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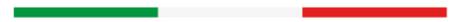
Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

FOREWORD

Italy supports the vision and guiding principles set out in the 2030 Agenda aimed at fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies, which are free from fear and violence, and strongly reaffirms that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Through the Voluntary National Review 2022 Italy is submitting, for the second time since 2017, a report to the High-Level Political Forum on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national and local level. The present report is composed of a number of inputs from different levels of government and different stakeholders to allow to reflect in a plural and comprehensive manner the efforts carried out in the past five years to meet the vision and goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. The VNR represents, to this extent, an opportunity to collectively evaluate the work done so far and to further build momentum among all actors towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2017, Italy presented the first VNR and reaffirmed its commitment to the vision and goals of the Agenda describing the road for implementation at national and local level through the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) and the support provided at international level through the Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document for International Development Cooperation. With the present VNR, Italy is submitting its second report which focuses on an evaluation of the work done so far and provides a common vision to move forward for the years to come.

The VNR follows the periodic revision process of the NSDS, carried out in order to make the strategic framework capable of orienting and further guiding the transformation necessary to build back better from the severe consequences of Covid-19. Also, in the light of the new European Green Deal and the significant commitments undertaken by Italy with the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, sustainability is confirmed to be the metric to assess policies at national, European and international level.

The NSDS links the vision and objectives of the Ecological Transition Plan (ETP), that Italy approved in 2022, with the goals of the 2030 Agenda, building a common reference framework and setting up shared evaluation tools. Within this holistic framework, ecological transition and just transition are completed in a shared integrated process, with the aim of contaminating decision-making and affecting individual and social behaviours.

Italy conceived the VNR as a collective year long process involving main actors at national, regional and local level through the participatory mechanisms set in place since 2017 to implement the NSDS and the Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document. The Ministry for Ecological Transition, in close cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, coordinated the VNR preparatory process at national level. The involvement of Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities, through ad hoc VNR/VLR roundtables set up under the auspices of the NSDS vertical coordination mechanisms, reflects the importance that Italy attributes to integrated territorial approach and to effective multilevel governance which is crucial to decline national sustainability objectives in regional and local planning processes.

Similarly, the participation of stakeholders in the VNR preparatory process was ensured under the auspices of the National Forum on Sustainable Development and in coordination with the National Council for Development Cooperation. The contribution of stakeholders, supported by the establishment of a stakeholder drafting group that coordinated the preparation of a position paper reflected in the VNR, will be conducive to further increase, also by strengthening links with local

initiatives, the active role into the policy cycle of Non-state Actors, including youth and under-represented categories.

This choice of building the VNR and VLRs preparatory process on existing coordination mechanisms has allowed Italy to provide visibility and further strengthen these participatory tools, while avoiding duplications and overlapping initiatives.

To better reflect the work carried out in the past five years as well as the challenges addressed, the VNR provides three thematic insights, respectively on policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD), localizing the SDGs and stakeholder engagement. By declining these three areas, the VNR attempts to describe the level of integration of the 2030 Agenda in the planning processes at national (horizontally) and local level (vertically) as well as the efforts to ensure and support participation in decision making processes. This approach is built on the significant work carried out by different actors at national, regional and local level, reflecting a strong commitment to the VNR/VLR through such a collective endeavour.

The focus on PCSD is built on the results of a project launched by Italy in 2020 with the support of the European Commission (DG Reform) and the OECD aimed at strengthening policy coherence in Italian decision-making processes by developing an action plan for PCSD which will be integrated in the NSDS. This plan linked to the NSDS provides an array of policy coherence instruments and tools to better guide Italy's efforts on recovery and resilience from COVID19 building on the sustainable development vision enshrined in the strategy.

The thematic insight on localizing SDGs reflects Italy's strong belief that regional and local authorities have a key role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In this section, the VNR describes the work carried out since 2017 after the adoption of the NSDS, building on the mechanisms set in place to support Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities to develop their own sustainability plans and agendas in line with the NSDS. Regional and local authorities have been actively engaged in the VNR and have prepared voluntary local and regional reviews that are attached to this report. By reflecting the engagement of different levels of government in the 2030 Agenda implementation, these reports provide a unique perspective on the challenges encountered at local and regional level and how Italy is moving forward through a coordinated approach enshrined in the NSDS system.

The third focus of the VNR is on engagement and participation and describes the work carried out and mechanisms set into place to ensure an open participatory process in implementing the SDGs at national and local level. Through the ad hoc drafting group, composed by stakeholders within the National Sustainable Development Forum, non-State actors involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda contributed to the VNR with a position paper that describes the work done and provides recommendations for the steps ahead. These spaces for participation and dialogue are crucial for the implementation, follow up and review of the Agenda as they ensure a more comprehensive picture within the VNR/VLR, both in the assessment process and in designing the way forward.

In addition to the description of the internal implementation process, the VNR provides a focus on Italy's international development cooperation activities guided by the Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document for International Development Cooperation approved by the Inter-Ministerial Council for Development Cooperation and that reflects the country's commitment to the 5ps of the 2030 Agenda through the external action. International development cooperation is at the core of the implementation of the external dimension of the 2030 Agenda and Italy worked successfully to uphold its development cooperation policy with a considerable growth of its budget share.

The severe impact of COVID 19 on the economic and social textures of Italy has halted progress in SDG implementation, widening inequalities and social exclusion, increasing poverty and weakening social capital in particular in terms of education and training. Long months of strict lockdowns affected the most vulnerable, in particular, younger generations, elderly and especially women that have been increasingly overburdened with care responsibilities.

Italy's efforts to recover from COVID 19, supported by the European Union through the Recovery and Resilience Facility, are aimed at building a more sustainable and resilient future by aligning short- and medium-term recovery measures with long-term overarching sustainable development objectives. Effective governance mechanisms, both horizontal and vertical, supported by a whole-of-society approach will ensure that policy responses for a sustainable recovery are crafted considering interlinkages and potential risks, including spill over and transboundary effects. It is in this context that Italy is working towards strengthening policy coherence by including a National Action Plan (NAP) on PCSD as an Annex to the revised NSDS and by including PCSD tools and mechanisms within the NSDS itself. At the same time a coherent framework of indicators will be conducive to pursuing a unitary approach to the 2030 Agenda implementation. Italy can count on a system of "Equitable and well-being indicators" that integrates the traditional economic indicators, as well as on the NSDS set of indicators and the annual SDG National Report compiled by ISTAT, all of which are undergoing a process of mutual fertilization.

The present VNR and VLRs are a collective exercise and has provided an opportunity for Italy to take stock of the efforts set in place since the first national exam and to further re-affirm the commitment to the 2030 Agenda at different levels, promoting visibility and support to those actors and initiatives that are contributing to bringing the implementation process forward.

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Annex 2 – Voluntary Local Reviews ITALY22

1 **2017>2022: Italy for SD**

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has provided Member States with a bold, ambitious and comprehensive strategic action plan for People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership inspired by the principles of universality and integration and balanced among the three dimensions of sustainability. In order to coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national and local level, in 2017 Italy adopted a National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSDS) that fully reflects and integrates this structure identifying strategic choices and national objectives along six different areas of intervention, respectively the so called "5Ps" and sustainability drivers. The NSDS, in accordance with provisions of art. 34 of Legislative Decree 152/2006 and subsequent amendments, represents the national reference framework for environmental and territorial planning, programming and evaluation processes.

It is worthwhile to emphasize how this head start towards the 2030 is built on the solid ground of the experience of the "BES Project", launched in 2010 to measure "equitable and sustainable well-being" and with the aim of evaluating the progress of society not only from an economic, but also from a social and environmental point of view. To this end, the traditional economic indicators, GDP first of all, were integrated with measures of the quality of people's lives and of the environment.

The project to measure equitable and sustainable well-being aimed at evaluating the progress of society not only from an economic, but also from a social and environmental point of view. Italy thus developed a multidimensional approach to measure "equitable and sustainable well-being", in order to complement the indicators related to production and economic activity with measures of the key dimensions of well-being, together with measures of inequality and sustainability.

The detailed analysis of indicators published annually in the BES Report as from 2013 aims at raising awareness of the Country's strengths and difficulties. To improve the quality of life of citizens the concept of well-being should be considered as starting point for public policies and individual choices.

In 2016, the "Equitable and sustainable well-being" became part of the economic planning, calling for the Economic and Financial Document (DEF) to include an analysis of recent trends for selected indicators and an impact assessment of proposed policies. Every year in February, moreover, a monitoring report is to be presented to the Parliament. The same year, well-being indicators and welfare analyzes were presented with indicators for monitoring the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Though they were chosen by the global community through a political agreement between the different actors, to represent their values, priorities and objectives, several contact points exist between the system of indicators provided with the 2030 Agenda and the indicators of the BES project: in both cases, they derive from a well-established literature, they are not bound by a rigid theoretical approach, but rather related to the contexts that generated them, they are conceptually contiguous and both referable to the "Beyond GDP" approach. The aim is to provide an integrated and enriched quantitative information framework to measure well-being and sustainable development. This goes a long away towards explaining the early adaptation of Italy to Agenda 2030 and the positive pathway followed by Italy.

Along this path, the approval of the NSDS, through the Interministerial Committee for Economic Programming (CIPE) by the Resolution 108/2017, was the result of a two year long preparatory process which involved a broad and substantial participation of stakeholders in the consultation and elaboration of Italy's strategic framework for the implementation of the SDGs. The CIPE Resolution also established the need to provide for adequate mechanisms to ensure an active participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy, in continuity with what occurred during the elaboration phase, and to dedicate substantial relevance to the territorial implementation. To this extent, the Resolution calls on Regions and Autonomous Provinces to develop their own strategies for sustainable development within six months of the approval of the national strategy, promoting an integrated monitoring and review of sustainability objectives, combining national and territorial levels. It also envisages, among other elements, the need to promote a "whole of society approach" aimed at spreading a "culture of sustainability" in which the role of civil society and non-state actors, at different territorial levels, is decisive.

In accordance with the regulatory mandate, between 2017 and 2022 a number of initiatives have been set in place laying the foundations for the "implementation system" of the NSDS, on which both the NSDS revision process and the VNR preparatory process have been centered. Under the provisions of the NSDS, vertical governance was strengthened through the definition of a system of multilevel strategies (national, regional) and territorial agendas for sustainable development, based on relevant annual planning cycles and the identification of emerging trajectories of shared work.

The NSDS is actually under revision, providing contributions from all the actors who have been included as a part of the so-called NSDS System (institutions at both central and territorial level, civil society, non-state actors). This VNR follows such revision process, being the result of a collaborative elaboration path, providing information on the state of the art, identifying next steps and proposing in depth view on three main entry points of the NSDS22:

- Policy coherence for sustainable development
- Localising the SDGs
- Stakeholder engagement

The decision to valorize these three thematic insights strongly reflects the importance that Italy assigns to these areas of work for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, by providing these thematic focuses, the VNR attempts to respond to both the UN VNR guidelines and recommendations as well as the requests from stakeholders at national and local level, proposing an innovative and experimental document that integrates the national review with voluntary exams at local level (Regions and Metropolitan Cities) and a stakeholder position paper.

As for **policy coherence for sustainable development**, the severe consequences of COVID-19 and of the geopolitical conflicts are not only threatening the achievement of the SDGs and putting at risk the safety and wellbeing of citizens, they are calling on countries to mutually reinforce actions at different levels of government as well as to strengthen mechanisms to ensure policy coherence and policy effectiveness across all sectors. To this end, the thematic insight in the VNR dedicated to PCSD describes the richness of the work carried out to deliver a dedicated national plan (PAN PCSD), as an annex to the revised National Strategy for Sustainable Development to be finalised in the coming months. The PAN PCSD builds upon a project funded by the DG Reform of the European Commission and implemented with the support of the OECD and is being delivered following a mapping activity for PCSD (PCSD governance scan), carried out collecting several initiatives and mechanisms already in place in Italy through desk analysis, surveys, interviews an ad hoc workshop.

The second VNR insight is devoted to **localising SDGs** as local and regional engagement is one of Italy's core strategies to implement the Agenda 20301. Following the VNR in 2017, the State and Regions Conference endorsed the NSDS, with the aim of promoting synergies between national, regional and local policies. Since 2018, the Ministry for Ecological Transition has established a space for dialogue on vertical coherence and on financial support2 and promoted sustainability agreements for enabling 2030 Agenda implementation in Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities. The section on localising SDGs describes the work of territories in declining at local level the strategic objectives of the NSDS and the relevant coordination mechanisms established between central and local administrations to support and strengthen the effectiveness of the implementation process. This section is also enriched by the VLRs that are annexed to the present document providing a comprehensive picture of the implementation process in Italy.

The third thematic insight of the VNR is on the issue of **engagement and ownership** and describes the mechanisms set in place at national level to promote the participation of stakeholders in the decision-making processes related to the 2030 Agenda. To involve and stimulate contributions by the civil society at large, the National Forum for Sustainable Development was launched at the end of 20183, guided by the MiTE and composed of over 200 stakeholders4, with the aim to provide input to the implementation, follow up and review process of the National Strategy. The National Council on Development Cooperation (CNCS) is another key platform of engagement, chaired by MAECI, where stakeholders contribute to identify national challenges and possible SDG-related actions. Both consultation mechanism directly contributed to the VNR by delivering a position paper that is an integral part of the review providing an assessment of the work done and recommendations for the way forward.

To sum up, the VNR includes a contribution from the Forum for Sustainable Development (the Italian platform engaging civil society and non-state actors on the implementation and revision process of the NSDS) and National Council for Development Cooperation (the participatory mechanism foreseen under the external dimension of the 2030 Agenda, CNCS), VLRs from several regions and metropolitan cities (in many cases proposing an integrated perspective, combining in the same VLR experience from a region and its metropolitan city as well from different regions working together on common 2030 Agenda issues). It also includes a section dedicated to the implementation of the Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document for International Development Cooperation which guides Italy's efforts in the implementation of the external dimension of the 2030 Agenda fully reflecting the principles and vision of the 2030 Agenda, of which it adopts logic, spirit and timeframe. Italy worked successfully to uphold its development cooperation policy with a considerable growth of its budget share. Its approach is deeply rooted into 2030 Agenda main message of global and equitable development to strengthen peace in larger freedom.

The aim of the year long preparatory process set in place is to present a VNR that is the result of a wide collection of inputs from different levels of government and stakeholders and that, building on a

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[1] Since the adoption of the 2014 Law on International Development Cooperation, local authorities are encouraged to engage in the definition and implementation of awareness raising of the SDGs and in international cooperation projects.

[2] This is carried out through three main medium: the collaboration agreements, which aims to support regions and autonomous provinces in their development of regional sustainable development strategies; the two dialogue round-tables, created to implement and review the NSDS together with subnational levels; and the project CReIAMO PA, established in 2018 for mainstreaming the SDGs and the National Strategy into regional policies.

[3] More info at: https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/il-contributo-della-societa-civile-il-forum

[4] More info at: https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/il-contributo-della-societa-civile-il-forum.

common thread of themes, provides an array of views describing the implementation process since 2017 and projecting the engagement of Italy for the next four years.

2 Undertaking 2030 Agenda: the NSDS System

The National Conference for Sustainable Development 2022 to be held in June at the residence of the President of the Republic of Italy represents the closing event of the review process of the National Sustainable Development Strategy and the moment to relaunch new and concrete projects with central administrations, territories and civil society. It precedes the Coopera Conference organized by the system of development cooperation actors (CNCS and MAECI), being this concomitance the result of an important work of in-depth analysis and systematization of the internal and external dimension of the 2030 Agenda and marking a very important political step, as also recently recognized in the Resolution of the CNCS in its last session (May 27th).

The event represents the culmination of the process that Italy undertook since its first VNR in 2017. It involved several levels of government, actively engaged the civil society and non-state actors and focused on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development as the main driver to integrate and assess SDGs and 2030 Agenda principles in the policy cycle (fig. 1).
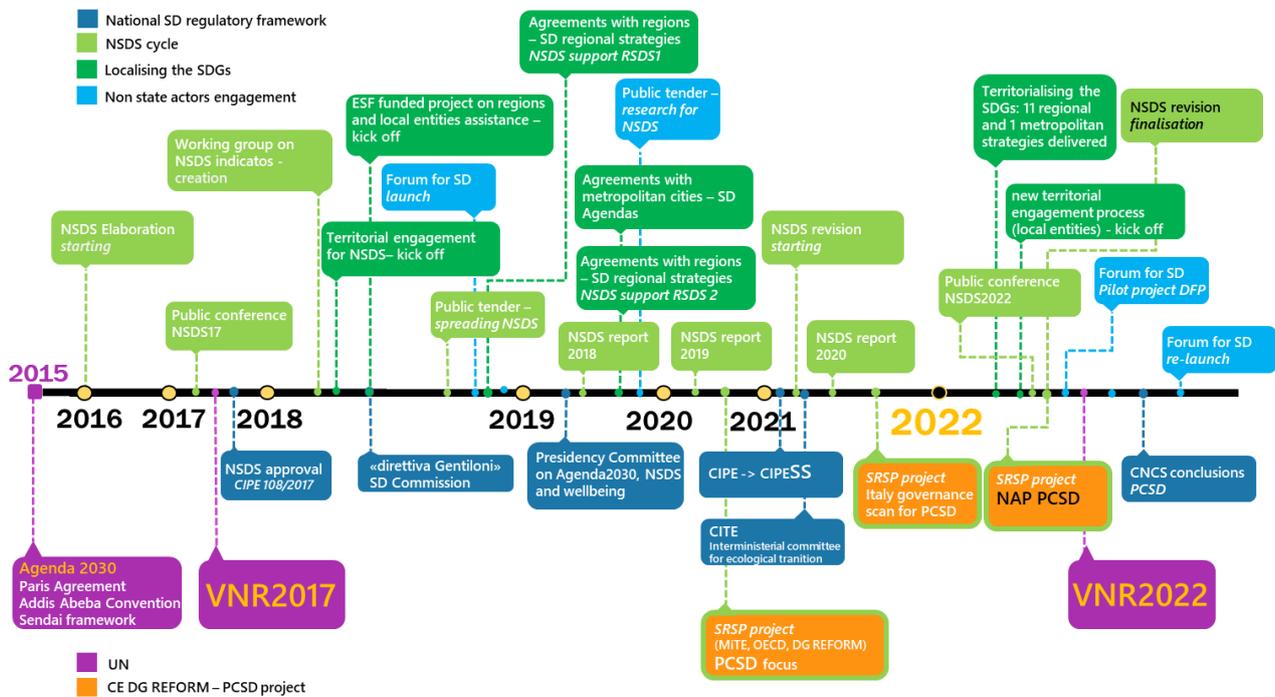
fig 1 **Italy and 2030 Agenda in the NSDS process 2017>2022** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

The 108/2017 CIPE decision approving the NSDS (para 2.2) provides for the active involvement of regional authorities in fine-tuning the content of the strategy and identifying co-ordination actions. The decision also gives mandate to the MiTE for setting up an inter-institutional round table including the regions, the Ministry of Economy and Finance as well as the line Ministries.

The Italian legislative framework recommends that Regional and Local Authorities take part in the implementation of the Strategy according to their specific institutional mandates and competencies and provide for their engagement in the formulation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy and its revisions.

MiTE has ensured the implementation of the NSDS by promoting coherence at local level through the provision to subnational governments –metropolitan areas and regions– of spaces for dialogue on

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vertical coherence as well as related financial support (OECD, 2021). MiTE also promoted the inclusion of the academic and research sector in the process, by funding projects aimed at supporting subnational governments in this endeavour.

According to the Delibera CIPE 108/2017 approving the NSDS, MiTE is called to ensure the participation of civil society and relevant stakeholders by creating the Forum for Sustainable Development, building on the positive experience of the consultation process during the formulation of the NSDS and ensuring continuity with to multi-level consultation processes.

MiTE published in March 2019 a call to express interest to all civil society actors (Associations, foundations, universities, private sector, co-operatives, etc.) in getting involved in the Forum for Sustainable Development. 199 CSOs and other stakeholders are now represented in the Forum and the possibility to enrol remains open. Stakeholders participating in the Forum accompany the implementation of the NSDS in various ways, including by providing input to the revision of the national and regional strategies, expressing their views on the impact of the strategy, reporting annually on Civil Society's contribution to the implementation of the NSDS, fostering information exchange and networking among sustainability actors at all level, promoting joint initiatives between civil-society and institutional actors for sustainability. The Forum is articulated in six working groups: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Youth and Culture for Sustainability. The area Partnership is developed in collaboration between the Forum and the CNCS. Specific and extra efforts have been dedicated to the involvement of the "youth" which are now participating in each of the working groups and have also formed one of their own.

After a long revision process, the NSDS22 intends to reaffirm the commitment to achieve national sustainability objectives linked to the SDGs, promoting a reinforced SD governance, strengthening their inclusive and communicative potential, prioritizing metrics that adequately take into account all dimensions of sustainability and the well-being of people and the planet. It also focuses on the identification of work areas and shared tools to ensure the coherence of policies for sustainable development, in the various sectors and at different territorial levels, in each of the re-shaped areas dedicated to the 5Ps.
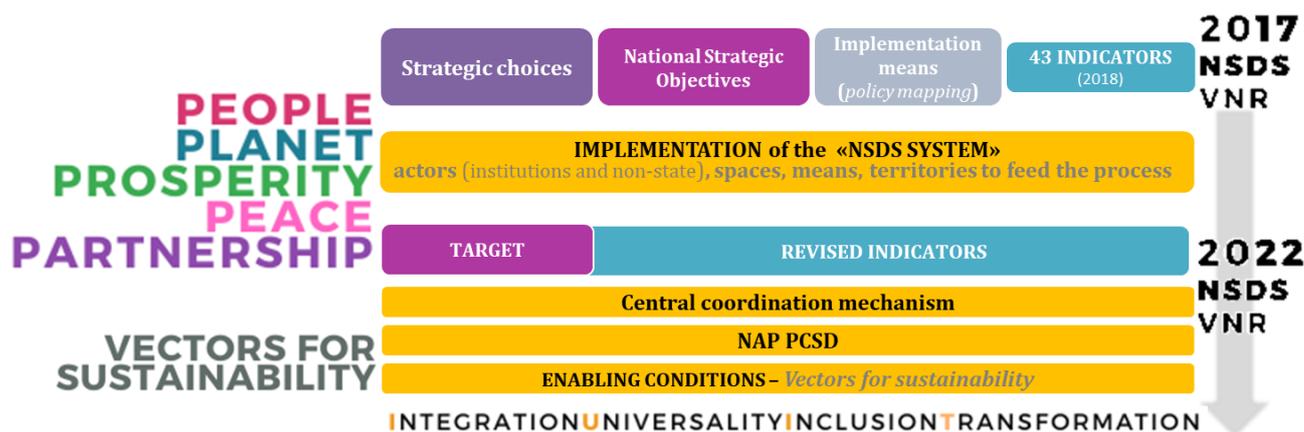
fig 2 **NSDS strategic framework from 2017 to 2022** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

To completely transform lifestyles and current development paradigms without compromising the levels of well-being of the population, it is essential to guarantee the "enabling conditions" for the change we intend to produce. The revision and expansion of the area dedicated to the Vectors for Sustainability becomes a central element of the NSDS22, deriving from a substantial concertation with all involved actors and redesigned in order to include potential synergies which could enable a collaborative working method for policy making and assessment in Italy.
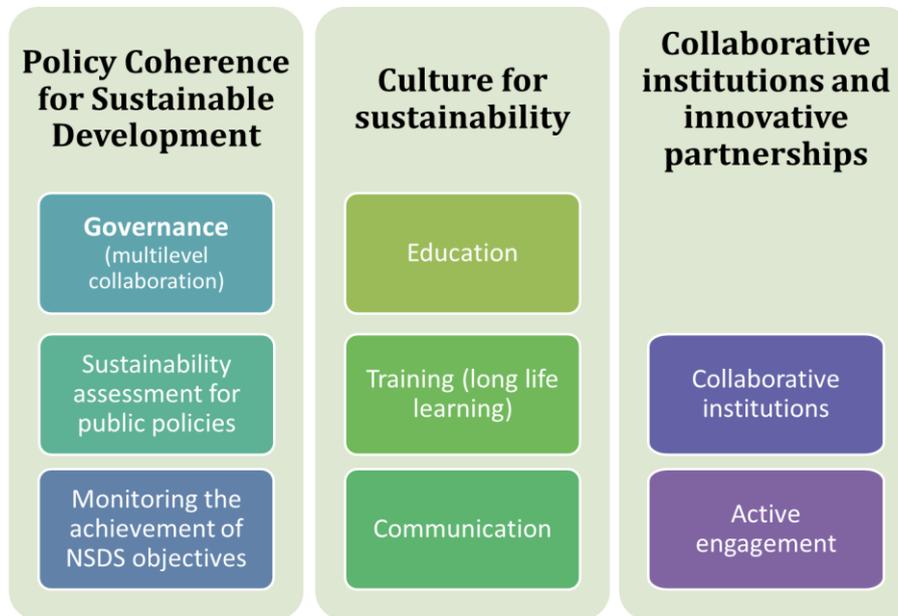
fig 3 **"Vectors for Sustainability" defined by NSDS22 (Source MiTE 2022)** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development is considered as one of the main drivers in the implementation of the NSDS and in future SD advancements in Italy. The widening of spaces and the improvement of methods and tools for engagement and collaboration among institutions and with non/state actors is also crucial. Education and training are finally considered as levers to substantiate and support the desired transformation path. Finally, communication emerged as one of the less considered and most relevant issues to be addressed in the next future and specific initiatives devoted to political communication are to be put in place to accompany high level consciousness and decisions for sustainability.

