sustainable consumption patterns;

3. Offer sustainability training

The signatories Higher Education Institutions commit to incorporate a perspective of sustainability in all their work and to offer all their students and collaborators, regardless of their area of knowledge, training and spaces for experimentation and debate that address the theme of sustainable development, promoting, in this way, practices for an active and responsible citizenship that is aimed at sustainable development;

4. Transdisciplinarity

The signatories Higher Education Institutions commit themselves to promote education and collaborative transdisciplinary research in the area of sustainable development, in all its dimensions - environmental, social and economic - presenting themselves at the service of society and of the common good;

5. Dissemination of knowledge

The signatories Higher Education Institutions will disseminate as widely as possible all their initiatives and good practices related to the promotion of sustainable development, both internally and externally, in order to maximise the impact of those initiatives by raising the awareness of different target audiences, including the business world, governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies and the media;

6. Collaborative Networks

The signatories Higher Education Institutions will promote and support interdisciplinary networks of specialists in the area of sustainability at local, regional, national and international levels, with the aim of collaborating in re-

search and/or educational projects, promoting, to this end, the mobility of students and collaborators (teaching and non-teaching staff);

7. Partnerships

The signatories Higher Education Institutions will promote the establishment of partnerships with other sectors of society with the aim of planning and implementing concerted strategies for interventions in the area of sustainable development;

8. Technology Transfer

The signatories Higher Education Institutions will promote the transfer of advanced technology and/or management methods, with potential impacts in the area of sustainable development.

This set of principles for action has a general and open nature which, being framed in the mission of the signatory higher education institutions, will leave to each and all of its members the obligation and the freedom to interpret and implement them in ways that are best compatible with their institutional and local circumstances.



V. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

V.1 FINANCING INSTRUMENTS AND SDGs

Figure 9 – Alignment of the RRP with the SDGs

RRP component (C), Reforms (R) and Investments (i)	Approved Amount (EUR million)	SDG																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
C01 - R01 - Primary Health Care				x															1
C01 - i06 - Digital Transition of Health	300,00			x															1
C01 - i08 - Health Digitisation in the ARA	30,00			x															1
C01 - i09 - Universal System to Support Active Living	10,02			x															1
C03 - R07 - Integrated Support Programmes for Disadvantaged Communities in Metropolitan Areas		x																	1
C03 - R08 - National Strategy for Combating Poverty		x																	1
C03 - i03 - Social Assistance in the ARM	83,00	x																	1
C03 - i04 - Social Support Networks in the ARA	35,00	x																	1
C03 - i06 - Integrated Operations in Disadvantaged Communities in the Metropolitan Areas of Lisbon and Porto	250,00	x										x							2
C04 - i01 - Cultural Networks and Digital Transition	92,79															x			1
C04 - i02 - Cultural Heritage	150,49															x			1
C05 - R12 - Research and innovation agenda for the sustainability of agriculture, food and agro-industry			x																1
C05 - i03 - Research and innovation agenda for the sustainability of agriculture, food and agro-industry	93,00		x																1
C05 - i05 - Economic recovery of agriculture in the ARA	30,00		x																1

RRP component (C), Reforms (R) and Investments (i)	Approved Amount (EUR million)	SDG																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
C05 - i06 - Capitalisation of companies and financial resilience / Banco Português de Fomento development bank	1550,00								x										1
C06 - R17 - Decent work agenda					x			x		x									3
C06 - R18 - Combating inequality between women and men					x					x									2
C06 - i02 - Sustainable employment commitment	230,00				x			x		x									3
C06 - i04 - STEAM Youth Boost	130,00			x												x			2
C07 - i00 - Extension of electric vehicle charging network	0,00										x								1
C07 - i01 - Business Hosting Areas (AAE)	110,00									x									1
C08 - i01 - Landscape Transformation of Vulnerable Forest Territories	270,00											x							1
C08 - i04 - Means of preventing and combating rural fires	89,00											x							1
C08 - i05 - MORE Forest Programme	50,00											x				x			1
C09 - R22 - Integrated and circular management of scarce water resources						x													1
C09 - i01 - Algarve Regional Water Efficiency Plan	200,00					x					x								2
C09 - i02 - Crato multi-purpose water infrastructure	120,00					x													1
C09 - i03 - Water efficiency and reinforcement of supply and irrigation systems of the ARM	70,00					x													1
C10 - R23 - Reform of infrastructure ecosystem supporting the Blue Economy												x							1
C10 - i02 - Green and digital transition and security in fisheries	21,00											x							1



RRP component (C), Reforms (R) and Investments (i)	Approved Amount (EUR million)	SDG																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
C10 - i04 - Development of the «Azores Sea Cluster»	32,00													x					1
C11 - i01 - Decarbonisation of industry	715,00												x						1
C12 - R25 - Sustainable Bioeconomy												x	x						2
C12 - i01 - Sustainable Bioeconomy	145,00											x	x						2
C13 - i01 - Energy efficiency in residential buildings	300,00						x												1
C14 - i01 - Hydrogen and renewable gases	185,00						x												1
C15 - R30 - Reform of the transport ecosystem									x										1
C15 - i01 - Expansion of the Lisbon metro light railway network	304,00								x										1
C18 - R33 - Economic justice and business environment														x					1
C18 - i01 - Economic justice and business environment	266,90													x					1
C19 - R34 Simple, inclusive and secure digital public services for citizens and businesses														x					1
C20 - R37 - Reform for digital education				x															1
C20 - i03 - Programme to accelerate digitisation of education in the ARM	21,00			x															1
	5 883,20	5	3	4	3	3	4	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	

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NATIONAL EVENT
OPORTO

**OBJETIVOS
DE DESENVOLVIMENTO
SUSTENTÁVEL**

I - Opening Session

More than an agenda, a plan for the territory(-ies)

The message that the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is, above all, a national plan cut across all interventions of the opening session of the National Event, organised in Porto, within the framework of the national tour to discuss the state of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Portugal.

The **President of the Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR, António Cunha**, was the first to share this idea, arguing that sustainability is not only a development goal but also a survival plan. Therefore, everyone - people and organisations - must be committed to the SDGs, which constitute an unavoidable benchmark in this context. However, they can and must have reading and expression on different scales - global, national, regional, local, organisational and individual. It must be, he argued, an exercise that has to be very well done in terms of balancing macro national objectives and specific characteristics in territorial implementation.

«As a Portuguese national, I am proud of the progress made in the last decade in many of the SDGs,» he said. He highlighted SDG 4 - Quality Education, to say that indicators such as those relating to the reduction of school failure or the percentage of students in higher education should make the country proud. The same applies to SDG 7 - Renewable Energies, where Portugal has followed «an inescapable path» in the dimensions of sustainability, but also of the economy and geopolitics. Here, the North region prides itself on being responsible for producing 50% of Portugal's share of energy from renewable sources.

António Cunha also emphasised that the sustainability agenda is, above all, an integration agenda - of disciplines and stakeholders. Integration was, moreover, the word that was heard most at the tour's meetings. This is an agenda that is focused on the quality of life of people and the health of the planet. However, it occurs in well-defined territories, in the physical world and not in the virtual world. Those territories have specific characteristics, and there is therefore the need to choose the right scale to address the challenges that lie ahead. In other words, it is essential, as a nation, to know what challenges need to be addressed at national level, what needs to be solved at council level and what needs to be addressed at regional level.

Alongside «integration», the word «territory» was also a common thread at the different town halls and it was again in focus at this national event. The **Minister of the Presidency, Mariana Vieira da Silva**, reinforced what was said by the president of the CCDR. She considered it necessary to think about how the SDGs are valued and prioritised in each of the territories, and there are, as a consequence, different ways to achieve them.

On the subject of paths, she recalled that in the framework of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023, it is important to understand how public policies are, or are not, responding to the SDGs and to how the country has defined its path throughout this decade, in order to fine-tune the trajectory. Hence the importance of the consultation and participation process promoted in March.

The inclusion of the SDGs in Portugal's main strategies and planning documents is «very visible,» beginning with the Portugal 2030 strategy, which defines the set of priorities that should govern public policies, both from the point of view of Community funds and from the point of view of national policies. The same is true for the Major Options Law 2022-2026 or the National Reform Programme 2022.

In her opinion, the way in which the sessions took place shows the route the country has taken. «We can look at recent development for many of the Goals, highlight the path travelled and identify new targets, more ambitious goals,» she said. She gave the challenges related to climate action as an example, in which Portugal is the country that the European Union considers in the best position to achieve the targets set by the Paris Agreement.

The same with regard to labour relations, she said, emphasising the adoption of the Decent Work Agenda, «very highly aligned» with the principles of raising the value of work, wages and an equal presence in the labour market for men and women. In the area of qualifications, she identified the progress made in eradicating child labour and enhancing the value of schooling, particularly in relation to early school leaving, which has fallen to around 6%. At the same time, «very ambitious targets» have been set for higher education, with Portugal better than the European average.

She also noted the importance of defining objectives and linking specific targets to be achieved, involving the whole community on the road to be travelled. This is always from the perspective that when Portugal presents its VNR, «it is because it wants to be more consequential and more ambitious.»

The engagement of the community also involves the engagement of public stakeholders at various levels, including legislative ones. This was the reason why the **President of the Portuguese Parliament, Augusto Santos Silva**, attended the meeting. Before addressing the role of the parliament, he provided a retrospective look at the genesis of the 2030 Agenda. He reminded us that this followed

the failure of the previous effort, which was to define and achieve the so-called Millennium Goals. The adoption of the agenda in 2015 was, in his view, a very important gesture. It demonstrated the United Nations' refusal to give up, instead showing its insistence on the need to work together and define more ambitious common goals.

It made very important changes in international thinking, the first of which - «more radical, more structural and more promising» - was to end the previous division of the world into two parts: a small part made up of countries that they themselves regarded as already developed and a second part that the former regarded as underdeveloped or developing countries. «What we did was to say that we are all developing. Not just for moral considerations, but for analytical and statistical considerations. We all have pockets of poverty, students dropping out of school, deep inequalities; we are still a long way from meeting all the targets of non-discrimination. This is because development is a continuous process,» he stressed. The second change was to consider that there are cross-cutting goals - SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Implementation of the Goals) - that correspond to the need to promote partnerships, to mobilise society as a whole. And the third, more methodological, change introduces the idea of periodic voluntary reports in which countries commit themselves to a review of their progress in complying with the Agenda.

And what does Parliament have to do with this? Augusto Santos Silva answered his own question with three reasons. The best known, but least important, is the need to monitor the way in which governments carry out the tasks that they have assigned themselves, and whether or not they are moving closer to the goals within the time limits they have set. The second, more important, is the nature of the goals, which - he said - want to define points of arrival and commitments. «These are the results that we propose to achieve. How we do it, how we put resources and means into practice, how we define horizons is plural. There is a place for public policy and there is a place for political debate in all of this.» Political debate in a democracy is diversified: there is no way to reduce inequality or to eradicate poverty, there are various ways and these are public policies, which derive from ideologies, programmes, analyses, wishes, the implementation conditions. Parliament is precisely the place where, in a democracy, political debate takes place, in which the different ways of designing and programming public policies contrast. Lastly, the third and most important reason: there is no development without territory. In order to achieve the SDGs, you need to localise the policies. Because there is not only one way to reduce school dropout rates, promote business innovation or ensure the supply of drinking water to all. «All the devel-

opment that deserves this name is regional, local development,» he stressed, advocating the adaptation of strategies. The territory is in the parliament, because the members of parliament are elected by the territories and they not only represent political diversity, but also territorial diversity.

He concluded by noting that the purpose of the 2030 Agenda is to think of development as a task that mobilises everyone in relation to the future. It is looking after the future, he said, quoting Maria de Lurdes Pintassilgo.

On the 2023 VNR proper, the **Director of PlanAPP (Centre for Planning, Policy and Forecasting Competences of the Public Administration), Paulo Areosa Feio**, also resorted to the term «design», to state that this new stage of the country vis-à-vis the SDGs must mean a new involvement and an increased demand for society as a whole. The VNR - he claimed - requires a process of preparation which is, in itself, an opportunity for an integrating vision, in the sense that the SDGs are a commitment that governments make on behalf of their respective countries. They are, therefore, a commitment that the whole of society takes on. This implies, therefore, promoting the increasing engagement of civil society entities in a process that is intended to be a joint one. It is a new form of engagement, but it also requires monitoring and reporting mechanisms that are shared by society.

He recalled, in relation to the processes, that the content of the VNR stems from the guidelines established within the framework of the United Nations, with the «very clear objective» of ensuring that Portugal takes to New York not only the faithful portrait of what the country has achieved in recent years, but also what it has achieved in engaging society in pursuit of the SDGs.

Nevertheless, he noted that the way in which the SDGs are analysed cannot be removed from the new international context, given that the world has gone through a succession of crises that have, in some way, affected the contribution of countries to the fulfilment of the goals and the mobilisation of society. Furthermore, in the face of increased concerns about inequalities and poverty, for example, the motto of the 2030 Agenda needs to be even more at the forefront - leave no one behind.

The methodology designed for drawing up the VNR is wide-ranging and open, with participation and involvement as key words of the national strategy: it involves having evidence and results, looking at the perspective of government action, but also bearing in mind the perspective of other stakeholders, such as local authorities. It is underpinned by the accompanying actions of mobilisation and popularisation.

The goal is to present a faithful and rigorous perspective of the country's situation, where INE has validated information for about 70% of the 248 indicators of the 2030 Agenda. However, this quantitative dimension will be supple-





mented by an analysis of public policies that is as extensive as possible. The question the review will seek to answer, as regards government action, is to what extent public policies have contributed to bringing the country closer to the goals it has committed itself to achieve. Added to this is the dimension that incorporates the contribution of other levels of organisation of society, in processes of a collaborative nature.

II - People

The challenge of retaining talent in a country that is more qualified than ever before

The SDGs of the People pillar of the 2030 Agenda (SDG 1 - No Poverty, 2 - Zero Hunger, 3 - Quality Health, 4 - Quality Education, 5 - Gender Equality and 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation) were discussed in a session moderated by the Minister of the Presidency, Mariana Vieira da Silva, and by the member of the Economic and Social Council (ESC), António Fontainhas Fernandes. No poverty, education and the social economy were among the themes that dominated interventions at the meeting.

The **Minister of the Presidency** claimed beforehand, while setting the framework, that while all the SDGs are important, as they help to look after the common future,

the present times, in the international context and in the European context, dictate a different concern regarding inequalities, poverty, hunger and refugee populations. These are dimensions that add complexity to the discussion.

These are issues of concern to the **ESC**, as Professor **Fontainhas Fernandes** testified. He added that poverty, hunger and education, but also domestic violence and the birth rate, are increasingly relevant, as they affect society across the board. He ended, however, on a positive note, reaffirming the statement that Portugal is the country best placed to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

It was precisely on these issues that the first participation was focused, in the name of the **National Strategy for Combating Poverty**, a commitment made by the government in December 2021. Poverty - he said - remains a very structural problem in Portugal. The public strategy defines a set of ambitious targets, among them the reduction of the monetary poverty rate to 10% (the most recent indicators, from 2021, placed it at 16.4%). Reducing child poverty by half and achieving the same result for poor workers are other the objectives. The actions will also focus on reducing regional disparities, promoting local development and increasing territorial cohesion in this area. «I believe that the strategy, despite being a political commitment, calls on everyone to join this fight,» he commented, considering that the fight against poverty must be a collective plan.

This is a fight involving many institutions and it was on behalf of one of them, from the **social economy sector**, that the next participant spoke. He underlined the role of this sector in Portugal, both in the financial crisis of 2008 and more recently in the crisis that has emerged in the pandemic situation and now in inflationary tension. He recognised that support for private social solidarity institutions (IPSS) has grown immensely in recent years, but pointed out that the social economy sector is not limited to these institutions, as it has more than 70,000 entities. It is - he stressed - the sector that lies between the state and the market, responding to people to whom the state has not yet responded and whom the market excludes. He also drew attention to issues that run «transversally and atavistically» through Portuguese society, such as education. The education field is facing a situation that the country is having great difficulty in solving: retention of talent, allowing young people to find a future in Portugal. He warned, in this regard, that the country is becoming a skilled labour exporter.

This is a warning echoed by the **Porto Academic Federation**, whose president shared what he said was a scenario of anguish and uncertainty among the younger generation. That generation is the most qualified generation ever, but faces obstacles in the transition to working life and integration into the labour market. This transition is not being made in a fair and adequate way, with many young people taking positions that do not require the level of qualifications they have, leading to a waste of their personal efforts and those of their families. He called for a commitment to employment for this generation.

The importance of the **social economy** continued to be the theme in the intervention from a **lawyer**, who provides legal advice to entities in that sector. These entities, he said, are stakeholders par excellence in complying with the SDGs, but they face many difficulties. The first is that there is the idea that they are subsidised by the State, when they provide a response that the State and the private sector cannot give. And «they do it for a bargain price» because they live from voluntary work. This is where the second problem arises, the lack of professionalisation. Legal barriers in particular are another problem, with the lawyer pointing out that if the procedures were more streamlined and easier these entities would be better able to carry out their activities.

He put forward his view on the 2030 Agenda proper that the objectives are not perceived by the population in general. When there is talk of sustainability, people associate it more with climate action and energy issues and not with other dimensions. It is therefore important to explain what the SDGs are.

It is, according to the **representative of the Minha Terra Federation**, exactly in the people where all develop-

ment begins. He then said, focusing on the territory, that there are many resources and many organisations doing very good work in Portugal, but he criticised what he said was the lack of articulation between the organisations. He also advocated using existing resources, particularly those of community-based local development associations, working with territorial units and knowing the responses that exist. There is no need for more organisations, we need to «learn from what is already on the ground and do better.»

The importance of the local scale was addressed by the **coordinator of the SDG Observatory of Pombal town council**, for whom it is not possible to continue to look at the country as a whole. «Even though Portugal is so well positioned, we are not going to get there,» he commented. He gave the example that eradicating poverty in Porto is not achieved using the same tools as in Pombal. We must therefore look at the local reality, with each council identifying its own priorities, which should then be shaped by the interaction with the central government, at LCSD level. Nevertheless, there are still councils that are not aware of the importance of the SDGs.

On the ground is the **Médicos do Mundo** medical charity, whose spokesperson at the meeting reported on support for people in circumstances of socio-economic vulnerability, including migrants, the elderly and the homeless, fighting social exclusion and poverty. When the organisation defined its strategic planning, it felt the need to look at the 2030 Agenda and understand how the 169 targets it contains can be aligned with the mission they perform and how they can contribute. In line with previous interventions, he stated that, as a front line response, Médicos do Mundo feels the need to work in a network with other organisations and with private and public entities, because only an integrated response allows its work to be successful.

The **National Confederation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities** works within a network and its spokesperson shared a number of concerns, including the access of these people to the labour market. He let it be known that the employment quota is not being met. He also put forward the proposal to revise the law on the retirement of people with disabilities, in order to bring the date forward. Mobility was another of the themes he addressed, stating that many architectural barriers remain. He said that there was a step backwards in education, caused by the reduction of the number of staff in schools who support pupils with special educational needs.

A **representative of the National Association of Teachers** also spoke about human resources in education. She advocated a new model for selecting students on courses providing access to the teaching profession, since «quality begins there.» In the current situation, we have to explain the value of education, making society aware of the

importance of education in the present and in the future. She said that we must go back to adult education, work between the private and the public to apply good practices of authority in the school itself. And we need to communicate more, promoting a campaign about the value of education, the role of the school, students, teachers and parents.

In turn, a representative of the **North University-Level School of the Red Cross (Escola Superior Norte da Cruz Vermelha)** spoke about what the institution has done to bring the SDGs closer to the students. From the outset, the Goals are adopted in the strategic plan of the school and integrated into the course units, but also put into operation among the students, who work on them according to the perspective of «think global, act local». In this regard, the school liaises with the town council to create local proposals.

A **doctor** spoke about the SDGs. He advocated greater investment in health promotion and research, so as to act, not so much in treatment of disease, but on the causative factors such as alcohol, tobacco and obesity. Health - he said - will allow us to achieve better results in other indicators. He warned, however, that in this sector too it is difficult to retain people, and a purpose must be found - and sustainability can be that purpose.

Two other participants spoke about inclusion. The **spokesperson for the water company Águas do Norte**,

which supplies 66 town councils, shared her experience on regional asymmetries regarding access to water and sanitation at affordable prices. She stated that there are still territories where there are very low levels of response and where there are no networks, preventing these populations from having access to quality water. The country's indicators are good, but leveraged by areas with a high population density.

Another of those present, speaking on behalf of the **Football Foundation, of the Portuguese Football League (Liga Portugal)**, talked about the work done with the professional football clubs. It is their understanding that this sport has the power to positively influence, so it can be a vehicle to bring sustainability to communities. Furthermore, clubs contribute to combating regional asymmetries, with sport influencing health and providing good practices and values that are important in education.

After hearing what those at the meeting had to say, the **Minister of the Presidency** closed the session. She highlighted that it is essential to find a broad consensus on the 2030 Agenda because there are no unique ways of achieving the goals it contains. She identified, from what was said, themes that have to be consensual in Portuguese society, such as the qualification of adults, the minimum wage, and the existence of fair labour rules that prevent insecure jobs. She confirmed, as regards local development,



that Portugal is undergoing a major transformation, both in the decentralisation of roles to local authorities and in the sense of strengthening the regions. This involves the «capacity to work the dimensions of multi-level governance in a different way.»

Taking up the message of the meeting that it is necessary to communicate the SDGs more, she recognised that the theme of sustainability has been seen as difficult. She noted, however, that it has never before been as much a part of the political discourse and institutional dialogue as it is now. In her opinion, it is through the institutions that society may become infected.

She assured those present that the concerns about the inclusion of people with disabilities are a priority of the government. The specific aspect of mobility is to be included in the Resilience and Recovery Programme (RRP), due to awareness of the difficulties experienced.

Addressing the questions posed about education and qualification, she began by stating that Portugal has moved fast in this field, with figures that had seemed impossible at the turn of the century. However, she acknowledged that the ability of the economy to absorb these qualifications was slower. This is the effort now to be made, to ensure that the business fabric is able to absorb these young people and pay them accordingly.

