Report on the Sustainable Development Goals in Portugal

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The Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprising 17 Goals and 169 targets, covering worldwide social, economic and environmental concerns. This universal and ambitious Agenda calls for an unprecedented amount of accessible, reliable and disaggregated data and statistics to monitor its effective achievement, ensuring the ultimate goal of "leaving no-one behind". This represents a major challenge for national statistical systems but also provides a great opportunity for their modernisation, making the objectives of the motto "better data, better lives" more tangible.
A list of global indicators to measure the achievements of SDG targets has been adopted by the 48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, in March 2017, after a thorough preparation process led by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs).
The indicators list was also adopted by the UN General Assembly through the Resolution on the "Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" in July 2017. This resolution acknowledges the importance of having a sound statistical framework to measure progress on SDGs and of ensuring the central role of national statistical offices in statistical production and coordination.

This framework for measuring progress on SDGs consists of 244 global indicators (232 without duplication) classified into three tiers, according to the availability of data and level of methodological development, as shown in the figure below.
The list is subject to annual refinements and comprehensive reviews to be made in 2020 and 2025.

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Countries may select or establish a set of specific targets considered relevant from a national perspective, as well as define the appropriate indicators for monitoring progress. To ensure clear and transparent data flows, countries are also encouraged to creating national data platforms serving as repositories for the compiled information.

The custodian agencies (international agencies responsible for each indicator, namely methodological advancements and international comparability) may rely on these national platforms to feed the SDG Indicators Global Database with national data. Their role is performed under existing mandates and reporting mechanisms and they are advised to maintain close coordination with national statistical systems, namely as regards the validation of estimates and data adjustments, where necessary. This database supports the preparation of the UN annual report on SDGs progress at the global level.

The High level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) has a central role in the follow-up and review of the SDGs at the global level. Countries are encouraged to submit voluntary national reviews on the implementation of the SDGs to this Forum, at least twice until 2030.

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National monitoring

Portugal submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the HLPF on July 2017. The report is the result of close inter-ministerial cooperation and public consultation efforts carried out under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in liaison with the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructures. The Inter-ministerial Commissions on Foreign Policy (CIPE) and on Cooperation (CIC) are the privileged fora, both for the coordination of the national implementation of the Agenda and for integrating the SDGs into development cooperation.

Statistics Portugal, as the "main body that produces and disseminates official statistics", has been invited to be part of CIPE for matters related to statistics for SDGs. In this context it has contributed to the VNR, namely with a chapter on the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda national implementation. It has also been working in close cooperation with sectorial ministries to map existing indicators and sources, as well as disseminate relevant information. These tasks were assigned to an internal working group, also responsible to follow-up European and global initiatives on the SDGs and related indicators.

As a practical result of the work of this group, a data platform with SDG indicators available for Portugal has been made available at the website of Statistics Portugal since April 2017, being regularly updated. A press release was also published in May 2017 with additional information on Agenda 2030 and the national monitoring process.

This working group also carried out an assessment of the availability of global SDG indicators at the national level.

Unsurprisingly, the conclusion is that

official statistics available (41%) do not cover all indicators. There are still many not available or under study and a quarter is out of scope (such as indicators measuring realities specific to developing countries or that are undoubtedly out of the statistical scope).

Sustainable Development Indicators

The information presented in this chapter on the global SDGs is very rich and diversified, giving an overview of the progress of Portugal towards the 2030 Agenda.

Comparing with the European reality is important to place the indicators in context. Possible conclusions should however address two crucial aspects: Portugal presents structural differences with respect to the EU, which are prior to the period under review, and the severity of the economic crisis was higher in Portugal. The different pace of economic growth since the beginning of the decade, as well as the behaviour of other socioeconomic indicators, was in fact constrained by the greater intensity of the economic crisis and ensuing readjustment process in Portugal.

Some indicators need to be carefully assessed, as they may be influenced by special events which can make their meaning less clear (ex.: rainfall and its consequent impact on energy production or atmospheric emissions).