In the next paragraphs, the VNR proposes three thematic focusses, reflecting the characteristics of the 2030 implementation in Italy within the NSDS process.

3 Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Italy recognizes policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) as a fundamental tool for achieving the principles of integration and transversality of the SDGs through an institutional and multi-actor cooperation mechanism. The PCSD is configured as both, a principle from which to draw inspiration for a renewal of the processes with which provisions are issued by public institutions and a concrete tool available for such renewal. It is in this context that the National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (NAP PCSD) has been drafted.

The NAP is the main result of the project "Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: mainstreaming SDGs in the Italian Decision Making" proposed by MiTE in 2019. The project has been carried out with the scientific support of the OECD – Directorate for Public Governance - and within the Structural Reform Support Program (now called Technical Support Initiative) of the European Commission - DG Reform.

Following the recognition by the European Commission in early 2020, the project became operational in July 2020, producing during the implementation process an additional output to the one originally foreseen. this additional output is the monitoring framework for the NAP PCSD, which will devise and use international parameters to measure PCSD according to both the 2019 OECD Council Recommendations on PCSD and the UN IAEG SDG indicator 17.14.1.

The NAP PCSD will be an Annex to the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2022 (NSDS 2022), introducing an important element of innovation. Such inclusion and institutionalization will allow the PCSD approach to be an enabling factor for the future implementation of the NSDS, in connection not only with the "5Ps" areas (People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership) of the Strategy but also, and substantially, with the Area of Vectors - the pillars of change- which in turn allow for the implementation of the NSDS.

The mechanisms and tools proposed by the NAP represent coherence tools aiming at strengthening the system of institutional relations, vertical and horizontal, as well as multi-actor participation, by also launching a new path for integrated decision-making processes, addressing all its phases and promoting true circularity within the processes.

The international partners who co-led and contributed to the drafting of the NAP have provided an element of consensus and legitimacy from a national and a global perspective. Indeed, at national level, the rigor of the OECD and the European Commission contributed to giving scientific solidity by applying international standards to the benefit of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs under the NSDS. The NAP will support strengthening in Italy the fundamental role that governance plays for sustainable development and which, as already identified when preparing for the Rio + 20 Conference, can be considered the "fourth dimension" of sustainability. The NAP proposes a governance that recomposes a system of institutional relations - horizontal and vertical – and with civil society and non-state actors, hardened, calibrated and inspired ("fit for purpose") by the principle of the 2030 Agenda, based on the NSDS.

At the international level, the elaborating process of the PCSD NAP has allowed substantial interactions in numerous contexts, including this 2022 VNR of Italy. Within the OECD Informal Network of National

Experts on PCSD, Italy, represented by MiTE and MAECI, is participating with increasing interest and with a view to contribute to creating a PCSD community of practice, together with OECD and other EU MS. In addition, Italy has presented its PCSD path at the 21st session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) dedicated to "Transforming institutions and governance to build forward better towards 2030".

Moreover, Italy took part in the "Peer to Peer for Sustainable Impact Assessment" project (November 2021 - May 2022) " managed by Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (PS4SD1) on behalf of the Ministry of Environment of Germany. The project addressed the mainstreaming of the SDGs into the "regulatory impact assessment" mechanisms where coherence of policies for sustainable development can have a pivotal role. This experience will add value to the already established Italian mechanism led by the DAGL (Department for juridical and legal affairs) and responding to the new conditions set by the European Commission agenda on "better regulation".

Through the lens of PCSD, Italy has strengthened dialogue also with civil society. In particular, Concorde Italia and Concorde Europe have made an assessment of the ability of the Italian system (and of eight other countries) to move towards the coherence of policies for sustainable development, underlining among other things, the fundamental importance of bridging the gap between the internal and external dimensions, while highlighting the important role that the NSDS could have in this context. Such collaboration has helped to define important elements for the continuation of work in this area, in potentially increasingly ambitious terms.

It is in this context of progressive institutionalization of policy coherence and strengthened relationship between domestic and development co-operation policies that the PCSD NAP is also situated. The 2019 OECD /DAC Italy Peer Review includes among its recommendations, one dedicated to policy coherence (Recommendation number 2), expressed in the following terms: "Ensuring the coherence of policies for the sustainable development of partner countries; make the mechanisms envisaged by law 125/2014 fully operational". The Three-year Planning Document for International Cooperation 2021-2023 envisaged by Law 215/2014 responds to this request by recognizing the contribution that the PAN PCSD can give to the direction indicated by Recommendation 2, thus also giving feedback to the first National Conference for Development Cooperation which had emphasized the priority and importance of the PCSD.

2.1 The Project "Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: mainstreaming the SDGs into the Italian decision-making" and the revision process of the National Sustainable Development Strategy

In 2019 while launching the NSDS revision process, MiTE made a request for technical support to the European Commission - DG Reform - within the Structural Support Reform Programme to complement such process with an investigation on tools and means for policy coherence for sustainable development. The revision path of the NSDS focused its attention on the identification of targets and indicators to be associated with the Strategic Choices of the NSDS, as much as on a mapping of mandates and existing methods of programming, monitoring and evaluation of public policies in Italy, with a view to depict and suggest ways to overcome barriers impeding integration, transversality and consistency among sectoral policies.

Such technical assistance request was based on the three years of work dedicated to the implementation of the 2017 NSDS. In those years, MiTE focused its efforts on some specific strings of work. Among those, as illustrated in the previous chapter, the creation of a structured dialogue and collaboration with

Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities in compliance with Art. 34 paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree 152/2006 and subsequent amendments. The relationship with the territorial levels helped bringing to light considerable integrated programming skills, especially in the relationship between ordinary policies and those relating to EU structural funds and territorial cohesion policies, demonstrating the feasibility of this approach also with reference to the NSDS (see fig. 4 and next focus).

The Department for Cohesion Policies (DPCoe) together with the Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ACT) within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and MiTE started in 2018 a process of analysis and evaluation of the contribution of Cohesion Policies towards the NSDS for both the 2014-2020 results and the 2021-2027 expected outcomes. The matrix includes the objectives, indicators and categories of intervention for the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy period. The matrix allows to connect the performance indicators used for EU programming with context indicators to monitor the NSDS. As such the matrix doesn't allow to assess the actual contribution of cohesion policy to the NSDS unless it is filled in with data.

The matrix shows the relations between the National Sustainability Objectives of the NSDS and the Strategic policy objectives used in each of the EU cohesion policies for 2021-2027. It is useful both at the moment of policy formulation (bilateral agreement, ONP/PON Operational National Plans, and POR/ROP Regional operational plans) to show to which objectives of the NSDS the EU funded cohesion policies will contribute the most and which objectives have been neglected through ex-ante analysis. In addition, by systematising the interventions and indicators of the cohesion policy under NSDS objectives it shows the potential integrated monitoring system using the NSDS as reference to measure the sustainability of public policies (Ministry for Ecological Transition, 2021). Such a matrix could be crucial when developing the policy roadmap at the initial stage of the policy cycle, at all levels, as well as in anticipating positive and negative impacts from policy measures envisioned. This mapping methodology between EU policies and NSDS has been shared with the sub-national authorities for application in regional sustainable development strategies and cohesion programming.

The matrix is actually under revision, pending the approval of the NSDS22 and of the Partnership Agreement 21/27.

2030 Agenda related targets	Istat SDGs/IAEG indicators	Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives (PO-SO) 2021-2027	Common output indicators for ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Common result indicators for ERDF and Cohesion Fund	Intervention Field Short title
SDG 2030 Agenda	**7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all **9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation				
National Strategic Goal SNSvS/NSDS	IV.1 Increase energy efficiency and renewable energy production, avoiding or reducing impacts on natural and cultural heritage and landscapes				
7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1 - Renewable energy share (transport sector excluded) in the gross final energy consumption	2.1	RCO 19 - Public buildings with improved energy performance		034 High-efficiency co-generation, district heating + cooling 034b Replacement of heating systems (from coal to gas-based) 034c Distribution + transport of natural gas substituting coal
	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the transport sector (in the gross final energy consumption)	2.1	RCO 20 - District heating and cooling network lines newly constructed and improved RCO 18 - Dwellings with improved energy performance		
	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in thermal sector (in the gross final energy consumption)				
	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	2.2	RCO 22 - Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal) RCO 97 - Renewable energy communities supported	RCR 31 - Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal) RCR 32 - Additional operational capacity installed for renewable energy	028 Renewable energy: wind 029 Renewable energy: solar 030 Renewable energy: biomass 031 Renewable energy: water 032 Other renewable energy (including geothermal energy)

fig 4 **Matrix between a National Strategic Objective of the NSDS (IV. Decarbonise economy) and the policy objective for the ERDF (EU Regional Development Fund) 21/27 (SDG target 7.2)** (Source: DPCOE, ACT, MiTE, 2021)

FOCUS - THE CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONS AND AUTONOMOUS PROVINCES TO THE NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME (NRP): A MONITORING AND INTEGRATED REGIONAL PROGRAMMING TOOL TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA

The **Contribution of Regions and Autonomous Provinces to the National Reform Programme** can be framed among the systemic documents aimed at fostering Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) integration in all policies. Every year the above document (hereinafter "the Contribution") is drafted by Cinsedo and Tecnostruttura delle Regioni and then approved on the occasion of the so-called "Conference of Regions", to analyse the programmatic, regulatory and implementation reform interventions undertaken by regional institutions in the previous year. Besides being a tool for **monitoring** reform interventions, the Contribution was used as an **exercise for the European Semester's programme linkage with Cohesion Policy and the SDGs**.

Until 2020, the National Reform Programme (NRP) was the only national tool for verifying the reforms implemented at national and regional level. Since it consisted of Section III of the Economic and Financial Document (Documento di Economia e Finanza – DEF) it fulfilled the dual function of national and European relevance. With the Covid-19 emergency onset and the ensuing economic crisis, the Contribution was then adapted to the new requirements, after the launch of a European Semester

reorientation process to which the new Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) was associated, making them intrinsically linked. On the other hand, given the strengthened linkage of EU economic governance with the 2021-2027 ESF and ERDF, the Country-Specific Recommendations (CSR) and the Country Report (CR) analysis were designated as a reference for all European, national and local programming.

The Regional Contribution to the NRP therefore certifies – through a **qualitative monitoring** process – the interventions undertaken by Italian Regions to ensure the implementation of reforms and investments. These regional actions are classified under **thematic macro-measures**, in line with the CSRs of the European Semester and till 2020 also with the Europe 2020 Strategy Targets. In view of **integrated programming** enhancement (an effort undertaken at regional level since 2016), the Contribution analysis now encompasses comparison against the Expected Results (ERs) of the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy programming and the specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the logic of coherent inclusion of regional programming in the broader global context.

In 2019 the Contribution was complemented with the policy objectives related to the first drafts of the Regulations of 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy programming: **Regions** hoped for an <u>overall reform of the European Semester in terms of sustainable territorial development</u>, as strategic **programming institutions closer to territorial needs** and capable of integrating policies, and activating European, national and regional resources. For the 2021-2027 programming period, knowing how to capitalise on the analysis of the territory and its distinctive features (as suggested by the 2030 Agenda and its Targets) proved a strategically relevant experiment to implement coherent regional growth and development policy under sustainable development innovative lens. The SDGs provided a solid strategic reference framework, widely coinciding with the Cohesion Policy Thematic Objectives merged into 2021-2027 POs. Cohesion Policy generated added value by triggering generative processes of competitiveness and sustainable development to be measured in the longer term, bringing the timeframe closer to 2030.

Therefore, an integrated reading of the five 2021-2027 POs coupled with the SDGs appeared convenient to Regions in order to attain a coherent and, above all, measurable vision of the economic, social and environmental dimensions within territorial cohesion policy, in compliance with the European Semester Recommendations. Within the "Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces", Regions also expressed a political position, then sent to the EU, to propose reforming the European Semester so as to integrate multi-level governance, to be aligned with a new EU long-term strategy, and to implement the 2030 Agenda SDGs[5].

The Contribution to the 2020 NRP enabled employing a programming tool with dual, regional and national significance. <u>At regional level</u>, by connecting the Contribution tool with the **Regional Economic and Financial Documents (Documenti di Economia e Finanza Regionale – DEFR) and the strategic planning/programming documents**, Italy's Regions managed to implement the classification framework of quantitative and qualitative regional data to ensure regional monitoring and positioning with respect to SDGs. <u>With reference to the national level</u>, a two-way system was considered: on the one hand, the **National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) by MiTE**, representing the national strategic reference framework; on the other hand, **ISTAT** system, where indicators and analyses on equitable and sustainable well-being were integrated with indicators for SDGs monitoring, with specific application in the Economic and Financial Document (Documento di Economia e Finanza – DEF). <u>Therefore, the Contribution was also integrated with the SDGs and equitable and sustainable well-being domains</u>.

The monitoring process thus designed in the Regions' NRP <u>enabled identifying and analysing the emerging priorities functionally to a study and experimentation model</u>. It offered a reading framework useful to the 2021-2027 programming, in order to test possible interlinkages between Cohesion Policy

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[5] http://www.regioni.it/newsletter/n-3568/del-12-03-2019/posizione-sul-programma-nazionale-di-riforma-2019-19471/

ambitions (ERDF and ESF) and those of other concomitant policies, always in relation to SDGs. These priorities enabled Regions to assess **coherence** and **positioning** of **public policies** with respect to SDGs at local level. As a matter of fact, as the NSDS requires a multidisciplinary approach to achieve the 2030 Agenda SDGs, the Contribution made it possible to monitor the actions complying with the SDGs and carrying out integrated planning. By structuring **Regional Sustainable Development Strategies**, Regions enhanced the adoption, in their strategic documents, of indicator systems and monitoring and review plans in terms of sustainable development, also activating functional connections between regional strategic objectives, implementation tools, and the mentioned Regional Economic and Financial Documents (DEFRs).

In the latter area, several Regions managed to correlate their programming choices on European funds and sustainable development objectives to equitable and sustainable well-being domains (if indicators), illustrating: their programmes and contents within individual missions, the related expenditure forecasts, financing methods, guidelines for regional council resolutions, as well as strategic control, and implementation monitoring programmes within the regional missions.

The 2020 and 2021 Contributions widely took into account of the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS), kick-off document of the European Semester cycle through which the new European Commission redefined the strategic guidance on pandemic crisis resilience for RRF implementation. By incorporating, in the integrated programming tool, the **6 Missions of the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)**, as well as the components of each mission, and the related intervention lines and linked reforms, the Contribution offers a complete and transversal reading of the regional actions traceable to the PNRR according to the SDGs.

For the 2022 Contribution – currently in progress – as the 2021 ASGS maintained the structure of the 2020 ASGS in full continuity and in the absence of annual CSRs, it was decided to use the categories relating to the **four dimensions of sustainable competitiveness (environmental sustainability, productivity, equity and macroeconomic stability)** in order to guarantee a green, digital and sustainable recovery.

Building Blocks of the Contribution of Regions to the NRP
With the Contribution to the NRP, over the years Regions have activated a virtuous path in support of integrated planning towards sustainable growth and development. In 2021, more than 8,000 regional measures were classified under this instrument. These regional reform and investment measures are incisive over a one-year period and ensure continuity or reinforcement of lasting actions in favour of economic, social and employment development; as such, the Contribution was structured so as to support Regions in making sustainable development objectives a functional and effective daily working tool. The vision was gradually broadened by comparison with other programming cycles and indicators, with a view to the **DEFRs**. In the wake of policies proximity to the territorial dimension, the SDGs linkage with the European Semester and Cohesion Policy was implemented in the aim of supporting regional strategies for commitment to a sustainable economy, through policies focused on a long-term horizon and an inclusive transition process.

Taking inspiration from these experiences, and acknowledging the complexity of the central governance framework for sustainable development, the MiTE intended to use the request for technical support to the EU Commission to make a reflection and a suggestion for qualitative improvement, aiming at developing an increasingly responsive and efficient system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Italy, through the NSDS.

Started in summer 2020, the project[6] was divided into two fundamental phases. The first phase was focusing on consultations, investigation, desk studies and mapping of issues and actors. The second phase was dedicated to the elaboration of two documents as the two expected results:

- Italy Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
- National Action Plan for PCSD.

The successful implementation of the project made it possible to launch another piece of work consisting in the devising of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the PCSD NAP, allowing for the NAP to be measured against the SDG 17.14.1 indicator.

In the above mentioned first phase, OECD conducted targeted interviews with institutions at central level, selected as formally entrusted with the implementation of sustainable development and recognized under the CIPE (Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning) Resolution 108/2017: MEF (Ministry for the Economy and Finance), MAECI (Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), DIPE (Department for Economic Planning and Cooperation) / CIPE now CIPESS (Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development), DPE (Department for European Policies) and DPCoe (Department for Cohesion Policies).These institutions worked together throughout the project implementation process, gathered in an informal contact group on the PCSD (PCSD Engagement Group) which was recognized with a leading role in all phases of the project and in the articulation of the contents.

As part of this first phase, three workshops were organized with a view to guarantee the widest participation in the definition of the project contents as well as the full involvement of the actors contributing to the implementation and revision process of the NSDS.

The three workshops focused on specific issues as follows:

1. Simulation of a coherent decision-making process around the National Strategy for Sustainable Development: Institutional dialogue for more coherent policies in the area of Prosperity (16-17 December 2020);
2. Designing policies for advancing on Agenda 2030 at home and abroad (29 March 2021)
3. Connecting the existing evaluation and monitoring mechanisms related to sustainability within the revision of the National Sustainable Development Strategy and towards the PCSD Action Plan (June 17, 2021).

Each seminar saw the participation of about one hundred people from central and local institutions as well as from civil society and non-state actors adhering to the National Forum for Sustainable Development (see above). One of the pillars of the project was the identification of complementarities, sought and implemented, with coordination mechanisms already activated within the NSDS.

The desk analysis of OECD, the preparation of the workshops as well as the same results of these events provided the essential elements for the elaboration of the "Italy Governance Scan for PCSD", published by the OECD in November 2021. This document contains a mapping of the actors participating in

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[6] https://www.oecd.org/gov/pcsd/public-governance-sdgs/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-mainstreaming-the-sdgs-in-italian-decision-making.htm
https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/iniziative-e-progetti-supporto-dell-attuazione-della-snsvs-coerenza-delle-politiche-lo

national governance for sustainable development and an analysis of complementarities as well as elements of weakness and strength of the system. Before being approved, the Governance Scan was shared for comments and observations to all the actors involved. Suggestions were included in the finalization phase of the text. Building on this document OECD developed a proposal of PCSD NAP. It is important to note that the NAP represents the first exercise of this kind also for OECD and sets a precedent for other OECD member states that look at the Italian model for translating the 2019 OECD Recommendations on PCSD into a set of concrete actions and expected results. As for the previous phases, also the process of defining the PCSD NAP is marked by an intense work of consultation having its own specific connotation in the support of institutional multi-level and multi-actor cooperation and collaboration mechanisms activated as part of the implementation and revision process of the NSDS.

the above described process allowed for the NAP to be proposed as an annex to the NSDS and to dedicate to PCSD one of the three pillars of sustainability vectors within the NSDS itself. The expected outcomes and the actions proposed by the Plan have been associated with the trajectories of the three Vectors of sustainability, of which they form an integral and inseparable part as a priority in the first vector "Policy coherence for sustainable development".

The other two dedicated vectors, respectively "Culture for sustainability" (Vector 2) and "Participation for sustainable development" (Vector 3) find elements in the PCSD NAP to support actions in terms of institutional capacity building, training and strengthening the mechanisms of institutional and multi-actor collaboration.

2.2 Main elements of the PCSD ITALIAN NAP

The guiding principle underlying the PCSD NAP is the assumption that the NSDS 2022 will assume, in an increasingly consistent and concrete way, the role of reference sustainability framework for the planning, programming and evaluation processes of public policies and for preparing evaluation, ex ante and ex post, of national public policies, aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals.

In this context, the Plan insists on every phase of the decision-making process and provides in operational terms institutional mechanisms and tools useful for including the 2030 Agenda, its principles and objectives, in that cycle.
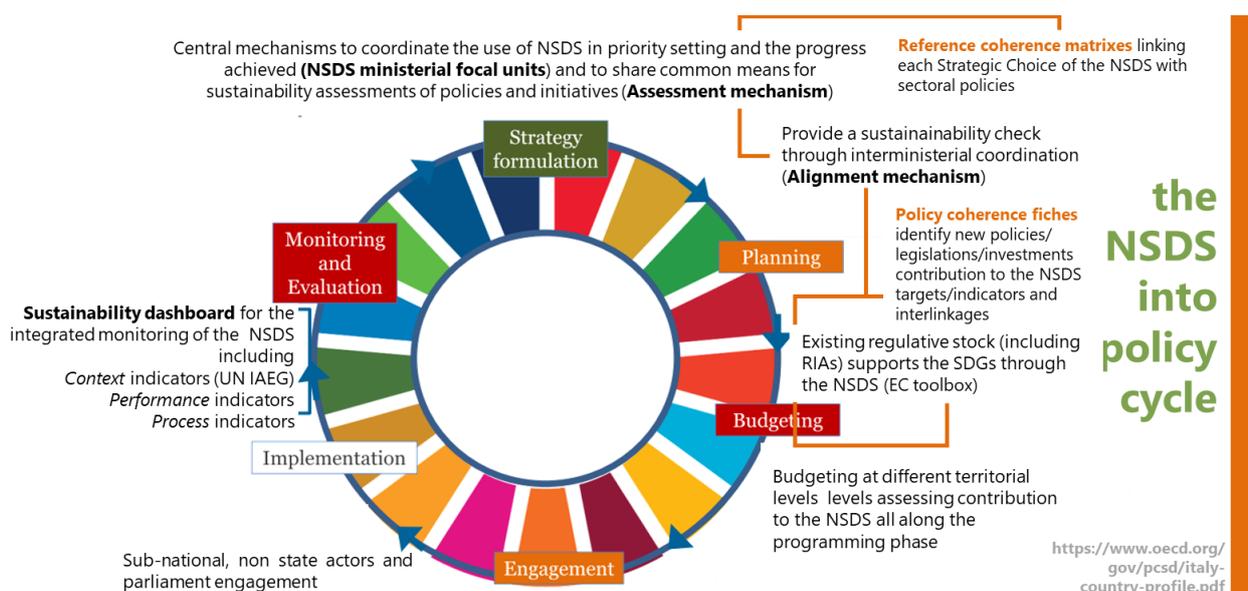
fig 5 **the integration of NSDS into policy cycle** (Source: OECD/MiTE - 2022)

All these elements reflect the complexity of the commitment needed to implement the principle of coherence to the joint action of instruments and mechanisms for intra and inter-ministerial coordination and for dialogue with civil society and non-state actors.

The PCSD NAP incorporates the 2019 OECD Recommendations and is organized accordingly.
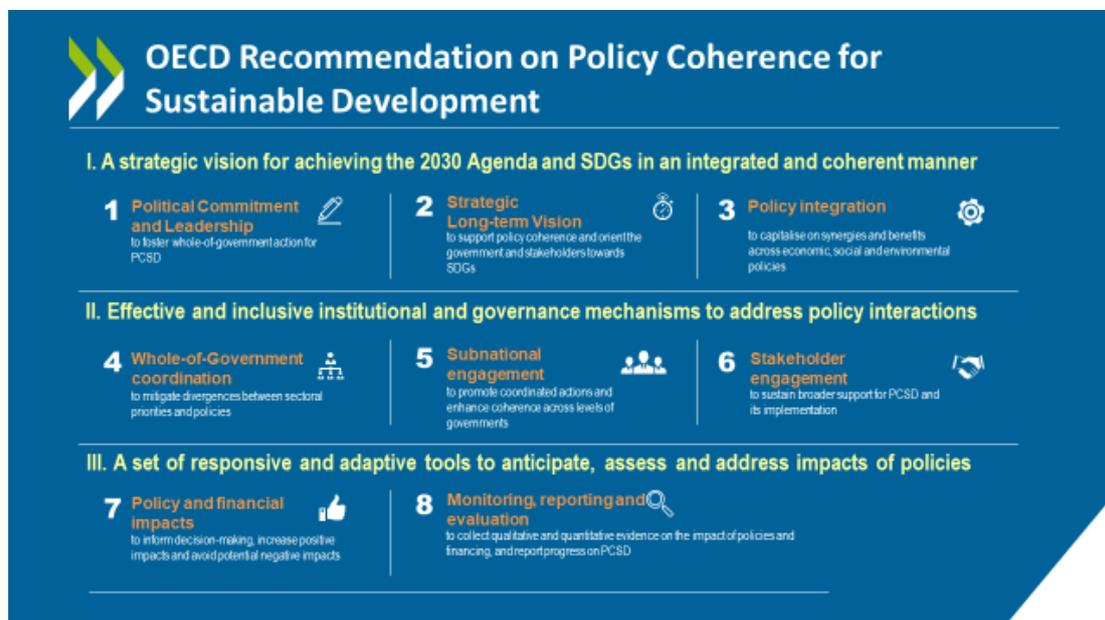
fig 6 Council PCSD recommendation (Source: OECD 2019)

The organization of the NAP along the trajectories of the OECD Recommendations has made it possible to structure the impact of these latter on the Italian system through a selection of expected results aimed at enhancing strengths within the system in an incremental path for continuous improvement.

 The NAP PCSD is divided into three pillars:

1. Vision and Leadership
2. Institutional Mechanisms
3. Policy Financing and Impacts

Each element includes a set of Expected Results and Targets. Each Expected Result is, in turn, linked to the Vectors for sustainability, included into the NSDS22.

The PCSD NAP shows elements with a different degree of maturity. Some of the Expected Results recognize what has been done during the NSDS implementation process and call on actions to allow for these mechanisms to be fully operational. Some elements are the result of ongoing institutional dialogues, while others represent a vision and describe work that will have to be put in place in the future.