Also in relation to the field of education, she expressed agreement on the need to change the way teachers are recruited, to take care of training and not to drop the adult education dimension. One of the targets is to ensure that every year 60% of adults take part in a lifelong learning course. «The cross-cutting idea is that we have to be able to retain talent, throughout society,» she said. She underlined the «serious commitment of the country to wages,» reflected in the intention to increase the weight of wages in GDP, even though that is a more difficult challenge at the current time of high inflation.

III - Prosperity

Innovation as a source of prosperity and sustainability: a way forward in changing mentalities

The need to take account of territorial specific characteristics was transversal to the interventions in the room dedicated to the debate on SDGs more directly related to Prosperity (7 - Renewable and Affordable Energy, 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and 10 - Reduced Inequalities). Those speaking raised concerns about mobility, but also about administrative bureaucracy and public procurement. One of the conclusions points to the importance of reindustrialisation

and of encouraging greater openness to innovation among small-scale entrepreneurs.

The conversation was led by **the Minister of Territorial Cohesion, Ana Abrunhosa**, who began by expressing the conviction that sustainable development, in its different dimensions, implies that prosperity is shared by all. This implies a great involvement of the territory, and there must be partnerships and integration so that, when public policies are to be implemented, the paths are defined with the specific territories. This is because «there is no prosperity, there is no sustainable regional development without territories.»

This perspective was underlined by **ANAFRE's president, Jorge Veloso**, given that, as mayor, he works with populations and with the territory. Focusing on the theme of the room, he highlighted the interlinkage of the SDGs, namely that if there is no industry, innovation and infrastructure it will not be possible to achieve decent work and economic growth.

The first person from the audience spoke about regional development, as **spokesperson of the Centre Regional Coordination and Development Commission**. She emphasised the importance of considering the cross-cutting nature of the 17 SDGs. There is the need to work on them all, with all the stakeholders, in all the territories. In this sense, she welcomed the national tour in progress. This is because, she said, the specific characteristics must be taken into account in all planning and objective-setting exercises, because the regions are not all the same and neither are the stakeholders. Neighbouring Municipalities, even neighbouring parishes, have completely different realities. There is the same need as regards monitoring. National indicators «say little» about the territories, and we must strive for more disaggregated information that provides orientation at local level.

She also argued that the productive specialisation of each region should also be taken into account. The Centre, in particular, already has large, high-tech companies, but traditional activities persist, which are the most resilient and entail major challenges in terms of employment, resource qualification and decent work. A major challenge is the shortage of people. She also addressed the specific characteristics of ecosystems, to consider that innovation chains may be limited from the outset when it is known that some territories do not have the same ecosystems.

Finally, she claimed it was important to densify the SDGs with the challenges that arose for the worst reasons: the pandemic and the war have brought problems with housing, energy and food prices.

She was followed by the representative of another **Regional Coordination and Development Commission**, this time that of **Lisbon and Vale do Tejo**. She recalled the intervention of the President of the Portuguese Parliament



when he advocated the importance of investment and focus on the two cross-cutting SDGs, 16 and 17, which «can make a difference in the future.» In her view, the participatory way in which this review is being drafted should «be an example to follow,» since it illustrates «a different attitude,» one of getting closer to the territory, of knowing the stakeholders and contributing to their training through engagement.

Accessibility dominated the following two interventions. The first was on behalf of the **Administration of the Ports of Aveiro and Figueira da Foz**, and aimed to argue for the need for works allowing access to ships of greater draught in the port of Aveiro, taking into account that it is essentially an export port. This would contribute to the competitiveness of businesses in the region. With regard to Figueira da Foz, he announced a project involving the production of offshore renewable energy, but also advocated improving accessibility, even as a way of making fishing safer. In this regard, he regretted that «many projects do not move forward at the desired pace,» particularly with regard to environmental impact statements. «We want sustainability, but we have to speed up the processes,» he argued.

The **spokesperson for Metro Mondego** reported on a «very old process» that is under way: putting into service a mobility system through Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), which is road-based, but with a service quality similar to that of light rail. This will serve Coimbra, Miranda do Corvo and Lousã. It should be operational in little over a year's time, and it «will change the standard of mobility in the region.»

He also pointed out that the main exception to convergence in reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the mobility sector, which accounts for 33% of emissions. It is - he stressed - an issue that should raise grave concerns. He warned, in this regard, that greater economic growth and greater development cannot mean more mobility, as «has happened in recent years.» In addition, we need to consider what mobility systems should be implemented in low-density regions, so that inequalities do not arise. In densely populated areas, the solution is public transport by high-capacity, high-frequency means. But in low-density regions they need other forms of public transport that are more attractive and adequate.

The questions raised by a **representative of the Manuel António da Mota Foundation**, who focused on public

procurement, were along different lines, considering that there are criteria that constitute «a major impediment to sustainability.» She criticised, in particular, the fact that cost is the first qualification factor, considering that it will ultimately cost the State more than the sustainable solution, which is not normally the one with the lowest cost. Some of the other issues she addressed were innovation and the need to invest with partnerships, arguing that State funding is essential in order to reduce private-sector risk.

The next person, **a researcher at the University of Minho**, spoke about public policies of support. He defended the artisanal know-how of Portugal as a factor of sustainability, in that it makes use of local natural resources and is located in regions of lower density. However, its niche business model perspective, which is highly profitable and scalable, lacks investment. Public policies are crucial here in supporting training and internationalisation.

The academy community made itself heard on other occasions at this meeting. A **spokesperson for MORE Colab** highlighted the role of this laboratory as an interface between the academic community and the business fabric, but also the central and local administration, with the function of transferring and assimilating scientific knowledge, promoting development. The inspiration is regional in this specific case, focused on the problem and on the opportunities of the low-density mountainous territory. And it has succeeded in attracting qualified Portuguese researchers to return. But this, he said, is not enough. It is necessary, with networking, in the innovation ecosystem, to promote highly qualified employment in the business fabric. The fact is the country «has to take advantage of the innovation system.» He maintained, in this respect, that national and international funding programmes should explicitly include objectives related to sustainable development, with applicants having to indicate which SDGs the proposed actions address. In terms of social innovation, he argued that its value should be enhanced, saying that there are very good projects that produce results. This opinion prompted a reply from Minister Ana Abrunhosa, who stressed the need to demystify the idea that social innovation is charity: in fact, it aims to enhance communities and it is possible to measure its impact. It is important, when supporting companies, to place greater value on those that are social investors.

Another of the participants, speaking on behalf of **BUILT CoLab**, took up the defence of the reindustrialisation of the construction sector. He shared an indicator according to which the life cycle of buildings corresponds to about 40% of the emissions generated. He used this data to comment that, in Portugal, the great challenge is to bring sustainability issues to the majority of the industrial fabric - micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The challenges in 99% of cases are often related to competitiveness and there is little incentive for innovation. In his opinion, there is a lack of change in the mindset of this business segment, so that it can benefit from the support that is on the table. The financial incentive must exist, but these companies are so volatile because of the lack of human resources that they do not invest in innovation. He concluded by stating that large companies are on the right track, but the great challenge lies in these micro and small companies. Nevertheless, it is essential to invest in innovation in construction.

One of the meeting's participants, speaking as **an entrepreneur and innovation consultant**, argued that there is a great willingness to innovate and «as far as the industry is concerned even more willingness.» However, he recognised that there is some mistrust associated with the red tape involved in the processes and the time it takes from the moment the application is submitted. He therefore advocated speeding up administrative procedures so that projects can be implemented faster and targets achieved more quickly.

The need for greater awareness and knowledge cut across the various interventions. The **head of the Culture Department of Amarante Town Council** focused on this aspect. She talked about an ongoing project, developed on the basis of the fact that the heads of the town council understood that the SDGs referred only to the environment and to climate action. A working group, led by Culture, was therefore set up. Its mission was to launch, at the monthly meetings, a reflection on how concrete cases contributed to the SDGs, in each department and division. The first step was to assume that everyone contributes to the achievement of the SDGs and then that they have a responsibility to create cultural environments for innovation and creativity, which clearly reduces social inequalities.

The debate culminated in an intervention by the **Minister of Territorial Cohesion**, who emphasised the importance of participation, expressing the openness of her ministry to hear the concerns of social stakeholders, namely by receiving all those who request meetings. «It is very easy to reach us, send your contributions to us,» she said. She also stressed the importance of going to the territory, in the understanding that «any problem of the country is a problem of any member of the government,» regardless of the areas he or she is responsible for. To finish off, she shared the view that «there is still a lot of work to be done for a more prosperous country with fewer asymmetries, where people are always at the centre of decisions.» In spite of the action taken, there is a feeling of permanent outdatedness, and this is particularly true of the SDGs. They were defined in 2015, but eight years later, there is a need to look at them in another way.



IV - Planet

Contributions to better resource management

The management of natural resources was in focus in the room dedicated to the debate on the SDGs that make up the P in Planet - 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) - in a session attended by the **Minister of the Economy and Maritime Affairs, António Costa e Silva**. The reflection was launched by the moderator of this national tour, **Fernanda Freitas**, who provided background on the purpose of this room: to look at the need to protect the planet from degradation, including responsible consumption and production patterns, sustainable management of natural resources and urgent measures to combat climate change, addressing present and future needs.

It was precisely these concerns that the Minister of the Economy and Maritime Affairs addressed in his introduction, echoing the environmental degradation that the planet faces, much of which is due to a model of econo-

ic and social development that is predatory on resources. «We are a civilisation that transforms resources into waste at a speed unprecedented in history.» In view of this reality, he considered it essential to mobilise society, engaging all generations in order to achieve the SDGs.

He recalled, focusing on those SDGs covered by this session, and specifically referring to SDG 11, that cities occupied 2% of the planet's surface, but more than 50% of the population lives there, and that they consume 75% of the energy and emit 80% of the carbon dioxide. In his opinion, if this paradigm of cities does not change, making them more sustainable, more efficient and more circular, it will not be possible to tackle the climate threat.

Consumption and production models also need to be transformed. Referring to SDG 12, he noted that the current consumption model is based on linear economics, and it is necessary to transform waste into resources, creating value from there. Four billion tonnes of waste are produced every year in the European Union, and if recycled, this will enable about 30% of strategic minerals to be recovered.

He considered that SDG 13 involves the transformation of the energy matrix, to ensure a greater focus on re-

newables. Portugal was one of the countries that made this investment earlier, but it has to accelerate, converting the country into a hub of green fuels. In a look at SDG 14, he regretted that the ocean is being transformed into a rubbish dump, with alterations in the level of biochemistry and ecosystems. He reminded those present that the country has undertaken to have 30% of marine areas protected by 2030. In relation to SDG 15, he stressed the need for measures against desertification and deforestation and the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

This was followed by interventions from the audience. The **first participant** addressed the issue of natural resources, to advocate the focus on alternative raw materials. He gave hemp as an example. This is a fibre historically used in textiles and which, in his opinion, should be recovered, because it is sustainable, to be used not only in agro-industrial production but also in the cosmetics industry.

In response, the Minister of Economy indicated that in the framework of the RRP greater investment is foreseen in the bioeconomy. He advocated the importance of naturalising the production processes, using organic products to replace polluting products, such as plastics and chemical fertilisers. The ocean can also provide a lot of these products. Hence the project to install an international blue biotechnology centre in an old refinery in Matosinhos.

The fishing industry also made its concerns heard. The **spokesperson of the National Association for Small-Scale Seine Fishing** expressed fears regarding the concentration of wind power in the offshore areas at the mouth of the River Douro, coinciding with the area where the small-scale seine fishing operates. A project in this area has «crushed» the sector, he said, given the constraints placed on vessels with little autonomy which, for this reason, fish very close to the coast. This situation could jeopardise the sustainability of the fishing community.

It was a concern corroborated by the **representative of the local fishermen's associations**, who claimed that the concentration of wind power in offshore areas pushes species further out to sea. This damages a fleet that is about 90% artisanal, operating between six and twelve miles from the coast. Another situation he warned about was the lack of legislation to prevent the fishing of certain species at spawning time. A two-month closure would ensure that these species are available in abundance. He also shared fishermen's fears about the pollution caused by the Leça da Palmeira Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Finally, he reported on a mobility project between the two banks of the Douro: a 100% electric vessel, whose economic viability study was presented to Porto city council - the promoters had not managed to get a meeting with Gaia - but without any follow-up.

In response to these questions, António Costa e Silva referred to the high potential of offshore wind energy, but

he assured those present that this investment will never be made to the detriment of fishing and fishermen. He said there is a commitment to map fishing areas in order to safeguard them.

The **spokesperson for Docapesca fisheries port**, also referring to fisheries and the protection of marine life, announced the project «Fishing for a Sea without Litter». In this project, the fishing community is mobilised to collect the litter found at sea, which is then landed and channelled to the appropriate final destination, so as to be recovered by industry and returned to the economic cycle. At the same time, work is being done to promote the consumption of sustainable fish, with initiatives at schools and fairs.

The question of mobility was then addressed by the **representative of the Portuguese Cycling Federation**, to advocate more action in the fight against air pollution caused by cars, as well as the creation of conditions for using public transport and cycling in cities.

The Minister agreed with this position. He stressed the importance of the change in the mobility paradigm and the intention to base the electric mobility value chain in Portugal. As far as cities are concerned, he also announced a project, together with Spain, to create a 5G corridor, with a selection of smart cities, so as to use technology for the smarter management of the flows of people, vehicles, waste, energy and water.

The **representative of Data CoLAB**, which focuses on natural capital accounting, spoke about smart information management. In his opinion, there is a lack of knowledge about this capital, meaning its value ends up being devalued. He gave the example of the fact that, from a fire prevention perspective, it is considered simpler to completely eliminate the forest than to think about repopulating with native species.

This accounting is decisive for the future, said António Costa e Silva, in response to this comment. «We're only breathing because we have ecosystems that produce what we need, but we don't value it. It is the so-called tragedy of common assets. That is why there is deforestation and desertification,» he noted. He advocated, in this respect, the importance of accounting for natural capital in order to pay for ecosystems. When this has been achieved, agriculture can be more sustainable, forest protection can work, fires can be minimised. Information must be turned into knowledge for better land management.

At the juncture of two of the SDGs under review - 12 and 14 - the **head of an innovation company in aquaculture** intervened. He regretted that this activity is stagnating in Europe and in Portugal as well. In Portugal, this is not due to lack of investment or knowledge, but to difficulties in accessing space and water, as well as administrative complexity. He recommended, in this regard, that agricultural re-

serves be converted into national food reserves to include fishing and aquaculture. This is even more important as the consumption of food from the sea is increasing. He also advocated the establishment of platforms for dialogue with the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), which he considered one of the major obstacles to the development of aquaculture at national level.

This was an issue that was brought to the attention of the member of government present, who considered it necessary to identify the reasons for the stagnation of aquaculture, as well as to remove administrative barriers and improve dialogue with the public entities responsible.

The remuneration of ecosystem services was raised again at the meeting, by the nature NGO **Casa Comum da Humanidade**. The NGO's spokesperson expressed the view that the terrestrial climate system should be legally defined as an intangible asset, bringing together ecosystem services, the ecological footprint and the new limits of the planet. These indicators must be included and accounted for in the plans and budgets of the organisations.

The accounting of ecosystem services may be coming soon, according to the **spokeswoman of the Portuguese Institute of the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA)**, who considered the knowledge and mapping of ecosystems to be very relevant for the spatial planning of multiple uses, particularly in relation to fishing. Cooperation is essential here.

It is also essential in the management of resources, as demonstrated by a **representative of the Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services**. She shared some examples of good practices, such as those involving the harvesting of barnacles in the Berlengas or octopus fishing in Algarve. The objective is the sustainability of resources, raising the value for fishermen, and the promotion of sustainable fishing.

The partnerships are also at the basis of the major food supply markets, which was what a **manager from the management company, SIMAB**, spoke about. They are - he said - a good example of public investment in the reorganisation of distribution production circuits, promoting proximity of food supply to the cities. Access routes need to be strengthened and public transport coverage needs to be increased, so that circularity can be completed.

The final words in this room dedicated to the planet belonged to the Minister of the Economy and Maritime Affairs, who recalled that, according to science, the planet will continue for five billion more years. It is up to humanity to decide whether it wants to continue this journey or not. The planet has already undergone other transformations, but it continues to exist. It is the living species that disappear. There have already been five mass extinctions. «It is our responsibility,» he urged.

V - Close

A concerted effort is imperative for the Agenda to last beyond 2030

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Portugal requires urgent measures and a concerted effort by all stakeholders. This was the conclusion that resulted from the three interventions in the closing session of the national meeting, held in Porto, in the framework of drawing up the 2023 VNR.

The first of these speeches was by **the President of the National Association of Portuguese Councils, Luísa Salgueiro**, who advocated the importance of taking into account the challenges defined by the European Union, in particular in the action plan of the European pillar of social rights. It enabled agreement to be reached on new issues, namely consensus on raising the employment rate to at least 78%; increasing the weight of adult lifelong learning to at least 60% of the total active population; and lifting 15 million people out of social risk and poverty. It is a challenge for each country, but even more so for countries with greater economic and social imbalances. Moreover, Portugal is inclined towards the coast and, in that vein, it is primarily inclined towards the metropolitan areas and Algarve, which contrasts with the desertification of a large part of the territory. «Ensuring that the transformations we are experiencing do not aggravate inequalities and that, on the contrary, open up new ways of promoting equal opportunities, are concerns common to all mayors,» she said.

There is much evidence in the ANMP of the commitment of town councils to implementing the 2030 Agenda. They have played «a fundamental role in the movement to transform the world into a better place for all.» However, it is necessary to act daily to minimise social inequalities, in parallel with structuring actions that contribute to the sustainable development of the territories. She also noted that the Catholic University's council sustainability index will only reach an overall compliance value of 63.3% in 2022, which «is only possible thanks to the involvement of local partners.» The progress has been positive, but there is still a way to go and that is the aim of the SDGs for Councils department, which aims to promote better monitoring of the work carried out by the councils. It is «a new way of working», implying that every time choices are made about the use of resources, the perspective is obtained of how they contribute to broader objectives. After all, «the vision of the town council centred only on its own community is outdated.» Finally, she stated that the councils have never had so many powers and they want to continue to take them on, but they lacked the resources to do so.

The commitment of the town councils to the 2030 Agenda was also emphasised by **the Mayor of Porto, Rui Moreira**, who began by reporting the steps taken by the city



council on this path. This is the case with the Porto Climate Pact and bringing forward carbon neutrality to 2030, guaranteeing a reduction in greenhouse gases of around 85% and carbon sequestration of around 15%. He also mentioned the dynamism of the city's innovation ecosystem, which is increasingly attracting technological entrepreneurship, as well as the efforts of the city council to promote access to education, health and housing.

«It is possible to implement innovative and consistent measures at local level to promote sustainable development,» he said, emphasising that without local authorities, a more developed and prosperous country, a more inclusive and fairer society, a more competitive, innovative and decarbonised economy will not be possible. However, there is «a lot to be done,» particularly with regard to waste recovery and the circular economy, as well as reducing inequalities. Here he reported that Portugal is the fifth least equal country in the European Union, with 5% of the population holding 42% of the wealth and the richest 10% accumulating 25% of the income. The asymmetry in the distribution of wealth is also regional, between north, central and south and, above all, between the coast and inland areas, which compromises territorial cohesion.

«Local authorities are in a position to help the State speed up its policies for sustainable development, but the country cannot rely on a centralised perspective of governance, which has resulted, to a large extent, in economic and social divergence from Europe,» argued the mayor. He said Portugal needed less centralism in decisions, better policies of territorial cohesion and greater collaboration with local and regional structures.

The final person to speak was the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, who addressed the different dimensions of

the 2030 Agenda. In the social dimension, it is a question of eradicating poverty and hunger, promoting quality education and health, and gender equality. In the environmental dimension, the mission is to obtain renewable and affordable energy, to act on climate action, as well as to protect marine and terrestrial life. On the other hand, in the economic dimension, countries are called upon to guarantee sustainable and sustained economic and working conditions, while developing quality infrastructure, promoting industrialisation and strengthening scientific research. At the same time, they have to reduce inequalities, promote sustainable cities and communities and responsible production and consumption. Furthermore, they are to ensure peace, justice and strong institutions by promoting the rule of law. The joint and concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including the public sector, non-governmental organisations, social partners, the academic community, the private sector and civil society, are essential at national, regional and local level, for the achievement of this agenda.

Reinforcing what had already been explained by the Minister of the Presidency in the opening session, he indicated that Portugal has been implementing the 2030 Agenda through its strategic priorities. This is the context of the commitment to present the second VNR, which, more than a reflective exercise of collecting and reporting information, should be seen as a catalyst for a new cycle of governance, articulation and implementation of the SDGs that will continue after its presentation. We need to «ensure the integration and ownership of the dimensions of sustainable development by all.» «We want sustainable development, and the 2030 Agenda in particular, to be driving forces that continue to mark out everyone's action, ensuring that its effective implementation does not end in 2030,» he concluded.

DE GÉNERO

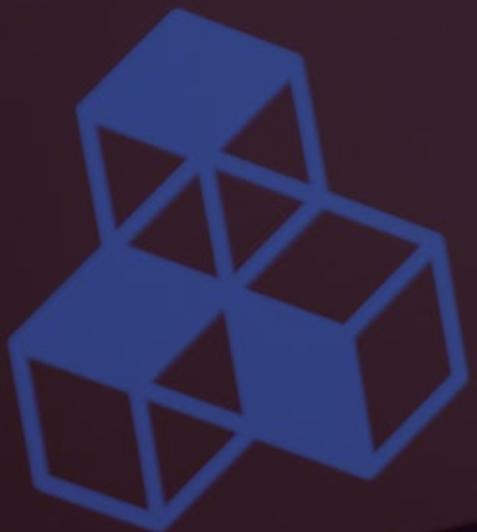


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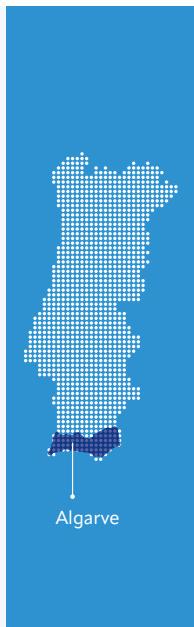
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DATE	1 March
MODERATED BY	Fernanda Freitas
PANEL	Mariana Vieira da Silva, Minister of the Presidency; André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Ana Fontoura Gouveia, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate; Vítor Aleixo, Mayor of Loulé
PARTICIPATION	17 audience interventions
3 MOST VOTED SDGs AT THE MEETING	  

KEY IDEAS

- The 17 SDG form a complex and interdependent web;
- The engagement of communities, both at the level of institutions and civil society, is crucial for their achievement;
- We need to invest more in communicating with citizens;
- Education in general and environmental education in particular are instrumental in changing behaviour and ensuring that the 2030 Agenda is met;
- Algarve faces specific problems related to the impacts of climate change, namely water scarcity and the rising sea level, with consequences for management of the territory.