As a concluding remark, given that the global indicator list results from discussions at the highest international level, it is worth noting that many of the indicators selected to monitor achievement of the global targets should be complemented by national indicators providing a more suitable statistical reading of the realities of the country. Interested readers can find a wide range of national indicators on specific themes at Statistics Portugal website, such as: Europe 2020, Portugal 2020, Gender, Well-being Index, Territory, amongst others, contributing to place national development policies in their proper context.

Goal 1 - No poverty

• In Portugal, 18.3% of residents were at-risk-of poverty in 2016, 0.7 pp less than in 2015 and 1.2 pp less than in 2013 and 2014, but still in a higher proportion than in 2010 (18.0%).
• Children were the most affected by the risk of poverty: in 2016, 20.7% of people under 18 were at-risk-of poverty, vis-à-vis 18.1% of working age adults and 17.0% of the elderly.
• The risk of poverty continued to affect a considerable proportion of persons employed in 2016 (10.8%).
• The relative weight of national public expenditure on essential services (education, health and social protection) has reached its peak in 2016 (64.1%), increasing by 3.1 pp since 2010.

Goal 2 - Zero hunger

• Nowadays, the issue about inadequate food intakes in developing countries is mostly related to an increasing proportion of people with problems of overweight and obesity: most recent data indicates that the majority of the population aged 18 and over (4.5 million) was overweight or obese in 2014.
• In 2016, organic farming represented 5.1% of the national utilized agricultural area (2.7% in 2009).
• Between 2010 and 2016, the agricultural export subsidies showed a clearly declining trend recording residual values since 2014.

Goal 3 - Good health and well-being

• Statistical indicators about children's health place Portugal in a favourable position, with a neonatal mortality rate of 1.8‰ and 3.2 deaths of children under 5 years per 1,000 births in 2017, in both cases lower than that estimated by the United Nations for the Europe and North America region group in 2015 (3.5‰ and 6.2‰, respectively).

• Tuberculosis was the notifiable disease with the highest incidence rate in the period under review, in particular 17.1 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016, lower than the value estimated for the Europe and North America region group in 2015 (23 per 100,000 inhabitants).

• The incidence rate of hepatitis B in Portugal was 1.8 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016, a number reflecting a slight increase compared to the previous year (1.3 per 100,000 inhabitants).

• In the same year, there were notified 1,030 new HIV infections accounted i.e. 0.10 per 1,000 inhabitants, 0.08 less than in 2010 and lower than the value estimated in 2015 for the Europe and North America region group (0.24).

• In 2016, about 304 people per 100,000 inhabitants died prematurely in Portugal due to diseases of the circulatory system, malignant neoplasms, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, the first two groups of diseases accounting for more than 50% of all deaths in the country; between 2010 and 2016 the mortality rate from 30 to 70 years attributed to these diseases increased by almost 20% (257 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010).

• The mortality rate due to suicide was 9.5 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016, i.e. the lowest value in the period from 2010 to 2016 and

lower than the United Nations estimate for Europe and North America in 2015 (14.7 per 100,000 inhabitants).

• The number of deaths due to road traffic injuries in 2016 was 6.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, decreasing vis-à-vis the two previous years (7.1 per 100,000 in 2014 and in 2015).
• In 2014, 60.9% of women in reproductive age (15-49 years) reported using a modern contraception method.
• The teenage fertility rate (15-19 years) shows a downward trend in recent years, with 8.1 live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 years in 2016, 6.4 points less than in 2010 (14.5‰).
• According to most recent data (2014), 20.0% of the population aged 15 and over were regular smokers, 16.8% were daily smokers and almost one quarter mentioned having had at least one episode of heavy drinking.
• In 2016, there were 6.7 nurses, 4.9 medical doctors, 1.6 pharmacy professionals and 0.9 dentists per 1,000 inhabitants, with the gradual increase of available professionals comparing to the beginning of the decade.

Goal 4 - Quality education

• The tests carried out by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) show that 82.8% of 15-year-olds in Portugal achieved a minimum proficiency level in reading in 2015, above the EU28 percentage in the same year (80.3%).
• The tests carried out by PISA also show that 76.2% of 15-year-olds in Portugal achieved a minimum proficiency level in mathematics in 2015, which is less than the EU28 percentage in the same year (77.9%), unlike the observed for reading proficiency. Yet, the percentage in 2015 shows an increase of 1.1 pp in the proportion of children with a minimum level of proficiency in mathematics vis-à-vis 2012 (75.1%).