A detailed examination of each Expected Result will be carried out in the first annual report on the state of implementation of the NAP PCSD, which, as required by the NAP itself, will be included in the Annual Report on the State of Implementation of the NSDS.

Unlike the standard national plan format, the document does not contain a chapter dedicated to "governance": this happens because the plan itself wants to outline a different governance, more suited

to the challenge of sustainable development, and addressed to all central and territorial entities in equal measure and manner.

The PCSD NAP envisages a **broad governance system for sustainable development**, in many cases activated by MiTE whose positive outcome will depend upon a true collaboration among all central and territorial administrations, based on specific coordination mechanisms and tools, as identified in the plan, and their respective mandates and levels of action. As for the relationship with civil society and non-state actors through the National Forum for Sustainable Development, it is particularly important to underline that the PCSD NAP provides for the opportunity to establish a collaborative path. Such collaborative path is both procedural, with reference to the possibility of interaction with institutional coordination mechanisms, and substantive, that is, with reference to the collection of opinions and contributions in different moments of the implementation of the NSDS and Plan.

The first pillar - **Vision and Leadership** - establishes that the CITE Resolution approving the NSDS 2022, recognizes it as the strategic reference framework for the definition and evaluation of public policies and investments. To this end, the Plan establishes specific tools and mechanisms for the formulation of integrated policies. The first pillar is also entrusted with the task of consolidating and strengthening elements that already exist but are not yet fully functional. Among these, in the first place, the National Conference for Sustainable Development which aims to support public participation in the activities of the NSDS and PAN PCSD.

The Conference becomes an annual event organized by the Forum and the MiTE, facilitating institutional involvement from various institutional actors. Such action must be seen in connection with art. 16 co. 3 of Law 215/2014 which provides that every three years the MAECI - as part of the CNCS - organizes a national public conference to encourage the participation of citizens in defining policies for development cooperation. A more stable relationship between the two events, both focused on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, will benefit from the timely cadence introduced also with reference to the National Conference for Sustainable Development. The latter will be able to count on a further strengthening of its contents that will derive from the provision of a "call for proposal" as a tool for building initiatives to match the emerging inputs within the NSDS activities. The greater involvement of Parliament in the NSDS and PCSD PAN is located in a future work perspective. The PCSD NAP envisages a stronger parliamentary role as it will receive the Annual Report on the status of the implementation of the NSDS and the NAP.

This pillar also includes the definition of the coherence tools: the Coherence Matrices; the Coherence Fiches and the Laboratories. With regards to the Coherence Matrix, it is important to underline two characteristics. In the first place, the tool derives from the local level, where Regions have shown great skill and competence. Secondly, the objective of the Coherence Matrix is to relate each Strategic Choice of the NSDS (and related objectives, targets and indicators) with the relevant existing policies, proceeding to a complete and integrated visualization of such relationship. The matrices will then be filled in with the contribution of the central and local administrations and in any case on the basis of the respective institutional mandates. The different matrices will then be assembled into a single overall matrix which will also give a perspective vision.

With regard to the Coherence Fiches, they represent a structured verification document relating new proposals for policies and regulatory measures to the NSDS. The goal is to perform an ex-ante evaluation taking the NSDS as a reference framework and, at the same time, creating a tool at the service of interinstitutional dialogue for the benefit of the formulation of integrated policies. A fundamental step and element of future work is also represented by the strengthening of the relationship between

economic planning and the measures consistent with the NSDS, in line with the most recent guidelines and specific indications of the European Commission included in the Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2022. At the service of the processing of the Coherence Matrices and of the Coherence Fiches, the NAP PCSD proposes the tool of the Sustainability Laboratories, imagined as moments of operational and technical dialogue between the representatives of the central public administrations as well as local, with an invitation to be extended to the National Forum for Sustainable Development to participate in the discussion.

In light of the innovative element constituted by these tools, acknowledging the need to provide specific training courses for public officials, the NAP PCSD proposes the start of a collaboration with the National School of Public Administration (SNA), as part of the training courses already activated on sustainable development, and institutional collaboration with both the Department of Public Administration and the Department for Regional Affairs and Autonomies. In the context of this training moment, two important elements are also put forward: the strengthening of capacities on the "policy foresight" and that on the "Behavioural Public Administration", identified as fundamental levers of transformation and transition towards sustainability.

The second pillar of the PCSD NAP **- Institutional Mechanisms** - is dedicated to the introduction of new ways of working in and with the public administration. The creation of operational working groups is therefore proposed, which are to be understood as instrumental in nature, useful for pooling the implementation activities dedicated to sustainable development, already entrusted to each administration, in a fragmented way, and which each of them carries out in isolation, with greater fatigue and less linearity. In this sense, it is not a question of adding new tasks to institutional mandates but, on the contrary, of sharing the levels of information and activities with the aim of achieving complementarity and synergies instead of duplications.

The proposed institutional mechanisms are:

- The "**NSDS / PCSD Policy Alignment and Integration Group**". All the representatives of the central administrations, called "Focal Ministerial Units for NSDS and PCSD", as well as MiTE, MAECI and MEF participate in this Group. The most important Departments of the Presidency of the Council also participate such as DIPE, DPE, DPCoe / NUVAP (Unit for Planning, Evaluation and Analysis) and DARA (Department for Regional Affairs) and the Conference of Regions which the law recognizes a role in the three-year review of the NSDS.
- - The "**Implementation and Assessment Group for NSDS and PCSD**" in which MiTE, MEF including the State General Accounting Office, SISTAN (ISTAT and ISPRA), DPCoe / NUVAP and Network of Regional Units, DIPE / NUVV (Unit for Evaluation and Review of Public Investments), Court of Auditors.

Where the institutional mechanisms represented above - including the Ministerial Focal Units - constitute elements of innovation, the second pillar is also entrusted with the task of consolidating already existing places of interaction. The National Forum for Sustainable Development falls into this category. The latter, in his relationship with the National Council for Development Cooperation, is awarded the necessary recognition as a permanent platform for dialogue with the institutions on the NSDS and NAP PCSD, also thanks to the Regulation which represents Annex 2 to the NSDS.

Potential spaces for collaboration with the National Forum are further specified and listed to allow interaction with institutions and participation in the building of the coherence tools as devised under the first Pillar. Acknowledgement of the role of the Forum is clearly provided in the co-planning of the

National Conference for Sustainable Development and in the contribution to the Annual Report on the State of Implementation of the NSDS as envisaged by CIPE Resolution 108/2017.

Similarly, building on the work of territorialisation of the NSDS carried out within the process of its implementation, the NAP PCSD consolidates the coordination mechanisms organized by MiTE with Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities, imagining the strengthening and relaunching of collaborations also with respect to the territorial coordination units. These instruments comply with implementation of art. 34 paragraph 4 of Legislative Decree 152/2006 but were in need for formal institutionalization to ensure their continuity and capability to act and operate.

Finally, this second pillar includes the reference and a specific action dedicated to the recomposition between the internal and external dimension of the 2030 Agenda, starting from closer collaboration in the context of national and international development cooperation processes, mainly building on the synergies activated with the Working Group 1 set within the National Council for Development Cooperation (CNCS) established by Law 221/2014, through the National Forum. The Working Group 1 is a multi-stakeholder platform tasked with different aspects including the implementation of the Agenda 2030, policy coherence for development, effectiveness and evaluation. The existence of this Group together with the other Working Groups activated within the CNCS is consistent with one of the key features of Italy's development cooperation: multistakeholder partnerships, which has been acknowledged in the 2019 Peer Review. Working Group 1 comprises more than one hundred delegates from different institutions, including MAECI, the National agency for develop cooperation, MiTE, MEF, the National statistics institution. Many other representatives from the CSO community, local authorities, academia and trade unions are actively involved as well

The Working group's efforts over the past two years have been strongly focused on the inputs given to the PCSD NAP. For the entirety of 2021 the Working group and its delegates were involved in the process towards the elaboration of the PCSD NAP. In particular, in February 2022, the Group drafted a joint opinion and submitted observations and recommendations to the draft of the PCSD NAP, contributing to the positioning of the National Forum for Sustainable Development.

Most recently, on May 27th, the National Council for Developed Cooperation endorsed the Working group's opinion and, in so doing, supported the recommendations therein. The Group in fact submitted a number of suggestions and recommendations to secure the full participation of MAECI in the implementation of the PCSD NAP, calling for an organisational response to make sure that the Ministry is fully engaged and aware of the need to further invest into in this process. Looking ahead the Working Group 1 will strive to fulfil its role as a forum for multi stakeholder discussions taking advantage of any opportunity whenever available to do more, considering that, with the NAP PCSD in place, there will be a very promising operational framework to take advantage of.

Thanks to the ongoing dialogue within Working Group 1 the programme for the National Conference on Development Cooperation that is set to take place on 23rd and 24th will include a side event on policy coherence for sustainable development, bringing to the attention of the entire system of actors of the Italian cooperation the work done so far and exploring next steps for collaboration and further convergences. This side event is the third of the series of connected events that have been imagined to spread awareness and allow participation on policy coherence for sustabile development by the entire system of actors engaged in the NSDS implementation and revision processes. The first two events include the Final High-Level Workshop organized by OECD and MiTE on 17th of June 2022 -to present the PCSD NAP- as well as the National Conference on Sustainable Development organized by

MiTE and the National Forum for Sustainable Development that is set for the 21st of June and that will hold a session dedicated to PCSD, based on the Position Paper elaborated by the National Forum.

As highlighted before, strengthening the link between the internal and the external dimension of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) through the existing instruments for policy analysis, monitoring and reporting is part of the Progress Report by Italy within the Mid-term OECD/DAC 2019 Peer Review Recommendations, answering to Recommendation 2. In particular the Report highlights that both the NSDS and the Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document (PPPD) builds on the "5 Ps" of the 2030 Agenda and contributes to achieve the SDGs. In this context, development cooperation is an integral part of the Strategy (external dimension) and both the NSDS and the PPPD are adopting a whole-of-government and multi-stakeholder approach. In this specific regard, it is acknowledged that the interaction between the National Forum for Sustainable Development and the National Development Cooperation Council (CNCS) provides complementary and synergic spaces for dialogue to facilitate CSOs and other stakeholders' involvement in the decision-making process for the NSDS and the PPPD, building on the fact that interlinkages are ensured by a member of the CNCS taking part to the National Forum.

Moreover, it is recognized that the Annual Report on the Status of the Implementation of the NSDS and the Annual Development Cooperation Report will increasingly relate to each other, taking into consideration that both reports promote transparency and accountability, and together look at the work done by Italy to fulfill its commitments towards Agenda 2030 by identifying and fulfilling the objectives set in the NSDS and in the PPPD.

In this context, the finalisation of the NAP PCSD is considered key to provide a common and shared framework to support Government's commitment to PCSD and ensure that different parts and levels of the government take action for sustainable development, and have the tools to identify, analyse and monitor the transboundary impacts of policies, including the spill-over effects in developing countries.

Another important element to be acknowledged in this context is the fact that the 2022 Budget Law includes amendments to the Italian development cooperation law (Law 125/2014). The amendments refer to the approval process of the PPPD and annual Development Co-operation Report: the PPPD, previously submitted to approval of the Council of Ministers every year, will be developed and approved every three years. The Development Cooperation Report, previously annexed to the PPPD, will be submitted to approval each year by October 31. These amendments shall enhance the mid-term strategic relevance of the PPPD and favour multi-year planning, ensure a more accurate collection of data required for the annual Report as well as streamline the approval process of both documents. The new timeline will allow a better alignment also with the NSDS revision process, equally due every three years and with the Annual Report on the Status of the implementation of the NSDS.

All the work described above already set the basis for implementation of the NAP PCSD and is fully in line with the actions of Expected Result 2.3 "*Strengthen integration and coherence between the internal and external dimension of the 2030 Agenda implementation process as a contribution to the NSDS and to the periodic reviews at European and international level, including the HLPF VNR and the OECD DAC Peer Reviews*" which was formulated in parallel of conducting and establishing the very same connections and lines of work outlined so far.

The third and last Pillar is dedicated to **monitoring and evaluating policies**. In this context, the NAP PCSD strengthens the Annual Report on the State of Implementation of the NSDS, already envisaged by the CIPE Resolution 108/2017, transforming it in a "whole-of-society" and "whole-of-government"

process. In addition, it is expected that the report on the implementation status of the PCSD PAN will be included in the same Annual Report, based on the OECD and UN IAEG methodologies linked to indicator 17.14.1 and according to the dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

FOCUS – ANNUAL REPORT PRELIMINARY CONTENTS

- Report on the implementation of the PCSD Action Plan (see 3.1.3).
- Report on progress on localising SDGs through the NSDS and the PCSD actions plan.
- Report on progress on stakeholder engagement, at national and territorial level, with the National Forum for Sustainable development and the regional/metropolitan Fora including CSOs reporting on Pilot actions for policy coherence for sustainable development
- Analysis of spillovers and transboundary effects of national policies.
- Analysis of trade-offs across policy sectors: a chapter of the report focuses on one or two Strategic Objectives of the NSDS and discuss the inter-linkages and trade-offs as emerged in the policy coherence fiches and matrixes produced during the year
- The status of the integration of the NSDS into the economic programming, also in the context of the European Semester [1.4]
- Progress on the Sustainability Dashboard indicators.

The NAP PCSD also proposes the development of a **Sustainability Dashboard** that enriches the set of indicators of the NSDS, with performance and process indicators so that it will be possible to move towards a real evaluation of the effectiveness of the policies. The Sustainability Dashboard will be an important innovation in the Italian system and could only be broadly described as follows: "*Work on a sustainability dashboard of indicators (Sustainability Dashboard). The NSDS/PCSD Implementation and Assessment Group [2.1.2] proposes a set of sustainability indicators to feed the Sustainability Dashboard that cuts across the Italian policy formulation and evaluation system and contains context indicators related to the NSDS and identifies performance indicators related to the effects on sustainability of programmes and plans. The Sustainability Dashboard also contains PCSD process indicators [see 3.2.]. The choice of the indicators will take into account the ones emerging from the Coherence Matrixes [1.2.1], the ones considered for monitoring of the PNRR, including the DNSH if relevant, the CIPESS indicators for assessing public investments against the NSDS; the ones resulting from the ESW mapping process lead by MEF as well as based on ESIF/cohesion matrix alignment exercise*"

Also, in this context the role of the Italian Court of Audit is recognised and will be invited to participate to the coherence tools and mechanisms to contribute to their annual Report (that reclassifies budget expenditures by SDGs) and improve traceability of ministerial efforts to the SDGs through NSDS, also contributing to better aligning the economic programming process with the Agenda 2030 implementation as provided for in the Plan. The following scheme synthetizes all described elements, drafting the relationship among tools and governance for sustainability in Italy.

Coherence Tools

Coherence matrixes: link each Strategic Choice (SC) of NSDS with policy objectives/ targets/ indicators

Coherence fiches: identify the contribution of new policies and investments to the NSDS targets/indicators, synergies/trade-offs across sectoral actions, mitigation strategies

Parliamentary involvement (SD Parliamentary Committee, Budget Committee and the Environment Committee) on **the annual report on NSDS/PCSD**

High Political Level Involvement

CITE = approval of the annual report on NSDS/PCSD + approval of the triennial NSDS/PCSD revision. Brings to the attention of the Council of Ministries, upon submission of an advice formulated by the A&PI Group, potential policy trade-offs that merit high-level arbitration

Transboundary effects that intersects the PPPD is brough to the attention of the Inter-ministerial committee for Development Cooperation (CICS)

Annual NSDS Report (with contributions from territorial level and Forum)

Call for proposals up to 3 actions

Monitoring

1. NSDS/PCSD Implementation and Assessment Group

MiTE – DIPE (NUVV) – DPCoe (NUVAP + Rete Nuclei) – MEF and RGS – SISTAN (Istat + Ispra), Court of Auditors

+

Sustainability Dashboard

Indicators

Suggest the template of **coherence matrixes** and **coherence fiches**

2. NSDS/PCSD Alignment and Policy Integration Group

MiTE – Relevant Department from the Presidency of the Council (DIPE – DPCoe – DPE – DARA,..) MAECI – MEF – Conference of Regions – **3.Ministerial Focal Units for NSDS/PCSD**

Guide the **modalities of use of the tools** (coherence matrixes, policy coherence fiches)

Ensure **coordination** and **dialogue** with territorial level and NFSD

Contribute to coherence matrixes with regard to the existent/new policy objectives /targets/ indicators identified in all their sectoral policies and **produce coherence fiches** when developing new policies and legislations

D. Budgeting

Keep track of **budget expenditures** against the NSDS (building on Regions experiences)

Promote institutional changes to link the NSDS and DEF

A. NSDS/PCSD LABS

MiTE + NSDS/PCSD Implementation and Assessment Group

Labs for coherence matrixes - compilation/ systematization/ continuous update

Labs for coherence fiches - resolution (or not) of trade off for new policy/ legislation/ investment

B. Trainings MiTE, SNA (national + regional), DFP, DARA

trainings for contributing to matrixes and fiches

trained become **trainers**

Educational Pacts MI, MUR, MITE and university professor PCSD/NSDS training and students curricula

Behavioral Change

Foresight

Professional trainings and **partnerships** for sustainable development

C. Permanent territorial «Tavoli di confronto» with MiTE

4. Territorial Cabine di Regia

Invited to Labs

Invited to Produce coherence fiches when developing new policies and legislations

Regional Fora

5. National Forum for SD

CNCS – GDL1

Invited to Labs

National Conference for Sustainable Development

fig 7 **Table of relations – PCSD NAP** (Source: MiTE 2022)

4 Localising the SDGs

As a tool for coordinating the implementation of the **2030 Agenda** in Italy, the **NSDS** attaches significant importance to the work at territorial level. The 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to "*conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at national and subnational levels*", also drawing on contributions from "*civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities*"[7]. Italy's NSDS pursues this objective also in light of a set of national regulations (Article 34 in Legislative Decree 152/2006 and its updates), which stipulate that within six months of its approval, Regions and Autonomous Provinces must approve their own sustainable development strategies and activate integrated monitoring on the achievement of sustainability objectives. On the one hand, the NSDS path fosters the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda at several territorial levels, while on the other it links the regional and local levels to the international one, providing scope for action and visibility (also through the 2022 VNR) to what has been achieved in the territories over recent years for implementing the strategic sustainability objectives pursued.

4.1 Territory overview

Italy's territory stretches over 302,073 km^2 with a population of 59,236,213 residents[8]. The Italian Republic is composed of Municipalities, Provinces, Metropolitan Cities, Regions and the State. The Municipalities, Provinces, Metropolitan Cities and Regions are autonomous entities with their own statutes, powers and functions in accordance with the principles established by the Constitution. Rome is the capital city of the Italian Republic.

Italian Regions, which represent the first level of territorial break-down of the State, are 20: Valle d'Aosta, Piemonte, Liguria, Lombardia, Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna, Toscana, Umbria, Marche, Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicilia and Sardegna.

Friuli Venezia-Giulia, Sardegna, Sicilia, Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol and Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste are regulated by special forms and conditions of autonomy, in accordance with their respective special statutes as per constitutional law. The Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol Region is composed of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano.

Italian Regions, with the exception of Valle d'Aosta, are broken down into supra-metropolitan/supra-regional entities, which can be either Provinces or Metropolitan Cities. There are 92 Provinces (including the 2 Autonomous Provinces of Trentino-Alto Adige, 6 free municipal consortia of Sicilia, 4 decentralised regional entities of Friuli-Venezia Giulia), and 14 Metropolitan Cities. Italy furthermore encompasses 7,904 Municipalities, which vary extensively in terms of both surface and population. The largest Regions (over 25,000 square kilometres) are Sicilia and Piemonte, followed by Sardegna, Lombardia, Toscana and Emilia-Romagna (over 20,000 square kilometres). Among these, Lombardia is also the most populous (10,036,258 inhabitants) followed by Lazio and Campania (17,232 and 13,671

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[7] A/RES/70/1 "Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", para. 79.
[8] Resident population in 2021. Source: ISTAT.

square kilometres, respectively; over 5.8 million residents). Populations below one million inhabitants reside in Umbria, Basilicata, the two Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, as well as Molise and Valle d'Aosta. The latter two Regions, together with Liguria, are also the least extensive, with surfaces between 3,000 and 5,500 square kilometers.

Italian Municipalities amounted to 7,904 in 2021. They are located in the Country's North-West (37.9% of national total), South (22.6%), North-East (17.6%), Centre (12.3%) and Islands (9.7%). Overall, Northern Italy hosts 4,383 Municipalities, i.e. more than 50% of the national total. The Regions hosting the largest number of Municipalities are Lombardia (1,508) and Piemonte (1,181).

fig 8 Graphic representation of Italy's territory, broken down into Regions and Autonomous Provinces, and positioning of Metropolitan Cities (CM) and 2030 Agenda in the NSDS process 2017>2022 (Source: MiTE - 2022)

4.2 Territories *for* SD

Since 2018, a series of **actions** have been activated on the initiative of MiTE, **aimed at building frameworks for public policies at Regional, Autonomous Province and Metropolitan Cities levels**, in order to achieve the SDGs and provide evidence of the contributions made by policies, plans and programmes to the achievement of the NSDS objectives, as well as to define the mechanisms and indicators to guarantee their integrated monitoring.

In line with the path outlined by the NSDS at the national level, the objective of the regional processes therefore does not merely lie in producing a strategic document; it rather consists in **creating a long-term vision and activating a series of coordinated and synergic actions**, which jointly constitute the regional, provincial and metropolitan strategies for sustainable development and enable achieving the objectives pursued by the national strategy.

The challenge is very complex and is being built on a day-by-day basis together with the territories involved, drawing on the most important result so far achieved – i.e., **creation of a "community of intentions"** (namely a network of people, civil servants, and experts, based on collaboration, debate and dialogue, operating within the individual administrations involved) and collaboration practices involving all different institutions, civil society and non-State actors. All Italian Regions and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano – Alto Adige are currently elaborating their own Regional and Provincial Strategies for Sustainable Development – **11 Strategies have been approved to date**[9]. All Italian Metropolitan Cities are also committed to devising their respective Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development, a voluntary tool for building strategic visions to work on urban and metropolitan contexts and achieve the objectives pursued by the Regional and Provincial Strategies for Sustainable Development – **1 Metropolitan Agenda has been approved to date**[10]. In this path, MiTE is collaborating with the National Association of Italian Municipalities (*ANCI*) to guarantee interaction with the complementary definition of the Metropolitan Strategic Plans, and has activated collaborations with the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) and the National Union of Municipalities and Mountain Entities Community (*UNCEM*) to strengthen the role of so called "*Enti di Area Vasta*" (i.e. local entities at supra-municipal/supra-metropolitan level) as fundamental actors for territories' sustainable development and implementation of strategic sustainability objectives at the various levels.

Two inter-institutional **Roundtables** are active at MiTE for NSDS implementation and its application at territorial levels (one with Regions and Autonomous Provinces; the other with Metropolitan Cities), as structured mechanisms of permanent and multi-level interaction for sustainable development and policy coherence. At both levels, cross-sectoral **steering committees** were set up to coordinate and manage the complexity of strategies. Furthermore, following the example of the Forum for Sustainable Development active at the national level (launched by MiTE in 2019), **territorial fora** aimed at non-State actors were launched, also establishing active involvement at territorial level with a view to networking and multilevel governance.

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[9] Abruzzo Region, Emilia-Romagna Region, Lazio Region, Liguria Region, Lombardy Region, Marche Region, Apulia Region, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Veneto Region, Autonomous Province of Trento, Autonomous Province of Bolzano – Alto Adige (data updated at 30 April 2022).
[10] Metropolitan City of Bologna (updated at 30 April 2022)

The 2022 NSDS and NAP-PCSD aim to further strengthen and empower the multi-level and multi-stakeholder processes so far activated, both at national and territorial levels, ensuring an overall working method that makes inter-institutional, vertical and horizontal collaboration and interaction with non-State actors the cornerstones of the implementation process.

Such results also stem from the Expressions of Interest (EoIs) to the calls published by MiTE between 2018 and 2020, aimed at defining **cooperation agreements** to guarantee support to the regional, provincial and metropolitan entities engaged in fulfilling the requirements set by the aforementioned rule on NSDS implementation, leading to the agreements undersigned with all the Regions, the Autonomous Province of Trento and all the Metropolitan Cities. The overall process is also drawing on the technical support provided by the **"CReIAMO PA" project** (competences and networks for environmental integration, and public administration entities enhancement), financed by the 2014-2020 National Operational Programme on Governance and Institutional Capacity and, in particular, on the L2WP1 *ad-hoc* line of intervention dedicated to 2030 Agenda implementation and monitoring. A further call for proposals was published in 2019. Addressed to universities, foundations and research centers, the call aimed at promoting projects to support NSDS implementation and was designed in line with the needs identified and the remarks arisen within the territorial Discussion Tables.

The 2022 NSDS also urges for strengthened commitment to participation and dissemination of a "**sustainability culture**" highlighting the essential role of civil society and non-State actors at the various territorial levels.

Moreover, in consideration of the fundamental implementation role that Metropolitan Cities and Municipalities are called upon to play today (also in light of the substantial national and European resources currently allocated to them – e.g. National Recovery and Resilience Plan; and 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy cycle), the NSDS intends to continue to **activate and support the territories** in order to define sustainable development agendas. The aim is pursued by extending the collaboration areas to include supra-municipal/supra-metropolitan level and "homogeneous" territorial systems, taking into consideration geographic criteria, challenges and/or specific needs of an environmental and socio-economic nature (e.g. mountain areas, basin areas, so-called "inner areas") to implement multidimensional and innovative interventions and actions capable of integrating the several policy sectors.