Transversality: the great challenge

The transversality and interlinkage of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the importance of community participation and involvement, were the common denominators of the first town hall of the regional tour organised by the government in the framework of the preparation of the second Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Loulé was the council chosen and, according to the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, the choice was not by chance. The work the town council has done in the area of SDGs made this choice mandatory. Moreover, the mayor, Vítor Aleixo, is president of the recently created Sustainable Development Goals department of the National Association of Portuguese Councils (ANMP) and so, in representation of the same, he is a member of the Monitoring Commission of the new governance model for SDGs.

The Secretary of State recalled, in the context of the VNR, that Portugal presented its first report in 2017, only two years after adoption by the United Nations (UN) of the 2030 Agenda. This second document, to be presented in July 2023, is in response to a national commitment made by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, at the last UN General Assembly.

The country now has - the member of government stressed - a duty to present a stronger report than that presented in 2017. It can and should use this process as a catalyst

for a new model of governance, monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Portugal, recognising that it is possible to do better from the point of view of national, internal and external alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

It is therefore essential to consult civil society in the preparation of this second review. It was decided to initially hold town halls in all regions of the country. All of civil society's stakeholders are called on to attend these meetings, as well as citizens, who may register for that purpose. He reiterated, «it is for us to listen to the people, those on the ground who are committed and aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and who have contributions to make to the VNR. Contributions that highlight the positive things, but also that provide more detail on the challenges the country has ahead.»





This consultation must necessarily precede the drafting of the VNR. The government does not just intend, through this exercise, to present to the country a document conditioned by the vision of the executive, and only afterwards promote its discussion. On the contrary, the aim is to listen to society before it is drawn up, even if afterwards the first version of it is submitted again for discussion.

This tour for preliminary discussion began in Loulé. Associated with it was SDG 13 - Climate Action. Despite the focus, the **Mayor of the local council, Vítor Aleixo**, made a point of highlighting that all the themes of sustainability - whether environmental, social or economic - fall within the 17 Goals defined by the UN. It's an «unavoidable» discussion. «We all realise that the world is full of dead ends, of doors that don't open. The UN's challenge is precisely to open doors and find answers to the difficult problems facing the world,» he reminded those present.

It fell to the **Secretary of State for Energy and Climate, Ana Fontoura Gouveia**, to advocate the importance of SDG 13, which reiterates the need for urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts. «This is a priority for a country like Portugal, because we know that we are particularly exposed to phenomena such as rising sea levels and drought. We must act very quickly. And we've been doing it. We know that we must continue along this path.»

Above all, this path is marked out by policies that focus on decarbonisation. Portugal has set itself the goal of carbon

neutrality by 2050, but is studying the achievement of that goal five years earlier, given the urgency to act. «We want to do this in an inclusive way and this implies a fair transition from the social, but also from the territorial, point of view. Portugal adopted the Climate Law¹ a little over a year ago. It is an innovative and ambitious document that reflects precisely the country's desire to be at the forefront in responding to the climate crisis. We are currently reviewing the strategic documents - the Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality and the National Energy and Climate Plan, which are the two references of the government's policy,» she advanced.

The national commitment has a very tangible reflection at local level. The Climate Law provides for the drawing up of town council plans for climate action, which should be completed in 2024. In February 2022, Loulé was the first local authority to do so, «another example of how it is at the forefront and how global and national goals are translated into the territory, with the involvement of councils,» the mayor highlighted.

The word given to the community

The first meeting of this tour fulfilled its purpose. There were 17 speeches, which confirmed the importance of «think globally, act locally.» Climate action, water, energy, education and poverty were the dominant themes shared by the audience. The most important of all was involving the community in the discussion and application of the SDGs,

¹ Law 98/2021 of 31 December



promoting greater literacy. The debate began with a vote by the meeting on the three SDGs perceived as priorities.

The first person at the meeting to speak, there on behalf of the **Algarve Tourism Region (Região de Turismo do Algarve)**, highlighted the importance of SDG 13 - Climate Action for the region. Tourism is not an end in itself, but should contribute to the territory, not only for visitors but also for local residents.

With regard to climate change and one of its main impacts, the rise in the average level of sea water, this is a very important topic for an activity whose main product is the sun and the sea. «When we talk about coastal erosion, when we talk about reducing the sandy beaches available, when we talk about extreme water needs, such as those that have existed in the last five years, they are themes that demand a different attitude from us,» he warned.

«I would like to argue - in line with what the Secretary-General of the United Nations has called for - that the sector should be a force for good. We have a heritage that is worth defending,» he commented, noting that the tourism sector has been publishing sustainability reports since 2008. «I'm not saying that we do everything well, but this purpose has formed part of the organisations for many years,» he said. He then stated that the Government has drawn up a Tourism + Sustainable Plan and that, at the local level, Algarve was one of the first regions to create a regional observatory of sustainable tourism, which has already been recognised by the World Tourism Organisation.

Moreover, the Government agreed in 2020, together with local stakeholders, on a water efficiency plan and contingency measures to be implemented in the region. He specified in this respect that, in tourism, the improvement of water efficiency in accommodation is a central objective. In leisure activities, several theme parks already have pipes that fetch water from the sea, as well as circular economy solutions for water use. Golf is also committed to using wastewater to water the courses. On the other hand, in terms of energy efficiency, the major challenge is the decarbonisation of vehicle fleets.

These are the measures that respond to one of the P's of the 2030 Agenda: Planet. But he also mentioned Peace, as tourism welcomes difference with hospitality: «We defend those who speak a different language, who have a different origin, another religion, another culture and another sexual orientation.»

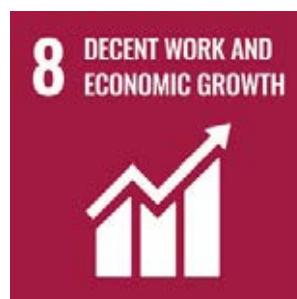
And, here, the P of People, namely those working in the sector, comes into play in an attempt to improve their working conditions. He also pointed out that Algarve has credits in the area of accessibility, since sports and leisure activities increasingly offer adapted solutions.

The next to speak was one of the **registered citizens**, who raised the issue of water and energy resources. He said

that the Algarve region had been facing «a serious crisis» due to water shortages and he was critical of desalination, considering that, despite being an immediate solution, it is an expensive process involving high energy consumption.

He recommended local action in this regard as being essential, at a parish level. He also called for legal changes to focus on conserving and storing water, preventing water from being «wasted», instead of seawater desalination methods. He highlighted the importance of dams, particularly in their role of water containment and flood prevention. «If they are well controlled, then the more there are, the possibility of avoiding the problems that occur close to the coast is greater,» he commented. «Water is fundamental during this period we are experiencing, because of the problem of climate change.»

Another view was shared by one of the **registered citizens**, who first welcomed the initiative calling for citizens to participate in public life, and mentioned his choices in the online vote: decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), and quality education (SDG 4).



He made these choices because, in a social model based on self-sustenance, work assumes a crucial role. It is important that companies are able to create jobs and develop and sustain communities. It is also important to create decent working conditions, which not only concern pay, but also the working environment and leisure time.

He justified his choice of responsible production and consumption by the need to promote efficiency in a context where resources - financial, human and time - are limited. Efficiency must be, in his view, cross-cutting and present in decision-making. He also voiced a criticism. «A structural problem of the country is the lack of efficiency, at the public level and even at private level.»

This question is linked to education. «If we all contribute to a greater culture of efficiency, we will have better results, financial resources will be better used for the community and people will have more time.»

In his view, the social model in force is not individualistic, it is a model in which people work and allocate part of their income to a greater good, which is help for others, poured into unemployment benefits, for example. «The more I earn, the more I can help. For this to happen, it is necessary that I, as a citizen and as an entrepreneur, have favourable conditions,» he stated. He concluded by saying that «people have to be the centre of public policies and, in order to be self-sustainable, the conditions have to be in place for them to carry out an activity.»

Another speaker, there on behalf of the **Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (Instituto de Conservação da Natureza e Florestas)**, identified a precondition for sustainable development, even though it did not coincide with that of the previous participant. In his view, and hence having chosen Life on Land (SDG 15) as a priority, a healthy planet is the basis of everything, the basis of life, production and the creation of wealth. «If we do not take care of what supports life, we are calling into question all the Goals,» he commented. He considered environmental education and climate action education instrumental in this vision. The problems that he identified, related to this SDG, and which require action, are desertification, an increase in the number of wildfires and the consequent occupation of the coast to the detriment of inland regions.

Thinking about the planet was also the appeal voiced by another of the participants, who spoke as a member of a **local development association (in Loco)**. In his opinion, it is important to think of the planet as a system, instead of externalising costs, impacts and consequences. For this reason, he disagreed with the identification of a priority SDG, in the understanding that this is contrary to the very rationale of the SDGs, which «are a system.» All are equally important and none can be individualised, he said, advocating an integrated approach to sustainable development.

He then struck a critical note in relation to an appraisal of the meeting itself, saying that the usual participants are in the audience. «None of the people here need to be convinced, we are already soldiers in this cause. The problem is we can't get out of this club. And until we get to go to the majority of the population, we're not going to be able to save the planet.»

He said that the SDGs are «a very clear list» and «a good map of directions» and that they should be associated with the action plans of organisations, town councils and government. Even at home, there should be an understanding that the daily actions of each person may contribute to the SDGs.

The words of this speaker were echoed by one of the **citizens** present. She said that, ever since she found out she had been selected for the meeting, she questioned the people around her about the SDGs and «they did not know them very well» and most thought «it was an elitist, intellectual subject.» She said, therefore, that we need to involve people, work the grassroots, deliver the message differently, so that everyone knows what their contribution is. Thus, she argued that it is necessary to get out of the intellectual bubble and move to the grassroots, because the change comes from there. «There will be no change until I feel it is necessary, until I get involved,» she emphasised.

It was precisely this point that the next speaker took up. He presented himself as a **citizen**, even though he is also a **member of the local council**. «There is a lot of talk about SDGs and climate change, but people in general know very little, they know no more than these fora,» he said. He argued that education for sustainable development should start in schools and in the daily lives of every citizen.

His first choice was SDG 1 - No Poverty. In his view, people should be in first place and «all the factors related to the SDG cross with each other and go to the same point, the person.» He was critical of the current economic and social model as it contributes to the increase in poverty, as «wealth is distributed among a few.»

He also articulated the view that both conflict and climate change contribute to the increase in poverty. On climate change, he considered that there are few specific measures in practice. Algarve, in particular, has «serious problems» in this field, essentially related to water (SDG 6).

Water, as well as land use planning, was again raised by one of the leaders of **Rota Vicentina - Association for the Promotion of Nature Tourism on the Vicentina Coast and Alentejana (Rota Vicentina – Associação para a Promoção do Turismo de Natureza na Costa Vicentina e Alentejana)**, who warned of the problems faced by sparsely populated areas, even though they may be on the coast. The lack of water is one of these problems that cuts across the Vicentine coast. «We have managed to produce energy in a



wide variety of ways, but water cannot be manufactured. And if there's no such concern, soon we won't have water. And if there is no access to water, people move,» he warned.

The specific case of the Algarve was also raised by a spokesperson for the **environmental association Almargem**, who identified the problems of water scarcity, deforestation and asymmetries between the coast and the inland regions. He argued that decentralised bodies and town councils «are very relevant» in climate action and should be taken into account in decision-making and planning.

He also said that «we have a lot of indifferent people» and that «we have to motivate our citizens by sending out the message that the climate is about everyone and that the greatest cost is not preserving it.»

Water is undoubtedly the core theme of Algarve, according to the regional director of **APA - Portuguese Environment Agency**. He outlined the region's needs, stating that water availability is decreasing due to the scarcity of precipitation: only one year out of the last ten years has been average, with precipitation declining by 20-30% in 20 years and future scenarios predict a decline along the same lines.

He therefore advocated focusing public and private management on the demand side, saying it is not possible to continue the focus on the supply side alone. «We're not going to have supply and it's going to be more expensive, because the greater the shortage, the greater the cost.» Demand management is done by managing losses in agriculture, construction and the daily behavioural choices of people. Using solutions for collecting rainwater and reusing treated waste water.

On the table, too, is the rise of sea water and its impact on coastal areas. «How can we relocate urban areas? There is a very robust legal mechanism, but it is normal that society does not react positively and it seeks protection,» he commented, advocating the need to work on planning and awareness-raising.

In addition to water, energy was another subject raised at the meeting, namely by a member of the respective **municipal company**. In his analysis, energy is not just electricity, but also fuels and gas, which must not be neglected in order to achieve the SDGs. In fact, while the path of decarbonisation has been outlined in electricity, the others do not show the same degree of evolution. He argued the importance of renewable energy production close to the place of consumption and, therefore, advocated that local authorities should take the lead in promoting renewables. After all, Municipalities run schools where power plants can be set up. This, in addition to reducing primary energy consumption, entails lower costs and contributes to raising awareness among young people. In addition, schools can come together in energy communities and leverage this effect.

In the same area as this speaker, a **university lecturer** and member of the **Regional Energy and Environment Agency** spoke about renewable energy, but associated it with technology education. «We have technology, but we need technological education. A problem in all Western societies is the lack of technical staff. We train the personnel but, as we are in competition with the world, we export them.»

Portugal, he said, has done a lot in renewable energy, to the point that electricity accounts for only one third of over-

all energy consumption. However, there is still no functional response to completely replace gas and oil. This is the case in transport, because there are no alternative fuels for large aircraft and boats. The challenges are therefore technological.

The **representative of the rector of the University of Algarve** agreed with this analysis, stating that education is fundamental, especially in science and technology. It is necessary to invest in attracting students, at the various levels of education, in order to train people capable of tackling these problems.

Education, one of the themes that cut across this session, was the focus of the intervention by a head of **Loulé Secondary School**. She related the policy followed by the council's educational institutions in order to equip students with skills in the climate action field.

In the specific case of her school, there has been an environmental sustainability office since 2011. It works in partnership with the Environment Division of the town council, in order to put into practice actions that take students out of the classroom and put them in contact with the real world. She ended on the note that the school community is concerned with the topic.

Still on education, another participant, present as a **registered citizen**, but who works at the **Living Science Centre (Centro Ciência Viva)**, gave recycling as an example. She demonstrated the need for a greater focus on environmental education. Recycling is still not a widespread practice among the population, after 20 years. «Where have we failed? It is taught at school, but it is difficult for a child to educate its parents,» she commented, advocating the importance of developing actions on the ground.

She concluded with a theme common to the whole session: the interlinkage of all SDGs. Another **professor at the University of Algarve** did the same, using the floor to argue that the SDGs are 17 in number and this is not by chance. «We cannot achieve the fundamental goals of sustainable development without these 17 pillars.»

In her view, we cannot run the risk of entering into a sectorial view, since the ecosystem is complex. She nonetheless focused on education, maintaining that it is important to bear in mind that this work only makes sense if it reaches people. «And it's not in fora, it's the people who are in the supermarket, at the bus stop with us, in schools and in universities. Talking about the impact of our daily routines in implementing these 17 SDGs.» Because «the average citizen doesn't know what a SDG is.» The challenge is to reach out to people through language, through art, by making them take ownership of the true meaning of the SDGs. «If it belongs to people, it's going to belong to the planet, because we're the ones who are going to change the planet.»

The interconnection between the SDGs was again the focus of the next intervention. **Speaking personally,**

however, he emphasised that it must be borne in mind that implementation takes place in real and concrete contexts, with different socio-economic models. The choices that each person makes are related to the respective context.

Nevertheless, he considered that SDG 2 - Zero hunger must be an ethical, political and civic commitment on a planet where «thousands and thousands of people are dying of hunger.» «Even if it is not in our daily lives, it is an ethical objective that cannot be neglected.»

In a look at another common denominator of the meeting, education, he maintained that one of the great enemies of sustainable development is indifference, since «people assume that these problems belong to others.» The same is true for ignorance, the unknown, and for this reason he defended the importance of reaching out to people and showing the relevance of the SDGs. He recognised that there are difficulties - because «it is easier through children, but it takes a long time,» and through adults it is more difficult to change behaviours - but stressed that it is urgent.

A **student** touched on the same points. «Who are we talking to? To the three billion people who need more water, more land, more energy?» she asked. She cited a recent report, the *Climate Inequality Report 2023*, according to which 10% of people hold 75% of wealth and produce 50% of emissions, while 50% of the poorest people hold 2% of wealth and are responsible for 12% of emissions. «Who are we talking to when we say 'you have to reduce'? We have to reach the population, but it's not just to say that these SDGs exist, it's to show that the people who draw them up know perfectly well that we're not close to reaching them.» Acting in schools is important, but there is no time to wait for children to become adults. Moreover, the problem is not so much people who are not educated, because it is known that in earlier times, these people were the ones who most respected nature. «Education is important, but it has to be based on science,» she argued.

«Our role as citizens is important, but insignificant in terms of impact. Sometimes doing little is worse than doing nothing. Because the idea of putting the waste that we produce into the recycling bin gives us peace of mind, but it has zero impact on what future we want for the planet.»

Equilibrium management

The **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers** shared his thoughts on the SDGs to close the meeting. He stated that, while it is true that they are all equally important in the global framework, it is no longer true that their refraction is equal in all countries. This is because a goal like Zero hunger is not as representative throughout the world - in Portugal, for example, the problem is not malnutrition, but obesity.



What became evident was - he stated - the strong understanding regarding the interlinkage of the SDGs, but there is another trend that needs to be contemplated, that of trade-offs between various goals. For example, if goals such as Decent Work and Economic Growth and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure are considered in isolation, they may conflict with those of Life below water or Life on land. Finding a «fair equilibrium» is therefore the great difficulty of this Agenda.

He considered that with regard to a theme that stood out at the meeting - the need to reach people - the holders of political power have to go about building strategies for outreach, in the absence of any key to achieve this. And this tour underlines the importance of communication. He is convinced that those attending the session have the ability to activate their network of contacts, raising awareness among their fellow citizens. Nevertheless, he stated that there are already some truly impressive projects from the point of view of sustainable, community-based development, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The **Secretary of State for Energy and Climate** spoke about the ability to work in partnership, highlighting the fact that the engagement of the community and the participation of local stakeholders was a cross-cutting element of all interventions. «It is something we learned that we have to take away with us. We have been trying to get public policies to reflect this, but we can do better.»

From the point of view of the dossiers for which she is responsible, she mentioned the work done in energy efficiency, with measures on the demand side, to ensure that renewable sources contribute more and more to electricity generation in Portugal. The ambition is to reach 80% by 2026.

On a final note of hope, the **Mayor of Loulé** again welcomed the initiative and the active participation at the meeting, saying that he had heard enormous contributions. As for the concern that we are still talking about a niche, an elite, he recalled that change always begins with a few, who then have the mission of galvanising the rest.

The last person to speak was **the Minister of the Presidency**, Mariana Vieira da Silva, who, in line with the other members of the government present, started by noting that «the most difficult thing in the life of those who have to make decisions is to define priorities.» All the more so because the discussion in Loulé will not be the same as in other regions of the country and it will even differ according to the area of Algarve, depending on the location and the assistance itself. The time dimension also interferes with the analysis: «what seemed like a dose of madness 15 years ago may be a winning investment today.» This is the case with renewable energy.

«We know that the 17 SDGs are important, we have to understand how this importance is prioritised in the country,» she said. She considered that the exercise is to know how to define strategies, to have clear objectives and to know how to look at them, as time passes, and to see the route travelled.

This exercise was already present in 2019, when the government presented its programme and, instead of the traditional chapters, identified four strategic challenges: (i) address the demographic challenge; (ii) reduce inequalities, (iii) tackle climate change and (iv) build the digital society. «All the SDGs fit into these four challenges,» she commented, noting that the same principle was followed in the RRP - Recovery and Resilience Plan, which has three chapters, namely Resilience (with the social and economic dimension), Climate Change and Digital Society.

DE GÉNERO

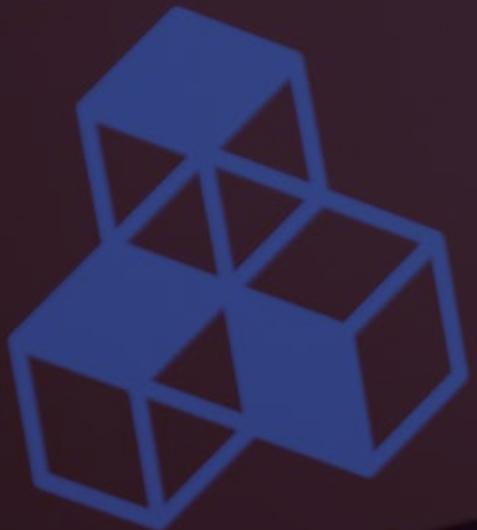


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OBJETIVOS
DE DESENVOLVIMENTO
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TOWN HALL MADEIRA

9 INDÚSTRIA,
INOVAÇÃO
E INFRAESTRUTURAS



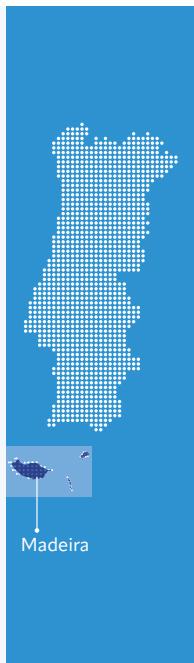
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QUALIDADE





DATE	6 March	
MODERATED BY	Fernanda Freitas	
PANEL	Ana Abrunhosa, Minister of Territorial Cohesion; André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Susana Prada, Regional Secretary for the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Action; Pedro Coelho, Mayor of Câmara de Lobos	
PARTICIPATION	17 intervenções da plateia	
3 MOST VOTED SDGs AT THE MEETING		
 1 NO POVERTY	 13 CLIMATE ACTION	 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

KEY IDEAS

- The Madeira Autonomous Region has a number of specific characteristics. These are due to its remoteness and being an island, but also its size and geographical location, which must be taken into account in the processes of decision-making and legislative transposition;
- Madeira is an example of good practices on the road to sustainable development, particularly in relation to promoting education and reducing social inequalities;
- The strategy for the protection of terrestrial life, but also marine life, has borne fruit, which is recognised worldwide;
- It is important to invest in the renewal of the fishing fleet, because of its importance for the region's economy, but also in building the capacity of ports for renewable energy.