• The outcomes of the Adult Education Survey carried out in 2016 showed that 80.7% of young people aged 18 to 24 and 46.0% of people aged 25 to 64 participated in formal or non-formal education. The analysis by sex and large age group reveals some differences between men and women, namely a higher participation rate for women aged 18 to 24 (82.6% vs. 78.9% for men), in contrast to people aged 25 to 64, with a participation rate in formal or non-formal education higher for men (47.6%) than for women (44.7%).
• The dissemination of ICT skills in Portugal among people aged 16 to 24 is higher than that estimated for the EU28, in contrast to the group of those aged 16 to 74, with a national proportion lower than the European percentage.

Goal 5 - Gender equality

• The proportion of women employed in managerial positions increased 0.4 pp between 2011 (1.7%) and 2017 (2.1%).
• In 2015, women represented for the first time 33.0% of the total number of representatives elected.
• By 2016, 38.7% of the agricultural population was land owner, when in 2013 this proportion was 36.7%.
• The proportion of women in the total number of holding managers in the form of selfemployment increased from 29.1% in 2013 to 30.7% in 2016.

Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation

• In 2016, 96.2% of dwellings in the Mainland (95.1% in 2011) and 99.3% in the Autonomous Region of Madeira (national goal of 95% for 2020) were served by a public water supply system.

• The percentage of controlled and good quality water (safe water) reached 98.7% in 2016 (97.1% in 2011).

• In 2017, 0.8% of the residents and 2.9% of the population at-risk-of poverty had neither a bath, nor a shower, nor a flushing toilet inside the dwelling.

• The performance of percentage of dwellings covered by drainage services was positive, progressing at an average annual growth rate of 1.2%, reaching, in 2016, 84.7% (national target of 90% for 2020).

• In the second cycle of river basin management plan, (2013-2015), 42.0% of the area of water bodies had a Good or higher rating.

Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy

• The contribution of energy from renewable sources to gross final consumption of energy increased from 24.2% in 2010 to 28.5% in 2016.

Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth

• Between 2010 and 2017, three consecutive years of decreasing GDP in Portugal (between 2011 and 2013), stood out in 2017, with subsequent successive growth, the highest growth rate of the series under analysis (2.9%).

• Between 2010 and 2017, the productivity per person employed has tended to have lower annual growth rates, even decreasing in 2014 and 2017.

• Between 2010 and 2016, domestic material consumption decreased by 22.1% comparing with a GDP decreased of 2.8% in volume, illustrating some dematerialization of the Portuguese economy.

• The unemployment rate for the population aged 15 and over increased from 12.7% in 2011 to 16.2% in 2013, having decreased continuously since that year, with 8.9% in 2017.

• In 2017, the unemployment rate for young people (15 to 24 years old) was 23.9%, 4.1 pp less than in the previous year, and 14.2 pp less than in 2013 (38.1%).

• In 2017, the rate of young people aged 15 to 24 neither in employment nor in education or training was 9.3%, less than in all years from 2011 to 2016.

• In 2016, the GVA generated by tourism reached 7.1% of the GVA of the national economy, +0.4 pp compared to the previous year, observing a faster growth than the national economy (3.6% and 2.7%, respectively in 2015 and 2016).

• Other monetary intermediation establishments per 10,000 inhabitants decreased between 2010 and 2016.

• Number of ATM's available per 10,000 inhabitants decreased between 2010 and 2016.

• According to the most recent data, 96.1% of

the resident households had a sight or saving deposits account in 2013, increasing by 1.3 pp compared to 2010 (94.8%), which led to a substantial convergence of the indicator to the Euro Zone.

Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure

• Between 2010 and 2017, there was an increase in the value added generated by industry in national GDP (+0.6 pp), as a consequence of the higher GVA growth in comparison to GDP, reaching 12.2%.

• Between 2011 and 2017, for the employed population aged 15 to 74, the manufacturing employment represented, on average, around 17% of total employment in Portugal.