FOCUS – REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SD: DRAFTING PROGRESS UPDATES

Abruzzo Region
The Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development document was approved via Resolution No. 25 issued by the Regional Legislative Assembly in its session of 13 December 2021. Website: www.regione.abruzzo.it/content/progetto-la-strategia-regionale-dello-sviluppo-sostenibile.

Basilicata Region
The Strategy document is currently being drafted. Website: www.regione.basilicata.it/giunta/site/giunta/department.jsp?dep=100050&area=110070.

Calabria Region
A preliminary Sustainable Development Strategy was produced. The Regional Strategy will be completed by 2022. Website: portale.regione.calabria.it/website/portaltemplates/view/view.cfm?21314.

Campania Region

The technical drafting of the Strategy document was finalised following interaction and dialogue with the several Departments involved, as well as local authorities and civil society. Website: https://campaniasostenibile.ifelcampania.it. Further in-depth thematic information on the regulatory and administrative path prior to the drafting and approval of the UN 2030 Agenda can be found at: http://www.regione.campania.it/regione/it/tematiche/sviluppo-sostenibile-x4kj.

Emilia-Romagna Region

The Sustainable Development Strategy of the Emilia-Romagna Region was approved via Regional Council Resolution No. 1840 of 8 November 2021. Website: www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/agenda2030.

Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region

The positioning, public consultation and mapping phases of the Region were finalised. The identification of priority actions, objectives, indicators and the monitoring plan are currently in progress. The Regional Strategy is expected to be approved by summer 2022. Website: agenda2030.fvg.it/.

Lazio Region

The Strategy was approved via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 170 of 30 March 2021. Link to the Strategy: lazioeuropa.it/files/210406/dgr_170_30_03_2021.pdf. Website: www.lazioeuropa.it/laziosostenibile. The Strategy monitoring process is currently underway, and the climate change adaptation contribution to the Strategy is being drafted.

Liguria Region

Document approved by the Regional Council via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 60 of 29 January 2021. Website: https://www.regione.liguria.it/homepage/ambiente/sviluppo-sostenibile/strategia-regionale-sviluppo-sostenibile.html.

Lombardia Region

The Strategy was approved by the Regional Council on 29 June 2021 – during the same session the Regional Economic and Financial Document was approved (integrating the connections between the objectives and actions of the two instruments). A first update was made in November 2021. The updated text is available at: www.svilupposostenibile.regione.lombardia.it. The Strategy is broken down into 5 strategic macro-areas (27 areas of intervention and 96 strategic objectives): 1. Health, equality, inclusion; 2. Education, training, work; 3. Development and innovation, cities, territories and infrastructure; 4. Climate change mitigation, energy, production and consumption; 5. Eco-landscape system, adaptation, agriculture. For each strategic macro-area, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the NSDS, some targets are defined with time horizons between 2025/2030 and 2050, and monitoring indicators are identified. The governance tools and mechanisms enabling for Strategy implementation are laid down therein, favouring full inter-sectoral and multi-level integration.

Marche Region

The Strategy was approved by the Regional Legislative Assembly on 13 December 2021, via Resolution No. 25. Website**:** https://www.regione.marche.it/Entra-in-Regione/Sviluppo-Sostenibile/Strategia-Regionale-Sviluppo-Sostenibile.

Molise Region

The Strategy drafting process is being finalised. In April, the Strategy document will be shared within the institutional steering committee, and then submitted to the Regional Council for final approval. In February 2022 the Positioning Document of the Molise Region was approved via DGR (regional council resolution)

No. 46 of 25/02/2022. Website:
h[ttps://www.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17224.](https://www.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17224.)

Piemonte Region
The knowledge integration process for Regional Sustainable Development Strategy drafting was finalised. The final document outlining the objectives to be pursued in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy was defined, involving a wide range of institutional actors and the private production system. The document lays down the Region's context, the vision for its territory, policy guidance, and the 7 identified strategic macro-areas, with strategic objectives and indicators. The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy was recently shared with a Regional Council delegation, and is to be approved by April 2022 via an *ad-hoc* regional council resolution. The first draft of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2021) is available online; as soon as the formal approval process by the Regional Council has been completed, the final text will be published. Website: www.regione.piemonte.it/web/temi/strategia-sviluppo-sostenibile/strategia-regionale-per-sviluppo-sostenibile-0.

Puglia Region
With DGR (regional council resolution) No. 687 of 26 April 2021, the Strategy preliminary document was approved. Link to the DGR: https://burp.regione.puglia.it/documents/20135/1510140/DEL_687_2021.pdf/1e72b21a-1af1-da91-9909-1a11878d6eb9?t=1623140062834.

Sardegna Region
Approved via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 39/56, dated 8 October 2021. Link to the DGR: delibere.regione.sardegna.it/en/visuali_delibera.page;jsessionid=0380B26175905AD29920320426058505.app4?contentId=DBR57095.

Sicilia Region
The Strategy drafting process has not been finalised; it is expected to be completed by May 2022. Website: pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_LaStrutturaRegionale/PIR_PresidenzadellaRegione/uffici_diretta_collaborazione_Presidente/Trasparenza/decreti_presidenziali/PIR_DecretiPresidenzialiAnno2019/D.P.%20519%20GAB%20del%2020%20marzo%202019%20Istit%20presso%20Ass.to%20Terri.pdf.

Toscana Region
The first Strategy proposal was submitted to the Council on 29 December 2020. Link to the document: www.regione.toscana.it/documents/10180/25834939/ALLA_documento+di+strategia.pdf/ec0fd922-067f-4132-b451-760912049735?t=1614585655469.

Umbria Region
The first proposal (preliminary Regional Strategy) was pre-adopted by the Regional Council via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 1016 of 17 October 2021. It is expected to be approved by 2022. Website: www.regione.umbria.it/ambiente/sviluppo-sostenibile.

Valle d'Aosta Region
The Strategy is currently being drafted. Website: https://svilupposostenibile.vda.it/home,

Veneto Region
The Regional Sustainable Development Strategy was approved by the Regional Council via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 80 of 20 July 2020. Website: venetosostenibile.regione.veneto.it/.

Autonomous Province of Bolzano
On 20/07/2021 the Provincial Council approved the strategic document "Everyday for future – Together for Sustainability". Website: assets-eu-01.kc-usercontent.com/bad10f1e-e9af-0140-aa47-ca5379671ba5/3828f8f0-7fc6-4dd6-bb31-53a5045e9664/WEB-sostenibilita-paper-it.pdf.

Autonomous Province of Trento
Completed in May 2021 and approved by the Provincial Council on 15 October 2021. Link to the Provincial Sustainable Development Strategy: https://agenda2030.provincia.tn.it/Trentino-2030/Strategia-provinciale-SproSS; Link to the document https://agenda2030.provincia.tn.it/content/download/8212/151863/file/SproSS%20def_15.10.2021.pdf.

FOCUS – METROPOLITAN AGENDAS FOR SD: DRAFTING PROGRESS UPDATES

Metropolitan City of Bari
The Metropolitan Agenda drafting process takes place in parallel with developing the Strategic Plan hinged within the participatory path a.k.a. "Bari 2030" (launched in September 2019). On 31 July 2021, the "Proposed Agenda for Sustainable Development of the Metropolitan City – Interim Report" was delivered to the Metropolitan City administration. To be followed by the "Final Report".

Metropolitan City of Bologna
Agenda 2.0 is complete, and the document was presented on 24 June 2021. All the documentation is published at: www.cittametropolitana.bo.it/agenda_sviluppo_sostenibile/.

Metropolitan City of Cagliari
The Agenda is being drafted. It is expected to be completed by 30 June 2022. Website: www.cittametropolitanacagliari.it/web/cmdca/sostenibilità-e-monitoraggio.

Metropolitan City of Catania
The programme drafting and implementation process started in October 2021. The Agenda is expected to be finalised by 30 June 2022.

Metropolitan City of Firenze
The Metropolitan City administration drafted the diagnostic document titled Voluntary Local Review (VLR) – the first of a kind in Italy – and presented it to the UN HLPF in July 2021: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/florence_2021_it.pdf. On 9 March 2022, the Metropolitan Council adopted the 2030 Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development: https://www.cittametropolitana.fi.it/wp-content/uploads/AgendaAdottata.pdf. The Agenda consists of 10 Metropolitan Goals for 2030 and two Sustainability Vectors. All local stakeholders, actors and citizens were given the opportunity to submit comments to the Agenda by 14 April 2022. The 2030 Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development is expected to be approved in 2022.

Metropolitan City of Genova
The Sustainable Development Agenda offers an up-to-date strategic vision of the Metropolitan City of Genoa, to orient the objectives and actions of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan (MSP) towards environmental, social and economic sustainability on action priorities aligned with the missions of the

National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The year 2021 provided a key opportunity to rethink the Metropolitan City's strategies in terms of contents and methods. The Strategic Plan update, still in progress, intends to propose a cross-cutting key of reading with other planning tools (territorial plan (*PTG*), sustainable mobility plan (*PUMS*; *BICIPLAN*), and Waste Plan) – aware that only a unified approach enables developing effectively sustainable strategic planning. A task force was set up to update the MSP, through a context analysis to identify the main strengths/weaknesses and development opportunities for the metropolitan area, and a guidance document. An integrated monitoring system (Datalab) is also being set up.

Metropolitan City of Messina
The second phase of the involvement of local institutions and civil society is complete (see dedicated platform: https://agendamessinapartecipazione.it/). The third phase (Agenda drafting and project-designing of pilot actions) started in February 2022 and is to end by April 2022. Website: www.cittametropolitana.me.it/metrocitizen/.

Metropolitan City of Milano
The Agenda drafting process began in February 2020 and is to be completed by December 2022. To date, know-how and supporting tools have been created for defining the strategies: Netlab, Datalab, School of Sustainability. Information is available on the website: www.cittametropolitana.mi.it/Agenda_metropolitana_sviluppo_sostenibile/.

Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria
The Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development construction process was set in motion with the launch of the "RC Metro Citizens in Transition" pilot project, within the cooperation agreement between MiTE and Sector 5 – Professional Training of the Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria. The Agenda is conceived as a device for integrating, guiding and monitoring the planning tools in force and/or in the process of being adopted by the Metropolitan City government, in particular the Metropolitan Strategic Plan being drafted, but also territorial investments (a.k.a. "Metro" NOP, Pacts for Southern Italy, ROPs 2021-27, etc.), through the NSDS sustainability vectors and strategic objectives. The Knowledge, Co-design and Goals Metrocity pilot actions defined the relevant trajectories and the guiding contents of the Agenda document: 1. Territory and Sustainable Communities in Transition; 2. Air and Climate; 3. New Geography of Relations: Commuting ("inner areas"); 4. Ecosystem services. Networks and flows (waste, water, energy); 5. Sustainable Visions. Website: www.rcmetrocitizensintransition.com.

Metropolitan City of Roma
The Agenda is developed in parallel and synergy with the Metropolitan City's strategic planning processes. A proposed "Sustainable Development Agenda of "Roma Capitale" Metropolitan City" was drawn up. The actions under the "*Metropoli Capitale – Sosteniamo il futuro*" (Metropolitan Capital City – Let's sustain the future) project for Agenda definition are to be completed by May 2022. The dedicated web page is being created. A part of the documents is available at: https://www.cittametropolitanaroma.it/homepage/la-citta-metropolitana/la-pianificazione-strategica/cose/documenti/.

Metropolitan City of Torino
The Agenda is being drafted; approval is expected by December 2022. The first internal phase of analysing the competencies and action lines for achieving the sustainable development objectives enabled identifying the first areas of integration among sustainability policies. It was also preparatory to the definition of the "Guidelines for construction of the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Metropolitan City of Turin and its territory", which took place through focus groups attended by the Metropolitan City of Turin, the Piedmont Region government, and researchers from the Technical Scientific Support Group. These guidelines identified, among other things, a framework of priorities on which to invest in relation to

the 6 Strategic Macro-Areas of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development and led to stimulating the "reasoned and conscious" involvement (within 10 focus groups) of a wide range of actors in the supra-metropolitan with strategic project-designing and guidance functions. A number of transversal activities ensured a multi-level governance pathway. Website: www.cittametropolitana.torino.it/cms/ambiente/agendametro-svil-sostenibile.

Metropolitan City of Venezia
A context analysis was conducted to identify the Metropolitan City of Venice positioning with respect to the 17 SDGs. An initial report was drawn up, identifying the key Goals for the metropolitan context (Goals 11, 13, 15 and 17). Website: www.cittametropolitana.ve.it/progetti_in_corso/progetto-pages-dal-piano-strategico-allagenda-lo-sviluppo-sostenibile-della-citt%C3%A0.

4.3   SD multilevel governance

Territorial strategies, likewise the NSDS, are intended to be the strategic reference framework for integration and coherence of sector policies in the pursuit of sustainability objectives. Therefore, in line with the national path, drawing on the commitments made within cooperation agreements with MiTE, Italian territories began to work on establishing processes to define and implement their own sustainable development strategies. A key role was played by the definition of a governance system capable of coordinating, in an integrated manner, objectives and actions relating to all dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic and social), guaranteeing inter-sectoral link and dialogue between the several competencies involved. Therefore, in accordance with the operational lines set in the cooperation agreements, the regional, autonomous provincial and metropolitan administrations established steering committees aimed at providing essential guidance on territorial strategic processes in line with sustainable development principles, through mechanisms supporting and encouraging the integration of policies within the same institutional level and promoting multi-level coordination. MiTE is also supporting multi-level territorial governance strengthening, through mechanisms and tools that promote dialogue, collaboration, methodological debate, and exchange of experiences between administrations, and that are functional to NSDS implementation and review, as well as to the definition and implementation of territorial strategies for sustainable development.

INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NSDS AND 2030 AGENDA

REGIONS AND AUTONOMOUS PROVINCES

Since the approval of its NSDS in 2017, Italy has constantly promoted support to the regional and provincial entities engaged in fulfilling the Strategy as per Article 34 of Legislative Decree No. 152 of 3 April 2006 (and subsequent amendments and integrations), regarding NSDS implementation, mainly for its transposition within the Regional and Provincial Sustainable Development Strategies. As per the aforementioned Article, the Strategies shall indicate: Region's contribution to national objectives; priorities; instruments to be activated; and actions to be undertaken. Furthermore, Regions and Autonomous Provinces are required to ensure joint planning and support local administrations that must provide themselves with coherent strategic instruments to contribute to achieving the objectives pursued by the regional strategies.

To this end, in implementation of the aforementioned regulatory requirements, MiTE published **two notices for submission of Expressions of Interest (EoIs) addressed to Regions and Autonomous Provinces** in 2018 and 2019, which led to signing cooperation agreements with all Regions and Autonomous Province of Trento, allocating the same amount to each of the administrations involved. All intervention proposals signed in the framework of the **first notice** include activities under 3 intervention categories envisaged therein, as per Article 34. With the **second notice**, MiTE intended to promote strengthening and expansion of existing activities for sustainable development strategies governance (Category A) – promoting the expansion of local institutions' involvement and initiatives in synergy with Metropolitan Cities – and civil society involvement (Category B). Two new areas of activity were added under Category C. The first (sub-category C5) promotes interventions aimed at defining priority areas for integrated action at regional level to concretely implement sustainability strategies. In this regard, the intervention areas identified by the technical roundtables between MiTE and Regions and Autonomous Provinces, within the interregional groupings are of key importance, including: Resilience of territories; Implementation of sustainability monitoring and assessment system at a municipal/over-municipal scale; Circular economy; Sustainability and adaptation. The second (C6) envisages the implementation of activities for creation of strategic frameworks linking regional objectives, national framework, and programming and planning tools also at a territorial level. The objective is to build integrated systems for monitoring and evaluating policies, plans, programmes and projects. These systems can provide the reference framework for analysis and assessment of the overall effects of the whole decision-making process on the NSOs, making it possible to understand whether and how the dynamics at work in the territories are consistent with the objectives pursued.

regional agreements 2018 2019 2020
available categories of intervention (at least 2 each)

GOVERNANCE		PARTECIPATION	TECHNICAL CONTENT SRSVS	
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL		CIVIL SOCIETY		
Steering committee INTERDIPARTIMENTAL	A1. Steering committee establishment	B1. Forum for SD establishment	C1. Positioning	towards NSDS + SDGs
	A3. Steering committee management	B3. Forum for SD management		
sinergy with existing networks & initiatives	A2. LOCAL ENTITIES involvement	sinergy with existing groups and platforms	C2. regional objectives and priorities	contribution to National Objectives NSDS
sinergy with metropolitan agenda/strat. planning	A3. relationship with metropolitan cities	B2.B4. other engagement initiatives	C3. indicators and monitoring	to be part of integrated monitoring NSDS
		schools and territories	C4. relationship regional DEF	BES integration into national DEF
		SD education	C5. priorities for integrated policy	
			C6. SRSvS and public policy assessment	

*SRSvS: Regional Strategy for SD

fig 9 MiTE - Regions and Autonomous Provinces cooperation agreements by category and sub-category of intervention (Source: MiTE - 2022)

With regard to the action priorities set by Regions and Autonomous Provinces (as shown by the human and economic resources allocated to the intervention categories within cooperation agreements with MiTE), an initial effort was required on the part of all administrations to design and construct key elements for the definition of regional and provincial strategies on sustainable development as outlined in the three intervention categories, also making use of the technical-scientific support of external entities (regional agencies and bodies, universities, research centres, and other bodies and associations). A smaller percentage of the agreements' resources was earmarked for governance actions (Cat. A), to establish steering committees and build tools and operating mechanisms. Conversely, a more significant percentage was earmarked for: establishing and managing territorial fora; implementing involvement, education, training and information actions (Cat. B); defining strategic objectives (starting from positioning analyses) and links with other programming and planning tools, and constructing the monitoring systems and set of indicators. Subsequently, with the second agreements, the administrations decided to continue to invest in strengthening the process governance (Cat. A), favouring civil servants training, and above all strengthening consultation and involvement of civil society and non-State actors through territorial fora and dissemination of a "sustainability culture", notably to develop new skills (disciplinary, methodological, social, personal, etc.), build and share a common language, and enhance communication skills that are fundamental for implementing change (Cat. B). Furthermore, Regions and Autonomous Provinces are carrying out processes to define and implement regional strategies (Cat. C) and actions aimed at defining priority areas for regional integrated actions and devising strategic frameworks to link regional objectives, the national framework, and programming and planning tools, including at territorial level. All this is in line with the

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national pathway for 2022 NSDS review, to support collaboration with territories and stakeholders (notably through the Sustainability Vectors) in order to enable, strengthen and integrate the necessary tools and mechanisms for implementation of sustainability strategies and to concretely promote and implement Italy's sustainable recovery and the change advocated by the 2030 Agenda.
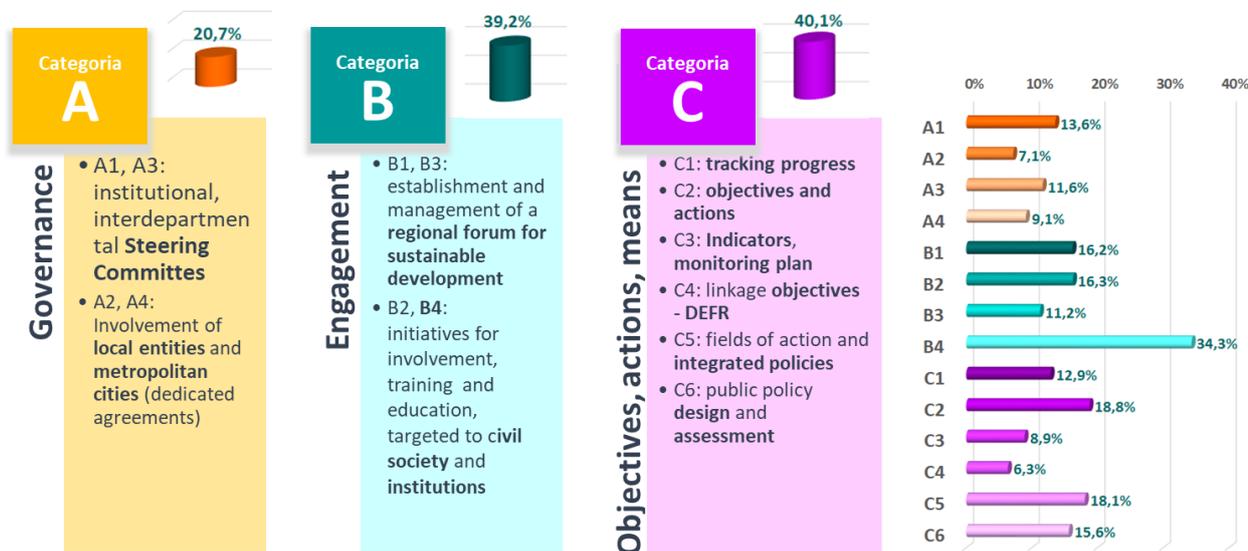

fig 9 **Breakdown of human and economic resources (MiTE + Regions and Autonomous Provinces) by category and sub-category of intervention under cooperation agreements with MiTE** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

METROPOLITAN CITIES

Following the 2018 public notice addressed to Regions and Autonomous Provinces for implementation of regional sustainable development strategies, on **30 July 2019**, MiTE also published a public notice addressed to **Metropolitan Cities** for submission of Expressions of Interest (EoIs) for activities pursuant to Article 34 of Legislative Decree No. 152/2006 (and subsequent amendments and integrations). All 14 Metropolitan Cities submitted their EoIs, and cooperation agreements were signed with all of them.

The purpose of the Notice is to develop cooperation channels with Metropolitan Cities to define coherent strategic tools contributing to the objectives pursued by the regional strategies for sustainable development, currently being defined by Regions and Autonomous Provinces. In particular, the Notice intends to activate a cooperation path to define **Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development**, oriented towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national and regional sustainable development strategies with reference to social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability. The Agendas are intended to serve several purposes, such as:

- Strengthening and qualifying the focus on sustainable development within metropolitan strategic plans, with a view to fully integrating all dimensions of sustainability into metropolitan planning, programming and management tools;
- Promoting, in coordination with local institutions and metropolitan actors, integrated sustainable development actions;

- Raising awareness and fostering social and entrepreneurial activation on sustainability issues, also through widest involvement of citizens and civil society.

The Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development therefore does not represent a new and additional planning tool; rather it is a device for integrating and orienting the instruments in force and/or in the process of being adopted. As in the case of Regions and Autonomous Provinces, the Notice requires that project proposals be oriented towards at least two of the abovementioned categories of intervention.

Within the cooperation agreements stipulated with MiTE, Metropolitan Cities (as well as Regions and Autonomous Provinces) allocated human and economic resources to implement actions pertaining to all three categories of intervention, starting from establishment of steering committees to ensure the integration of policies and cross-sectoral collaboration and dialogue and favoring coordination between the Metropolitan Agenda and the sectoral programming and planning tools (National Recovery and Resilience Plan, MSP). Metropolitan Cities also strengthened involvement and consultation of civil society and non-State actors, also by enhancing links with regional fora and implementing actions aimed at developing a sustainability culture through education, training, information and communication activities. In addition, approximately half of the resources were allocated, on the one hand, to the definition of the Metropolitan Agenda document and its objectives, in particular through integration with the Metropolitan Strategic Plan (MSP) and, on the other, to the implementation of pilot actions meant as innovative multidimensional initiatives and projects, capable of integrating different policy areas and introducing experimental methods, approaches and fields of intervention, which can be modelled and potentially transferred to other contexts and areas of intervention (cf. para. 1.4.3) in which the strategic sustainability objectives find their concrete implementation in the territories.
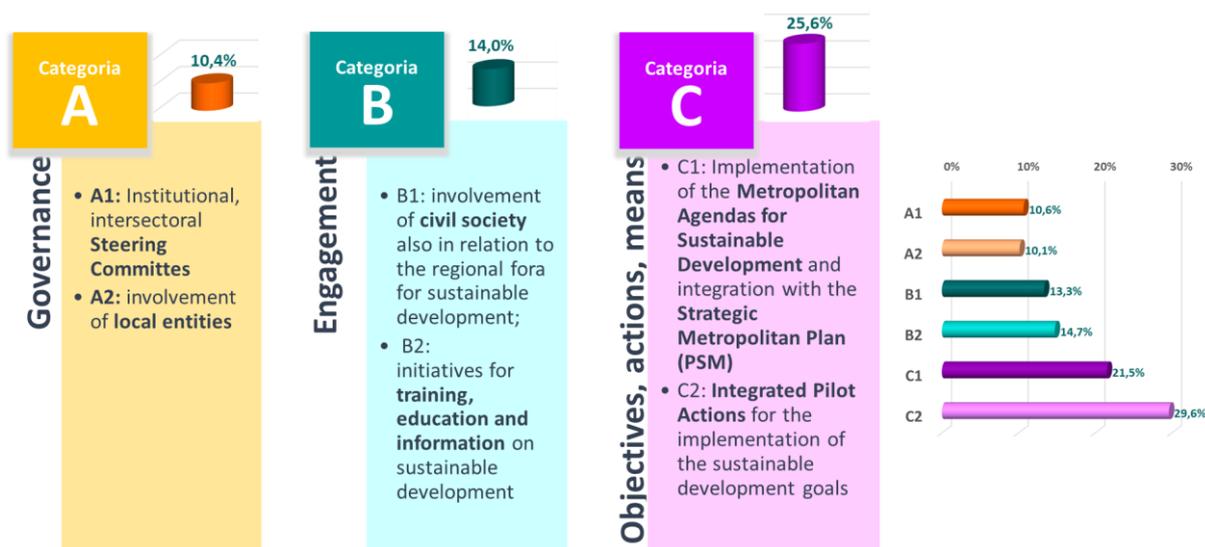

fig 10 Breakdown of human and economic resources (MiTE + Metropolitan cities) by category and sub-category of intervention under cooperation agreements with MiTE (Source: MiTE - 2022)

TERRITORIAL STEERING COMMITTEES

In line with the path outlined in the cooperation agreements with MiTE, almost all **Regions and Autonomous Provinces** (19 out of 21) established, through formal acts, internal steering committees within their respective public administrations, which have proved to be essential in building

sustainability strategies to ensure the integration of policies and strong correlation between the three dimensions of sustainability and to promote collaboration and cross-sectoral dialogue.

