



**Elle Project**  
**Empower Learn Lead Expand**  
**Youth4SDGs**

Project number: 2018-3-IT03-KA205-014904



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# SDGs in Italy

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## **Agenda 2030 in Italy**

### **Government initiatives**

In Italy since 2018, around the theme of sustainable development, there has been an important ferment at all levels, from civil society to the business world, from the national government to the regions and autonomous provinces. The lack of a clear and shared strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda has not, however, led the country, four years after the latter's signature, to make that leap of quality that has instead characterized the action of other countries.

A step forward to equip Italy with a 2030 Agenda governance was done with the establishment of the “Benessere Italia ”, announced May 21 by the President of the Council Giuseppe Conte on the occasion of the opening of the third edition of the Festival of the Sustainable Development. The Cabin was established with the objective "to coordinate, then to monitor, measure and improve the policies of all the citizens in the sign of the well-being of the citizens" and met for the first time last July.

The Cabin should promote the coordination of economic, social and environmental policies aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The creation of a coordination structure for the 2030 Agenda represents a potentially important step in a path that, in the last year, has also recorded strong disappointments. In December 2018, in fact, the Budget Committee of the Chamber of Deputies rejected the amendment to the Budget Law promoted by civil society, which provided for the change of the CIPE name, from Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning to Interministerial Committee for Sustainable Development , a proposal on which many of the political forces present in Parliament had expressed themselves in favor, before the elections. Obviously, the change of name would not have been a pure formal act, but a sign of the desire to evaluate public investments according to economic, social and environmental sustainability criteria.

The Forum, still not officially established, should represent a multi-stakeholder platform similar to that established on the initiative of the European Commission in 2017. The members of the Forum should work to support the coherence of policies for sustainability, organizing their activities in groups of work corresponding to the areas identified by the Strategy itself (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership), as well as that of a transversal nature identified as area "carriers



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of sustainability" (knowledge, education and communication).

### **Parliament's initiatives**

In the month of April some motions relating to sustainable development, the declaration of "climate emergency" and the Italian candidacy for hosting in 2020 the COP 26 meeting, destined to take stock of the policies against climate change were discussed at the Chamber of Deputies.

. The approved motion (No. 1/00154 of April 1, 2019) commits the Government to:

- “give immediate and full implementation of the Directive of March 2018, setting up the National Commission for Sustainable Development at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers to implement the direction and coordination of sustainability policies, also through periodic updates of the national strategy for the sustainable development and policies related to the implementation of the strategy itself;
- take initiatives so that the legislative and implementing provisions of the Strategy contain a technical report on the expected impacts on individual Goals for sustainable development;
- take initiatives to make the Government's commitment obligatory by February each year to present to Parliament a report on the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy;
- launch a national campaign, also in coordination with other public and scientific institutions, with private bodies and associations, information aimed at citizens, the business world and finance, on the objectives to be achieved contained in the 2030 Agenda and on the responsibility that falls on every citizen or company
- launch in the Country a broad path-comparison in order to define regulatory initiatives aimed at introducing, through the appropriate procedures, the principle of sustainable development as a fundamental principle of the Republic in the Constitutional Charter ".

### **Education for sustainable development in schools, universities and public administrations**

The collaboration between civil society and institutions of the world in education must be at the center of a shared mission, that of making the education system change towards the culture of

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sustainable development, which makes educators and learners true "agents of change".

In April, inspired by the visit of the young Swedish activist Greta Thunberg to Italy, the deputy minister sent a letter to the university rectors containing three proposals:

- to introduce courses of study and interdisciplinary research projects related to the 2030 Agenda. As the transition to sustainability requires, first of all, a cultural and conceptual revolution, students and researchers must be oriented to think and act in a "systemic" way, with an approach that integrates disciplinary sectors and recognizes the interrelations between social and natural sciences;
- promote concrete practices, for example by making each university, research institution, academy, conservatory and artistic institute a place plastic free, in line with national and international best practices. Energy efficiency, the generation of clean energy (through the installation of renewable sources) and the responsible use of water can be just as useful to remind everyone that the world of research and training is a sector of innovation experienced;
- integrate the principles of sustainability into administrative management.

In order to increase the impact of innovative practices, it may be useful for the principles of sustainable development to be integrated into the ordinary and extraordinary management of research institutions and universities (for example, through the adoption of sustainable procurement and the orientation to the sustainable development of the "third mission" of the University, ie the relationship with businesses and other institutions of the territory).

### **The mobilization and commitment of companies**

Sustainable development is emerging with increasing force as a paradigm of analysis, innovation and action to guide businesses and the country in transforming risks into opportunities, defining favorable scenarios also on the economic level in a long-term horizon. The companies themselves are calling for change towards sustainable development.

In particular, during the 2019 Sustainable Development Festival, the urgency of a transition of the economic and productive system towards a necessary economic, social and environmental sustainability, based on the recognition that the transition towards a model of circular and sustainable economy represents the opportunity to accelerate the economic and social development



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of the country.

At the same time, in line with the European trend, sustainable finance has also shown important innovations in Italy and a growing awareness of the need to commit to making the current development model sustainable. The Italian Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) market is driven by institutional investors, but, at the same time, investors' interest is growing in taking into account the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria in their investment choices, as demonstrated by the significant increase in SRI instruments dedicated to this customer segment.

As far as size is concerned, the Italian market continues to grow, representing almost 10% of the European market.

### **The position of Italy about SDGs implementation**

Italy shows signs of improvement, between 2016 and 2017, for nine Objectives (3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17), a substantial stability is found for Objectives 4 and 13, while the indicators relating to Objectives 1, 2, 6, 7, 14 and 15.

Between 2010 and 2017, however, Italy shows signs of improvement in nine areas: sustainable food and agriculture, health, education, gender equality, energy system, innovation, sustainable models of production and consumption, the fight against climate change, international cooperation.

For six areas, instead, the situation worsens: poverty, economic and employment conditions, city conditions, condition of the seas, terrestrial ecosystem and quality of governance, peace, justice and solid institutions, while for the remaining two Goals (water and inequalities) the condition appears substantially unchanged.



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