The importance of the region's specific characteristics

SDG 15 (Life on Land) guided the town hall in Madeira, a choice not unrelated to the vast natural heritage of the Autonomous Region and the commitment to its conservation, validated, *inter alia*, by UNESCO. However, the reflection on the 2030 Agenda has led to the emergence of two other themes, because of the importance they have in the autonomous region - fisheries and energy, both closely linked to SDG 14 - Life below Water. Cutting across the whole session was the defence of the specific characteristics of the region and the importance of taking them into account in decision-making processes.

Pedro Coelho, mayor of the council hosting the event, Câmara de Lobos, started off by praising the region's assets. He did so to explain the value placed on consultation initiatives with all sectors of society, which is the basis of many of the local authority's strategic documents, such as the Social Cohesion Plan 2022-2025 or the Municipal Master Plan (PDM). The reason, he said, is «whenever we listen, we decide better.»

He stated he was committed to the different dimensions of the SDGs - social, economic and environmental - and he then gave an account of the work that has been undertaken in the town council. The figures point to the evolution of the eradication of poverty - from 1,216 beneficiaries of social

integration income in 2013 to the current 2.7% of the population. In education, Câmara de Lobos was elected a UNESCO learning city in 2017, with the mayor highlighting the «Step by Step» project, which provides support to students with special difficulties. «Only by valuing human resources can we have a more competitive and more developed district,» he commented. He also reported that today 7.6% of the population is educated to higher education level.

The mayor also emphasised the work carried out in the framework of SDG 14 - Life below water and the sustainable use of the seas and their resources. He mentioned, in this regard, the links Câmara de Lobos has to the sea, which are «ancestral and strong» and the importance of fishing activities to the local population. This is a small-scale and selective fishery, and both the town council and the regional government have been working to promote fleet renew-



al. The aim is not to increase it, but to ensure more safety and greater efficiency from the point of view of carbon footprint.

Finally, he advocated that while the Goals are cross-cutting, the real local situation and local strategic priorities should not be forgotten.

In the same vein, **Susana Prada, Regional Secretary for the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Action**, emphasised that sustainability is a major challenge in an island region. This is because, in all dimensions, variables such as the small size of the territory, its topography and the precipitation pattern have to be plugged into the equation. This calls for «a responsible, well-defined strategy that is cross-cutting and shows ambition.»

As for the SDG in focus (SDG 14 - Life below water), she recalled, like her fellow member of government, that with the recognition of the Selvagens Islands as a nature reserve, in 1971, Madeira «wrote a new chapter in the history of Portugal - that of conservation.» Fifty years later, the region was classified as the largest marine protected area with total protection in the North Atlantic. In all, 65% of the archipelago's land area and 89% of the territorial sea are protected. In addition, the Laurissilva Forest has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the municipality of Santana is a world biosphere reserve, like Porto Santo.

As Madeira is a small ultra-peripheral territory with cyclopean terrain and a high population density, visited by about 2.5 million tourists a year, it puts water as the resource at the base of the pyramid of needs. In this regard, she noted that the levadas (water canals) of Madeira constitute Portugal's candidacy for UNESCO 2023 natural heritage. She reported, in relation to this resource, that reusing treated wastewater and desalinating sea water have been high priorities.

Among the regional achievements was Portugal's better environmental quality index, meeting waste management

targets, the fact that Funchal is in third place as the European city with cleanest air and that the region is about to exceed 50% of electricity generated from renewable sources.

The **Minister of Territorial Cohesion, Ana Abrunhosa**, spoke of the importance of considering the specific characteristics of the territory. She stressed the role of mayors as mobilising agents. It is they - she said - that make the difference on the ground. In this respect, she praised the participation of municipalities in the ODSlocal platform, as well as the fact that many already design their respective budgets according to the SDGs.

She also laid down a challenge for the institutions to embrace this perspective more and more, while emphasising partnerships between municipalities and the sharing of good practices.

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) will report not just good practices, but also the challenges and the path to follow. The **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, was the spokesperson of the VNR at this meeting. First of all, the VNR needs to address the importance of listening to civil society so that the document to be presented at the United Nations expresses the alignment of all layers of governance. And it must be inclusive in nature. Hence the importance of participation, which, at the same time, fulfils the purpose of creating, within society, the awareness of the relevance of the 17 SDGs. It is «a new phase of the country's relationship with the 2030 Agenda.»

The concerns of the community

The views of the representatives of the autonomous region were echoed by many of those speaking at this meeting, held at the Madeira Press Museum. A representative **of the Governing Board of the Forestry Institute**



drew attention to the landmark enlargement of the natural reserve of the Selvagens Islands, which he described as one of the major contributions to sustainable development.

Madeira - he said - is an example, given the scenario of a high population density occupying only 15% of a territory, where the topography makes planning challenging, even if it is an asset for the conservation of life on land. «How to manage so many people in so little space» is the challenge, added to the fact that 65% of the land area is protected, but used by people. This is, moreover, a characteristic of Madeira, which has always encouraged visits to the protected areas, which it looks on as a resource.

Another speaker, there in the capacity of a **Regional Fisheries Manager**, said he was aligned with the mayor of the council on the importance of combining fisheries with the protection of marine life. He emphasised that people who make a living from the exploitation of marine resources are some of the partners most interested in the conservation of those resources. This does not mean that there is not an urgent need to renew the fleet, particularly where certain fish species are concerned. This is not in order to increase volumes, but rather to protect human life and ensure the quality of the food they bring to land. «We do not want to increase the fishing effort, but we will insist so that there is an understanding of the urgency to renew this fleet,» he argued.

SDG 14 was also in focus in the intervention from the **Regional Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change**. He said that Madeira is the region with the largest protected marine area - «And we are talking about effective protection» - but he stated that there is still a long way to go to protect the oceanic areas, a path that is «compatible with traditional fishing.»

He chose SDG 13 - Climate Action as a priority from the 17 SDGs, considering that it brings together all the others. He expressed the view, in this regard, that the European Union has designed a well-targeted set of sectorial policies, placing the green transition at the centre.

Nevertheless, he stated that there are areas of concern, such as the circular economy, advocating the existence of financing tools for companies. Working «harder» is also the subject of responsible consumption and production.

The focus of the representative of Madeira's **Water and Waste company** was different. He focused on the SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities. In his view, the implementation of sustainability policies is impacted when cities are disproportionate. In Portugal, he said, scale must be protected, since 95% of the population occupies 5% of the territory. Madeira is an example of a suitable scale, given the model of a multi-council community. Aggregation provides added value, allowing for more efficiency in achieving the objectives.

Speaking on behalf of the **Regional Directorate for Spatial Planning**, another of the participants said he was in agreement with the scale used in Madeira, which provides for the proximity needed to make cities and communities more resilient. Even so, there are some inequalities, since about 85% of the population is concentrated on a strip of land on the south coast.

He also noted that, in spatial planning, it is important to have the possibility of adapting some policies and pointed out what he considered to be «some incomprehension at national level with regard to some specific characteristics» that the region tries to introduce, but which «are fundamental to respond to the needs of the territory.» He called for the specific characteristics of the territory not to be seen as «something that is antagonistic», rather a contribution to the national whole.

Energy was one of the topics covered by the meeting that would gain particular prominence. It was introduced by the representative of **Madeira Ports** (*Portos da Madeira*). She began by addressing the European «Fit for 55» legislative package and the challenges it poses for ports and the cruise industry. She said that this is a pioneering and innovative industry, which is taking giant strides in sustainability, whether in the recycling of water on board or in the use of alternative fuels - there are more and more LNG vessels, but also projects to use hydrogen and biofuels. In addition, 40% of the fleet is prepared to connect onshore to electric power (OPS).

However, she noted that, in relation to industry, ports are lagging behind, needing to accelerate their competitiveness and reach the targets set for 2030. «Anyone who does not have a decarbonisation plan in their ports will be out of business in terms of competitiveness.» In this context, the target for the region is to implement a decarbonisation plan by 2030, and it is crucial that the region is able to produce renewable energy to supply ships. This requires money, because costs are higher in an ultra-peripheral region. She therefore advocated that the European Union and the government should support ports with robust financial envelopes to implement these solutions in technical terms.

The words of the **vice-president of the Regional Legislative Assembly** were in the same vein. She shared a concern: that the SDGs consider the specific characteristics of the autonomous regions, given that ultra-peripheral regions have «very high» costs. The aggressiveness of climate change, distance, the sea and territorial non-continuity offer much potential, but also entail disadvantages. Hence her appeal to the Minister of Territorial Cohesion to take account of the specific regional and archipelago characteristics.

Another common denominator of this session, the reduction of inequalities and the eradication of poverty, also occupied a central place. The first intervention on the

subject was made by a representative of the **University of Madeira**, in whose opinion one of the aims of higher education institutions is precisely to reduce inequalities through training and research. They thus make their contribution to the qualification of human resources, which leads to greater access to the labour market and even to inclusion in the decisions of the community itself.

She specifically referred to first cycle training and vocational technical courses, which she described as one of the most important investments in recent years. She explained that, about ten years ago, 40% of the pupils completing secondary education did not go on to higher education, either because of difficulties in gaining access or because they did not perceive the benefits. But these courses, with more practical application, have attracted that public, contributing to the development of communities. She also said that higher education institutions are a factor in territorial cohesion, allowing the development of more peripheral communities. They also promote social cohesion by enabling a younger population to settle in island and inland territories.

More funding opportunities, both Community and national, were also advocated by the representative of the **Regional Energy and Environment Agency**. He began by pointing out that Madeira approved, at the end of last year, the action plan for sustainable energy and climate, which is «perfectly aligned» with the SDGs and inspired by Community and national strategies. It was - he said - a plan in which companies and citizens participated, with public discussion allowing the region's needs to be incorporated.

«It is an ambitious plan - with targets up to 2030 and the target of carbon neutrality in 2050 - and requires resources,» he stated. «We hope that the Community framework will better meet the needs of island regions. The previous one was inadequate, with funds that have not yet been implemented because the rules are not adjusted to the size of our companies and public buildings.»

The head of the local **Food Bank against Hunger** (*Banco Alimentar contra a Fome*) spoke about SDG 1 - No Poverty. He said that Madeira suffers from local specific characteristics in this area too. This is due to the size, but also to the topography, which «does not allow much agriculture,» making the institution more dependent on the distribution chains to get donations. However, the capacity to obtain food has grown, with three tonnes of food distributed per day, on average.

Seventy per cent of the food bank's activity is precisely the collection of surpluses, which are sent to about 50 social welfare institutions. In addition to this, support is provided for the integration of the most vulnerable groups in society as volunteers, such as people with special needs.

Another person, speaking as a member of the **Regional Directorate for Economic Affairs and Land Trans-**

port, again focused on renewable energy, saying that it is a major commitment for Madeira. She emphasised that, as it is an island, the introduction of renewable sources in electricity production must be made duly sustainable.

She argued, in this context, for investment in incentives in order to promote the development of energy for self-consumption, which «has been increasing considerably.» Nonetheless, energy poverty must be combated by means of a support system that covers the most deprived families.

This is also an important issue in the area of transport, where energy dependence needs to be reduced by focusing on electric mobility - again, using incentives.

Madeira Electricity Company (*Empresa de Eletricidade da Madeira*) is dedicated to renewable energies, and its spokesperson at the meeting reported on the ongoing projects, specifically those that envisage the renovation of two hydroelectric power plants, interlinking SDG 7 with SDGs 11 and 12.

He said that in the medium term, generation in Madeira of renewable energy will account for 50% of the share and the current 33% is «a very interesting figure» for an island region. This is even more so because, worldwide, excluding nuclear energy, this component is 27%.

Madeira does not benefit from the opportunity, which exists on the mainland, of interconnecting with the European grid. This prevents the import of energy when it is needed, but also prevents exports when it is produced in excess. It is possible, in his view, to increase renewable energy production almost infinitely, for example by spreading wind generators or photovoltaic panels over the island. However, this design conflicts with the maintenance and protection of natural areas.

The data he shared included those that indicate that, globally, electricity generation accounts for 27% of pollution, with the production of cement, steel and plastics taking first place. On the other hand, Madeira emits 300,000 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere, out of a world total of 51 billion tonnes a year. This means that for every million tonnes produced globally, the region is responsible for six tonnes.

On the other hand, the economic component was highlighted by another of those present, also a **Member of the Portuguese parliament**, who, recalled the fact that certain financing opportunities, developed at the national level, are directed only at the mainland. He recognised that this stems from the decision to regionalise European funds, which allows the region to determine where it wants to use them, and regretted that Madeira was outside some of the processes launched at national level.

Returning to the SDG in the spotlight, a **representative of the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests**

(*Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e Florestas*), said that it has a great deal of support in the region. He focused on the biodiversity indicators of Madeira, the best in the Macaronesia region, with 65% of the land area and 89% of the sea area protected. This also covers a very large number of endemic species, since there are almost 1,500 species that only exist in Madeira, which «increases the responsibility» for conservation. This conservation must, however, be in line with the high human pressure on the territory, in particular on the area of Laurissilva Forest covering almost 15,000 hectares.

He stated that open management of this asset, i.e. that includes visitors, means that public management in the region covers 40% of the forest, when at national level it does not reach double digits, and this «makes all the difference, essentially in management that is focused on conservation.»

Another speaker, more focused on the social component, was a **Social Security** official. She advocated the need for public services and public and private institutions to invest more in improving the living conditions of the most disadvantaged people. She also called for regional strategies - against poverty, for the family, for children and for youth, and for social inclusion - to all be considered together.

She said that the commitment to social inclusion should be accompanied by qualified human, material and financial resources, so as to allow continued work in support of the most vulnerable population (linked to SDG 16 and strong institutions). Finally, she also regretted that some of the programmes do not cover Madeira due to it being autonomous, referring to support for young people and the fight against domestic violence.

This was, in a way, the point made by one of those present, on behalf of the **Regional Directorate for Labour and Inspective Action**, who focused on SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth. In his opinion, without economic growth there is no work, without work there is no social integration, there is no inclusion and there is no eradication of poverty.

For this reason, the country has to foster economic growth and an increase in the numbers of those who want to create wealth. In this respect, he advocated economic growth that springs mainly from private enterprise, with the public sector investing very carefully. The State - he argued - receives a lot of money, which it manages very badly and which could remain in companies and in households.

He also said that in order to have decent and fair work, those who create wealth must be «cherished» so

that they may produce that wealth and justice is created through its distribution.

A national and regional commitment

After hearing what those at the town hall had to say, the **Regional Secretary for the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Action, Susana Prada**, closed the session. She emphasised that, despite its specific characteristics, Madeira has been able to make its way towards sustainability, making economic and social development compatible with environmental protection.

The **mayor of Câmara de Lobos, Pedro Coelho**, took from the meeting an emphasis on the importance of the eradication of poverty, which, he said, should be a core feature.

Then, the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, shared his thoughts. He said that climate action (SDG 13) is, for him, the prerequisite of the other Goals. If we do not act urgently in this area, humanity - not the planet - will have a problem, because it will not be able to survive.

He also highlighted SDG 8 in the understanding that economic growth and decent work are prerequisites for the possibility of maintaining economic and social sustainability. Without wealth creation there is no distribution. This does not mean that this growth alone is sufficient, because the condition of redistribution is essential.

Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) are also essential, basic prerequisites for a sustainable model. He quoted, in this regard, the work «Why Nations Fail» — and its conclusion that what differentiates successful states is the democratic nature of their institutions and the quality of their functioning.

Finally, he said that Portugal has the seeds for sustainable development and he is convinced that there is alignment of national and regional policies with the 2030 Agenda.

The last intervention was made by **the Minister of Territorial Cohesion, Ana Abrunhosa**, to make it clear that there is no other way than sustainability and to emphasise that Madeira is committed to the SDGs.

On the subject of local participation in this session, she said that she was sensitive to the importance of breaking poverty cycles through education and training, but also to the question of taking regional specific characteristics into account in spatial planning when transposing national rules.

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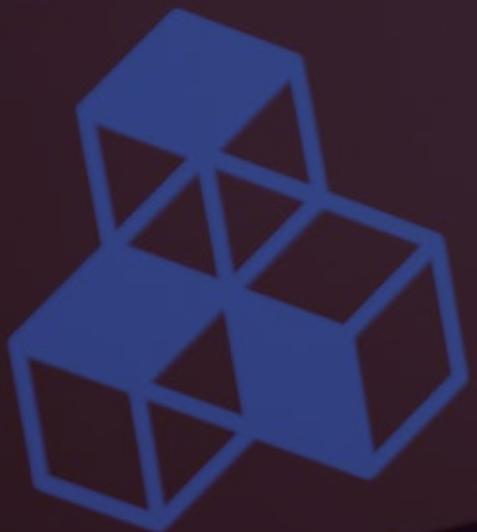


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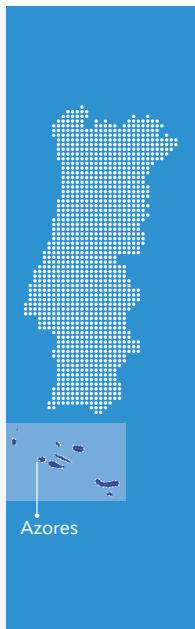
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**DATA**

10 March

MODERATED BY

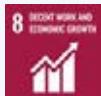
Fernanda Freitas

PANEL

Berta Cabral, Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructure; Manuel São João, Regional Secretary of the Sea and Fisheries; André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency e José Maria Costa, Secretary of State for the Sea

PARTICIPATION

8 audience interventions

3 MOST VOTED SDGS AT THE MEETING**KEY IDEAS**

- The Azores are an example of good practice in pursuing SDG 14 - Life Below Water, with the ambition to achieve in advance many of the targets set for the remaining SDGs;
- Education is seen as a structuring factor for the achievement of the SDGs. Sustainability must be included in school curricula, but also in community-focused activities;
- Science and research are an essential tool for sustainability decision-making.

A long road ahead for Agenda 2030

Increase literacy about the oceans, putting science increasingly at the service of decision-making. These were the common denominators of the Azores Participatory Meeting, which primarily reflected on SDG 14 - Life Below Water. The various good practices in this field could be observed at the meeting, as well as how far the Region has travelled in this regard.



The **Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructure, Berta Cabral**, began by speaking about the region's credits. She highlighted that sustainable development issues are not new to the Azores, and it has a long history of success. The milestone being its certification as the world's first archipelago that is a sustainable¹ tourist destination, in 2019. «But it's not just a certification, it's a continuous process. And it is not just a flag, it is a flag that we want to raise with substance,» she commented.

Next to speak was the **Secretary of State for the Presidency, André Moz Caldas**, who provided the context for the tour that had stopped off that day at the Azores School of the Sea, in the city of Horta (island of Faial). The second Voluntary National Review is «a very demanding report, because it has to be based on the critical analysis of the 2017 report. That report was fundamentally orientated to the description of alignment of the strategy of public policies with the 2030 Agenda, from the perspective of the government of the Republic, and was not seen as being truly national.»

What does being «truly national» actually mean? It means involving all levels of governance, including regional and local, but also civil society. The purpose is that «no-one will be left behind». The alignment of public policies with the 2030 Agenda will be demonstrated, not in an «encomiastic manner, in the sense of saying everything that is being done well, but with the critical capacity to recognise what challenges are facing the country.» The 2023 VNR really has

¹ Accredited by the international certification body EarthCheck, according to the criteria of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (a non-governmental organisation created with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) to promote sustainability and social responsibility in the tourism sector).

to have «huge national participation, with the involvement of the relevant actors, before the drafting of a first version of the report.» This justifies the various mechanisms foreseen for collecting contributions. It is - he concluded - a new commitment to the 2030 Agenda, from the moment a new governance model was implemented.

The **Regional Secretary of the Sea and Fisheries, Manuel São João**, also focused on the best that has been done in the Azores, at the meeting dedicated to SDG 14. He began by referring to the symbolism of having the School of the Sea as a backdrop, which is a focus of development of the maritime professions in everything related to the blue economy and circular economy. In the understanding that training is indispensable to encourage professions connected to the sea, raising them above the stigma that still persists.

The sea is fundamental to the economy of the Azores. It has great examples of sustainability, such as the abandonment of whale hunting and its replacement by whale watching. This field has shown what has been defined as great capacity for adaptation, transformation and resilience.

Nevertheless, there are issues to be reflected on, namely the conciliation of fisheries with the implementation of the marine protected areas, but also using the sea for tourism, ensuring there is no interference with marine life. The regional government relies on the academic world for this reflection, since it considers that scientific knowledge contributes towards making better political decisions.

The **Secretary of State for the Sea, José Maria Costa**, focused his opening remarks on the current situation, since the debate on the SDG, and no. 14 in particular, is taking place at a time of celebration - 40 years of the United Nations Treaty on the Law of the Sea and the recent agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources and Biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions (BBNJ Agreement), after 15 years of negotiations.