Several administrations established their steering committees within their Presidency Cabinet or General Secretariat in order to maximise the capacity to coordinate the process of building and implementing the NSDS. In most administrations, the steering committees are entrusted to the departments a.k.a "*assessorati*", DGs or services, many of which are in charge of environmental topics. In only one case they fall within the economic development remit, also providing for creation and operation of the necessary mechanisms involving all the internal structures concerned. In general, all administrations set up working groups or coordination tables (e.g. interdepartmental), which include contact persons for all three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, social and economic). These internal structures are generally complemented with external subjects, including provinces, agencies, regional structures or bodies (*ARPA, APPA*), *ANCI*, other public bodies (e.g., universities) or third parties providing technical-scientific support.

In several territories, relevant administrations also make use of MoUs between the public and private actors involved, for definition of reciprocal commitments to build sustainability strategies. In addition, interactions with Metropolitan Cities were activated or, where they already existed, collaboration between administrations was strengthened.
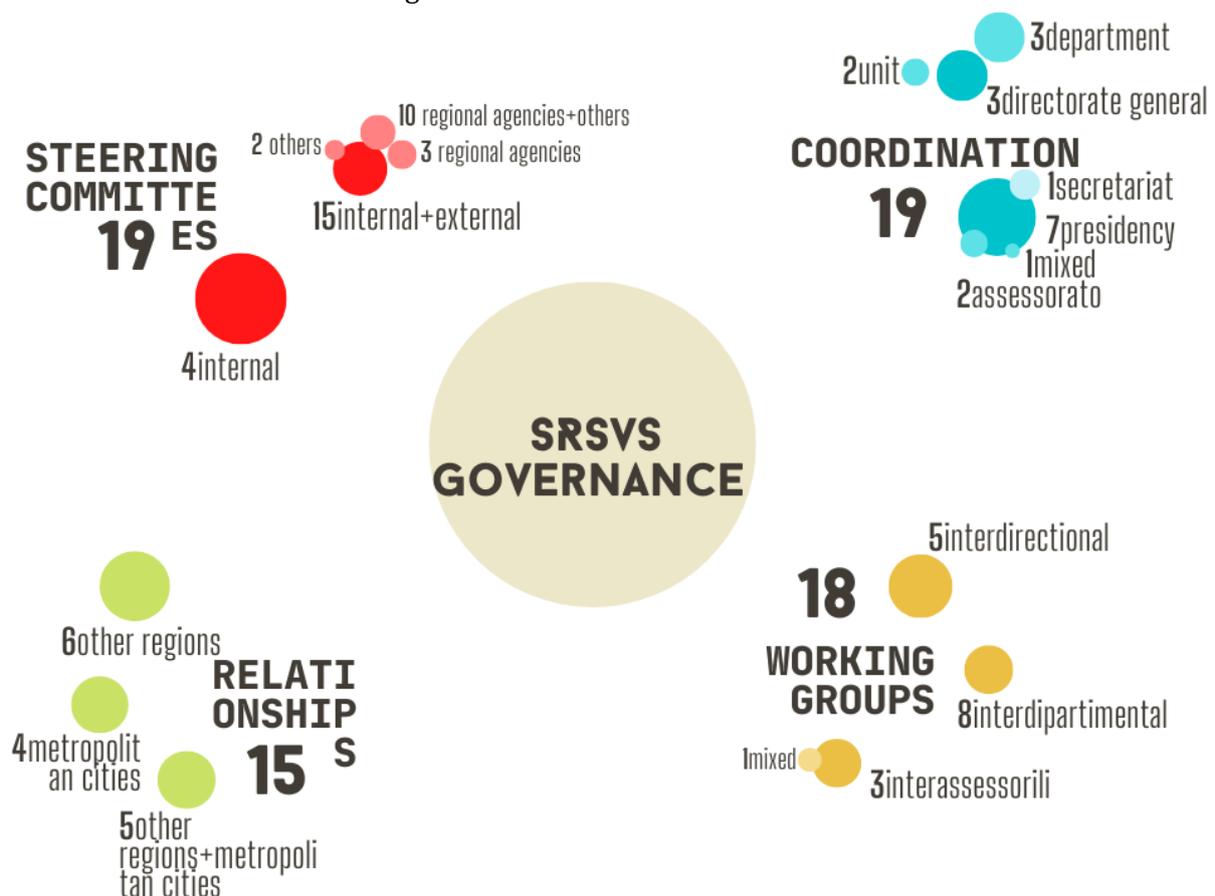

fig 11 **Regional steering committees** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

Similarly, the steering committees established by all **14 Metropolitan Cities**, in most cases through formal acts, coordinate the process of defining and implementing the Metropolitan Agendas for

Sustainable Development and ensure integration with the Metropolitan Strategic Plan (MSP) and other sectoral planning and programming tools (e.g. National Recovery and Resilience Plan, SUMP, MTP, SPD[11]). Metropolitan Agendas are devised not so much as a new and additional planning tool, rather as a device for integrating and orienting the instruments in force and/or in the process of being adopted. In order to favour this process, MiTE initiated (as from the definition of collaboration agreements with Metropolitan Cities) liaising with ANCI, already involved in the "Strategic Metropolitan Cities" project that supports the definition and update of Metropolitan Strategic Plans.
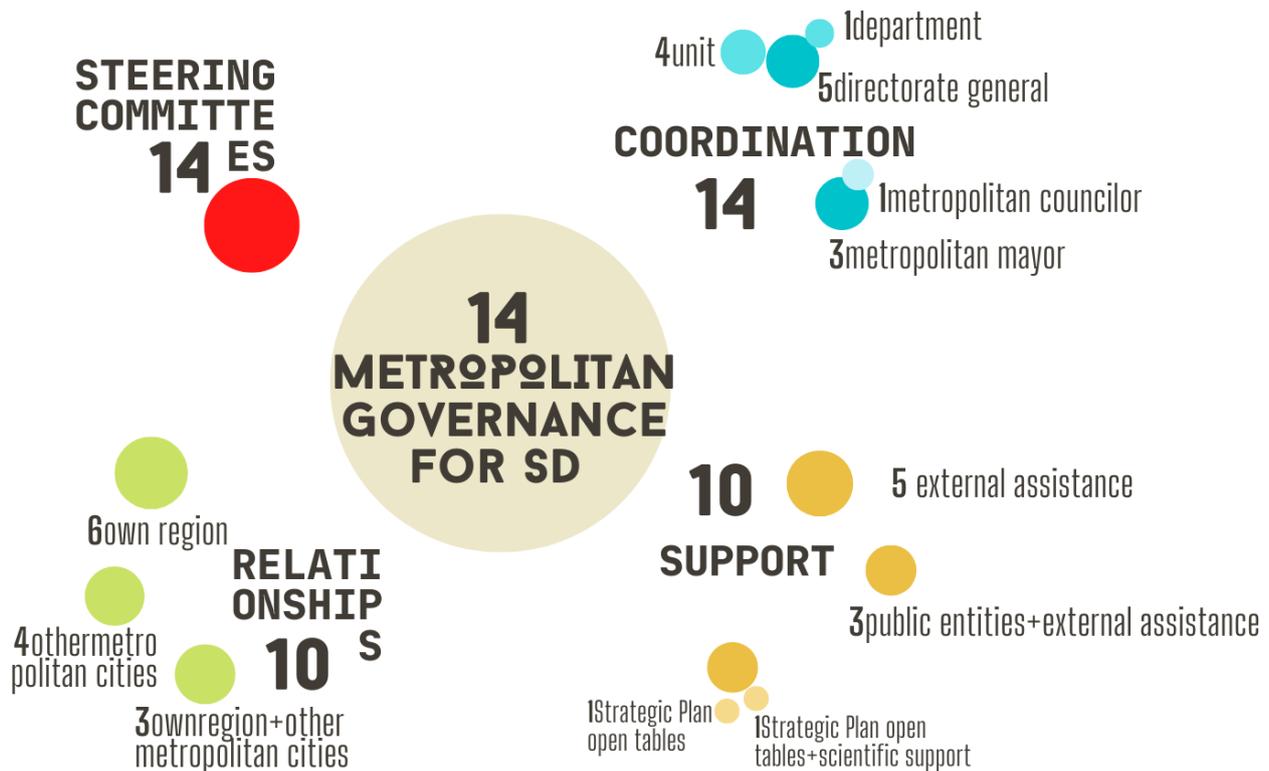
fig 12 **Metropolitan steering committees** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

Steering committees also represent the forum for monitoring on the achievement of sustainability objectives in metropolitan territories and promote the correlation between the definition and the implementation of the Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development and the definition of the Sustainable Development Strategy of the reference Region.

In detail, the governance models adopted by Metropolitan Cities enable identifying some recurring organisational levels, which are organised differently across the several territories:

- Political-strategic coordination level: includes the Metropolitan Mayor, who generally presides over the steering committee, as well as the Cabinet of the Metropolitan Mayor, the General Secretariat and, in some cases, the Metropolitan Council.
- Coordination level with steering functions: Comprises DGs and Managers of Departments involved in the process, representing the three dimensions of sustainability.

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[11] SUMP – Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, MTP – Metropolitan Territorial Plan, SPD – Single Programming Document.

- - Operational level: Includes Managers of Departments involved in the process, Sectors, Services and contact persons of the Technical Tables, Groups and Offices.
  - External technical-scientific support: From structures and organisations outside the administrations, mainly represented by universities, research institutes and centers, agencies, and private subjects.

With regard to the correlation between the governance of the Metropolitan Strategic Plans and that of the Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development, all 14 Metropolitan Cities developed synergies between the two instruments – e.g., by providing: links between the related steering committees, shared consultation spaces, entities already set up when the MSP was drafted, or coherence analyses to identify shared strategic objectives and a common pace of action.

In line with the collaborative approach adopted at national level, more than half Metropolitan Cities also activated dialogue and exchange initiatives, including structured and steady ones (e.g. inter-institutional working groups, discussion tables, etc.), with other Metropolitan Cities or with the reference Regions.

FOCUS – TERRITORIAL STEERING COMMITTEES AND NAP-PCSD

The NSDS 2022 and the NAP PCSD aim at strengthening and enabling the multilevel and multi-stakeholder processes that have been activated in the context of the NSDS implementation process between national and territorial levels, ensuring a shared working method that makes inter-institutional collaboration, vertical and horizontal, and with non-state actors one of the pillars of the implementation process. The consolidation of the steering committees (Territorial Cabine di Regia), together with the Technical Roundtables (Tavoli di Confronto) activated as part of the collaboration between MiTE and Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities, will promote a stable and horizontal collaboration process between and within the administrations.

MULTILEVEL COLLABORATION

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 34 of Legislative Decree 152/2006 and subsequent amendments and integrations, in order to favour multi-level territorial governance, mechanisms of institutional interaction and coordination were activated with the support of Line L2WP1 of the "CReIAMO PA" project.

In particular, an interinstitutional roundtable was set up involving MiTE, Regions and Autonomous Provinces, with the participation of MiTE's working group contact persons and regional and provincial administrations, as identified by their Presidents and/or included as administrative contact persons for cooperation agreements. Representatives of central institutions interested in the topics under discussion may also participate. The Roundtable acts as a place for exchange of experiences and methodological debate that is functional to NSDS implementation and review, and elaboration and implementation of the Regional Strategies for Sustainable Development. In this context, efforts were made to build collaborative networks both amongst Regions and with the territorial levels, through enhanced interaction with Metropolitan Cities and local authorities, and creation of regional/provincial fora for civil society involvement in the elaboration of strategies.

The main evidence emerging from the roundtable concerns, first of all, the importance of increasingly consolidating the interdepartmental governance systems created within each administration and favouring the establishment of inter-sectoral working groups that guarantee the breaking-down of

sustainability objectives at sectoral planning/programming level, expanding cooperation and synergies. Such internal improvements also require a corresponding coordination action at national level to build an integrated monitoring system, involving all territorial levels, and to define a shared pattern of accountability and narration of the results achieved to guarantee clear information and conscious involvement of civil society. Among necessary support tools for transforming the processes for definition and evaluation of public policies, the Roundtable identified the alignment with the 2021-2027 programming cycle (including NEXT Generation EU funds) and coherence of sectoral policies at the different territorial levels to jointly achieve the 2030 Agenda objectives. The Roundtable was operationally involved both in the NSDS review path and in the project titled "Policy coherence for sustainable development: mainstreaming the SDGs in Italian decision-making process" (PCSD).

Since its establishment in April 2018, the Roundtable met 13 times, fostering discussion on the above-mentioned topics, including contributions to the NSDS review, preparing the VNR, and coordinating the VLRs annexed to it.

Replicating the liaising patterns adopted with Regions and Autonomous Provinces, MiTE activated, in the sphere of Line L2WP1 of the "CReIAMO PA" project, the **Roundtable with Metropolitan Cities,** joined by the representatives of the cooperation agreements signed with MiTE. The Roundtable is aimed at linking the different metropolitan realities, promoting exchange of experiences and sharing of methodological approaches that are functional to the construction of Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development, as reference frameworks to orient metropolitan-level planning and programming towards integrated urban sustainability objectives in coherence with national and regional strategic guidelines.

The initial meetings aimed to share the general framework of the interventions activated by Metropolitan Cities within the cooperation agreements signed with MiTE, in order to partake the approaches adopted by several administrations both to build the multi-sectoral governance system of the strategic process and to involve local actors and civil society. Furthermore, proposals to pilot actions were considered of major importance to test innovative and integrated approaches to sustainability in urban areas, which act on different thematic areas and can be shared and replicated by all cities. The role of the Metropolitan Agenda for Sustainable Development as a device for guiding and integrating existing or emerging planning and programming tools was also explored. Metropolitan Cities also made a valuable contribution to analysing and integrating indicators, initiated within the Roundtable involving Regions and Autonomous Provinces, by providing information on indicators for monitoring sustainability objectives that can be applied to the metropolitan level.

As with the Roundtable involving Regions and Autonomous Provinces, also the Metropolitan Cities Roundtable shared the NSDS review process, and possible contributions from Metropolitan Cities were highlighted. Through the activities initiated for defining their own Sustainable Development Agendas, Metropolitan Cities were able to better clarify the point of views and needs for effective implementation and monitoring of integrated interventions for urban sustainability. Similarly, metropolitan authorities were operationally involved in the definition of the NAP-PCSD. Since its establishment in April 2020, Roundtable involving MiTE and Metropolitan Cities met 10 times, accompanying the Metropolitan Agendas definition process that will be completed by 2022.

Despite the critical issues that marked these pandemic years, the intensive activity carried out by the two Roundtable enabled accelerating strategic processes for sustainable development at local level and

further stimulated the debate and exchange between actors at the various institutional levels. The network of relations was gradually consolidated, creating and/or strengthening cooperation between bodies aimed at exploring new ways of integrating the dimensions of sustainability into the planning, programming and management tools adopted by relevant entities. Moreover, the progress and outcomes of the winning research projects of the "Call for promotion of research projects to support NSDS implementation"[12], launched by MiTE on 6 September 2019, were periodically illustrated and shared, within the work performed by the Roundtable, also focusing on methods and tools for sustainability break-down at territorial levels.

The enabling and liaising actions carried out by MiTE over the past three years resulted in strengthened coherence of sustainability objectives and actions, and laid the foundations for co-designing innovative and multidimensional projects for sustainability break-down at local levels across the Regions and Metropolitan Cities to which they belong. Awareness rose amongst institutional actors that real change towards sustainability cannot disregard the activation of enterprises and social actors operating within the territories involved and the broader participation of citizens and civil society to raise awareness and accountability on sustainability objectives.

These Roundtable, together with the pathways for policy coherence and other action lines of the "CReIAMO PA" project, supported the activation and **strengthening of cooperation initiatives across territories** (between Regions, between Metropolitan Cities, as well as between Regions and Metropolitan Cities) for implementation of territorial strategies, also through shared objectives related to priority themes of common interest (e.g. climate change, resilience, environmental assessments, IT platforms, etc.). These cooperation paths fostered, in the framework of the 2022 VNR, the presentation of integrated VLRs between Regions and Metropolitan Cities and between Regions that share and pursue common sustainability objectives in an integrated way.

As to **active involvement of local authorities and their interaction**, different approaches and tools were implemented by regional and metropolitan administrations. Regions and Autonomous Provinces used more structured and ongoing cooperation mechanisms (agreements; working tables) and time-targeted forms of consultation, training and communication (in-presence/on-line meetings, training and capacity-building courses, communication activities, cognitive surveys through questionnaires and interviews, and recognition of good practices). All Metropolitan Cities activated mechanisms and tools aimed at collecting local authorities' proposals to more effectively define strategic objectives and promote their implementation in the relevant territories, in some cases also supported by ANCI. Territorial Strategies have a direct impact on Municipalities' planning, regulatory and programming activities; furthermore, they can provide guidance on local-scale project-designing, and identifying and best using the sources of funding largely addressed to local authorities, notably in this historical moment (including National Recovery and Resilience Plan, and 2021-2027 EU Cohesion Policy cycle).

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[6] The call for proposals, financed via MiTE ordinary resources, was addressed to university institutions accredited by MIUR, public and private research bodies, departments, institutes or alike, research organisations, consortia, inter-university consortia and foundations. Proposals could fall within two categories: Category 1 – Research projects supporting the elaboration and implementation of regional and provincial strategies for sustainable development; Category 2 – Research projects on priority themes for NSDS implementation.

4.4 Territorial Strategies: sustainable development frameworks for PCSD

To support the implementation of territorial strategies for sustainable development, specific activities were carried out to promote regional, provincial and metropolitan paths, through UE Cohesion Policy funding[13] , providing:

- Pilot testing of integrated and cross-sectoral approaches of regional level policies with a view to sustainability;
- Involvement of territorial levels and civil society in the strategic process for sustainable development;
- Definition of common tools for assessing the contribution of policy coherence for the 2021-2027 programming tools.

Specifically, the **first typology of accompanying paths** includes activities related to the following groups: "Piemonte - Lombardia - Emilia Romagna", focussing on Circular Economy as a domain of in-depth study; "Umbria - Marche - Abruzzo", united by the seismic events of 2016-2017 and identifying Territorial, Economic and Social Resilience as a priority field of discussion; "Sardegna - Liguria - Puglia-Lazio" – working on the relationship between the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation to identify the most effective solutions to ensure maximum synergy between the two regional instruments; "Calabria – Sicilia – Campania", which analyses in depth the aspects related to biodiversity, landscape and territorial development.

The **second typology of accompanying paths**, which focuses on the break-down of sustainability objectives at territorial level, involves: "Veneto – Friuli Venezia Giulia – Valle d'Aosta – AP of Trento", which analyses in depth both the approaches adopted to build participatory processes to define the Strategies widely shared by Local Authorities and civil society as a whole, and the definition of a system of indicators applicable to the level of regional sub-environments; "Metropolitan Cities" to foster the creation of participatory processes aimed at constructing Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development that are strongly integrated with regional strategic guidelines and aim at concrete implementation of sustainability objectives across territories, also through innovative, multidimensional and multi-sectoral pilot actions.

The **third typology of accompanying paths** instead concerns cross-cutting topics involving Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities as a whole. In particular, one pathway analyses in depth the topic of common indicators for NSDS integrated monitoring. The Regions, Autonomous Province of Trento, and Metropolitan Cities that had already carried out work on regional/local level indicators provided their contributions to MiTE's working group to integrate the information in the overall matrix of NSDS indicators. The objective is to highlight the indicators most used by Regions and Metropolitan Cities and, through them, verify which additional indicators could be integrated in the minimum set identified by the National Indicators Table, in order to guarantee full coverage and monitoring of all the objectives pursued by the National Strategy (see paragraph 1.4). The other pathway for integration between Regional and Provincial Strategies and the 2021-2027 programming cycle (see chapter 2) will enable Regions and Autonomous Provinces to draw upon a reference framework and evaluate the

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[13] L2WP1 intervention line of the CReIAMO PA project, Programme on Governance and Institutional Capacity for the 2014-2020 period - http://www.pongovernance1420.gov.it/en/

contribution made by current EU Cohesion Policy to the effective implementation of their respective Sustainable Development Strategies. In addition[14], an interactive consultation tool was devised via Power BI software, which allows for dynamic visualization of interrelationships between the NSDS, the 2030 Agenda, and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan[15], thus making it possible to align the three strategic documents and provide a transversal reading [16].

The grouping activity also drew upon thematic in-depth studies (Climate Change Adaptation, Environmental Assessments, Circular Economy, etc.) carried out within the other action lines of the "CReIAMO PA" project and the scientific contributions currently being developed by research organisations within the projects financed by MiTE's Call for Proposals (see Chapter 4). Since the start of the "CReIAMO PA" project, 73 coaching days were implemented[17]. The outcomes of the coaching activities carried out in the framework of the three macro-pathways were gradually shared within the meetings of the Discussion Tables with the Autonomous Regions/Provinces and Metropolitan Cities, boosting joint reflections and further insights on common interest issues, to increasingly enrich the partnership relationship in a process of ongoing exchange and learning.

Coaching activities were complemented with *ad-hoc* moments of synthesis of the activities carried out through in-depth **workshops**, addressed to the above groupings and focussing on key topics.

BUILDING PCSD AT SUBNATIONAL LEVEL

The activities carried out by MiTE in support of the pathways for defining territorial sustainability strategies are favouring the process of alignment and integration of public policies. As a result, to date more than half of Italy's **Regions and Autonomous Provinces** identify their Regional or Provincial Sustainable Development Strategies as the unitary reference framework for policy coherence, while others are working on the integration of strategic sustainability objectives into existing pathways and instruments.

In several cases, integration starts from strategic planning documents (e.g. SPD, RDP, PDP, RSF[18]), through correlated sustainability objectives and economic and financial documents issued by Regions and Autonomous Provinces, supported by coherence analyses and integrated monitoring systems. With regard to the latter item, in several cases the strategies link up with the missions and specific objectives of the Economic and Financial Document and take up the proposals for action that best meet strategic sustainability objectives, also to realign them with these objectives. Conversely, in other cases, it is the

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[14] In 2020, MiTE signed a cooperation agreement with an inter-university working group, which brings together three public universities in Rome: The Department of Architecture of Roma Tre (lead partner), the Department of Management and Law of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", and the Department of Social and Economic Sciences of the University of Rome "La Sapienza". The agreement is aimed at disseminating knowledge of the NSDS and its implementation and review processes, and at sharing, supporting and disseminating the activities of the Sustainable Development Forum across the academic, institutional and civil society domains.

[15] The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Italy's *PNRR*) is the document prepared by each EU Member State in 2021 to access Next Generation EU (NGEU) funds, the tool introduced by the European Union for post-Covid-19 recovery, boosting the economies of Member States.

[16] https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/la-strategia-nazionale-lo-sviluppo-sostenibile.

[17] Data updated at 14 April 2022.

[18] SPD (Single Programming Document), RDP (Regional Development Programme), PDP - Provincial Development Programme; RSF (Regional Strategic Framework).

financial document of the Region/Autonomous Province that integrates the contents of regional sustainable development strategies and guides the identification of territorial sustainability objectives, ensuring consistency with sectoral policy priorities.