• The proportion of R&D in GDP in Portugal presented a decreasing trend between the years 2010 and 2015, with a slight recovery in 2016 (1.27% of GDP).

• Concerning the transport activity, the emphasis goes to air transport, with national airports registering the movement of 45.3 million passengers in 2016 (+ 56.6% vis-à-vis 2010). The Portuguese companies ensured the transport of 12.6 million passengers in 2016 (+14.9% compared to 2010).

• GVA ratio of small-scale industries in industry was 7.9% in 2016.

• Alentejo Litoral, Alto Minho, Region of Aveiro, Terras de Trás-os-Montes and Alentejo Central are the five regions with the highest technological specialization in the country, in terms of GVA.

• In telecommunications, the mobile network had almost total coverage in 2016 (99.8% of the population, 99.0% in 2010), with LTE/4G technology reaching a 98.8% coverage.

• Between 2010 and 2016, CO_2 emissions per unit of manufacturing industry GVA decreased by an average annual rate of 4.2%, reaching in 2016 the minimum value of the series under analysis (0.35 kg CO_2 per unit of GVA).

Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities

• In 2016, the median equivalent monetary disposable income for the total population increased by 3.3% from the previous year, and 7.9% from 2010.
• The progress of the average disposable income per adult equivalent for the population at-risk-of poverty, although positive since 2014, shows much lower rates of increase: 2.8% compared to 2015 and 2.6% when compared to 2010.
• In Portugal, between 2010 and 2017, the proportion of labour share of GDP showed a downwards trend (in 2010 this ratio was 47.2%, in 2017 it was 44.4%).

Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

• The average annual concentration of the pollutant particles PM2,5 and PM10 was respectively, in 2016, 7 µg/m3 and 17 µg/m3, under than the respective limit values established for the protection of public health.

Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production

• DMC was, on average, 165 million tons in the period under analysis, showing an average annual negative variation of 4.1%.

• In 2016 Portugal had already ratified the environmental agreements (conventions of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm) with common goal to protect human health and the environment.

• The amount of hazardous waste generated by economic activities increased at an average annual growth rate of 4.1%, higher by 1.3 times to total waste growth, representing in 2016, 8.0% of the total waste generated.

• Secondary waste (mineral waste from waste treatment) is the largest fraction of hazardous waste (average 34.6% in the period under review).

• The proportion of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling has increased by 12.5 pp since 2012, reaching a result of 37.8% in 2016 (national target for 2020 of 50%).

• Since 2013 the reduction of the amount of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfills has been reduced and in 2016 Portugal had already exceed the national target for 2020, with 34.1% of the total amount by weight of biodegradable municipal waste generated in 1995 (national target for 2020 of 35%).

Goal 13 - Climate action

• The world needs to anticipate, adapt and become resilient to the current and expected future impacts of climate change. The monitoring of this objective is being carried out by international indicators, outside the statistical scope, and may be reinforced by other indicators of the National Statistical System in the near future

Goal 14 - Life below water

• In 2017, the national marine protected areas occupied an area of approximately 304,194 Km^2, which corresponds to about 7% of the Portuguese sea.
• Between 2010 and 2013, the relative importance of R&D in marine technology in total investment on intellectual property products ranged from a maximum of 2.5% in 2012 to a minimum of 1.8% in 2011.

Goal 15 - Life on Land

• The forest area in Portugal accounted for 35.4% of the national geographic area in 2010, less 0.4 pp compared to 2005.

Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

• The proportion of pre-trial detainees in general prison establishments was 15.4% in 2016, keeping up a decreasing tendency (4.5 pp less than in 2010 and 0.8 pp less than in 2015).

Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

• Between 2010 and 2016, there was a growth trend of the relative importance of tax revenues in GDP, with a higher growth until 2013 and a relative stabilization since then.

• In 2016, for land broadband internet access, there were 32.7 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (+62.8% compared to 2010), with cable and optical fiber predominating (10.8 and 10.6 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, respectively).

• In 2017, according to the Survey on the ICT usage in households and by individuals, the everyday use of the Internet remained less frequent in Portugal (63%) than in the EU28 (72%), despite an increase of 25 pp from 2010 (38%).