He advocated the importance of cooperation to bring the SDGs to a successful conclusion. He also recalled another important milestone - the second United Nations Ocean Conference, held in Lisbon last year. There, «at a time of great global confusion,» the «only agreement was precisely the States saying that we need to do more for the oceans,» and that more commitment and more responsibility is required.

Portugal - he noted - played an important role in this agreement. This is a result of the work it has developed in international forums and, in particular, within the CPLP, but it also resulted from bilateral cooperation with countries like Norway, Canada and France.

It is important to increase knowledge and literacy about the oceans, in his view. In this context, he reported on the investment in science and technology, in particular the funds earmarked for the blue hubs through the RRP. It

is about enhancing the creation of an ecosystem involving the academic world, start-ups, financiers and investors.

«We have to realise that the sea is our future territory and that it should increasingly be a space of sharing and consultation,» he said, arguing that planning, regardless of whether it is national or regional, is always complex, but with enormous potential for concertation. He specifically considered that concerted planning was necessary to mitigate the oldest uses of the sea, making them compatible with the new forms of maritime space management. He also argued that it is necessary to increasingly look at the position of the sea as part of the complete water cycle, from a holistic perspective of the entire hydrological cycle.

Sustainability in action in the Azores

The Azores participatory meeting was the stage for the presentation of two projects in progress that show the region is leading the way in sustainability.

The **Coordinator of the sustainability structure of Azores Tourism Destination, Carolina Mendonça**, was responsible for presenting the Azores Sustainability Booklet. This collaborative process, involving the public, private and associative sector, aims to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the archipelago. This is - she said - a transformative process for the Azores that began with the consultation and collection of data, per island, about the region's main challenges and problems.

The contributions were then translated into the Sustainability Action Plan of the Azores Tourism Destination 2019-2030, based on a perspective that management has to be holistic. The defined actions of the plan are measurable and monitored.

The Booklet is specifically seen as a mechanism for achieving all the SDGs, and its «pioneering spirit» has already been recognised by the European Commission. Launched in 2017, it already has more than 200 signatories. All of these are supported on the path to integrating sustainability into their organisations.

A new strategy was initiated in January this year. In this strategy, the signatory entities are grouped by clusters, in order for the strategy to be more dynamic and more tailored. Measuring to manage is the philosophy, translated into an annual review of the performance of the proposed actions.

The second project presented was «Blue Azores.» Its aims, according to the **advisor of the president of the regional government, Luís Bernardo Brito e Abreu**, are to ensure science, education and the economy serve the enhancement of the value of the Azores Sea, calling on Azoreans to sustainably use the ocean.

This project created in 2019 is led by the Regional Government of the Azores. Its partners are Blue Ocean



Foundation and the Waitt Institute of California. It aims to protect 30% of the Azores Sea, with at least 15% of marine areas fully protected. Other objectives considered fundamental for a prosperous and sustained relationship with the ocean are to promote the responsible use of resources and to boost blue jobs in the economy of the sea.

It is closely linked to SDG 14. The protection of marine life faces major challenges, namely climate change and biodiversity loss. The extensive extraction of marine resources, overheating of waters, acidification and a reduction in CO₂ absorption capacity are all contributing factors to these challenges.

Listen to the community

It was the turn of the meeting's audience to give its opinion, after these two projects had been presented. Firstly, a **representative of Resiações** spoke, who advocated the importance of SGD 4 - Quality Education. Education must be, from the outset, inter-generational and focused on proximity. The strategy in Faial, and in its sector of activity, has been precisely to bring the community closer to the waste processing centre, publicising how waste should be separated and demonstrating that waste must be seen as a resource. The community will only be able to perceive the difference between linear economics and circular econom-

ics when it is provided that knowledge. The information provided to the general public takes the form of practical cases. It has been reflected in the figures, with an exponential growth in waste management and even a reward for recycling glass.

The next speaker, a **marine science researcher** at the University of the Azores, also spoke about education, but from a scientific perspective. In his view, education, but also the eradication of poverty, are the basis for the other SDGs to be achieved. This is because «there are some who worry about the end of the world and others who worry about the end of the month.» These two interests need to be conciliated, given that there is still a lot of inequality. He considered science to be fundamental in conservation and preservation policies, arguing that this should also be the basis of many of the SDGs.

Another member of the meeting's audience agreed with this view. A **trained biologist, but working as a political advisor**, he quoted Indira Gandhi from the first global conference on the human environment, in 1972: «How can we talk to those who live in villages and slums about keeping the oceans and rivers clean and the air clean when their own lives are contaminated from the source?» This was the reasons for him choosing SDG 1 and 2 (No Poverty and Zero Hunger) as priorities.

He also chose 14, arguing that Portugal must distinguish itself in this area, stating that «We are great for the territory and the territory is essentially marine. What makes us great is the sea and the sea as a whole, the three sub-areas.» The major challenge for this decade, as far as the sea is concerned, is to tackle climate change, the rapid loss of biodiversity and pollution. Portugal - he concluded - must see the sea as its greatest asset, its greatest wealth. A change of mentalities is needed, to understand that «a living resource has to be worth much more than a dead one.»

A **spokesperson for the Azores Association for the Development of the Sea** made the same reading of the hierarchy of SDGs. In other words, it will not be possible to achieve the other Goals without first eradicating poverty. The same is true for SDG 4, in which he said that the region has very positive results, for which the creation of the university was decisive. Finally, SDG 14, an area in which he commented on the protection of marine areas, a very ambitious goal, but one that makes perfect sense. It relates to Goal 17, in so far as its implementation requires cooperation, particularly with the Portuguese Government.

This was precisely the SDG chosen by the **spokesperson for the Regional Directorate for Maritime Policies**. He said, as manager, he had no doubt that the policies and measures for each of the Goals are perfectly identified,

both at the level of the United Nations, the European Union and also the Member States. «We know what we need to do. But when I look at the ocean, I am acutely aware that we will not be able, as a country and as a region, to solve this problem without partnerships.» After all, «it is impossible to monitor and supervise four million square kilometres if the country does not organise itself and if it does not implement these collaborative synergies.» He argued, considering that it is a colossal challenge, but a very interesting one, that Portugal should follow the example of the Azores and complete the design of the marine protected areas in 2023. «The doubt remains if, from 2024 to 2030, we will be able, as a community, to develop all that is defined,» he commented. He advocated the involvement of citizens in this task.

What was argued by another of the participants at the session, here on **behalf of the Horta Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, was that the «problem, in terms of sustainability, is time.» «The projects are good and valid, but we're quite behind where sustainability is concerned.» This is a process, in his opinion, that firstly has to be individual and then collective: «We live a very isolated existence on our own personal islands, as institutions, as political power and even as associations, and one of the things that sustainability says is that it's a highly collaborative process. But it hasn't been as collaborative as it should be, because soci-



ety is very stratified.» He also made the point that sustainability has to be on the curricula, both in vocational schools and in mainstream education.

Another person at the meeting, the **representative of the Azores School of the Sea** and its management entity, spoke about the integration of sustainability in education and training. He said that all courses have an ocean literacy component and that the school cherishes everything that concerns the preservation of marine life. It is, in his opinion, through training that the qualitative leap in terms of sustainability can be made, with quality education being «clearly» linked to decent work and economic growth (SDG 8).

This was exactly the SDG chosen by another of the participants, **head of the Regional Tourism Directorate**, because he understood that tourism is the engine for development of the economy. He also highlighted Goal nos. 14 and 15, relating to the protection of marine life and land life. This is because they are the two major assets of the Azores, which positions itself as a nature destination. Lastly, he addressed SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities, once again in relation to tourism, an activity that enhances the development of services, but which should not jeopardise the lives of residents. There must be total respect for communities, because «tourism is only good if it is also good for the locals.»

In turn, the **local councillor** shared his view that the SDGs can be articulated, although there are basic principles, such as the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities, which must be ensured. Quality education is the most effective instrument to break the cycle of poverty and make the social elevator work. This is because people will be, with quality education, better equipped for decent employment and economic growth. «I'm a humanist and advocate social support for those who really need it, but I also advocate the functioning of the economy, ensuring that fewer and fewer people need to be dependent on social support,» he argued. He added that more empowered people will also be better able to promote sustainable cities and communities, the focus of SDG 11.

Under the banner of cooperation

Cooperation. This was a cross-cutting word of the closing session of the Azores Participatory Meeting. It was first said by the **Secretary of State for the Sea**, who advocated the need for partnerships in the international arena, but also with regard to the engagement of the scientific community.

He also stressed, with regard to the SDG in question, that it is necessary to, firstly, continue working on literacy and knowledge, then on the move towards the preservation of marine areas and their management model, and third-

ly, in the redesign of the activities involved, with a view to greater sustainability. There are areas, in this context, that will undergo enormous progression in the future: this applies not only to maritime transport and its green transformation, but also to ports, cruises and tourism. This is also the case for fisheries and aquaculture, which must be reconverted.

The **Regional Secretary for the Sea and Fisheries** also spoke of cooperation to ensure that the region's co-operation with the Republic is complete, because only then can all interests be safeguarded. «We see ourselves, as an Autonomous Region in the objectives of the Republic,» he said, reaffirming «all interest in participating in the preparation of the legislative process.»

In turn, the **Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructure** shared the ten SDGs that the Azores chose as priorities. These are definitely chosen according to the economic and social development of each community, but they are also an individual choice, depending on the professional and academic orientation of each person. The Regional Secretary reinforced the idea conveyed in the opening speech, as far as the Azores are concerned, stating that the Region is a success case at European level, with numerous awards.

The last intervention of the morning was that of the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers**, who started by recalling that the different United Nations countries have been faced with the methodological doubt of dealing with all the SDGs or only the priority ones. Portugal is inclined, as the participatory process advances, towards the option of addressing all of the Goals, while indicating a greater depth of commitment to those that the country considers to be priorities. «What is evident in all the meetings is that the nature of the agenda is very intuitive. The SDGs have obvious interconnections, but less obvious are the issues where they conflict with each other. The optimal balance is the great challenge of this agenda,» he commented.

Another dimension of the agenda that is beginning to form has to do with the realisation that the 17 SDG are insufficient, with culture and the protection of minorities emerging as under-represented. «This is the consensus among 193 countries that are very different from each other. Issues that would have a place on the agenda in Western countries are impossible in terms of reaching consensus in other countries, where they are highly divisive,» he said.

DE GÉNERO



ETIVOS
VOLVIMENTO
ENTÁVEL

OBJETIVOS
DE DESENVOLVIMENTO
SUSTENTÁVEL

TOWN HALL NORTH

9 INDÚSTRIA,
INOVAÇÃO
E INFRAESTRUTURAS



11 CIDADES E
COMUNIDADES
SUSTENTÁVEIS

11 CIDADES
COMUNIDADES
SUSTENTÁVEIS

1 ERRADICAR
A POBREZA

QUALIDADE



**DATE**

13 March

MODERATED BY

Fernanda Freitas

PANEL

André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Pedro Cilínio, Secretary of State for the Economy; António Cunha, President of the North Regional Coordination and Development Commission (*Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte - CCDR*); Domingos Bragança Salgado, Mayor of Guimarães

PARTICIPATION

15 audience interventions

**3 MOST VOTED SDGs
AT THE MEETING****KEY IDEAS**

- The SDGs are a network of intersecting and interpenetrating goals;
- Environmental education and the engagement of communities are crucial in the mission of sustainable development;
- Science is an indispensable tool in decision-making, providing the necessary knowledge;
- Innovation dictates the path of industry, and it is a factor of competitiveness and differentiation. However, there is a lack of awareness of the subject among the business community, as well as a lack of incentives to carry out research projects;

Innovation and industry: an essential alliance, but one that needs to be deepened

The interpenetration between innovation and industry dominated the Town Hall for the North Region, held in Guimarães.. The session also focused on the importance of education for the environment and the sharing of good practices.

The first to speak was the host, **Mayor of Guimarães, Domingos Bragança Salgado**, who shared with those present the steps taken by the city council to comply with sustainable development and to be a reference city in this field.

«Why does Guimarães want to be a European Green Capital? Why does it have this plan for sustainability? Why does it take responsibility for being one of the pilot cities for climate transition and carbon neutrality? Why is it the country's only city chosen for the European Union's «net-zero cities»? Why does it involve the whole of society?» It was in this way, through these questions, that the mayor shared Guimarães' ambition.

This is a concern that goes hand-in-hand with the fact that Guimarães is an industrial territory, and would like to remain so, but with a greater technological dimension, with that dimension serving the circularity of the economy.

This is the case in textiles, footwear and metalworking, traditional but cutting-edge sectors with a high passive environmental mass, which need to be managed, in particular by reincorporating waste into the production process.

It is necessary, according to the mayor, to make citizens eco-citizens, because change depends on them, particularly as consumers. If they reject products that are not in accordance with the SDGs, they will make companies more aware. In this field of environmental education, he mentioned the work done in the parishes by the so-called «green brigades» but also the Footprints (*Pegadas*) programme, present in all schools, starting at nursery level.



He was followed by the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, who explained the rationale of the tour as, on the one hand, the need to increase Portuguese society's awareness concerning the 2030 Agenda and, on the other, to hear stakeholders of relevance for the 2023 Voluntary National Review (VNR). He pointed out that this was the second report to be presented by Portugal and that it was based on the purpose of listening first. The aim is to have a report that does not limit the position of civil society, but rather uses it as a launch pad for a truly national position, capturing the position of all layers of governance and drawing on the participation of civil society.

In the North, SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure - was highlighted, as it is the region where that SDG is more evident. This is why the **Secretary of State for the Economy, Pedro Cilírio**, attended the meeting. According to him, Guimarães is an «excellent example» of the approach to innovation and industry from the point of view of sustainability. In his view, sustainability should not be imposed, not least because it is a factor of competitiveness, a factor of differentiation in the markets, which require guarantees of sustainable practices, from an environmental point of view and also a social and labour perspective. And, he stated, that is what he has seen in the companies. This

is important as they compete with companies from other countries where these practices are often not aligned with those of the European market.

He also mentioned that the adaptation to sustainability is an investment of many years and he gave the technology centres for footwear and textiles as an example. Those centres have been investing in more sustainable processes, alternative materials and the incorporation of recyclable materials over many years. All this transition enables and gathers together the focus on innovation, another development factor. He concluded, therefore, that innovation and sustainability clearly need to be addressed hand-in-hand.

At the end of the opening session, the **President of the North Regional Coordination and Development Commission** (*Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte - CCDR*), **António Cunha**, praised the North Region, describing it as the country's most industrial region that exported most, but also as the one where Portugal was born and raised, and where some of the best products in the world are produced. He then added that it is a region of culture and UNESCO classified sites (five).

The region's «outstanding and differentiating» industrial activity means it makes perfect sense to discuss SDG 9. Although - he stressed - the North has made «significant progress» in all SDGs, through notable economic growth in



the last ten years, which «brings improvements in all areas.» Nevertheless, he highlighted the particular performance in SDG 7, with the North producing 50% of the country's renewable energy and preparing to exceed that figure with the completion of the third dam on the River Tâmega next year. He also highlighted SDG 4 - Quality Education, in which the North has achieved «notable» success, above all at primary and secondary education levels. «Ten years ago, Portugal had indicators that did not compare well with those of the European Union and the OECD. As a whole, it has made a very great evolution, it has made a very great qualitative leap. Ten years ago, the North Region was the worst-classified in the indicators and today it is the best.»

The community at the centre of the interventions

Environmental education and the need to involve the community emerged as the dominant focus in the audience participations at the meeting in Guimarães. The concept of «glocal» - think global, act local - was the focus of the first intervention, made on behalf of **ANAFRE** and in defence of the fundamental role that the parishes play in the achievement of the SDGs. SDG 1 and 2 (No poverty and Zero hunger) were identified as fundamental in moving closer to the local population. This is based on the realisation that the number of people who are struggling, asking for food and medicines, for example, has been growing since the Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, health (SDG 3) was considered a priority, since there are asymmetries between the coastal regions and the more deserted inland areas, which have difficulties in access to primary care, and often do not even have an entity providing such care. The parishes main role is to support these populations, which explains the choice of SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities, as another of the priorities, in the understanding that the country suffers from very strong inequalities, starting with the territory and demography.

The next person to speak was also from local government. The **councillor for the Environment** on Guimarães Council also selected SDG 1 as a priority, regardless of the fact that she considers all to be relevant and that each individual is involved in the fulfilment of each one. SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions are also among her main choices, which she justified by stating that, as a local councillor who takes on the mission of doing more and better for communities, she understands that a society in which institutions do not fulfil their purpose cannot be a happy, fair and sustainable society.

She was followed by the **executive director of the Landscape Laboratory**, who reported on the work being done on applied research in the territory and how sustain-

ability is very firmly present in those projects. This is in the understanding that cities have a relevant role in taking on projects that can be replicated and may contribute to the transformation of the planet. Again, the local-global dynamic: «Everything begins at the local level, so that countries can achieve the main objectives that guide sustainability.»

In the institution that he directs, areas such as climate, water resources, the circular economy and biodiversity are the focus, always with education and environmental awareness as their fundamental axis. Education within the school community, as well as «a very strong attempt» to involve the community in participative co-creation projects, were the focus right from the start. Accordingly, he selected SDG 4 as determinant, highlighting the environmental education project of Guimarães, which is eight years old, and the commitment to research (the council is one of the founding entities of the Landscape Lab). «The town council is ahead of its time. It is not very common for a town council to invest directly in research,» he commented.

And since «the work has to start in the cities,» he also selected SDG 11 plus SDG 14 - Life below water. He reported on an ongoing project to improve water courses so that they can be enjoyed by all and foster biodiversity. Furthermore, water resources have always been fundamental for industry.

It was about industry, in particular the textile industry, that the next participant, the representative of **CITEVE**, spoke. His choices were SDG 9, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), «aligned with the challenges faced by textiles.» The problems are multidimensional in that they also involve water and energy, as well as creative work - as it will be difficult to achieve circularity without in-depth intervention at the eco-design and eco-engineering level, without a different way of thinking about garments.

He also addressed the importance of consumer education, to argue that it will not be complete if there is no good information to give them. «Greenwashing only rages on because people are sensitive to the issue, but there is no complete and transparent information,» he warned. The brands «have done their job,» with marketing giving the impression that everything is organic: «I would say that 100% of the shops sell organic cotton, but only 1% of the cotton produced in the world is organic.» In this context, he expressed hope in the European digital product passport, since it will make it possible to level the playing field, as it will be required not only for European production but for all products sold in Europe, introducing parity conditions between markets. «At that point, we can demand responsibility from consumers, because they can make comparisons. At the moment, it is innocuous,» he said.

He considered that the Portuguese textiles sector is in a privileged position. Firstly, because it is ahead in many

fields, such as child labour and slave labour, which are concerns in Asia, but in Portugal are forbidden by law.

He also argued that working on sustainability implies that the textile sector talks with the agricultural sector, with local authorities, with energy producers, with distribution and logistics. And with the education system, in particular the higher education system, and the science-technology system. In this particular area, he argued that the challenges are not for small innovations, they have to be major. There is a lack of technology for transforming end-of-life parts into something useful, with identical value, since the current solutions result in lower-value products, which jeopardise circularity. In his opinion, innovation in companies is still lacking, as well as an integrated vision of value chains. He also said that «we need to look differently at incentive systems so that they induce this integration.»

The representative of a **centre for waste recovery** also spoke about the incentive systems, explaining that the development of innovative technologies, particularly for the material or energy recovery of waste, has no practical correspondence, as the projects do not leave the laboratory/pilot scale because the industry does not benefit from incentives to scale up and implement these technologies.

Still on the subject of industry, he said that the centre has identified, through its members, a concern for the concrete and quantitative assessment of the environmental footprint of the processes, but considered that the industry «needs to be worked hard» since there are still sectors that are «resistant» to this awareness. He noted, in this respect, the importance of synergies in relation to waste trading, on the basis that what constitutes waste for one industry can be raw material for another. He called for legislative changes to boost the use of waste and thus the preservation of resources.

In line with this intervention, there were the concerns expressed by the executive director of a **centre for technology and innovation at the University of Minho** (*Fibernamics*), who advocated the need to not only think about the product in its conception, but also in dematerialisation. «When we think about the product there are great challenges - to define what are the most sustainable raw materials, what is the incorporation of recycled material, if we have truly created circularity,» he commented. He insisted on the importance of looking at sustainability in an integrated manner. If, initially, companies were looking for sustainability by incorporating recycled materials, now the challenge is greater: it is to reconcile sustainability with performance.

Industry also made itself heard at this meeting. One of the participants, a **representative of the textile sector**, advocated focusing on innovation, but also warned of the need to focus more on people. She said that the textile industry is going to be faced with a major challenge in terms

of attracting talent, implying that the sector is having difficulty recruiting. Other challenges facing the sector are resources, notably water and energy.

The question of people was raised by another businessman, this time from the **construction industry**, who reported the same difficulty: the sector went from 600,000 workers in 2008 to the current 300,000. It is important to «think differently» in order to create conditions for more permanent work, to improve the conditions under which this work is done and to improve the technical skills of workers. That is why he advocated the importance of SDG 8 and its relationship with SDG 10, because he believes that decent work helps to reduce inequalities.

He also said that an integrated view of value chains is needed, because the problem (of sustainable development) «can only be addressed by looking at its complexity.» «Any choice in one sector is going to impact the choices in other sectors,» he pointed out. He gave as an example the use of wood for construction, specifying that the roadmap for carbon neutrality refers to the need to increase carbon sinks by 50%, which implies an investment at forest level. It requires the use of products to not be in the short carbon cycle and allows for fixation, with a life span of 50 or 100 years. In his opinion, a multi-sector and multi-level vision is needed, because «options are lost when reducing complexity.»

A third businessman, from the **footwear industry** also mentioned the relevance of SDG 8 to underline that decent work is often seen only as the responsibility of employers but should be seen in the same way by workers, i.e. as a responsibility. But for this to happen, it is essential that they are properly trained, which is the role of training. In this context, he advocated the need to deepen collaboration with universities.