Within most administrations, paths were undertaken to integrate sustainable development strategies with the 2021-2027 EU Cohesion Policy cycle, also through the accompanying paths described in the previous paragraph. The several approaches adopted fall within two macro-typologies: direct participation of regional programming contact persons in the steering committee established to define the Regional Sustainable Development Strategies: liaising with the subjects involved in the Cohesion Policy programming process (Managing Authorities of Programmes and/or with Environmental Authorities and/or with the Public Investment Evaluation and Verification Units), through periodical meetings, working groups, and/or questionnaires. In several cases, discussions were initiated with relevant national structures for European programming to identify useful indicators for verifying the contribution made by Cohesion Policy interventions to the achievement of sustainability objectives. This recognition often enabled creating integrated databases and regional platforms/dashboards for unitary monitoring of regional programming actions linkable to sustainability indicators.
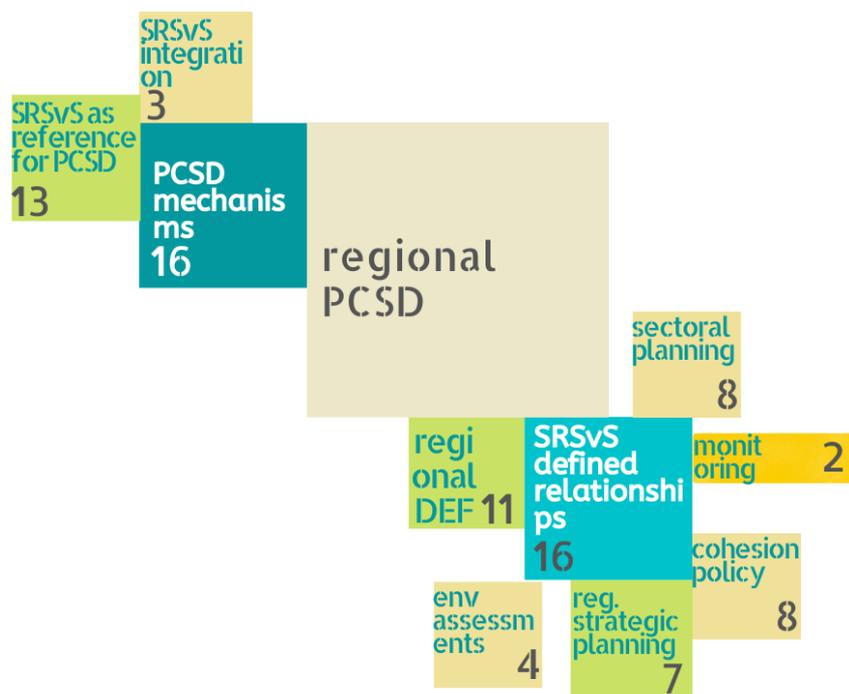

fig 13 **SRSvS for regional PCSD** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

At **metropolitan level**, the Sustainable Development Agendas were promptly designed within cooperation agreements with MiTE as frameworks for policy coherence in order to provide an integrated reading of programmatic guidelines and actions, to guarantee alignment of strategic, financial and operational objectives, and to duly orient the instruments in force and/or being adopted at metropolitan level. The Agenda also aims at reinforcing and qualifying the sustainable development focus within metropolitan strategic plans and other planning/programming and assessment instruments to fully integrate all the dimensions of sustainability in metropolitan planning, programming and management instruments, as well as raise awareness and promote social and entrepreneurial activation on sustainability issues, also through widest involvement of citizens and civil

society. With this in mind, Metropolitan Cities are developing Agendas patterned precisely as policy coherence frameworks and integrated with other planning/programming instruments, including the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (*PNRR*), the Metropolitan Strategic Plan (MSP), the Metropolitan Territorial Plan (MTP), the Single Programming Document (SPD) and other sectoral instruments (Urban Plan for Sustainable Mobility, Quarry Plan, Urban Cycling Plan). Agendas have direct impact on planning, and regulatory and local programming and can support municipalities in identifying and best using the main funding sources currently available (including the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, and the 2021-2027 EU Cohesion Policy programming).

FOCUS – Experimentations for Sustainability Assessment of Public Policies: 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy and The National Recovery and Resilience Plan

In order to innovate, simplify and improve the sustainability **assessment of policies, an experiment** was launched to assess Cohesion Policy contribution to the achievement of sustainability objectives. The interinstitutional Roundtables involving MiTE and Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities highlighted the relevant contribution of the EU 2021-2027 programming cycle to sustainable development strategies at the different territorial levels. To this end, a cooperation agreement active since 2019 with the Department for Cohesion Policies (DIPCoe) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) and the Territorial Cohesion Agency (ACT) was enhanced.

As a result, the matrix of relations between the NSDS and the 2030 Agenda now encompasses also information on 2021-2027 provided by DIPCoe and ACT, and notably: Policy Objectives (POs), common output and result indicators of EU regional policy, eligible fields of intervention. The information included refers to the latest available updates for the ERDF (updated at 13 May 2020) and the ESF+ (updated at 4 August 2020). The overall matrix is a constantly updated dynamic tool that is and will be made available to the PCSD Coordination Group to concretely start an extended experimentation of actual potentialities.

The overall relationships reconstructed for all the National Strategic Choices and NSOs, as well as for all the related 2030 Agenda targets, enable for a ready-to-use reference frame on several public policies, as per the three terms highlighted below:

- Correlation between (preliminary to possible impact analysis) NSOs and objectives, intervention areas/categories of each policy;
- Systematisation of context and programming indicators (policy indicators) between different policies on the same themes, with a view to effective and cost-efficient monitoring;
- Effective activation of the integrated monitoring system for the NSDS, as a reference framework for sustainability assessment of public policies.

In the same spirit, further experimentation on the contents of the Next Generation EU was launched in February 2020, to rapidly provide the Prime Minister's Office and the Administrations concerned with a tool for evaluating the National Recovery and Resilience Plan actions that can meet the relevant requests made by the European Commission. In terms of policy coherence and efficiency and effectiveness of public policy evaluation, it is deemed essential that the NSDS in particular and the 2030 Agenda as a whole be set as long-term orientation tools for all policies, starting with the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

INNOVATION AND RESEARCH FOR LOCAL SD

Within the cooperation agreements with MiTE and the construction of the Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development, Metropolitan Cities are carrying out pilot actions for concrete implementation of metropolitan strategic objectives and envisage project-designing and implementing actions defined in coordination with local institutions and territorial actors, also supported by universities and research bodies.

They are being implemented as **multidimensional** initiatives and projects (integrating different policy areas), **experimental** (highly innovative and capable of introducing methods, approaches and fields of action not yet explored), which can be **modelled** and potentially **transferred** to other contexts and areas of intervention.

The spirit of dialogue and exchange that has always characterised MiTE's approach in supporting territories defining metropolitan strategic paths also contributed to exchange and dissemination of individual experiences and mechanisms/tools developed across the territories involved. It also fostered cooperation across Metropolitan Cities and with their reference Regions in the definition and implementation of pilot actions, in a spirit of mutual learning which is stimulating great interest, both from the point of view of the integrated approach and of experimentation of innovative mechanisms and tools in the several spheres of intervention. This helps enable and strengthen the role of Metropolitan Cities as key actors for the sustainable development of territories and the implementation of strategic sustainability objectives at different levels, also with a view to involving and collaborating with Municipalities in developing action lines and interventions consistent with the development vision outlined by the 2030 Agenda and by sustainability strategies.

Overall, Metropolitan Cities, as part of the implementation of the Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development, are carrying out and/or completing the definition of more than thirty pilot actions, in synergy with the Metropolitan Strategic Plan, identifying the following priorities: circular economy; urban forestation; urban regeneration and social cohesion; preservation of landscapes, and cultural and environmental heritage; sustainability analysis and assessment; sustainable mobility; strategic planning; data management and monitoring; education and training; information and communication; sustainable schools; creation of energy communities; administrative procedures towards sustainability; and agri-environmental development.
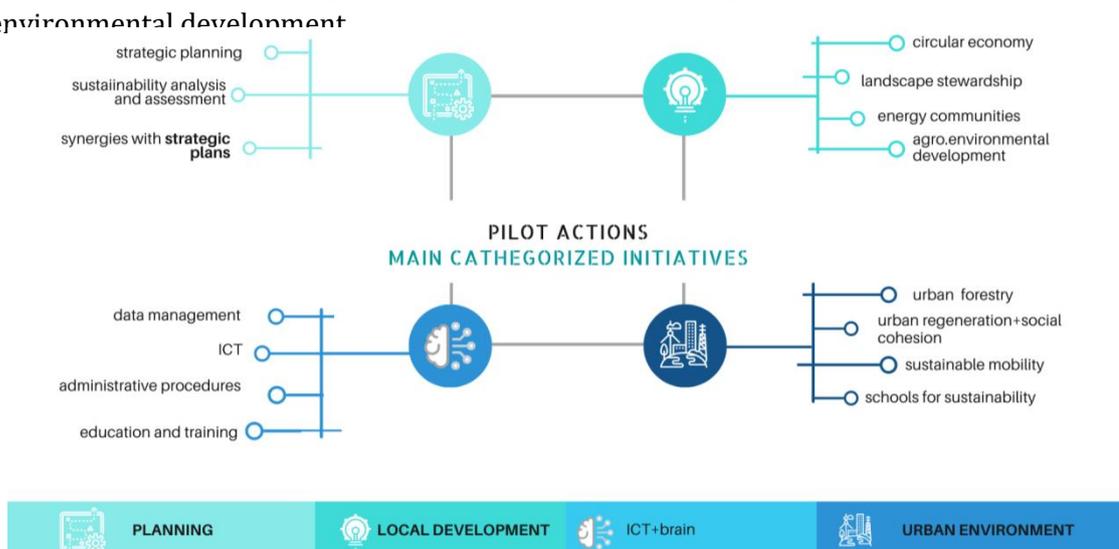

fig 14 **Main thematic issues in pilot actions** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

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Metropolitan City of Bari
The Agenda envisages 4 pilot projects: 1. Urban regeneration and open spaces for social activities; 2. Redevelopment of metropolitan coastline waterfronts, in line with the Strategic Project for redevelopment and enhancement of the coastline as per Puglia Landscape Plan; 3. Sustainable mobility (Biciplan; and Strategic Project for Soft Mobility and Landscape Plan); 4. Agriculture 4.0 project.

Metropolitan City of Bologna
The Agenda envisages 4 pilot projects: 1. Transition to circular economy in the hilly and mountainous territory of the Metropolitan City of Bologna; 2. Pre-feasibility study on reorganisation of public transport services in productive areas; 3. Guidelines for metropolitan forestation; 4. "Operation Centre & Cities Web". Furthermore 2 actions aim at raising awareness on sustainability among schools and MC employees: 1. Leverage for sustainability (education); 2. Leverage for sustainability (raising awareness of sustainable working styles). https://www.cittametropolitana.bo.it/agenda_sviluppo_sostenibile/.

Metropolitan City of Cagliari
The pilot action is currently under redefinition

Metropolitan City of Catania
The pilot actions currently being defined will have the following characteristics: consistency with objectives; inter-sectoral integration ability; innovative typologies and modalities; transferability.

Metropolitan City of Firenze
The Agenda includes the following pilot actions: 1. *Reuse of an open space in the Municipality of Pontassieve for creation of a multifunctional centre*. The Agreement signed with MiTE envisages the Technical-Economic Feasibility Project of an approx. 18,500-square-metre supra-municipal area belonging to the Municipality of Pontassieve, located eastward of the railway station, in a central position for the urban fabric. The area is currently dismissed but was once used for an important production activity. Recovering this area is not only an environmental and town-planning action, but also an opportunity for sustainable urban development with the main objective of reintroducing strategic functions for the town centre and reconnecting the urban fabric. The project envisages the creation of a large urban park, conceived as a link between the hill system and the river park system. 2. *Integrated public transport pricing pilot project*. Among the priority initiatives that emerged from the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan drafting process, the Metropolitan City drew up a feasibility project for an efficient integrated pricing system to guarantee maximum accessibility to local public transport services.

Metropolitan City of Genova
The Sustainable Agenda project of the Metropolitan City of Genoa proposes a "sustainable urban space model" that integrates action lines and interventions, that are mutually synergetic and consistent with the 2030 Agenda Goals. This model envisages long-lasting solutions for socio-economic fabric regeneration, social cohesion enhancement, cultural enrichment and quality of places and citizens' lives, with a view to innovation and sustainability – replicable also in different territorial contexts and revolving around three essential points: 1. Enhancement of urban conditions that diminish imbalances between central and peripheral areas, primarily in terms of services; 2. Creation of spatial bases for sustainable development to enhance integration between urban and peri-urban areas from which they can mutually benefit in terms of ecological regeneration, sustainable mobility, services; 3. Restoring of environmental balances. An initial experimentation of this model took place with the Technical-Economic Feasibility Project of the Tigullio Park service hub in Lavagna.

Metropolitan City of Messina
Two pilot action proposals were selected: 1. Environmental redevelopment and urban regeneration project of the "Città del ragazzo" building area in the Gravitelli district, for social inclusion purposes – "Dopo di noi" (After Us) project. A model of sustainable urban park with replicability characteristics also in different territorial contexts, with the identification of dedicated funding channels (National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Integrated Urban Plan, etc.) that integrates different lines of action and interventions that are synergic and consistent with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. 2. Project for environmental regeneration and development of sustainable tourism in the Parks (Nebrodi Park, Alcantara River Park), the Oriented Natural

Reserves (Capo Peloro Lagoon, *Laghetti di Marinello, Montagne delle Felci e dei Porri* – Salina Island) of the Capo Milazzo Protected Marine Area and the Strait of Messina, with a view to generating circular economy.

Metropolitan City of Milano
Two pilot actions related to urban regeneration and circular economy, identified in the Bologna Chart for the Environment, will be integrated and expanded in the Metropolitan Agenda. The first concerns the preparation of a position paper analysing the circularity of construction and demolition materials and presenting regulatory proposals to encourage the reuse of inert waste. The second proposes an abacus for metropolitan building regulations that can guide Municipalities in pursuing urban regeneration objectives.

Metropolitan City of Napoli
A general master plan, as well as ready-to-build plans and projects of its components, are to be drafted for the whole area stretching from the Port of Acquamorta to the "Costone di Monte Grillo", from the coast opposite Torrefumo to the via Panoramica.

Metropolitan City of Palermo
The pilot action consists in drafting a feasibility study to create an energy community, with the support of AMG Energia and in cooperation with the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and the Gestore dei Servizi Energetici (GSE). The feasibility study identified the premises of the "San Filippo Neri" Carabinieri Station in the ZEN district in Palermo (economically deprived and highly marginalised residents) as the pilot action site. The initiative is part of a broader redevelopment project of the entire ZEN neighbourhood with the objective of improving environmental quality, also through recovery of the social response capacity, reconnection with the territorial context, implementation of services and technological upgrading of buildings.

Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria
Based on the 5 action areas of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, within the cooperation agreement with MiTE, the "RC Metro Citizens in Transition" project identified 6 pilot actions: 1. "Learning MetroCity IN" – Cat. A, recipients: institutional network; 2. Knowledge Metrocity" – Cat. B, recipients: Civic Ecosystem (associations, committees, groups, etc.); 4. "Knowledge Metrocity" – Cat. B, recipients: Civic Ecosystem, experts and officers from institutions, university students, individual citizens; 5. "Goals Metrocity" – Cat. C, Definition of metropolitan agendas for sustainable development and monitoring of sustainability vectors of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan; 6. "Co-Design Metrocity' – Cat. B, civil society involvement.

Metropolitan City of Roma
The Agenda envisages the implementation of 2 pilot actions: 1. Scuole H24 (H24 Schools): Experimentation of an intersectoral working method for "territorial hub" schools. The Metropolitan City (MC) joined the "community education pact" in a network with two schools and over 30 social actors; 2. O.S.A.! Young (Objectives, Strategies, Actions for the Metropolitan Territory), a set of synergic actions with a focus on young people, in cooperation with the Tor Vergata University of Rome, including: "Education+Action" project with agricultural institutes, mapping of young stakeholders, surveys, thematic tables, communication and dissemination. Conclusion and final event in May 2022. Hinging and follow-up of the pilot actions into the strategic planning processes and tools of the MC administration is also envisaged.

Metropolitan City of Torino
Pilot actions are intended as specific focuses within the "transversal areas of intervention" envisaged by the National and Regional Sustainable Development Strategies. "Learning to produce green" and "Sustainable schools" focus on building competences for transition, by enhancing the connection between school and vocational training centres and the territories, around sustainability objectives. The aim is to link training topics to place-based projects and policies, with reference to the missions and intervention areas of the Agenda. The first pilot action focuses on the definition of territorial governance that produces "training success" for sustainability challenges and supports the transition to tackle them. The second pilot action is aimed at producing a tool to support secondary schools and Vocational Education and Training Agencies in increasing their educational and training effectiveness, by rethinking themselves – from the points of view of organisation, educational and training pathways and processes and relations with the territory – as in-transition organisations.

Metropolitan City of Venezia

The pilot action consists in creating a web platform shared with local institutions, called "dashboard", in which projects/initiatives with supra-metropolitan repercussions falling within a sustainable development perspective can be included in a bidirectional manner (from the Metropolitan City of Venice to Municipalities and vice versa). The platform was developed and shared with a pilot group of six Municipalities to identify the Agenda's contents and related indicators, and then extended to the other Municipalities. The end of this phase is scheduled for December 2022.

As part of the NSDS implementation pathway, a call addressed to universities, foundations and research centers was published by MiTE in 2019, aimed at promoting projects to support the NSDS implementation and designed consistently with the needs identified and the reflections developed within the territorial Roundtables, for presentation of research projects aimed at:

- Determining, from a sustainable development strategy perspective, the requirements for full integration of sustainability in the definition and evaluation of policies, plans, programmes and projects;
- Ensuring the guidance, evaluation and monitoring functions of public administrations' decision-making processes;
- Ensuring exchange and sharing of experiences, and technical-scientific contents on sustainable development;
- Fostering promotion and dissemination of sustainability and environmental integration culture;
- Promoting the participation of relevant authorities and the public in decision-making processes, and ensuring wide dissemination of information on implementation of sustainable development strategies.

A first range of funded projects was developed by research bodies in cooperation with Regions and Autonomous Provinces receiving technical-scientific support, so that the research lines were in tangible support of regional and provincial strategic processes activated within the cooperation agreements signed with MiTE.

Thematic projects were also funded for in-depth study of topics deemed as priorities by the inter-institutional Roundtable involving MiTE, Regions and Autonomous Provinces for effective implementation and localisation of Sustainable Development Strategies. The research bodies, therefore, implement the project initiatives in full synergy and by activating collaborations within the areas of work defined by the Roundtable and with the thematic working groups activated between the Regions and the Metropolitan Cities.
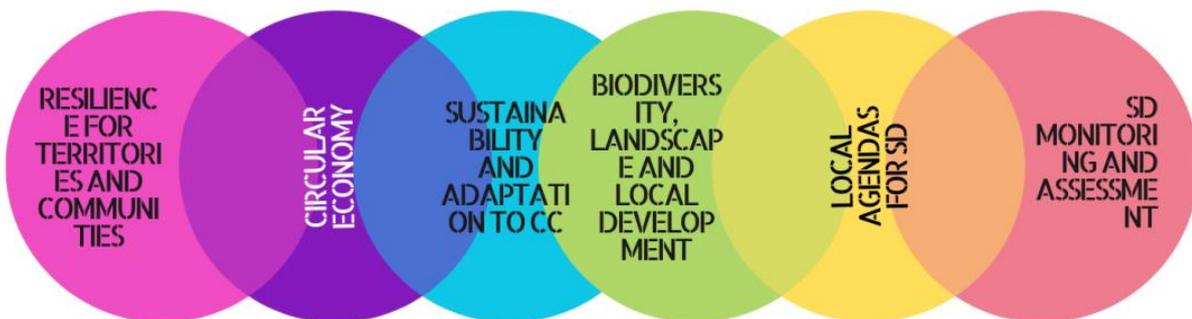

fig 15 **issues addressed by thematic projects** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

With the aim, therefore, of increasingly expanding collaborative networks for sustainability, MiTE – in coordination with the Roundtables – fully integrated the research paths in coaching and support actions implemented within the cooperation agreements and the L2WP1 line of the "CReIAMO PA" project.

In order to build coaching paths on integrated themes, a cross-analysis of the research actions of the two categories was carried out. Further thematic clusters of intervention emerged, integrating the areas initially identified by the interinstitutional Roundtable and creating new relations between Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities – e.g., research domain on the indicator system for sustainability mapping; thematic area on optimising the use of water resources.

With the aim of networking the actors operating at different institutional levels on sustainability and those who study and search for innovative and integrated solutions to support the ongoing process of change, a cycle of coaching meetings was initiated, enabling the renewed working groups to find new momentum and interest from the insights provided by the research projects. Similarly, the interaction between different research organisations enabled activating strong synergies and exploiting complementarities of intervention, thus increasing the ability to respond to real needs expressed by Regions and Metropolitan Cities and supporting the creation of a shared strategic vision with a national scope, as well as stable cooperation networks to develop further innovative lines of research.

The integrated set of activities conducted by MiTE has, therefore, contributed to defining a real geography of relations that can be usefully represented as a map of networks, which redesigns the national landscape based on thematic synergies and cooperation between Regions. Some of them deepened, through multi-level and multi-sectoral approaches, relevant aspects of sustainability that became fertile ground to be shared with other territorial and administrative entities, ready to receive as much contamination resulting from the experience gained by other Regions in the perspective of the learning-by-doing approach.

With regard to research projects, future activities will aim to support regional, provincial and metropolitan administrations in implementing their strategies in an increasingly active and participatory manner, as well as to support MiTE in the overall NSDS implementation process, in close cooperation and synergy with the Working Groups of the Sustainable Development Forum. Furthermore, the issue arises as to full involvement of the research sector through networking of projects and subjects currently engaged in the process, in support of the currently active institutional networks. The intent is to increasingly disseminate a systemic and multidisciplinary approach, by constantly supporting liaison and learning processes, complemented with cooperation among actors as a working method to enhance the convergence of public policies towards sustainable development. The prerequisites for ensuring that the transformation advocated by the 2030 Agenda can really become concrete and rooted in the Italian landscape convincingly lies on: exchanging information, enhancing a common language, creating virtuous practices, strengthening active cooperation areas, and identifying and addressing obstacles and gaps.

4.4 Stakeholder engagement building a "Culture for sustainability"

The Forum for Sustainable Development allows for civil society and non-State actors to provide inputs and support at national and egional level the implementation, monitoring and review of Sustainable Development Strategies. The Forum, furthermore, is a relevant tool to engage and recognize all actors that are part of the multilevel collaborative process. The creation of a "learning community" fosters contamination, replication and enhancement of existing experiences, and promotes active participation in central decision-making processes.

Based on this approach, in parallel with the creation of the National Forum, a line of intervention, included in the cooperation agreements stipulated with Regions, Autonomous Provinces, and Metropolitan Cities, was dedicated precisely to establish territorial fora and create tools for civil society involvement. As a result, Regions set up regional fora, while Metropolitan Cities organised more heterogeneous activities to foster participation, also involving and strengthening pre-existing networks and creating forms of cooperation with Municipalities and other public entities.

Institutional dialogue between the National Forum and the several territorial fora as well as liaising with local partners are fostered by the National Conference for Sustainable Development, held on an annual basis to ensure ongoing collaborative interaction between the different implementing levels of sustainability policies. The experiences accomplished to date have contributed to and enriched the contents of the 2022 NSDS. By redesigning the Sustainability Vectors, the aim is to work in the direction of ensuring integration and coherence of public policies towards sustainable development by strengthening the institutional coordination mechanisms at central/territorial as well as the tools for cooperation between institutions, civil society and non-State actors represented in the Forum for Sustainable Development and in the Territorial Fora (Vector 1).

Furthermore, the aim is to ensure the participation and involvement of civil society and non-State actors in the definition and implementation of public policies, starting with the recognition of existing active actors, instruments and processes, in order to support and strengthen long-lasting, stable and dynamic networks, and build effective exchange and learning communities. In this sense, the empowerment of the Forum for Sustainable Development and territorial fora is considered a priority – meant as a structured and permanent spaces for involvement of non-State actors in the NSDS implementation process at the different territorial levels (Vector 3).

FOCUS – TERRITORIAL FORA AND PCSD NAP

The 2022 NSDS and the NAP PCSD enable the Forum for Sustainable Development, as a permanent platform for dialogue of institutions with civil society and non-state actors and in its relationship with the National Council for Development Cooperation (CNCS), to promote integration and coherence among the internal and external dimensions of policies and, with the territorial fora, to contribute to the definition and implementation of the strategic vision shared at the various levels. The Plan also identifies in the National Conference for Sustainable Development, organized by the Forum and MiTE, the permanent annual meeting aimed at raising awareness of all governance levels on the contribution of civil society and non-state actors for the implementation, monitoring and revision both of the NSDS and the NAP PCSD

At regional and provincial level, **15 territorial fora were set up**, organised heterogeneously and all aiming at creating a space for dialogue with civil society within the definition and implementation of sustainability policies.

In several cases, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is used as the Forum's management tool** to formalise memberships and **recognise a working "community"** within which to discuss instances, identify priorities and define territorial objectives. The MoUs, activated between all actors involved, represent and outline the mutual commitments of relevant institutional actors at regional and sub-regional level (provinces, metropolitan cities and municipalities) and civil society. MoUs also highlight forms of cooperation with Provinces and Municipalities (e.g. municipalities committed to SEAPs), with *ANCI* and other public actors such as the Centers for Environmental Education and Sustainability (*CEASs*), the Regional Network of Protected Areas, and the University Network for Sustainable Development (so-called *RUS*).

In general, the involvement of stakeholders provides for organisation and management of structured activities including workshops, seminars, events with plenary sessions, thematic working tables and regular meetings. *Ad-hoc* activities for sub-regional involvement were also performed and/or planned, e.g. Territorial Fora at provincial level or guided participation days within Municipalities. In several Regions, also to address the difficulties emerging from the pandemic, the "in-presence" Forum was complemented with a website, a web platform or dedicated spaces on institutional websites, with information and communication purposes on the path of building sustainable development strategies, in addition to other forms of communication and information such as dissemination of information material, use of social channels, and visual identity definition.

In some Regions, use is made of existing **forms of consultation and networks**, e.g. Cohesion Policy Programming Tables for 2021-2027 and currently active regional thematic tables (e.g. Green Education Protocol, Energy Forum, etc.). In several Regions, the Environmental Education Centers (*CEAs*) of the *INFEAS* Network are also becoming real territorial hubs dedicated to young people and citizens' participation in local sustainability policies. In some cases, stakeholders were involved in drafting regional and provincial sustainable development strategies focussed on specific sectors or targets, and *ad-hoc* forms of consultation were activated – e.g., such as seminars for businesses, students, and young people.

Participation in territorial fora is inspired by participation in the National Forum, involving main players with a cross-sectoral approach to the three dimensions of sustainability (social, environmental and economic), both public and private, including trade union representatives, professional orders, associations (trade, sector and youth), schools, universities, sector experts, businesses, network organisations, healthcare undertakings, foundations, cooperatives, citizens' representatives, individual citizens, etc.

The territorial level is expressed in the multi-level participation involving *ANCI*, metropolitan cities, municipalities and territorial aggregations.
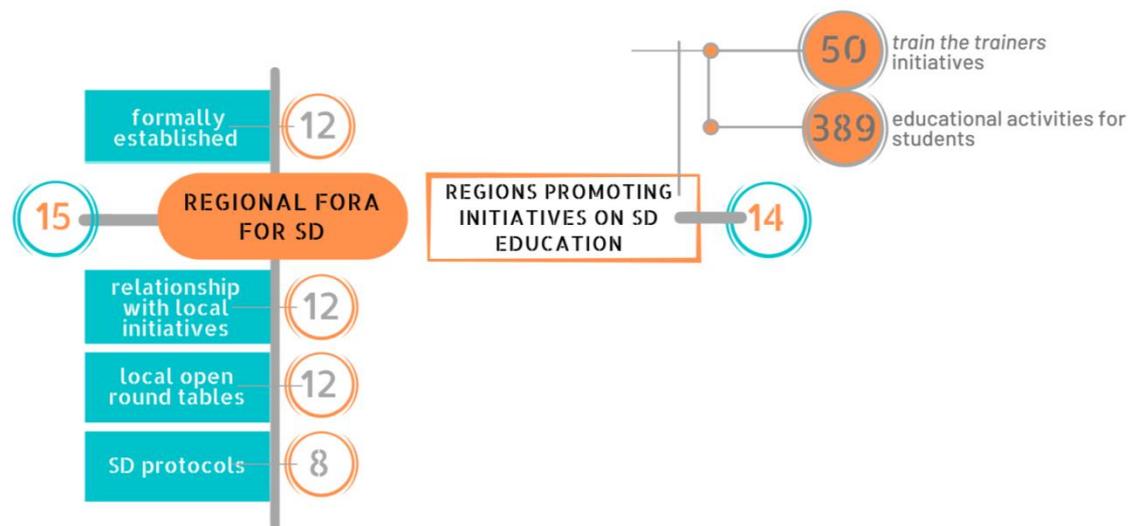
FOCUS – REGIONAL FORA

Abruzzo Region

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the University of L'Aquila (DICEAA) and Regional Parks, identifying the Region as the lead body to coordinate activities to be implemented through a permanent Technical Table. The participating organisations include regional structures, institutions representing municipalities (ANCI), and the Environmental Education Centres (CEAs) of the INFEA network. Different involvement channels were envisaged based on the different targets. Through CEAs, training courses on the 2030 Agenda themes will be set up for Local Authorities' technicians through territorial fora/workshops. The training meetings will contribute to the NSDS design process, through a participatory methodology to ensure the involvement and integration of territorial specificities (detected through tools such as questionnaires). The use of questionnaires will be introduced in order to collect the remarks, recommendations and possible proposals from Local Authorities, Provinces, and Regional Services to be submitted to the Permanent Technical Table and develop a debate focussed on the Strategy definition process.

Basilicata Region

Civil society was involved through:
- Establishment of the Partnership Table for integrated sustainability policies;
- Proposal for review of rules, plans and programmes;
- Proposal for review of policies and lines of action of other actors in the territorial socio-economic system;
- Establishment of Working Groups on Strategy's thematic areas (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership) and for the Strategy drafting process;
- Opening BasGov4.0 to external stakeholders for shared value.

Calabria Region

Civil society was involved through thematic workshops held during the project on a number of topics related to "sustainability". Good level of stakeholders' participation was recorded, focussing on current critical issues in order to devise sustainable future scenarios. A participation platform was implemented

within the project, and will be enhanced in the follow-up phase through further debates and extensive media communication on sustainability objectives aimed at raising interest on these topics.

Campania Region

Civil society was involved through three webinars, two of which addressed to socio-economic partners and high schools; the third was dedicated to the 19 medium-sized towns and local authorities belonging to experimental territorial aggregations (Alta Irpinia; Cilento Interno; Tammaro Titerno, Vallo di Diano, Costa Sud Salerno and Litorale Domitio Flegreo). The webinars were followed by a written consultation phase, useful and functional for receipt of any amendments, observations and/or integrations – with establishment of a forum open to interested parties to actively contribute to the Strategy drafting process, pointing out proposals, projects and best practices.

Emilia-Romagna Region

A process of democratic participation and co-project-designing of 2030 sustainability objectives, commitments and shared responsibilities was implemented for the signing (December 2020) of the "Patto per il Lavoro e per il Clima" (Jobs and Climate Pact) with institutional, economic, social and environmental partners, regional universities, and the National Research Council (*CNR*). The Forum for the 2030 Agenda Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development was also established, based on the evolution, in an integrated perspective, of established or ongoing regional participatory experiences. The Forum is also functional to guarantee synergies with the "Coordinamento Emilia-Romagna Sostenibile" (*CERS*) of *ASVIS* member associations and with Agenda 2.0 for Sustainable Development of the Metropolitan City of Bologna. The objective is to integrate paths, resources and tools, and to strengthen steady cooperation and exchange on the 2030 sustainability objectives.

Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region

A public consultation process was launched with the online questionnaire titled "Progettiamo insieme" (Let's project-design together). The questionnaire collected more than 4,000 answers. Public meetings had been planned in the territory to involve local authorities and civil society, which were then cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreak and replaced with three webinars on sustainability issues, and with the guided filling-in of an online questionnaire addressed to local authorities and businesses. The public consultation results were approved via DGR (regional council resolution) No. 480/2021. In the first months of 2022, technical tables were also organised, with the technical-scientific support of the Universities of Trieste and Udine and of *ARPA FVG*, limited to 4 Ps (Peace, Planet, People, Prosperity).

Lazio Region

Civil society was involved through:
- A website dedicated to the NSDS, illustrating all the activities developed therein: (http://www.lazioeuropa.it/laziosostenibile/).
- An online Forum.
- 7 Focus Groups (FGs) (July – September 2020) focusing on priority issues, identified in line with the strategic choices and objectives of the Sustainable Development Strategy, involving Municipalities, the "Roma Capitale" Metropolitan Area, ANCI, businesses, representatives of social, economic and environmental associations, citizens, universities and research centres, park authorities, as well as experts, ASVIS and CMCC. For each Focus Group, specific papers were drawn up to frame/contextualise the priority issues identified with respect to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the 2030 Agenda, and medium-long term regional unitary programming. The FGs were attended by 514 stakeholders; more than 70,000 views on social

- media; 1,200 online interactions; and reports providing the main evidence collected. The Strategy document drew upon all the contributions received.
- 4 webinars attended by 149 enterprises; 76 local authorities; 34 second-cycle institutes, with over 912 students; 59 first-cycle institutes, with 774 students.
- Periodical newsletters of Lazio Innova and dedicated channels, of an informal nature, deriving from the operational activities of Lazio Innova and Regional DGs.
- 4 videos (on the Strategy; on the 2030 Agenda Goals; on the 7 priority themes; summary of work).
- Use of Facebook, Linkedin, Instagram, Twitter channels for dissemination of information and live streaming of online events.

Liguria Region

Civil society was involved through the Regional System's Environmental and Sustainability Education Centers (managed by Municipalities and Park Authorities) and the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, within the framework of the Liguria 2030 MoU headed by Eticlab. The results stemming from the survey of good practices and instances in the territory inspired the choice of regional strategic objectives and are fully reported in the Strategy.

Lombardia Region

Lombardia hosts more than 1,500 municipalities (of which: 1,000 with less than 5,000 inhabitants), 11 provinces and the Metropolitan City of Milano – a complex reality, both in terms of businesses and third sector liveliness. In 2019, the MoU on Sustainable Development was signed involving institutional and associative representatives (businesses, third sector, environmentalists, etc.) and the world of research – each signatory identified its own commitments to action (to date, about 100 signatories with over 250 actions). A cooperation agreement was signed with ANCI Lombardia: Workshop paths were set up to involve municipalities and build localising tools for sustainability objectives. The Regional Observatory for Circular Economy and Energy Transition is now active; sustainable development is also addressed within the Development Pact, the main institution for participation of socio-economic partners at regional level. A coordination table will be set up with Provinces, and coordination with the Metropolitan City of Milano will be strengthened. Two editions of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development were held, and the third is planned for October 2022. Sustainable development is one of the working domains of the Regional Research Forum.

Marche Region

The participatory process was a distinctive element in the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development (RSDS) definition and drew upon several territorial consultation methods and tools. Participation was broad and relied on multiple moments of debate involving numerous citizens and stakeholders in the territory, who responded positively. Several subjects were addressed: individual citizens, trade associations, local authorities and businesses, the world of research, children, etc. The summary report of the involvement and awareness-raising activities carried out by the Marche Region to define the RSDS is published on the regional website at the following link: *www.regione.marche.it/Entra-in-Regione/Sviluppo-Sostenibile/Forum-e-Partecipazione*. The Report describes how civil society was involved, the results obtained, and actors' responsiveness. Furthermore, based on the remarkable role played by the Forum in the NSDS design process. Following its approval, the Marche Region decided to launch a second phase entrusting the Forum to ensure civil society involvement and information on some RSDS-related topics, including climate change adaptation.

Molise Region

The Forum was the main tool to ensure civil society involvement, with activities taking place in 2021 through a dedicated IT platform. The liaising process was launched with an in-person workshop, attended by numerous institutional and civil society representatives. The process was illustrated and the operational phase was then launched. This activity was then complemented with a discussion and dissemination phase, broken down by theme and specific stakeholder target, carried out with the support of the *CMCC* Foundation, also engaged in the elaboration of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. As follows the tables in brief:

- 1 operational round table aimed at involving the Regional Services and the main bodies of the Regional System (ARPA, ARSARP) as well as ENEA Molise on Climate Change Adaptation;
- 1 operational round table devoted to Rural Development, in cooperation with the group in charge of the EAFRD programming;
- 1 table aimed at disseminating information across secondary schools;
- 1 dissemination/operational round table addressed to enterprises.

All the documentation (including operational acts) is published on the dedicated thematic pages of the official Molise Region website:

https://www.regione.molise.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17224.

Piemonte Region

The project proposal of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development was finalised in 2021, broken down into:

- Pact for sustainable development in Piedmont, aimed at sharing transition commitments; activities to consolidate its operativeness are underway.
- Forum for young people involvement: 2 brainstorming events titled "Piemonte 2027 – Next per la sostenibilità" (Piedmont 2027 – Next for sustainability) took place in 2021, involving more than 300 young inhabitants through inspirational speeches and debates.
- Platform for territorial sustainability commitment report: activities are underway, and the first experimental release will be published by end-April 2022.
- In 2021, the #Vettoridisostenibilità2021 review took place through several events aimed at involving the production system and civil society on sustainable development (https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/temi/strategia-sviluppo-sostenibile/vettoridisostenibilita-2021-palinsesto-principali-eventi-scheda-per-segnalare-eventi-sullo-sviluppo).

Puglia Region

Civil society involvement is guaranteed through the Regional Sustainable Development Forum, which envisages two implementation and development formulas: i) permanent online participation for debate and implementation of strategy contributions; and ii) a series of plenary events on thematic focuses related to the 2030 Agenda SDGs with experts and civil society. Online participation is made available through the "*Pugliapartecipa*" portal https://partecipazione.regione.puglia.it, where civil society was involved in the two moments of debate and interaction: the first in 2019 (context analysis); the second launched in July 2021 (deepening the strategic areas identified in the preliminary document approved in April 2021: https://partecipazione.regione.puglia.it/processes_groups/5). Participation reports are published on the web portal. In-person events started in January 2020 to then resume in in July 2021 (due to the health emergency) and ended in September 2021. The programmes and in-presence forum events are published on the "Pugliapartecipa" portal:
 https://partecipazione.regione.puglia.it/processes/ForumSviluppoSostenibile.

Autonomous Region of Sardegna

During the Strategy drafting phase, 14 Forum meetings were held, involving over 3,300 actors from public institutions, research bodies, park areas, civil society representatives (enterprises, associations, professional orders), third sector and citizens. Over 20,000 formal and informal contributions were received, tracked and shared with all participants through reports that are still available on the project website. The meetings were aligned with the EU regional programming of the ERDF and the ESF+ for 2021-2027. Through learning-by-doing initiatives, this enabled permeating and integrating the sustainability approach into these instruments, and identifying concrete ways to finance and implement the NSDS. In the current implementation phase, the Forum meetings aim to root the NSDS into communities, through workshops dedicated to specific targets, pilot projects and NSDS guidance and evaluation grids for the benefit of multiple stakeholders. Initiatives are being activated to engage specific targets, including the 2-week "Sardinia 2030 Festival" in autumn 2022. Website: www.regione.sardegna.it/j/v/2834?s=1&v=9&c=94635&na=1&n=8&nodesc=1&ph=1&c1=94642.

Toscana Region

The involvement stretched across various levels: from schools (focussing on the 2030 Agenda) to institutions and associations in the participation process through territorial fora, on line with the "Toscana Sostenibile" platform, and through social networks to convey information on sustainability.

The "Toscana Sostenibile" project was supported by the Universities of Florence, Siena, Pisa, and coordinated by the "Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna" of Pisa. Further achievements: establishment of Regional Forum for Sustainable Development; citizens' involvement through technical tables in the cities of Florence, Pistoia, Lucca and Grosseto; activation of the "Open Toscana" online portal; involvement of high-school students.

Umbria Region

A participatory process is underway through 6 territorial fora broken down into homogeneous domains. The fora are coordinated by *ANCI-FELCOS* and provide thematic meetings on 4 Ps (People, Peace, Bread, Prosperity). The debate was opened on the preliminary Strategy document, pre-adopted by the Regional Government via Resolution No. 1016 of 17 October 2021. As follows, the objectives pursued by the Fora: 1. Involve the components of the community, so that everyone feels like an active protagonist in the path towards sustainability objectives; 2. Assume, as a working method, the integration and involvement of local actors, Municipalities, Provinces, Research Institutes and Universities, as well as neighbouring Regions, MiTE, National Parks, *ARPA* and other subjects, in order to create new opportunities and develop active resilience to difficulties and problems. Upon conclusion of debate, listening and proposal phases through the Fora, a synthesis of the contributions received will be produced to define the Regional Strategy document, in line with the needs and requirements of the territories.

Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta

Administrators and Managers: one workshop dedicated to regional and local authority administrators; one workshop dedicated to regional and local authority coordinators and managers; one workshop dedicated to school managers. Citizens: Three "Café citoyen – World Café" events: workshops in the middle, upper and lower Valley; five workshops dedicated to specific 2030 Targets: environmental/agriculture, social, business, education, health, online. Web forum: from October 2021. Activation of a dedicated web forum: https://sviluppososostenibile.vda.it'.

Veneto Region

With reference to the initiatives carried out within the regional fora activated in the Veneto Region (DGR No. 1092 of 30/07/2019 and DGR No. 1488 of 15/10/2019), the following should be noted:

- From 7/11/2019 to 20/11/2019 the NSDS path was presented on the occasion of a first Territorial Forum focussing on seven Provincial Thematic Tables: ideas were collected through the working methodology proposed and implemented by the University of Padua. The concluding event of the Territorial Forum took place on 3 December 2019.
- On 20 September 2020, the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development was established to enhance and share experiences and good practices, make the Strategy known and provide suggestions for application of its principles. The Forum involves over 250 subjects. Territorial representatives were and are involved through a Memorandum of Understanding for Sustainable Development in the Veneto Region.
- The Youth Forum was also planned, in cooperation with ARPAV, through forms of active involvement within schools.

Autonomous Province of Trento

Civil society was involved during the construction of the Provincial Strategy for Sustainable Development both through participatory tables (online and in-presence) addressed to students, associations, citizens, professional orders/charters, and economic categories, and through an online questionnaire asking for comments and new proposals to be included in the Provincial Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Following the Provincial Strategy for Sustainable Development approval, two paths for involvement of local authorities and the economic world were launched to promote the construction of the Sustainable Development Pact and concrete implementation of the sustainability goals: the "Agenda Comuni 2030" (Municipalities) project and the "Agenda Imprese 2030" (Enterprises) project. The "Agenda Comuni" project involved/listened to 50% of municipal administrators, with the aim of disseminating the 2030 Agenda and gathering inputs for drafting the Provincial Strategy for Sustainable Development. Link to the video summary of the "Agenda Comuni 2030" project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMs2NyY7Nv4&feature=emb_imp_woyt. Further information is available on the project page where you can also find the synthesis document: https://agenda2030.provincia.tn.it/Trentino-2030/Agenda-Comuni-2030.

Similarly, the "Agenda Imprese" project involved more than 400 local enterprises, with the aim of informing and empowering the economic categories as concrete implementers of the Provincial Strategy for Sustainable Development, and mapping the situation of Trentino enterprises with regard to corporate social responsibility. The results of the project and the video are available here: https://agenda2030.provincia.tn.it/Trentino-2030/Agenda-Imprese-2030.

On 5 November 2021, the Pact for Sustainable Development of Trentino was presented and signed in the presence of numerous local stakeholders. New adhesions are currently being collected.

A page on the "*agenda2030.province.tn.it*" website dedicated to the Pact's signatories will soon be available. The Pact aims to promote synergies among the signatories, and propose training initiatives and exchange of good practices. https://agenda2030.provincia.tn.it/In-evidenza/Il-Patto-per-lo-sviluppo-sostenibile-e-stato-firmato.

Autonomous Province of Bolzano

The South Tyrol provincial government intends to involve its inhabitants in the sustainable development path. To this end, the different groups in the Region will be involved in multiple ways. A mix of participatory solutions will be adopted to involve "non-organised" public (citizens) as well as

"organised" public (associations and other stakeholder groups). Furthermore, in order to obtain an up-to-date picture of the South Tyrolean society, a format for a panel survey (conducted on the same sample at different points in time) is being developed under *ASTAT* guidance to periodically sound out opinions on sustainability and behavioural patterns relevant to the sustainable development strategy. The strategy will thus have a factual and scientific basis. The aim is to support and complement – rather than replace – the dialogue and discussion processes in place within individual departments.

CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT AT METROPOLITAN LEVEL

Stakeholders involvement also plays a key role in the Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development design process. Specifically, in synergy with reference Regions, Italy's Metropolitan Cities activated ad-hoc tools to involve actors at metropolitan level. The aim is:

- To apply a vertical scale approach (from regional to municipal) to foster recognition and mobilisation of metropolitan actors (associations, groups, etc.) within sustainability initiatives, and channel their contributions into regional fora.
- To devise exercises for recognition, emergence and mapping of actors and practices for sustainable development at metropolitan level, so as to foster networking and shared projects between institutions and local actors.

With a view to developing a "community of work and intents" on sustainability at local level, numerous Metropolitan Cities planned civil society **involvement activities in synergy with regional reference fora**. This link between the different territorial levels is implemented through coordination tables focussing on the priorities laid down in the Regional Sustainable Development Strategies and through a detailed survey of existing good practices to draw a motivated and active multi-stakeholder representation on sustainability topics. Furthermore, almost all Metropolitan Cities planned actions that include synergies with the **definition and implementation of the Metropolitan Strategic Plans**. Metropolitan Thematic Tables involved local authorities and relevant stakeholders: outcomes (instances, proposals) will be brought by the representatives of each Metropolitan Thematic Table to the corresponding Regional Thematic Table.

Multi-level cooperation is also supported by the Regional MoU – it provides Metropolitan Cities with the opportunity to identify active networks and key stakeholders in their territories.

As a matter of fact, Metropolitan Cities implemented participation and consultation processes heterogeneously with a common denominator – i.e., enhancement and recognition of their territories. Actions focussed on assessing sustainability policies at metropolitan and local level, through the involvement of actors identified in the mapping phase, with reference to the objectives set by the national and regional sustainability strategies. The most interesting initiatives promoted by civil society organisations concern: environmental topics (experiences of organised groups of citizens, environmental associations, training bodies); social topics (voluntary work experiences promoted by third sector organisations and/or bodies); economic topics (energy, circular economy, and craftsmanship undertakings).

The aim is to *read* coherence and contribution of policies and actions to the sustainability objectives prioritised by current strategies, and identify future working trajectories for implementation of Metropolitan Sustainability Agendas.

In some cities, more traditional consultation actions are activated (public assemblies, conferences, workshops, involvement of educational institutions), and existing involvement methods and structures are strengthened to avoid duplicating tools already available and to activate direct participation of citizens' representatives in decision-making processes (opening of territorial "consultation chambers", set up for elaboration and implementation of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan, and MoUs between institutions and civil society).

It is worth recalling the creation of portals and web platforms for collection and sharing of sustainable development projects and good practices, and for communication, information and dissemination of activities on the definition of Metropolitan Strategic Plans' priorities and elaboration of Metropolitan Agendas for Sustainable Development.
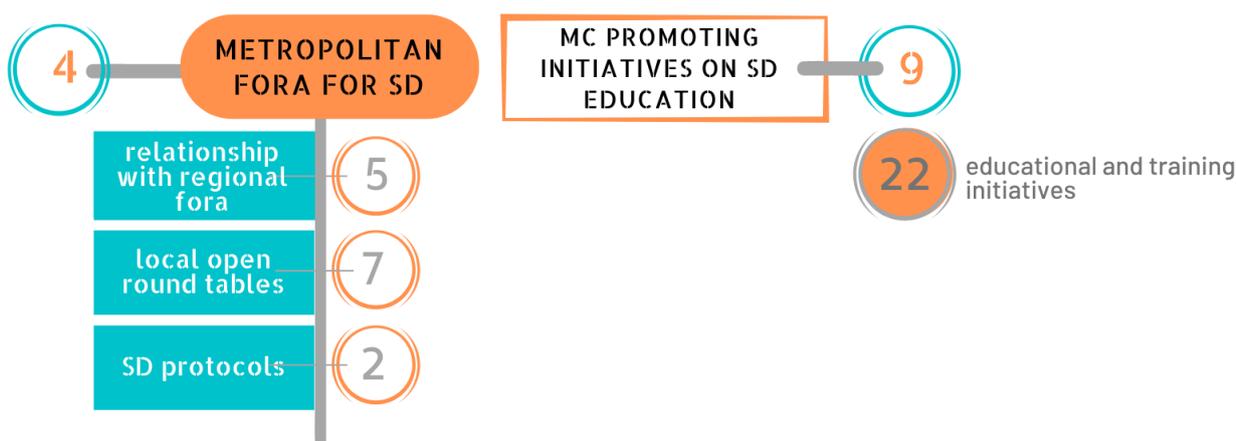

fig 17 **Metropolitan fora for SD and initiatives building a "culture for sustainability"** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

FOCUS – METROPOLITAN FORA AND OTHER CHANNELS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT

Metropolitan City of Bari
The Metropolitan Agenda proposal was presented to the Metropolitan Conference of Mayors on 25 June 2021 pending its submission, together with the Strategic Plan, to the stakeholder consultation and involvement process.

Metropolitan City of Bologna
In 2020, two meetings were held with the Development Council (which brings together 41 subjects including economic actors, associations, and the world of labour, culture, education, and social and healthcare services) and with the Table of Subsidiary Companies, extending participation to other associations. In 2021, the Metropolitan City of Bologna carried out two specific actions addressed to local institutions and stakeholders, for them to contribute to orienting its future political strategies: an online questionnaire to survey sustainable development projects; a second-level consultation on three territories to describe the objectives and targets of Agenda 2.0 (and its corresponding trends), and to investigate what other actions could be activated to make progress towards these objectives.

Metropolitan City of Cagliari
An event is planned for the population and all stakeholders, also to present the Metropolitan City's sustainability strategies. Meetings were performed with five high schools, and working tables were

established, led by facilitators referring to Tactical Urbanism, the chosen theme being "Circular Economy".

Metropolitan City of Catania

Civil society will be involved in all its components, including schools through workshops and training activities for teachers. Territorial and thematic tables are envisaged. The project's launch event was implemented; and social channels and the concertation web platform were activated. A commercial was launched on local TVs and on the project's social channels (YouTube and Facebook), and the press office was activated. A further dissemination event took place within the ECOMED Fair – Green Expo of the Mediterranean: three thematic seminars were held on top of the project presentation.

Metropolitan City of Firenze

The "CMFlorence seeSUSTAINABLE" participative process, set up by the ad-hoc working group and implemented by the company Avventura Urbana S.r.l, consisted of the following phases: interviews with 80 key informants of the metropolitan area; 5 meetings with the mayors and officials of the 41 municipalities of the metropolitan area; online questionnaire to citizens and young people (768 responses); Next Generation Lab, Focus Groups (FGs) with more than 50 young citizens; Sustainability Labs, 4 thematic FGs on People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace with 100 relevant stakeholders; 20 video commercials of local actors. This essential structured process of public engagement of local actors (public, private, social and citizens) accompanied the whole process of Metropolitan Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development design.

Metropolitan City of Genova

The Sustainable Metropolitan Agenda project of the Metropolitan City of Genova proposes a "sustainable urban space model", which integrates mutually synergic lines of action and interventions consistently with the 2030 Agenda Goals. This model envisages long-lasting solutions for regeneration of the socio-economic fabric, social cohesion improvement, cultural enrichment and quality of places and citizens' lives, with a view to innovation and sustainability. The model is replicable (even in different territorial contexts) and revolves around three key points: DIFFUSION of urban conditions to diminish imbalances between central and peripheral areas, primarily in terms of services; CREATION of the spatial basis of sustainable development for greater integration between urban and peri-urban areas – they can mutually benefit in terms of ecological regeneration, sustainable mobility, services; RECONSTRUCTION of environmental balances. An initial experimentation of this model took place with the PFTE of the Tigullio Park Service Centre in Lavagna (project pilot action) which applied sustainable space criteria:

- Accessibility (greater connection to services, and "soft" public mobility system);
- Usability (by all generations and in all seasons; flexible use of spaces for collective activities);
- Public space quality (quality of materials, with emphasis on the use of local and recyclable materials; circular economy);
- Naturalness (Nature-Based-Solutions to reduce climate change effects);
- Urban welfare (new management models complemented with participatory paths for greater involvement of local realities).