SDG 8 was also the first choice of the representative of a **business association** (CEPOL), in the belief that without economic growth it is not possible to achieve the other SDGs, such as No poverty. It is therefore necessary for the country to grow in a «strong and robust manner.» He also selected SDG 9, given the potential of manufacturing industry for economic growth, but also the potential of infrastructure, especially the railway, both to fulfil the exporting component and to achieve decarbonisation.

The spokesperson of a **trade union association** (UGT) also spoke about SDG 8, focusing on the aspect of decent work and the understanding that work situations cannot be perpetuated in «inhuman conditions, which go beyond all limits.» «The idea of the 1980s, that everything was worthwhile, provided that the objectives were achieved, is outdated,» he said, recommending that both businessmen and workers should ensure decent work, not only in Europe, but throughout the world, given that there are countries where the minimum rules are not complied with. He also men-



tioned infrastructure, an integral part of SDG 9, advocating greater investment in the railways, because they pollute less and have great national uptake. Finally, he made the observation that there is a lack of information: «If we knew that we are impacting negatively when we are consuming, then we would think in a different manner.»

More literacy was precisely what **a researcher at the University of Minho called for**. In his view, there is a «very urgent» need for convergence of environmental literacy in Portugal. Given that Guimarães is very active in this field, he

called on local authorities to feel compelled to comply with a minimum of the 2030 Agenda in the field of environmental education and he even advocated the creation of a guide for good practice that would be cross-cutting for municipalities.

In addition to SDG 4, which he justified above, he chose 12, which he correlated. In order to achieve sustainable production and consumption, young people must be included in the agricultural sector: «We have young people with knowledge, sensitive to environmental issues, but they are not doing the generational continuity part of agricul-

ture.» This is because in Portugal only 3.7% of farms are run by entrepreneurs aged under 40, whereas the average in the European Union is 11%.

Finally, he identified SDG 15 - Life on land, directly linked to his professional activity and he considered that Portugal should have, as a goal, more and better protected areas. This would make it possible to halt the decline in biodiversity and benefit all the ecosystem services that these areas might promote.

The activity carried out by Guimarães regarding education for sustainability was again highlighted in the meeting, this time by a **professor from Cávado and Ave Polytechnic**. On the subject, she recalled that in the institution's first strategic plan, in 2017, it was hardly addressed, but in the plan developed in 2022, all the actions contemplated are interlinked with the 17 SDGs, and there is no study plan that is not aligned. The institute took on the mission of changing mentalities, with actions to raise awareness among the whole academic community. In the interlinking of SDG 4 with the others, she highlighted SDG 8 due to the role that the academic community plays in the implementation of decent work and in contributing to economic growth. In this context, she stressed the alignment between higher education institutions and business.

Integration between the SDGs was, again, underlying the intervention of a member of the **Braga Capital of Culture 2030 mission team and administrator of the Circo Theatre**. However, he emphasised the importance among the 17 SDGs of SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities, in the light of the work that he is doing in Braga with disadvantaged communities. They are people who, he said, have very serious daily concerns from the point of view of individual survival and community integration, so they are less willing to think about sustainability. SDG 8 is correlated, because economic growth allows these conditions and because without decent work there are no citizens who might make the best choices. In this transformation, communities have a key role, a role that is being played by companies, he said, which «are very attentive.» In the same way, public institutions «have done a remarkable job» in this area. The engagement of all citizens is necessary.

However, «we will not be able to meet the Goals and achieve the results if we continue to do things the same way, expecting different results.» The warning was left by a **spokesperson for the regional planning services of the North Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR**, who stressed the need for different behaviour in order to fulfil the vision that everyone is counting on. To do this, we must have more stable populations, with decent work and a salary that allows choice, people who are capable but sufficiently active in demanding their rights and fully aware of the need to exercise their duties.

In her view, there are no ways to achieve the Goals other than through sustainable territories, not just cities. Because when the emphasis is placed on cities, other realities, such as agriculture, are left on the sidelines. «The territory is both the paradox and the key,» she emphasised, considering that everything pertaining to sustainability, communities, work and economic growth has its maximum and ultimate expression in the territory, where the decisions taken are embodied.

Transversality as a conclusion

The idea that intercropped almost all the interventions was integration, as the **President of the North Regional Coordination and Development Commission - CCDR** said, summing up. He stated that solving the challenges of sustainable development requires greater cooperation and coordination. Having said that, he gave what he considered to be one of the main challenges of the Douro sub-region as an example - to find a way of irrigating vineyards, otherwise no wine will be produced in 15 years' time. Today, unirrigated vineyards are already suffering from large production declines. Irrigating the Douro means a very active forestry policy, with a forest that is capable of retaining water and that can, at the same time, serve the construction industry. Thus, the multi-dimensional nature of challenges and solutions lies in the territory, a territory that is specific and that requires solutions that are also specific.

In turn, the **mayor of the local council** stressed the pillars that guide the public policies in the council and that are fundamental for the transformation of society - education, science and culture, focused on the empowerment of the citizen. «This is not rhetoric, we have been doing it,» he said. He gave the example that about 70% of the resources of the last Community framework were allocated to the renovation of buildings for higher education institutions. In terms of culture, he highlighted the fact that Guimarães is a UNESCO tangible and intangible heritage site. As for science, he said, it is a source of knowledge: «We won't be able to fight climate change, we won't be able to be competitive, we won't be able to get decent, well-paid work if we don't have science applied to the economy.»

And it was along the same lines that the **Secretary of State for the Economy** spoke, to defend the importance of innovation and industry being present in the same SDG. Innovation is about combining existing resources differently, creating more value, and it is a factor of competitiveness, essential for industry. Equally cross-cutting is SDG 4, because «nothing exists without education.» Innovation involves better qualifications, and education promotes the improvement of the quality of life and of citizens' incomes. «The message has to be very clear. The path of education and training is a path that guarantees better living condi-



tions and guarantees for the country the best potential for growth and sustainable economic and social development.» Moreover, the sustainability of the current development model does not exist without giving value to labour, without the distribution of income. He argued in this respect that all economic stakeholders should look at sustainability from the perspective of their activities and their business, but also from the perspective of the need to ensure social sustainability.

The North Town Hall ended with the words of the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of**

Ministers, who noted that the sessions held up to then «always result in the idea of interlinkage between the goals, but the potentially conflicting dimension between them becomes less evident.» Furthermore, the debate makes it possible to detect the shortcomings of the 2030 Agenda, which is also the case at UN level, where the inclusion of culture as an SDG, for example, is already being discussed. There is another dimension which he says is missing - that of the protection of minorities. But he acknowledges that, within the community of nations, consensus in this area is not possible.

DE GÉNERO

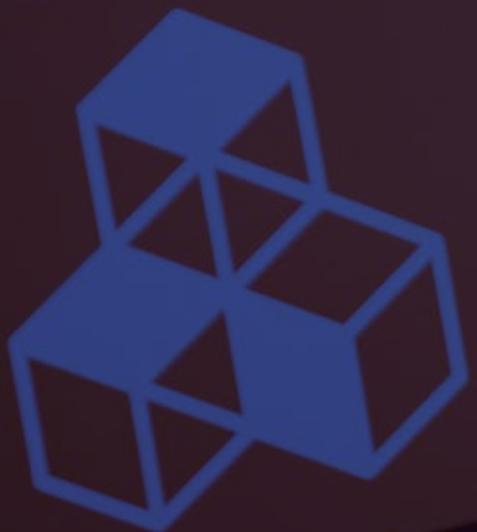


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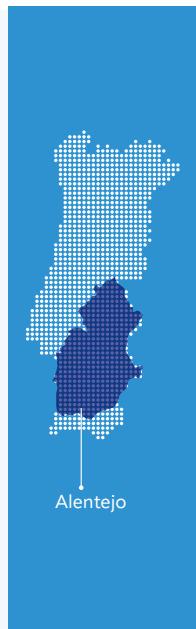
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A POBREZA

QUALIDADE



**DATE**

17 March

MODERATED BY

Fernanda Freitas

PANEL

André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Ana Fontoura Gouveia, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate; António Ceia da Silva, Chairman of the CCDR Alentejo; Ricardo Campos, President of the Energy and Climate Forum

PARTICIPATION

15 audience interventions

3 MOST VOTED SDGs AT THE MEETING**KEY IDEAS**

- Local councillors are committed to the 2030 Agenda, including it in council action plans, but also in regional concertation - namely by signing inter-council commitments;
- Renewable energy has been a driving force for regional development, but fears remain about its impact on the landscape and on quality of life;
- Water supply and the basic sanitation network are still deficient in the region, with communities still without access.

Energy transition, a revolution in the making

SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy was the Goal associated with the Alentejo Participatory Meeting. However, given the specificities of the region, another also emerged as a priority - SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation. The setting for the meeting - the Alqueva reservoir - could not have been more symbolic of the interconnection between the two themes.

However, before the participation of the local actors, it fell to the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, to contextualise the period that anticipates the preparation of the Voluntary National Review. He did so by explaining the two underlying purposes: to increase the awareness of Portuguese society, on one hand, and to achieve the involvement of the relevant stakeholders, on the other hand. Once the contributions have been incorporated and the report has been presented in New York, there should be a legacy of the governance model for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, keeping it in the public policy debate. The ambition is to take a more powerful report to the United Nations, with the capacity to reiterate Portugal's commitment to do what is lacking by 2030. An exercise that, he said, is the responsibility of the country as a whole.

In turn, the **president of CCDR Alentejo, António Ceia da Silva**, recalled the historic moment of adoption of

the 2030 Agenda by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, stating that the 17 SDGs will no longer have exactly the same nature, although the need to achieve them remains. In his view, sustainability has already entered the agenda, and it is impossible to talk about development without talking about sustainability. He therefore argued that the SDGs should be included in the action plans. This is the case in the Alentejo Regional Programme (Alentejo 2030), where the projects must provide clear evidence of sustainability in order to be approved.

The **president of the Energy and Climate Forum, Ricardo Campos**, also referred to a historical period that is currently ongoing: «As a generation, we are going to witness the greatest transformation of an energy paradigm that humanity has ever seen.» Notwithstanding the energy transition underway, he considered that we must recognise



that it was fossil energy that allowed society to develop and progress, although its negative effects are today well-known. This - he said - is a lesson: «We can never deny the reason of science again referring to the warnings that the scientific community has constantly made.» He also left a reflection on the commitments made and not fulfilled: «At each Climate Change Convention (COP), we have seen the nations of the world make great commitments, but emissions have continued to increase. We continue to rely on fossil fuels for the energy we need (82% comes from fossil fuels) and every day we emit more than 162 million tonnes of greenhouse gases.» He also recalled that in 2015, in Paris, nations committed to carbon neutrality in 2050, assuming that emissions would have to decrease by 7% every year. However, what has happened is that, globally, they only decreased 7% during the pandemic, and emissions have increased in other years. He therefore argued that there is a need for urgent action, and that decisions cannot be mere proclamations.

As for the solutions, which, from the point of view of energy, involve renewable sources, he focused on the Alentejo region to say that it is one of the most competitive regions in terms of solar energy production. He went back to the data, indicating that five years ago producing solar energy was cheaper than conventional sources by only 1% of the world, but today it is already 60% cheaper and in five years' time it will be at 100%.

It was precisely on energy transition that the **Secretary of State for Energy and Climate, Ana Fontoura Gouveia**, focused at the start of her speech. She began by stating that the energy transition is at the centre of public policies in Portugal, with the current context accelerating the need to make it happen. And this transition will only work if it is based on endogenous resources, with the country being able to invest in renewables and achieve clean, reliable and affordable energy. The goal - she stressed - is to achieve, by 2026, 80% of renewable sources in electricity production, which is «very ambitious, even on an international scale.»

Investing in endogenous resources also promotes the reindustrialisation of the country and economic development. However, none of these objectives will be achieved if the energy thus produced is not affordable: accessibility - she stated - is transversal to this public policy. «The elements of social cohesion and territorial cohesion are an integral part of all the incentives we create. The concern to ensure this cohesion is not new and in the current energy crisis we have seen these mechanisms in action. The social energy tariff, for example, reaches almost 800,000 households. And the energy transition will make it possible to lower the price even further.» The strategy to combat energy poverty, which was recently in public consultation, is part of

this. The final version of this strategy is being finalised. It is about inclusion, accessibility and combating poverty.

What do local actors think?

After the opening session, the floor was given to the audience gathered at Alqueva, and the **president of EDIA (Alqueva Development and Infrastructure Company)** was the first to speak. In his view, everyone - and not just the government - has a role to play in sustainable development: households, companies, councils. «I don't want to take away the importance of the government's ability to mobilise, create incentives and break down barriers, but I believe that these decision-makers have a very important role to play in sustainable development,» he said, advocating the need to create collective awareness of the fact that there is an urgent need to be resolved. «Each family will have to think about how to eliminate fossil energy use in their homes. Each company will have to think about how to replace the energy sources that power its equipment. We'll all have to make the change. And this change, which seems to imply a very large investment, is going to bring advantages, it is economically interesting,» he argued.

Change was also present in the intervention of one of the local councillors present, speaking on behalf of **Moura Town Council**, who noted that there is still much to be done: «As the cycles of community funds come and go, we are still talking about the same problems we had 40 years ago,» he stated. And he left an appeal: «Let's look around and see, in legislative terms, how we can make investments more empathetic for Alentejo. The country is not all equal, it is divided in half. We have one country that is developing and another that continues to lag behind. Many of the answers lie with the people of the region. Look at us with the eyes of differentiation.»

The issues he considers that are still to be resolved are those concerning water - hence SDG 6 was his first choice. He noted that there are still places where the downstream supply networks have yet to be built. There can be no sustainable development in the region without that. Education (SDG 4) is also crucial, and he said it would be important to build the next set of schools in the council. He also stressed the importance of SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) in order to defend the need to simplify procedures and make the necessary investments.

Another **local councillor**, this time from Portel, focused on the need for local communities to be granted compensation regarding the installation of photovoltaic farms. He expressed concern that the landscape would be covered by panels, both in the water and in the mountains, considering that it could harm tourism, one of the assets of the Alqueva reservoir. This could jeopardise the lives of communities which already face difficulties because they



are located in inland areas. «What compensation do Municipalities have? It is defined for wind energy, but not for hydroelectric or photovoltaic energy,» he stated, urging the government to have more confidence in Municipalities to develop the territories.

The local authorities were also represented by a **member of the Alto Alentejo Inter-council Community**, who highlighted the fact that this is currently a «special» time for land managers, as one community cycle ends and another begins, and also because they have the support instruments provided in the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). He expressed the hope that, in a concerted way, it would be possible to overcome what he called «the frustration that, framework after framework, millions after millions, there are still basic issues that have not been resolved.»

Other appeals were shared at the meeting by a **member of the Portuguese Parliament** who sits on the Environment, Energy and Land Management Parliamentary Committee. He began by arguing that the issues of climate change and renewable energy should no longer be seen as an obstacle for businesses and families, rather as an opportunity. He recalled that, in the context of the energy crisis triggered by recent global events, there was an amortisa-

tion of the energy bill «due to the strategic vision adopted by the country» since Portugal achieves almost 60% of its energy sovereignty from renewable sources. Even so, he warned of the importance of not «having a blinkered view in relation to energy sources». He considered there are opportunities beyond electrification, in biofuels for example.

Similarly to the previous interventions, he mentioned the centrality of water, stating that in Baixo Alentejo there are two regions - the one with water from Alqueva and the one without. On the subject of inequality, he also highlighted territorial inequality, arguing that there is no longer just a difference between the coastal regions and the inland areas, but an intermediate level of inequality between inland regions, and this must «be considered when diagnosing cohesion.»

Another **member of parliament**, elected for the Évora constituency, took up an idea previously advocated, arguing that council leaders do not have the means to invest and that «central government is somewhat afraid of relinquishing powers» but it should »give resources to local authorities.» As far as the SDGs are concerned, he also focused on the 6th SDG, understanding that water brought prospects for a better future to Alentejo.



Another of the participants spoke about water, in his role as a **member of the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF)**. However, he began by advocating the importance of SDG 15 - Life on land, not only for nature and the forest, but also for the soil, a «very important issue in a region like Alentejo, with the greatest risk of desertification in the country.» «If we cannot guarantee the productive quality of the soil, and we are in a fundamentally agricultural region, we will not have production capacity, which will have an impact in relation to food and on the eradication of poverty and hunger,» he argued.

He then bridged the gap with SDG 13 - Climate Action, considering it urgent to work on mitigating the effects of climate change, since it impacts on nature conservation and biodiversity, also affecting the availability of water. Water is a scarce resource in Alentejo, due to successive years of drought. «It is relatively easy to open the tap and have drinking water, but it is very difficult to guarantee this water, to guarantee the quality and quantity of water provided in a region like Alentejo,» he stressed. He added that the same is valid for basic sanitation, as there are many locations that lack basic sanitation and so, as a consequence, they discharge untreated water into nature, which may jeopardise biodiversity.

He exemplified, in this way, how the SDGs intersect. This is, moreover, a dominant theme of the interventions. This was the case with the representative of the **Beja Polytechnic Institute**, who, as a researcher, has focused on projects aimed at improving water quality. Who also, as a teacher, has taken on the mission of adapting teaching to society's new challenges.

Also from the academic world, more specifically from **Portalegre Polytechnic**, another of the actors advocated that SDG 17 is a means of achieving the other Goals, since without partnerships, without the joint action of different institutions, it will be «impossible» to achieve sustainable development. Partnerships are valid, particularly for one of the projects under way in the region, the Guardians Project, which proposes, through education, to implement certain measures in the area of climate action.

The **spokesperson for the Business Association of Baixo Alentejo** was in complete agreement with the relevance of SDG 17, commenting that without partnerships it is not possible to implement any of the Goals. He also highlighted SDG 8 as one of his choices, from the perspective that decent work and economic growth contribute to eradicating poverty and hunger, and also to quality education

and health. As for SDG 9, he considered it to be a factor for the reduction of inequalities, as well as an inducer of climate action, sustainable production and consumption, and sustainable cities and communities.

The scope of the SDGs was again under consideration in this meeting, reiterated by **other participants**. He chose SDG 1, from a broader perspective of poverty which includes energy poverty and also the difficulty of access to education and health. For the same reason, he highlighted SDG 16, commenting that peace and justice are linked and there is a need for effective institutions, both public and in the business sector.

The **technical secretary of the Regional Operational Programme** also spoke with the same sense of inter-connecting SDGs, but choosing SDG 5: «We have a very great challenge if we place each of the Goals under the magnifying glass of gender equality» she commented. She related it with SDG 1 and, in particular, with energy poverty, since it is known that women are poorest, including among single-parent families. Once again, SDG 17 emerged as a priority, as «only by working together will it be possible to make the region and the country a space where the evolution of the SDGs can be celebrated.»

The **Regional Programme team** also provided the next intervention, to highlight the importance of the com-

mitment to inter-council communities and to defend the need to monitor the activities mobilised by the programme, given the importance of concrete and objective data.

Concerted action was also the keynote of another **intervention from civil society**, but concerning health, «a point that is very dear to the Alentejo region.» «We know that very heavy investments have been made in the area of health in this territory, but the strategy must be duly agreed by all, including central government,» he stated, considering that the region is still not competitive in this area, lacking greater autonomy.

Another **representative of CCDR Alentejo** spoke about hope. He began by listing SDG 1 - No poverty as a priority, on the understanding that it is a factor of «shame» that is part of the 17. «It is basic, but it is increasingly visible, not only in numbers, but in the impact it has on the other SDGs,» he commented. SDG 4 was also one of his choices and, in his view, the keyword for education is quality - in promoting inclusion and preparing people for critical reflection. In this regard, the representative noted that the SDGs should start being taught in schools, included in the school curricula, but also in the training of teachers. Finally, SDG 7 was mentioned, under discussion in this session due to its connection to Alentejo and the potential for the region. Here too, the representative stressed the need for working



together, involving the academic world and intervening in the administration to streamline procedures. It is also important to understand the cross-impacts of the projects on the strategic development options of the region. This is because - he argued - the future of Alentejo is in the difference, as follows from the choice of the concept for Évora as European Capital of Culture: «vagar» («wandering»), which is part of the local and regional identity.

The final intervention by the audience came from a **member of staff of EDIA**, who focused on SDG 6 and the importance of water as a source of life and transformation of the territory. Alqueva is a project of social responsibility, in his view. It started with the need for public water supply, then it subsequently incorporated the sustainable development component. «Connected with other assets of the territory, it leverages various business sectors and is contributing strongly to exports, thanks to the number of companies that have set up shop in the region,» he stressed.

The specificity of Alentejo

The development of Alentejo was the main theme of the closing speech made by the **president of the respective CCDR**, who noted that, in tourism, it is the region with the highest growth in the country and that, in innovation, it has been able to attract technology companies, thus allowing the return of qualified young people to their homelands. Bridging with the SDG in focus, he reported the difficulties experienced by local councillors and other agents of the region in their relationships with public entities, particularly in relation to the time taken to approve projects.

Still on the subject of the territory, he highlighted that the 2030 Regional Programme will favour supra-council and inter-council projects. He gave as an example of this cooperation, the joint application of 15 municipalities of the region for RRP funds earmarked for the Pisão dam. «They have given up on specific gains in favour of a global territory. This is how we have to think,» he emphasised, adding, among other examples, the aeronautical cluster that covers at least four municipalities.

The pride in the evolution of regional indicators was shared with the **president of the Energy and Climate Forum**, who compared the Alentejo of 25 years ago, when «people were leaving», with the Alentejo of today, which «receives tourism awards» and has «excellent academic facilities.» But there's still a way to go: «After we have recovered the levels of education and training, we must dare to enrich the country. We cannot have the GDP per capita we have - EUR 25,000 - otherwise young people will use the education and training they have received to enrich other countries.»

This - he said - is one of the challenges that the country must overcome. Just as it has to «make the revolution for sustainability.» In this context, he shared two proposals:

one is that, when applying for incentives, it should be mandatory that the projects include an assessment of their impact on the SDGs; and another is that public procurement should be sustainable, introducing the concept of sustainability in the selection of suppliers.

Like other interventions, he spoke in favour of cooperation to overcome the climate crisis, but also to overcome the challenges of eradicating poverty and eradicating hunger: «We are still a world with very little solidarity. The northern hemisphere developed at the expense of fossil fuel use, but it is the southern hemisphere, where 50 countries represent only 5% of global emissions, which suffers most from climate change,» he said, arguing for a strengthening of global governance.

The response to some of the concerns voiced by those at the meeting was led by the **Secretary of State for Energy and Climate**. The first message she said she would take away with her was that of consensus on the commitment to renewables as an element that induces growth and quality of life. «We should highlight it, because this is not the case in all countries,» she declared. In her view, this change needs to be implemented quickly, as the result of particular attention being paid to the capacity-building of public administration, particularly by the simplification of procedures, so as to ensure that the increase in the quality of life as a result of the commitment to renewables becomes a reality. It is imperative to involve communities, territories and local authorities for the transition to occur in a sustainable way.

Specifically addressing one of the concerns regarding the coverage of the territory by photovoltaic farms, she assured those present that the goals of the National Energy and Climate Plan cover less than 0.4% of the territory, with environmental impact assessments taking into account adjacent areas.

Furthermore, the focus on renewables is not only on centralised generation, by large solar parks; it also involves decentralised generation, through self-consumption. In this context, there has been very significant growth, contributing to the decarbonisation goals and «direct, very clear» benefits for households. This strategy «empowers consumers» to generate, consume, store, sell and share their own energy.

With regard to compensation to Municipalities, another question raised at the meeting, she made it clear that current legislation provides for 13,500 per megawatt installed, and that there is also an obligation to share the benefits of the large solar farms with local communities.

The round of interventions ended with the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers**, who pointed out that what is at stake in the 2030 Agenda is to make choices, just as it is for those who have a duty

to make business or public policy decisions. In the specific case of the VNR, the choice is between drawing up a report on all the Goals or just those deemed priorities. Portugal has inclined towards a mixed solution, which implies addressing all the Goals, but addressing in particular depth those that the country considers to be priorities. At the same time, this exercise makes it possible to diagnose certain shortcomings in the 2030 Agenda, i.e. to identify SDGs

that should be included. In relation to some SDGs, this task fails because of the impossibility of establishing consensus in international multilateralism. Even so, it is «an ambitious agenda and an excellent blueprint for the design of public policies.» In conclusion, he noted that the meeting held in Alentejo differentiated itself from the others due to the «strong awareness» of the conflicts (trade-offs) between the SDGs.

DE GÉNERO

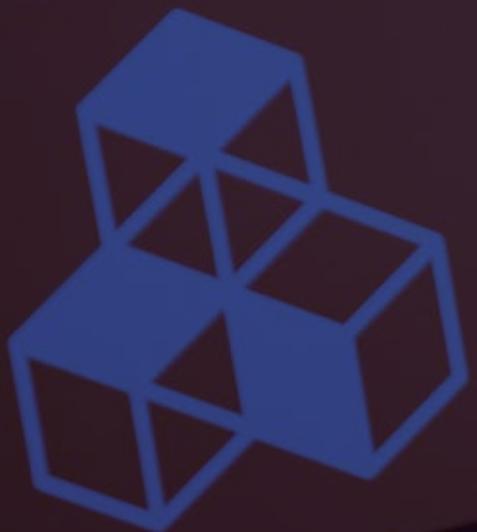


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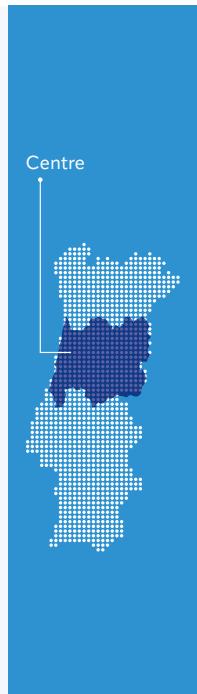
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QUALIDADE





DATE	24 de março
MODERATED BY	Fernanda Freitas
PANEL	Elvira Fortunato, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education; André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; António Leite, Secretary of State for Education; Carlos Martins, President of Guarda Polytechnic (<i>Instituto Politécnico da Guarda</i>); Sérgio Costa, Mayor of Guarda
PARTICIPATION	20 audience interventions
4 MOST VOTED SDGs AT THE MEETING	
   	

KEY IDEAS

- Education is an engine of sustainable development and an indispensable tool for territorial cohesion, helping to combat desertification of the inland regions;
- Higher education should be committed to connecting to the market: this is the strategy of Guarda Polytechnic, where courses are designed taking into account the needs of young people and companies;
- There is a lack of incentives to put young people's ideas into practice and thus keep them in their territory, preventing talent from going abroad;
- Portugal evolves significantly in the indicators, yet education needs to be of quality: this is the goal of the social action programmes geared towards higher education, aimed at guaranteeing access.

Education, a cross-cutting tool for sustainable development

Guarda hosted the Town Hall of the Centre region on 24 March, National Student Day, which justified the focus on SDG 4 - Quality Education. The Polytechnic was the host of this session, for that reason. The audience was composed mostly of students, from primary education level to higher education, but also teachers and researchers. Education was, of course, the dominant theme of the interventions.

It was present right from the start in the opening words of the **Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Elvira Fortunato**. She began by noting that the area of government she is responsible for is committed to the implementation of the SDGs: «What we have advocated is a strategic vision, based on fair, balanced, transparent solutions that are relevant to the entire academic and scientific system.» An example of this is the review of the system of access to higher education, which enshrines the objective of continuing to stimulate the democratisation and diversification of access. The new ranking and placement system respects students and families and it enhances, in a balanced way, the pathway of students during secondary education. «Students are the priority. We know the impact



on their lives of going into higher education, both in terms of personal and professional pathways and in human development and the production of a more prosperous, less unequal and, above all, more inclusive society,» she added.

Furthermore, this is an integrated and cross-cutting vision that is not only concerned with access to higher education, but also with the path in higher education, «which involves a very strong commitment to social action.» Both in the volume of resources and the effectiveness and agility of support. This is the line taken by the commitment to strengthen housing conditions, extending support through additional amounts and in the quantities covered. At the same time, programmes are under way to promote academic success, reduce dropout rates, promote mental health and develop innovative teaching practices.

Next to speak was the **Mayor of Guarda, Sérgio Costa**, who drew attention to the need for good intentions to get off the paper and be put into practice. On the subject of education, he welcomed the transfer of powers to local authorities, but expressed his disagreement with the associated financial envelope. He acknowledged that the situation has improved since the last negotiations, but he advocated a stronger commitment.

Quality education - he said - is a fundamental part of society's development, since the success of each person's journey depends, to a large extent, on the knowledge and values that are acquired in lifelong learning. «School provides the tools to be successful. It helps people make informed decisions, to become more responsible and participative adults. The challenges that everyday life poses will be easier to overcome with education,» he stated. He then

added that education is the best social elevator any society can have, contributing to combating poverty, blurring social inequalities and preventing social exclusion. It also makes a positive contribution to the competitiveness, innovation and productivity of the economy.

Higher education was the focus of the next intervention, by the host, the **President of Guarda Polytechnic (Instituto Politécnico da Guarda), Carlos Martins**, who shared the work done by the institution in order to attract students. This happens through the diversification of the educational offer, with courses that, besides being of high quality, meet the expectations of young people and the needs of the labour market.

Furthermore, in recent years it has reorganised itself strategically for the production of science, which, whenever possible, focuses on upgrading the region's economic fabric, giving the territory competitiveness. «We do not understand a higher education institution that wants to contribute to the territory without taking into account the real needs of the market,» he commented. As far as young people are concerned, the focus is on them having access to multinationals without having to move to Lisbon, Porto or abroad. As a result, efforts have been made to attract the offices of high-quality companies to the institute; some of these already have training academies in operation. In addition, there is effective collaboration with companies in the teaching of some course modules as well as in the creation of internships. There is - he emphasised - a real concern with connection to the market.

The last person to speak at the opening session was the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council**



of Ministers, André Moz Caldas. After pointing out the relevance of this meeting coinciding with National Student Day, he contextualised the methodology adopted for the preparation of the second Voluntary National Review. At stake is the involvement of all levels of government, particularly at local level, in the understanding that Portuguese municipalities are among those most committed in the world to aligning their policies with the 2030 Agenda. It is also about involving civil society organisations, from companies to associations, so that the review is truly national and works as a catalyst for a new cycle of government and alignment of the country with the SDGs. In this way, the expectation is that everyone will feel represented, that they will take ownership of the agenda and foster its acceleration.

The voice of students, teachers and researchers

The new governance model of the 2030 Agenda is also being implemented in the national tour, which sets aside a significant segment for participation. This method was welcomed by one of the first participants in the meeting, a **secondary school teacher**, who was, however, critical of what he considered to be «mainly words of congratulation regarding the achievement of goals.» He considered that it had a different function, that of «drawing attention to important aspects that are not being met in the context of the SDGs and, in particular, in education.» «What I teach to my students is that sustainable development consists in promoting current development without jeopardising future development,» he said, in order to warn of the risks associated with one of education's main resources, human resources, specifically teachers. One of the sub-paragraphs of SDG 4 provides for a whole continent of qualified teachers, he recalled, arguing that «resources should not be allowed to be depleted in order to compromise future development.» In this context, he cited recent news that the country needs 1,500 mathematics teachers, and that only 53 are being trained. He reinforced the idea with the absence of candidates for the local polytechnic's teacher training course. «We talk about environmental crimes when resources are exhausted; in this case, we can speak of an educational crime,» he commented, alluding to the UNESCO targets that point to each country's spending on education never amounting to less than 6% of its GDP. In Portugal, that value «does not reach 4%.» In conclusion, he said that «the teachers' struggle is not only for their particular objectives, but also to make a profession attractive, a profession which, at the moment, does not attract the most qualified young people.»

Other appeals were heard in the session from the students. The first was from a **secondary school student**,

who discussed the need for more investment in the centre and inland areas of the country, so that students do not have to leave to become qualified, but also do not have to leave to have access to health care. This departure trend - she said - poses financial problems, since it is necessary to pay for travel, housing, materials. «If we want a more sustainable and united country, we need more financing of the inland regions,» she said. She acknowledged that Guarda Polytechnic offers many courses, but regretted the lack of education in visual arts, her area of study. Since it does not exist, she will be forced to leave the region.

Another **secondary school student**, also from the visual arts area, spoke along the same lines. She said the resources already existing in the system should be used and that more information needed to be provided about the courses. She took advantage of the opportunity to speak in order to relate a situation in her school, the only one in Guarda with arts on the syllabus. She said that the arts workshops at the school had been destroyed to make way for a sports pavilion. It is a sign that «the arts are being left behind.»

The next person to speak was a **student at the Polytechnic**, more specifically from the Mechanics and Industrial Informatics course, who focused on what she considers to be a deficit in the area of development. «What is done with the research projects? Are they put away in the drawer or are they taken advantage of?» she asked, adding that «if we took more advantage of students in technological areas, the country would be more developed.» She regretted, in this context, the obstacles placed in the way of implementing the students' ideas, namely the fact that they are asked to pay money to patent their inventions.

A **12th-year student** of Languages and Humanities read a manifesto on behalf of the young people at her school, first of all stating that it is essential that the open discussion of the 2030 Agenda brings together the widest possible range of contributions, so that it fulfils its representative role with regard to the national conscience.

She stated that young people have very specific concerns, since it seems increasingly likely that, in 20 years time, it will be difficult for young people to have quality of life in Guarda. Because «it's not just about having clean air and healthy habits, you need to be able to enjoy essential public services, with public health at the forefront, to have access to culture, and not just to events, to have a robust and ambitious school and academic community, a city able to create and retain its talent.»

In the context of the inland regions, she advocated processes of administrative decentralisation, strengthening the powers of the municipalities. She also proposed measures such as attracting qualified civil servants and their families or adopting policies that may raise the birth rate, mak-

ing it possible to reconcile work with personal life, and also intuitive migration policies that may combat inequalities.

Other topics addressed were fighting climate change, with a review of the targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, greater coherence in spatial planning to combat desertification and population loss.

Regarding young people, she also demanded greater proximity from governors, with explanatory measures and youth assemblies in which the opinions are binding. In conclusion, she left the message that local authorities and young people must play a central role in solving the country's problems.

It turned out to be a meeting with a high participation rate, with several students sharing their choice of SDG. SDG 4 was cross-sectional. This was the case of the **President of the Academic Association of Guarda**, who considered that education should «clearly» be in first place. She also added to it SDG 5 - Gender Equality and she highlighted, in this context, that for the first time in 34 years the head of the academic association is a woman. Finally, she selected 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

A **student of Mechanics and Industrial Informatics** placed SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) in first place, followed by 4 and 9 (Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure). He chose 9 because, considering his course, it is necessary to insist on industry, since it is the future of the country.

Another **student** on the same course identified SDGs 4, 9 and 17 - Partnerships for the goals - as priorities, in the understanding that they are pillars for those studying in this area. In this respect, he advocated the importance of partnerships between schools and companies, fundamental for the development of projects that originate in the academic community. He also advocated greater investment in technology, in particular in digital tools applied to education, as a way of attracting students.

Another student took the floor, from the **Energy and Environment course**. He advocated the relevance of SDG 13 - Climate Action, to make the comment that it is much talked about, but unfulfilled. He gave a specific example of bonfires and scrub burning carried out on the Polytechnic campus.

A **secondary school student** in the Visual Arts area also highlighted SDG 4, again mentioning the difficulty students have in remaining in their region after completing their courses. She considered leaving the country to be highly probable. The other choices included Goals 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 5, in the understanding that both are important when it comes to respect for sexual, racial and gender orientations, which are not all clearly reflected in the 2030 Agenda.

This was followed by the choices of one more **student at the Polytechnic**, with SDG 4 at the top. He considered education - from the school and from parents - as

one of the most important tools for creating good human beings. He also chose Goal 3, stating that health, or rather the lack of access to care, limits school performance. Finally, he referred to SDG 2, acknowledging that it is difficult to eradicate hunger, but expressing hope.

SDG 4 was once again highlighted in the intervention by a **Computer Engineering student**, who drew attention to the need to continue fighting against dropping out of academic studies. 5 and 16 completed his choices.

Members of the scientific community also spoke. The first, a **researcher at the Laboratory for the Evaluation of Sports Performance, Physical Exercise and Health**, included, among the priorities, SDG 4, considering that education is a basic tool; SDG 3, given that Health is the focus of his work; and 1 - No poverty, due to his country of origin (Brazil), where the problem is still very much present. He also left the message that it is essential for science to be focused on local intervention, contributing to a change in reality.

Another **researcher** praised the role of the Polytechnic in the growth of research in the inland regions, in particular through the hiring of researchers. She spoke of her specific case, in which she found herself forced to study for her doctorate degree abroad, due to the lack of opportunities in Portugal. However, she decided to return because she believes that the country does good research, «a lot with a little.» In this context, and in spite of the merit of the Polytechnic, she argued that there is a lack of infrastructure in the inland regions.

The following interventions were made by professors at the Polytechnic. The **director of the School of Health** made her choices known: SDGs 4, 1 and 10, explaining that she did not choose 3, in spite of it being her area of study, because she believes that health will be more easily achieved if there is quality education, if poverty and inequalities are reduced.

SDG 4 was also the first identified by a **deputy professor** of the institution, who resorted to the maxim that it is better to teach how to fish than to give fish, allowing students to learn the tools necessary for their future development. Goals 1 and 3 were the other ones he selected.

The choices of **another professor at the Polytechnic** who spoke were almost identical: 1, 3 and 10.

And the latter was precisely the one highlighted by the **institute's innovation coordinator**, who advocated the importance of respecting differences. She placed education in second place, as it is the basic principle for transmitting knowledge, which is essential given that «ignorance is always manipulable.» Furthermore, it is knowledge that makes it possible to evolve in a sustainable manner, linking, in this way, to SDG 12 - Responsible Production and Consumption.

Another person, from the **Polytechnic administration**, highlighted a SDG little talked about at this meeting, Goal 13. The reasons for the choice were that, despite the equilibrium between the three major strands of sustainability, priority should be given to the environmental strand. Goal 10 was his second choice, from the perspective that equality among people is fundamental. Lastly, he chose 4, due to what it means in terms of enhancing the social dimension of sustainability.

Concerns with response

Some of the concerns expressed by the students were echoed in the closing session of the meeting by the **president of the Polytechnic**. Addressing the visual arts students, he assured them that the institute is open to receive their contributions, working on the design of new areas. He called on students who had expressed doubts about the use of their ideas to contact the school board or the school's director. He guaranteed that «good ideas will not be wasted.»

He reaffirmed the intention to connect with the community, in the belief that quality education must be inclusive and accessible. He recognised that it is difficult for those who do not have the financial capacity to study outside the district, hence the plans to decentralise teaching and to disseminate knowledge in emerging areas. One of the difficulties he has identified is housing, which makes it impossible, even for students who have applied and been accepted to the institution, to enrol and attend the courses.

The **Secretary of State for Education**, António Leite, also sought to address some of the concerns raised by the meeting, namely the lack of teachers. He stated that the government is working on short, medium and long-term responses, leaving a message: «It is true that we will hardly attract young people to a career if we spend the day on television saying that schools are bad, that the career is the worst possible. We're telling them it's the worst place they can go. But they know it's not true, because they're in schools. They know about the problems, but also about the quality. I'm quite amazed when we criticise the quality of education and then we are astonished by the quality of the young people coming out of schools.»

Education is, in his view, the Goal in which the word quantity is subsumed in quality. And this is not a contra-

diction, because there is no quality if there is no access - and that is a matter of quantity. Therefore, education must cover all children, all young people and all adults. The latter cannot be excused from going back to school, in the name of retraining, bearing in mind that there are still a very significant number of men and women with insufficient qualifications.

He also shared the view that education is very directly linked to gender equality, reducing inequalities, eradicating poverty and decent work. However, it is not going to solve these problems «on its own». It may even attenuate some of the inequalities, but if it is not accompanied by local development policies, it may lead to a faster exodus from inland regions.

The **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers** then emphasised that compared to the UNESCO benchmark, which advocates at least 4% to 6% of spending on education, Portugal stands at 4.6%, which does not mean that the country is where it wants to be. «We must not give up a high level of ambition, but we must not undervalue the path we have travelled.» He warned, in this regard, that «the prestige of the institutions and the adherence of communities to the solutions that democracy offers may be jeopardised by the public expression of pessimism alone.» He rejected the idea of a complacent view of the 2030 Agenda or other public policies.

As far as the SDGs are concerned, he shared the perspective that, from the meeting, stemmed the notion that there are very strong interconnections that have influenced choices. He also stated that there is a dimension that is more difficult to address, which is that of potential conflicts between the SDGs, with the country having to urgently find the right balance.

The round of interventions ended with that of the **Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education**, who stressed the importance of listening to the young people and getting to know the solutions they present so that, jointly, they can try to solve the problems. She also highlighted the importance of higher education institutions in regions with lower populations, because of the potential to attract people and companies. She highlighted the involvement of Guarda Polytechnic in two collaborative laboratories, which facilitate the transfer of knowledge to society, transforming it into innovation.

DE GÉNERO



ATIVOS
MOVIMENTO
SUSTENTÁVEL

OBJETIVOS
DE DESENVOLVIMENTO
SUSTENTÁVEL

TOWN HALL

LISBON AND TAGUS VALLEY

9 INDÚSTRIA,
INOVAÇÃO
E INFRAESTRUTURAS



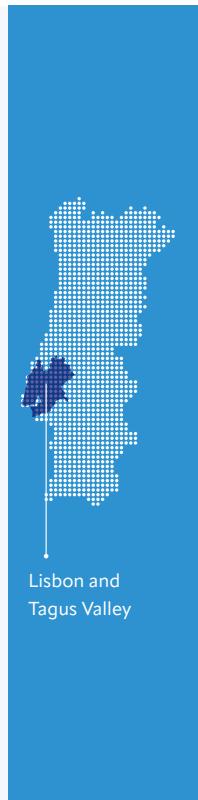
11 CIDADES E
COMUNIDADES
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11 CIDADES
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1 ERRADICAR
A POBREZA

QUALIDADE





DATE	29 de março
MODERATED BY	Fernanda Freitas
PANEL	Ana Catarina Mendes, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs; André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Luís Miguel Calha, Deputy Mayor of Palmela (replaced by Lígia Carvalho, Head of the Economic Development and Tourism Division) and Teresa Almeida, President of the Lisbon and Vale do Tejo Regional Coordination and Development Commission (<i>Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional de Lisboa e Vale do Tejo - CCDR</i>) (replaced by the Vice-President, José Alho)
PARTICIPATION	22 audience interventions
3 MOST VOTED SDGs AT THE MEETING	
  	

KEY IDEAS

- SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities is cross-cutting, interlinking with several other targets of sustainable development, both as a cause and as a solution;
- Civil society is fertile in responses aimed at social inclusion and the reduction of inequalities, but it lacks more facilitating legal and financial mechanisms;
- One such mechanism is public procurement, namely the introduction of selection criteria for suppliers indexed to their contribution to the SDGs;
- Financial support should be extended over time to enable projects and intervention in the community to continue.

Central partnerships in combating inequalities

The reduction of inequalities was the common denominator of the meeting held in Palmela Municipal Library, and which was representative of the Lisbon and Vale do Tejo region. SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) had been the starting point for discussion and effectively dominated the many contributions from the participants.

The first interventions were from members of the panel, starting with the representative of the host council, the **vice-mayor of Palmela Council, Luís Miguel Calha**. He explained the municipality's «strong commitment» to the 2030 Agenda, namely through its participation in the CESOP - Local, Centre for Studies and Opinion Polls project, a research and action project run by the Portuguese Catholic University that analyses the Council Sustainability Index based on data from the National Statistics Institute (INE) and the PORDATA national database. It is made up of 101 indicators. This index is a decisive guide for territories and municipalities. But it is also a path for the future, be-

cause it makes it possible to indicate the best path for implementation of the SDGs, and it is systematised annually.

In his view, the localisation of the SDGs is crucial and should be done in an integrated and participatory way, based on a matrix for promoting human rights geared towards more inclusive, safer, more resilient and more sustainable territories. Palmela - he said - has aligned its actions with the SDGs, working on their identification and incorporation at the level of political leaders, decision-makers and



technical teams. It has even created a multidisciplinary and cross-cutting team, focused on raising awareness and the training of the various internal audiences, but also on external visibility, so that the SDGs are encompassed in each action, activity or task. It is a «road travelled in partnership» in which the educational community and the school are «decisive stakeholders.» He gave the «I participate» project as an example. This project is present at all levels of education. The council's project invests in the capacity-building and empowerment of children and young people in their right to exercise active citizenship.

The theme of the session was introduced by the **President of the Lisbon and Vale do Tejo Regional Coordination and Development Commission** (*Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional de Lisboa e Vale do Tejo - CCDR*), **Teresa Almeida**, who recalled the social asymmetries specific to a region that contains a metropolitan area. This is an area that grew by welcoming all who found there a place to work and have better living conditions, but it also grew from the capacity of residents to welcome this diversity. «We are rich in diversity, and we also have asymmetries in this richness, for sure. But these are the questions that make us want to do better,» she said.

Next, the **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, explained the framework of the national tour that ended, that day, in Palmela. It was a question of getting to know the reality of the country in order to fulfil a duty. That duty, halfway along the path of the 2030 Agenda, is to report, through a voluntary review, on where Portugal finds itself in the alignment of strategies, both in terms of public policies and activities of the other sectors of society. He also said the moment is particularly timely. «On the one hand, we can already recognise the path we have taken, what we have done well, but also what are the challenges we have to face. On the other hand, it means that we have the other half of the path to own at this time as a catalyst for the country's new commitment.» The report «cannot be merely descriptive, it must be truly a national reflection, felt by all as representative of their participation.» «From 2023 to 2030, Portugal may grow in compliance with the SDGs,» was the hope he expressed.

The **Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs, Ana Catarina Mendes** spoke about the governance model of the 2030 Agenda. She said that the government «did what it has to do when there is an absolute majority - travel the country, listen to the country, in permanent dialogue with institutions and people.» Assuming higher-quality public policies and more participation, because «citizenship is not limited to voting.»

Regarding the school in the district of Setúbal selected to end the tour, she highlighted that it is a way of giving expression to the fight against social exclusion in a particu-

larly vulnerable territory, «where it is necessary to create enthusiasm among children to go to school and where it is necessary to enhance the journey of these children, removing them from other routes and helping them make a commitment to society.» Setúbal, she said, is a district rich in cultural diversity, which has welcomed migrants for decades. She made an appeal, in this regard, that «hate speech might not flourish and that the defence and respect for human rights may be the hallmark of the SDGs.»

A community with an active voice

The audience's testimonies, at a session which saw a great deal of participation, had as a common thread the contribution that has been made in the region to reduce inequalities, through the initiative of civil society and its organisations. But they also reflected the challenges they face and the inherent concerns.

This was precisely the content of the intervention by the **head of the Almada Santa Casa da Misericórdia social welfare charity**, who criticised the types of contracts offered by the government to Private Social Security Institutions (IPSS), namely that financial transfers are considered subsidies. In his opinion, a change of paradigm is needed, because these institutions carry out the work of the State, which should be considered a public service, so payment by the State should not be considered a subsidy. He also called for greater durability of the programmes, to avoid continuous negotiation, without guarantees that these programmes will continue: «There must be a defined criterion, which takes into account the average cost of operation and, based on that, how much the State should guarantee,» otherwise the momentum in the institutions will be lost and the technicians themselves will be subject to job insecurity.

The following speaker, **representing an association for sustainable development** agreed. «We cannot live according to a philosophy of programmes. It has been proven that these partnerships work when their component parts are indivisible, they are in the territories, they know people. It is a task based on proximity,» he said, regretting that the organisations are «constantly clinging to the financial instruments.» He gave the example that, from the previous Community framework to the current one, the cross-cutting vision was lost with the risk of losing the work done and the teams.

In the context of reducing inequalities, several of the interventions bridged the gap with SDG 5 - Gender Equality. This is what the **representative of the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights did**, who advocated the need to strengthen equality between women and men, recalling that governments made this commitment when they adopted the 2030 Agenda. She said that progress had to be made in this area, citing some overall data: 300 years is needed to achieve equality; 140 years for equal representa-

tion in economic decision-making positions; 40 years for equal representation at parliamentary level. And Portugal is not very far from these figures: Covid-19 and the war, with subsequent inflation, have accentuated women's fragility. Looking at decision-making, even though there is a parity law, «most elected MPs are still men - 63% in 2022.» «If we look at the economic decision-making area, we know that only 3.6% of the seats are held by women. And in the public administration, women occupy only 31% of top manager positions.» She also quoted a report from INE according to which, in Portugal, SDG 5 has the lowest information collection rate: 71% of the data is not collected. In this respect, she called for voluntary reporting to consider an analysis and assessment of the impact of gender on policies.

Gender equality was also the focus of the intervention of the **spokesperson from the Portuguese Association of Engineers**, who reported what has been done in the organisation to meet this target, recalling that in 2020, women were the first to become unemployed due to the rise of the digital world triggered by the pandemic. Equality will be the theme that will guide the work of the Association in 2024, and this entity also promotes the «Engineers For One Day» programme, which gave rise to a network of 500 female engineers.

The **representative of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG)** also spoke to emphasise the work «carried out» in the framework of SDG 5, and also emphasised the importance of partnerships, in the sense that the SDGs called for the mobilisation of governments and civil society, local authorities and organisations, and of all individuals as citizens. In her view, everyone, in their professional and personal lives, has a role to play in the progress of the SDGs. And she stated the belief that this report will put Portugal on the map in this respect.

The partnerships have also been highlighted by a **member of the social solidarity cooperative Rumo**, according to which it is partnerships that contribute to reducing inequalities. In particular, they contribute to the higher value of projects where his entity is an applicant.

The **representative of the cooperative SEIES (Society for Studies and Intervention in Social Engineering)** shared the same view, noting that the institution's Centre for Active Citizenship was precisely the result of an application conceived in partnership. This is a space to support citizen initiatives, in the sense that «the answers thought out» for people in difficulty, such as vocational training, need «mortar» so that these people do not lose their dignity.

Also, a **professor and researcher from the Nova University of Lisbon** put herself forward as an ambassador of the idea that partnerships are fundamental and are particularly essential, in concrete terms, in order to achieve quality education. And quality education - she said - is what is in

line with the problems and needs of society and contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Another aspect was the participation of the **coordinator of Refood Setúbal**, an institution whose priority is to eradicate hunger and combat food waste, with the help of a team that is 100% voluntary, but which is itself struggling, specifically with funds that guarantee its day-to-day functioning (such as electricity and water), essential resources for its actions. It covers 45 households and three institutions, a total of 140 people, 70 of them children.

Very similar, but in the area of health, is the work of the **Dignitude Association**, whose spokesperson talked about the medications access programme, which originated from the circumstance that one in every ten Portuguese people does not benefit from medicines subsidised by the State due to difficulties in paying the portion not supported by the State. It is a work that involves 180 partners, supporting about 31,000 people. She also reported on an impact assessment of this programme, according to which it generates savings for the National Health Service and for Social Security - in that, when the correct therapies are carried out, the costs of hospital admissions as well as social support are reduced.

The reduction of inequalities leads to employment for people with disabilities, on which a **spokesperson for the association VilacomVida and Café Joyeux in Portugal** spoke. She shared with the meeting the philosophy of the project, namely the commitment to the strategy of not waiting for the support of the State, but rather raising funds for equipment and for hiring qualified professionals, with the objective of integrating and supporting people with special needs in the working world. «We hire in order to train,» she stated, considering that the support given to companies to hire people in situations of social vulnerability is not enough. She acknowledged that the country is «exemplary» in this area, but voiced the criticism that when these people are hired, support for training is lost. She therefore called for supported employment measures on the open market to provide training.

«To reduce inequalities, we have to make the difference turn into a landscape. To do this, people have to be close to all of us,» she said, justifying the Café Joyeux strategy of opening in the centre of cities and lamenting that most institutions working with vulnerable people are offered spaces away from where life happens. It is critical - she argued - that its beneficiaries should be at the centre of the community.

Critical notes also punctuated the participation of the **director of Casa do Impact**, from the Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, who began by lamenting the lack of diversity in the world of entrepreneurship, and not only in the area of gender. She also shared that the project that she is directing has a criterion for increasing the diversity of teams,

giving priority to the projects that guarantee this diversity. But in terms of public procurement, this does not happen, she said, advocating that the Public Procurement Act should positively increase the score of companies that respect the SDGs and sustainable development, which would have «a huge impact on the market.» She also criticised the lack of a social enterprise statute, which has been under discussion for years and has not yet been delivered. She concluded by reiterating that in the various lines of financing for companies, namely Portugal Ventures and the Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (IPAMEI), those who create a social or environmental impact are not benefitted.

Another participant, a **member of the Biovilla Cooperative**, spoke about the employment of vulnerable people, sharing her personal experience in the VER - Employment Regenerator Nursery programme. This initiative has already impacted 77 participants since 2021, including young and long-term unemployed people, but also workers in undignified conditions, encouraging the creation of their own business or regenerative businesses (businesses that, in pursuit of profit, also intend to have a positive social or environmental impact).

In **Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa**, there has been a programme for the employability of people with disabilities, called Valor T, since 2021, which was talked about by two people: a programme officer and a beneficiary. In this testimony, the candidate realised that he did not feel exclusion in education - he graduated - but only when he reached the labour market. He was looking for a decent job, in the desire to be a taxpayer, but as soon as he mentioned cerebral palsy the recruiters asked for professional experience, something he did not have, because he was just entering the market.

From work to the environment. The **spokesperson of the Portuguese Confederation of Environmental Associations** outlined the challenges of moving from theory to practice, in particular in relation to the continuity of funding. As with previous contributions, she argued that public procurement should contain selection criteria for SDGs, benefitting, for example, projects that contribute to energy efficiency or the reduction of waste production. She also took note of the difficulty in communicating the SDGs, which she attributed to the absence of the theme in education programmes, in schools and in universities.

This statement prompted a response from a **representative of the Catholic University**, according to whom universities teach the SDGs. For her part, she felt that there is a need to include the private sector, as companies account for 75% of world GDP. It is for this purpose that the SDG Observatory in Portuguese Companies works, which aims to help speed up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She called for the Voluntary National Review not to take place without consulting private Portuguese business groups.

A **spokesperson for GRACE** spoke about corporate responsibility, stating that the focus of the organisation is precisely to support companies in their journey of sustainability and corporate responsibility, and to do so in partnership. It is collaborative work, with the 2030 Agenda representing an opportunity for companies to act.

Another voice representing companies was heard on behalf of the **Portuguese Confederation of Business**, addressing SDG 12 - Responsible Production and Consumption. In this context, the focus has been on the circular economy, in the belief that measures aimed at increasing the circularity of companies can make a greater contribution to sustainable development. However, he drew attention to the existence of difficulties in incorporating the principles of circularity, with the main one being «the great mismatch between the legislative framework and the business reality» in Portugal. Companies - he said - are overwhelmed with costs and red tape. «And even the most daring face a market that does not respond to what they need,» he commented, advocating, furthermore, a greater focus on education and on a change in consumer behaviour, in the sense of abandoning the cultural belief that well-being is associated more with possessing than with using.

Education for sustainable development is precisely the major challenge under way, from the perspective of a **spokesperson for The K-Evolution association**, who referred to the work done in this area, in particular in transforming the healthy food system. She proposes that the aim of achieving 25% sustainable agriculture may be achieved by involving schools, but difficulties remain in integrating local suppliers, due to constraints associated with public procurement.

It is also a question of inspiring the community. This is one of the merits of SDG 17, in the words of a **representative of Almada council**, who spoke of the importance of integrated governance, of shared leadership, of quality participation and evaluation, from a «perspective of a relationship based on close trust.» Because «the more consolidated the partnerships are» the more they facilitate collaborative work, providing value for money and creating answers.

Resources and responses often come from civil society. This is the role of volunteering, addressed by a member of the **Portuguese Confederation of Volunteering**, who focused on the importance of youth associations, in particular the work done with scouts. «We want them to be responsible citizens and to be concerned about their future - and they are more and more so,» he commented. He then added that the intervention he is involved in aims to empower young people, informing them and providing them with tools to make the world better, ensuring there is a sustainability activist in each one.



SDG 10 was also analysed in the meeting by a spokesperson of **Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Almada social welfare charity**, who noted its preponderance in the work of the LCSD (Local Contracts for Social Development) network, and considered commitment from government and civil society to be essential in order to continue the actions performed within the scope of the projects. Revisiting a question already raised by other speakers, he maintained that the short duration of the projects has an impact on the territories and communities, affecting confidence.

For her part, the representative of the **Obra Social Jean Émile Anizan social welfare charity** (IPSS) jointly addressed SDG 4 and SDG 5, priorities in the institution's work. One of the objectives is therefore education for equality, with a decline in the prevention of violence against children and young people and with measures to raise awareness among parents.

Seeds for the next steps

It was the turn of the panel to speak once more, after hearing the contributions from civil society. The person representing the local authority was the **head of the Economic Development and Tourism Division, Lígia Carvalho**, who backed up the words of the vice-mayor at the inaugural session, stating that the town council is very much involved in achieving the SDGs. It is particularly active in the social field, and is concerned about continuing poverty and hunger.

Vice-President José Alho spoke on behalf of the Lisbon and Vale do Tejo Regional Coordination and Development Commission. His message was that the participation and quality of the presentations were inspiring for those who sometimes question whether it is worth working in public service. «The conclusion is that it is worth it,» he commented. He then evoked three names from the district of Setúbal: the poet Sebastião da Gama, who led the defence of the Serra da Arrábida and created the first environmental NGO, the League for the Protection of Nature; Bishop Manuel Martins, one of the people who has contrib-

uted most to the fight against poverty and inequality; and musician Zeca Afonso, for the constant warning conveyed through his songs. «They draw a symbolic line under the fact that this round ends here,» he explained.

The **Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, André Moz Caldas**, initiated the closing session. He began by responding to some of the concerns expressed at the meeting, particularly with regard to public procurement. He did so by raising the fact that the last review of the Public Procurement Code took place in 2021, introducing a set of very significant environmental sustainability criteria as a factor for enhancing tenders, and which are «used very little by the contracting authorities.» The European Commission has, in the meantime, forced a step backwards, but to a minimum. At this time, in the midst of a cycle of reviews of European directives, the country must now participate, with a policy direction directed towards promoting the inclusion of the principles of sustainable development and territorial cohesion, before then looking at national law.

As for the VNR, he revisited the meetings held in the various regions, including the National Event held in Porto, accompanied by visits to good practices that made it possible to identify projects on the ground aligned with the 2030 Agenda. This Tour has enabled the process to begin and its contributions will now be translated into the wording of the first draft of the review, which will then be subject to a new participatory, more institutional stage.

In Palmela, there were also final words from **Ana Catarina Mendes, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs**. Returning to the SDG highlighted in this session - 10 - she expressed the belief that reducing inequalities is the goal of all SDGs, as each one contributes to the fact that diversity or difference form part of society. She added that without education it is impossible to build a sustainable society, just as it is impossible to build projects without partnerships. Finally, she called for a united approach towards a more just and supportive society.





ANNEX IV



PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE 2023 NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REPORT (RVN) ON THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PART I - FRAMEWORK

In July 2022, Portugal announced its intention to prepare a second National Voluntary Report (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), to be presented at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), in July 2023 in New York.

On September 25, 2015, the 2030 Agenda was adopted by the 193 UN Member States, establishing a universal and global plan of action, centered on 5 "Ps": People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships, towards sustainable development. To this end, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were defined, subdivided into 169 targets.

The process of preparing the VNR 2023 resorted to a participatory and inclusive approach, integrating (i) all levels of Government (national, regional and local) and (ii) the entire civil society (non-governmental organizations, companies, academia, young people, among others). In this sense, the consultation of all the actors involved was carried out in two moments (one *ex ante* of the drafting of the VNR aimed at collecting inputs and contributions and another *ex post* through the submission of a draft version of the VNR to public consultation).

PART II – COMMENTS RECEIVED AND ENTITIES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The public consultation was held on the Consulta Lex portal (consultalex.gov.pt), between the 8th and the 22nd of May, with 19 contributions having been received (due to difficulties in accessing the portal, 2 contributions were not submitted by the platform) that are summarized in part III. The percentage of participation, by organized group, is reflected as shown: citizens (26%), non-governmental organizations (26%), companies (11%), academia (11%), municipalities (21%) and government (5%).

The opinions submitted, attached to the comments provided, will be made available on the website, after a non-objection confirmation is received by the proponents. As a general rule, the comments intended not only to draw attention to the absence of certain references, but also to highlight certain topics/initiatives discussed, and no comments were recorded that would call into question the substance of the RVN.

PART III – ANALYSIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

CHAPTER	COMMENT	DECISION AND JUSTIFICATION
4 4.4	Inclusion of a reference to the National Child Guarantee Plan 2022-2030, as a policy instrument with a transversal impact (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 16 and 17), reiterated in subchapter 5.2 (specifically related to the challenges observed in the SDG 1)	Included
5 5.2	Mention of the non-assessment of target 4.7 and the possibility of this being done using the implementation of the National Strategy of Education for Citizenship (ENE). 	Partially Included The assessment presented in Chapter 5 refers to the INE's statistical analysis (mapped on the basis of UN indicators), which is why it is not made using qualitative elements. Inclusion was made, at this point, of a reference to the strategies developed in subchapter 4.4.1.2 Education for Sustainable Development for a better framework.
5 5.2	Highlight the absence of reference and connection of the SDGs to culture, proposing its inclusion, as well as the recognition of its transversal importance (not only as a reference of target 11.4) for the dissemination and appropriation of the 2030 Agenda by all interested actors, in line with the recommendation of the UNESCO Global Report « Re shaping policies for creativity: addressing culture as a global public good») -https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380474 .	Included
5 5.2	Densification of the topic of organic farming, with a proposal of principles and actions to be taken to encourage this practice.	Partially Included Inclusion of the main ideas, although without reference to all measures (without prejudice to their full availability on the website, after validation by the proponent).
5 5.2	Request for inclusion of a reference, with a detailed explanation and with the presentation of measures regarding breastfeeding and breastfeeding.	Partially Included Inclusion of the main ideas, although without reference to all measures (without prejudice to their full availability on the website, after validation by the proponent).
6 6.2	Densification and clarification of the preparation and approval process of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR).	Included
6 6.2	Comments to register on the process of involvement of local authorities (proposing to carry out a questionnaire).	Not Included Methodology for involving civil society and local authorities was defined using the organization of focus groups, allowing for a greater absorption of comments and a more conducive environment for informal debate, in a future note, the use of the questionnaire may be considered for a more comprehensive view or other processes.



CHAPTER	COMMENT	DECISION AND JUSTIFICATION
6 6.2	Comments and contributions for the analysis at the level of local authorities (including projects), as well as the importance of their activity in the pursuit of the SDGs.	Partially Included Language and examples reinforced by accepting certain conclusions/proposals.
7 7.1	Densification of the part relating to business activity for sustainable development with the inclusion of emblematic measures and projects (Economy + Circulation or Strategy). Inclusion of business concerns regarding the need for regulatory reduction and simplification and the improvement of infrastructure and international connectivity.	Included
7 7.2	Inclusion of additional examples of <i>curricula</i> and projects, in the context of sustainability, within higher education institutions.	Included
7 7.3	Inclusion of the need for the involvement of organized civil society to assume a permanent, predictable, regular and periodic nature, allowing its participation, not only at a later moment in the definition of priorities, but contributing and seeing its objectives/priorities upstream, in the elaboration of the policies (in a bottom-up approach). This involvement must be transversal to all the different phases: definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.	Included
10. 10.2	Inclusion of a capacity-building dimension for local authorities for the development of policies and measures that contribute to sustainable development, within the scope of drawing up the Roadmap. Proposal to include, at the local level, intermunicipal communities as relevant actors in future work.	Included

CHAPTER	COMMENT	DECISION AND JUSTIFICATION
Several	Densification of topics mentioned by civil society in the context of focus group discussions: (i) greater recognition of the need for consistency in public policies, including in the external dimension, for sustainable development; (ii) recognition and inclusion of the challenges identified by the National Strategy for Education for Development (ENED); (iii) empowerment of the role of civil society in international cooperation for development at a triangular level, as well as reference to the commitment to recover the semiannual regularity of the sessions of the Forum on Cooperation for Development; (iv) greater commitment to the type of cooperation for development through the densification of financing targets and the type of support made available.	Included (i) and (ii) Not included (iii) e (iv) – The ECP 2030 (Portuguese Cooperation for Development Strategy) recognized the role of the Development Cooperation Forum as the main medium for consultation, articulation and proposals for action between public, private and civil society actors, complementing the existing dialogue channels with specific types of actors, with no commitment being assumed as to its regularity. Additionally, ODA includes several types of categories, the fact that there is a greater use of forms of ODA, such as grants or aid to refugees, does not impact the fulfillment of the international target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2030. Additionally, within the 2030 Agenda, there are specific targets requiring an increase in this type of ODA (for example, scholarships).
Transverse	Strengthen the identification of <i>curricula</i> and projects within the academy. Identification of challenges and lack of prioritization in the implementation of certain SDGs at the national level (different from what happened in 2017).	Partially Included The option considered in the VNR 2023 is that the analysis should be inclusive of all goals of the 2030 Agenda and any priority SDGs should be considered in the preparation phase of the National Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030, with the intention of leaving the critical analysis of progress in the VNR.
Transverse	Greater inclusion and reference to vulnerable groups, with emphasis on children, namely in the main SDGs that refer to them (SDGs 1, 4, 5, 13, 16 and 17) including recommendations.	Partially Included Children are included in the group of the most vulnerable, including girls in SDG 5. A note will remain in the Roadmap, of a possible greater integration between references to human rights (including children's) and the 2030 Agenda, in addition to the express reference to the principle of human dignity.

Note: One comment was received that was unrelated to the VNR or the 2030 Agenda, not mentioned in the table above and not included



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