The pilot action mobilised actors and competences from different sectors, integrating several policy fields, and introducing approaches and fields of intervention so far poorly explored. The sustainable urban space model was also used to define the PINQua and Integrated Urban Plan proposals (National Recovery and Resilience Plan).

Metropolitan City of Messina

The Metropolitan Forum was widely attended online, with 4 workshops and 2 thematic focuses – i.e., for civil society: WS#1 "Building an active citizenship network" on 11/11/2021 with 25 participants, and WS#3 "What's the air in town?" on 25/11/2021 with 10 participants; for local institutions: WS#2 "Reforestation projects to create resilient communities and territories" on 18/11/2021 with 39 participants and WS#5 "National Recovery and Resilience Plan and perspectives for development and environmental sustainability" on 19/01/2022 with 39 participants; for schools: WS#4 "Less plastic in school" on 16/12/2021 with 33 participants; for the technical-scientific sector "The state of health of the Strait of Messina and Capo Peloro lakes" on 07/02/2022 with 38 participants (see dedicated platform: https://agendamessinapartecipazione.it/).

Metropolitan City of Milano

The Metropolitan Agenda portal supports, through dedicated tools (e.g. Network Lab) and training packages (e.g. School of Sustainability), involvement, training and awareness-raising of administrators, local authorities, private citizens and, in general, local stakeholders. The Metropolitan City of Milano organises meetings and training dedicated to the Agenda's themes and territorial strategies. During the two years of the project, about 1,000 participants attended the events, training and dissemination initiatives.

Metropolitan City of Palermo

Within the Metropolitan Agenda definition process, the 82 Municipalities of the Metropolitan Area will be involved on several topics, such as: the environment, supported by relevant associations; the social domain, with the Third Sector and voluntary sector; the economy, with small enterprises, youth start-ups, schools and universities. High schools will also be involved through awareness-raising actions.

Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria

The launch of the Metropolitan Forum took place on 9 Feb. 2020 with the kick-off of the "RC Metro Citizens in Transition" project. The activities under pilot actions 2, 3 and 4 contributed to civil society involvement. In particular:

- The "Civic Ecosystem" call for participation of organisations in training and capacity-building activities on 2030 Agenda topics (www.rcmetrocitizensintransition.com/ecosistema-civico);
- Education activities for Goal 4 "Knowledge Metro City" (www.rcmetrocitizensintransition.com/knowledge-codesign-greenjobs) with the involvement of the Educational Ecosystem (www.rcmetrocitizensintransition.com/ecosistema-educativo);
- Pilot action 6 "CoDesign MetroCity" (ongoing).

Metropolitan City of Roma ("Roma Capitale")

Civil society involvement took place in several ways:

- Online participatory events from May to July 2021 for presentation of the Agenda and MSP definition processes and discussion of relevant themes;
- Consultations, in-depth interviews and contacts as part of the research-intervention activities conducted by the subjects involved in MSP construction (universities, research companies);
- Involvement of associations, organisations and testimonials in pilot actions;
- Communication of activities and related results on the channels of the Metropolitan City and/or implementing actors.

Main results: broad participation; construction of a large repository of experiences and contacts, identification of clusters of topics of interest, emergence of education, training and awareness-raising

importance. Actors' responsiveness is directly related to the effectiveness of promoters' preparatory work. Next developments: co-project-designing enhancement, also with a dedicated platform.

Metropolitan City of Torino

The territory involvement process was built across successive steps. The actors were identified as per criteria shared in the Technical Scientific Support Group, with reference – in the first phase – to the supra-metropolitan area and to policy and strategic project-designing functions. With the aim of building the Missions of the Agenda, numerous organisations, together with the Metropolitan City of Torino and the Piemonte Region, took part in 10 focus groups on the themes laid down in the Guidelines for designing the Sustainable Development Agenda of the Metropolitan City of Torino and its territories, with reference to the overview of existing issues and identification of the results pursued. In the second phase (April – September 2022), the "external" subjects involved held project-designing and process management functions to develop the necessary in-depth studies on result-oriented domains to be placed within the Missions, in a framework of strategic directions and planning at higher territorial scales (metropolitan, regional, national and European). Eventually, a questionnaire will enable reaching further organisations prior to the final drafting of the Agenda.

Metropolitan City of Venezia

The identification of the SDGs (and related Targets) will rely on a participatory process involving Municipalities and key stakeholders, to enable contextualising the territory's needs.

Territorial initiatives towards a "culture for sustainability" derive from NSDS Vectors 2, At the same time, the 2030 Agenda assigns education a specific Goal (SDG 4 – Quality Education, including Target 4.7 – Education for Sustainable Development) but also indicates it as a target to attain other goals (Health, Jobs and Economic Growth, Responsible Consumption and Production Models, Climate Change, etc.). It follows that education is not only a target in itself, but also a means of achieving all the other targets, thus becoming a decisive tool for generating change and orienting people's lifestyles towards sustainability. It is therefore essential to **invest in the development of new competences** (disciplinary, methodological, social, personal, etc.) and skills that are essential for bringing about change, and which contribute to shaping an individual capable of not only performing a profession, but also of exercising active citizenship in society, based on consciousness and consistent behaviours. These competences, which are today already in demand by institutions, enterprises and in the social and relational dimension, are not linked to individual disciplines, rather they refer to learning patterns and are closely linked to the surrounding reality, with a view to inter- and trans-disciplinarity.

Today, the great social crisis generated by the pandemic calls even more urgently for **an education of the individuals which must be far from merely learning** notions and, rather, draw upon values such as social proximity, inclusion, care for the environment, global citizenship and community. Indeed, it is necessary to **understand the complexity and interdependence of global challenges** in order to act consciously at local level and in everyday life. **The global-local relationship** underpins an approach founded on the sphere of values *before* the cognitive level: contexts and territories become active parts in building a sustainability culture. The regulatory mandate of Article 34 of Legislative Decree 152/2006 (and subsequent amendments and integrations) that underpins NSDS localising actions fully supports and inspires this vision, referring to possibly building a multi-level network of activators for dissemination and promotion of a sustainability culture. **The territorial dimension of education implies, on the one hand, the importance of local networks and regional realities and, on the**

other, the essential role of central governments in indicating the guiding principles and global thematic priorities to be then applied in their respective operational contexts. In recent years, a decisive role has been played by **territorial networks** – some of them already existed, others were developed thanks to cooperation and synergies within the elaboration of Regional Strategies for Sustainable Development and Metropolitan Agendas.

For instance, the **Centers for Environmental Education and Sustainability (*CEASs*)**, established thanks to the IN.F.E.A. (2000-2007) programme, operate at regional level as a network of institutional and private subjects that perform a qualified and widespread action on the territories through multiple activities, projects and programmes, providing value and strengthening national, regional and local sustainability policies. Their activities are addressed to the local community: their main objective lies in promoting and managing spaces for participatory and shared planning, an essential condition for a complex and systemic learning process of interchange with the surrounding environment.

Rethinking educational models with a life-long learning approach also means enhancing the **places of culture and education** outside formal learning contexts – e.g., museum institutions, which are increasingly taking on the role of enabling subjects for the cultural, social, economic and participatory growth of cities in order to face the challenges and choices linked to ecological transition. As part of the NSDS localising process, a category of intervention was dedicated to sustainability education and promotion of social awareness actions (see chapter 4).

In particular, local authorities were given the opportunity to organise information and learning opportunities on sustainable development topics aimed at local schools, civil servants, and professional associations. In some cases, these activities complemented consolidated educational paths, while for other Administrations they represented an opportunity to revitalise the theme of Education as a fundamental tool in the implementation of territorial policies for sustainable development. **Hinging on the processes of drawing up Regional Sustainable Development Strategies and Metropolitan Sustainable Development Agenda, training activities were carried out for civil servants and, in particular, for educators in the Environmental and Sustainability Education Centres (*CEASs*)**. In July 2021, MiTE published a **Report on territorial processes for sustainable development and the central role of education** ("*I processi territoriali per lo sviluppo sostenibile e la centralità dell'educazione*"), which collects the initiatives implemented by territories to revive educational processes on sustainability and focuses on the transversal role of education within policies at local level.

Both at regional and metropolitan level, most of the activities implemented were directly addressed to **schools of various types and levels** (students and teachers), and thus took place within the formal framework of sustainable development education. These actions are aimed at disseminating information on the sustainability of territorial policies, focussing on the objectives pursued by national and regional sustainability strategies. Due to the pandemic emergency and the difficulty of carrying out in-person activities, information and training events on sustainable development were held through webinars disseminated via social networks. At metropolitan level, activities are mainly addressed to schools (students and teachers, and staff working in school facilities), and include educational pathways dedicated to sustainable development, but also public events, thematic and technical seminars on the NSDS and 2030 Agenda goals, or on youth policy topics such as green jobs and sustainability professions.

In the domain of non-formal and informal education, several awareness-raising and dissemination initiatives were carried out targeting a wide audience of citizens, via tools such as radio programmes, "virtual" events and fairs, and audiovisual materials. **Disseminating a shared language and promoting communication capacity enhancement** are also the prerequisites for building and experimenting new practices and "narratives" of sustainability, which must be easy-to-access and user-friendly, also to guide to action and promote awareness-raising and behavioural change. An information and communication process that is inclusive and effective also requires innovative methods and tools, as well as physical and virtual places to disseminate and foster knowledge on sustainable development, also through involvement of the new generations, who master digital languages and hold the necessary communicative power to disseminate a vision of the future based on sustainability.
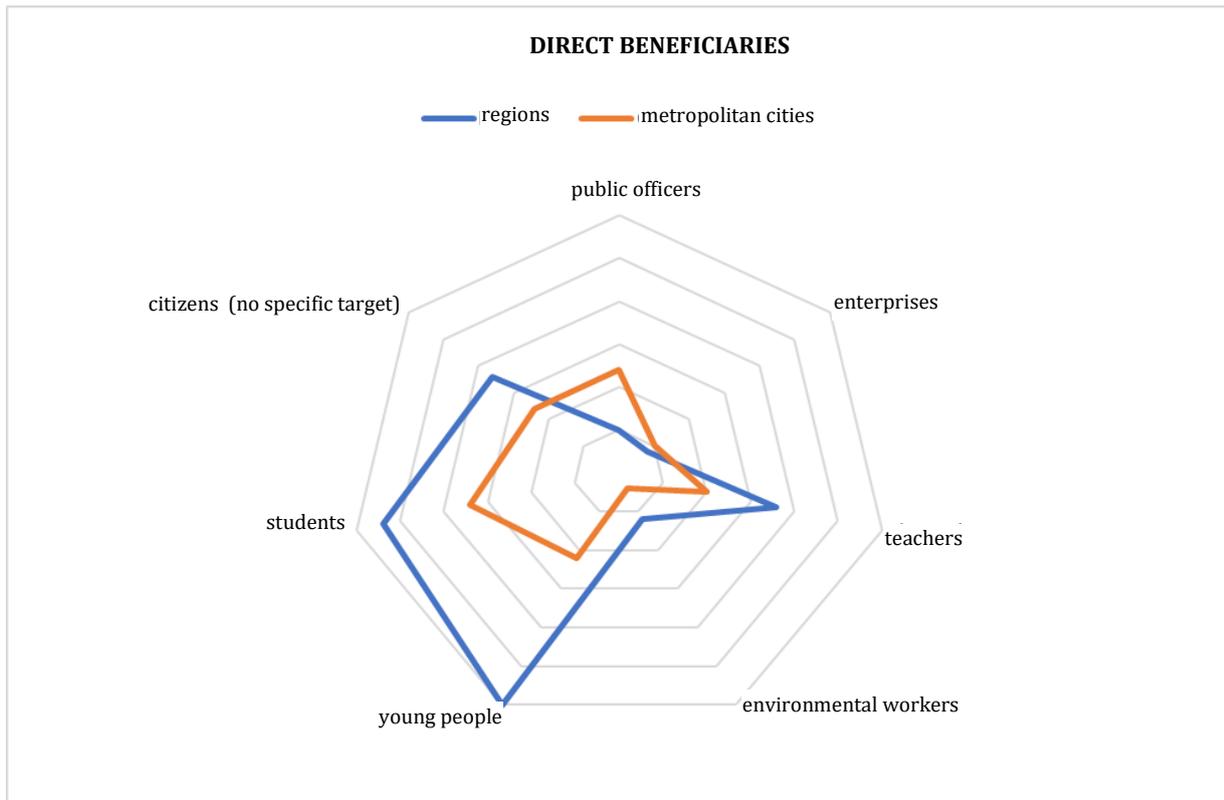

fig 18 **Direct beneficiaries of education initiatives for SD** (Source: MiTE - 2022)

5 Stakeholders engagement

The 108/2017 CIPE decision approving the NSDS provides that MiTE ensures a Forum for sustainable Development open to non-State actors, civil society and experts to accompany the implementation of the NSDS and of the 2030 Agenda in Italy. It was launched in 2018, during the first National Sustainable Development Conference and includes about 200 organizations up to date.

The intent is to follow up on the **regulatory mandate** by building a space where sustainability subjects and practices could emerge and engage and where public policies can meet and dialogue with social energies.

On these bases, the Forum for Sustainable Development plays a key role in the **NSDS implementation and in the three-year revision process** (as per Article 3 of Legislative Decree No. 221/2015). The 2022 NSDS and the NAP PCSD enable the Forum for Sustainable Development as a **stable and incremental platform** of dialogue between institutions, civil society and non-state actors as well as with the National Council for Development Cooperation - to promote integration and coherence among the internal and external dimensions of the policies - and with the territorial fora to contribute to the definition and implementation of the strategic vision shared at different level of government.

The Forum is composed of wide-ranging and heterogeneous voices representing the different realities of the Country – i.e., networks and associations from the voluntary and environmental sectors, youth, academia, as well as organisations from the world of labour, social economy, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Forty per cent of the organisations joining the Forum are located in central Italy, while the remaining 60 per cent are evenly distributed in the other geographical areas of the Country. They are relatively young organisations established mostly between 1980 and 2011. Their members are thus composed: 45% non-profit organisations; 29% businesses; foundations (9%); representative bodies (10%); research organisations (7%).

FOCUS – FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TASKS

As follows the **institutional functions** of the Forum:
- Supporting the NSDS implementation, monitoring and triennial updating processes (as per Article 3 of Legislative Decree No. 221/2015);
- Collecting recommendations, suggestions and opinions on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as provided for in the NAP-PCSD;
- Preparing position papers and own contributions for national positions within the main European and international negotiation processes on sustainable development;
- Contributing to the preparation of the National Sustainable Development Conference.

Besides its institutional tasks, the Forum has the following **relational functions**:
- Promoting sustainable development education, with focus on younger generations;
- Communication and dissemination of Strategy contents;
- Promoting information exchange and support for co-designing and networking among sustainability actors;

In order to carry out its tasks, the Forum is supported by MiTE's for the **operational and organisational aspects**, and benefits from the **scientific support** of "Roma Tre" University – Department of Architecture, in collaboration with "La Sapienza" University – Department of Social and Economic Sciences, and "Tor Vergata" University – Department of Management and Law.

The Forum is autonomously managed by its member organisations. Its main components are:

- Working Groups
- Coordination Group.

Member organisations actively participate in the Forum and animate 6 Working Groups that focus on thematic aspects directly related to the NSDS:

1. **Working Group on sustainability culture** supports the implementation of the NSDS, focusing on the trajectories of the Vector "Culture for sustainability (Vector 2) including the cross-cutting action fields of information, education, training, and communication as fundamental levers to support sustainability within policies, plans and projects at various levels.

2. **Working Group on Peace**. The three fundamental principles of the NSDS "P" for Peace are: promoting a non-violent and inclusive society, eliminating all forms of discrimination, and ensuring a society based on the cornerstones of legality and justice. "Peace" highlights the need to promote peaceful, equitable and inclusive societies for residents and migrants by supporting the fight against discrimination (age, gender and race), and measures to combat organised crime, corruption and violence in all its forms.

3. **Working Group on People**. The objectives of the "P" for "People", aim at combating social exclusion by supporting human capital development, health and well-being promotion with special attention to the inclusion of "People" issues in the principles and objectives of the NSDS. In particular it supports the development of a social dimension that guarantees a dignified life for the whole population and that all citizens can achieve their own potential in a healthy environment by combating the phenomenon of inequality to the benefit of a greater social cohesion.

4. **Working Group on Planet**. The objectives of the "P" for "Planet" are at the heart of the initiatives of this Working Group that supports the NSDS implementation process promoting biodiversity preservation, sustainable management of natural resources, increasing the resilience of territories and communities and safeguarding of landscapes and cultural heritage.

5. **Working Group on Prosperity**. The objectives of the "P" for "Prosperity" are at the heart of the initiatives of this Working Group, which supports the NSDS implementation process, promoting the development of a new circular economic model that guarantees full development of human potential and a more efficient and responsible use of resources by identifying development paths that minimise negative impacts on the environment and, more generally, promote the sustainable use of resources and human capital enhancement.

6. **Working Group on Youth**. It is aimed at involving the new generations in dialogue and exchange to promote greater awareness-raising and impact of public policies on sustainability.

The Coordination Group is composed of the coordinators of the Working Groups, as well as of representatives of main network organisations (for widest representativeness) and a representative of Working Group 1 of the CNCS.

As follows the tasks of the Coordination Group:

- Fostering Working Groups dialogue and full functionality;
- Supporting coherence of topics and processes leading to the elaboration of position papers and contributions for national positions within main European and international negotiation processes on sustainable development;
- Promoting exchange and discussion with the institutional and territorial actors involved in sustainable development governance, in coherence with the 2022 NSDS and the NAP-PCSD.

5.1 Contribution to the NSDS review process: towards the NSDS 2022

Launched in 2018 during the first National Sustainable Development Conference, the National Forum was established following the call for Expressions of Interest (April 2019) and first met in plenary in December of the same year. The National Sustainable Development Conference was a structured moment of interaction and dialogue between Forum members and institutions as well as an opportunity to launch joint initiatives and actions. The 2022 NSDS and the NAP PCSD enable the National Sustainable Development Conference as a permanent annual event organised by the Forum and MiTE, offering a structured space for the active involvement of non-State actors in the implementation, monitoring and review of the NSDS and of the NAP PCSD as well as an awareness-raising instrument at all levels of governance. The Second National Sustainable Development Conference takes place on June 21 in Rome.

On 8th of October 2020, the Forum held a **plenary meeting** titled *"The Forum for Sustainable Development: organisations together to promote change".* This initiative represented the first opportunity for the Forum to provide input to the reflection on the triennial NSDS review process, and to present itself by opening up to **external stakeholders** (European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN)and youth engagement networks such as CNG, Youth Network and *AIESEC)* as well as to share its mandate, areas of work, and activities.

CONFERENCE, POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND POSITION PAPERS

In early 2021, Forum efforts were focused on the contribution to the NSDS revision process, through the implementation of **Position Papers** (one for each Working Group) summarising the recommendations of civil society and non-State actors joining the Sustainable Development Forum. Also, a **Policy Recommendations** document was developed by the Forum Coordination Group on the bases of an internal investigation about the interlinkages between the main sustainable development policies and the priorities and objectives of the 6 Working Groups.

These positions papers were at the centre of the discussion of the Preparatory Event of the second Conference *"Together for the future – a sustainable recovery for Italy"* (3-4 March 2021)[19], introduced by the Minister for Ecological Transition, Roberto Cingolani. All the actors involved in the NSDS implementation and review processes, such as national and territorial institutions, the academic world, Forum members, provided an active contribution to the event. In particular the Forum took the opportunity to report on the requests made by its members to the institutions in the context of the NSDS review process, looking at the sustainable relaunch of the country in compliance with the principle of policy coherence of the main programming tools (including 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy programming), and in coherence with the principles of inter-generational and intra-generational responsibility, under which the involvement of young people plays a crucial role.

The requests gathered in the position papers were shared with the Minister for Ecological Transition and CIPESS (Italy's inter-ministerial committee for economic planning and sustainable development) in April 2021. The ensuing reflections highly inspired the revision process and contributed to the implementation of the 2022 NSDS.

One of the main issues brought up by the Forum was the "just transition" theme, not only as a technological or environmental element, but also as an opportunity to achieve social objectives especially in terms of rights and dignity of each person, in particular in emergency situations such as the Covid-19 pandemic. From this point of view, the just transition includes the themes of social justice, environmental justice and education (People), with special reference to: the employment and democratic, social and environmental repercussions of innovation processes (Prosperity); the protection of rights and resources of people, territories, natural capital and biodiversity (Planet); the need for a shared and participatory perspective by stakeholders and "rightholders" (Peace).

It was also highlighted the need to strengthen the dialogue and mediation perspective between all social actors and with the institutions by radically changing the prevalent sectoral approach to public policies and by developing social cohesion internally, within the multiple territorial contexts, as well as externally,through cooperation policies, aiming at developing a governance of global systems primarily oriented to build a world of peace. The following table shows some of the Forum's policy recommendations with reference to the NSDS scopes of application. [20]

A comparative reading of the Position Papers also shows the extent to which the Forum supported the need to **link the NSDS with other national policies**. As a matter of fact, some **transversal thematic issues** can be identified across the Forum's Working Groups, outlining a framework within which civil society and non-State actors look at sustainable transition problems and solutions. In particular, the need to assess and monitor public policies with respect to their capacity was emphasized to:

- **Reduce inequalities**, overcome, social, economic and cultural gaps, combat social marginalisation, and strengthen social cohesion and institutions.

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[19] https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/conferenza-preparatoria-3-e-4-marzo-2021

[20] The Policy Recommendations and Position Papers on Planet, People, Peace, Prosperity, Culture and Youth are included in the Annual Progress Report on the Implementation Status of the UNDP 2020, shared with CIPESS at its 29 April 2021 meeting.

- **Affirm the rights of people and the environment**, and support legal-institutional issues for sustainable transition pertaining to the private and individual sphere as well as to the public and collective spherealso extendible to animal and plant ecosystems.
- **Ensure innovation and collaboration in the establishment of formal, informal and non-formal education and training systems** through innovative forms of education, educational communities, and territorial educational pacts, supporting a change in both individual and collective values.
- **Ensure innovation and collaboration on management of communities and territories**, with innovative forms of governance to achieve sustainable transition involving public, non-governmental and civil society actors in the construction of integrated actions for social welfare;
- **Ensure practical and operational support for models of sustainable transition economies** both on the **demand** side (consumer) and the **supply** side (process innovation and business culture) through acquisition of skills, implementation/use of new technologies, and adherence to appropriate transparency and accountability criteria.

In the course of the 2022 NSDS review process, the Forum transformed for the consultation phases these thematic areas into **proposals for contents and indicators** and supported them within inter-institutional tables. In particular, the Forum proposed indicators on inequalities (gender, race, age), youth, migrants, as well as decent work, and business certification systems. A key role was played by public policy evaluation and the choice of indicators that define the type of society pursued and the selected directions to start sustainable development also in terms of monitoring and programming. The Forum often focussed on the need to link, as much as possible, reflections on the NSDS review to political contingency, thus creating **bridges with high-level planning and programming** (*PNRR*, Green Deal, etc.) and key players (MAECI, MEF, DIPE, DIPCoe).

Forum Policy Recommendations	Impacts on the NSDS 2022 design
"***Pursuing a just transition***, *aware of its social dimensions, and of the need to fight against inequalities; oriented to protecting the rights of people, territories, natural capital, biodiversity; aware that our Country's sustainability is played out in a global context.*"	The response to this recommendation can be found in the **very structure of the Strategy**, composed of a strategic framework for integrated policy monitoring (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership) and Sustainability Vectors (Policy Coherence, Sustainability Culture, and Participation for Sustainable Development) that represent cross-cutting working trajectories on which to build actions for a just transition.
"[...] ***Policy coherence for sustainable development is central*** *as it links the different SDGs (and Targets) to each other, placing them in relation to the very principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, starting with the "leave no one behind" principle.*	The response to this recommendation can be found in the **Policy Coherence** vector, one of the three vectors in the 2022 NSDS review, along with Culture and Participation. In this perspective, valuable progress is made with respect to the Strategy adopted in 2017: coherence is explicitly recognised as an **enabling factor**. In order to ensure the perspective of civil society and non-State actors in the assessment and monitoring of public policy Coherence, the Forum was formally recognised in the **National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (NAP-PCSD)**,

which is an annex and integral part of the 2022 NSDS document.

"**A *radical rethinking process*** *is indeed needed in the approach to public policies, involving all the areas that we generally consider sectoral and separate: industrial, energy, infrastructure, economic and fiscal, health, land management and protection, research policies, policies aimed at building social cohesion within our Country (social policies, "inner areas"). But also, cooperation policies, trade policies, policies oriented towards building a world of peace, policies on global systems governance.*

(...)

*Such a change requires a **new perspective, which must be based on dialogue and mediation*** *between all social actors and with institutions. The participation of civil society and other non-State actors is a necessary anchor of a process of change that will inevitably touch the lives of many.*"

Besides the reasons mentioned in the Policy Coherence Vector, the response to this recommendation can be found, also in the **Participation for Sustainable Development Vector, an indispensable enabling factor** to fulfil the legislative mandate that identifies the NSDS as the reference framework for environmental and territorial planning, programming and evaluation processes.

On the occasion of the 2022 NSDS review, the Forum was acknowledged as a key player for dialogue with **territorial forums** and **innovative partnerships** for sustainable development.

The Forum also emphasised that national policies must be linked with their transnational and international dimension for the **promotion of positive peace at global level**. In this framework, the 2022 NSDS and the NAP-PCSD strengthen the Forum's interaction with the *CNCS* supported by MAECI – with a view to integrating the internal and external dimensions of policies – and with **territorial forums** to contribute to defining a shared strategic vision at the different levels.

Youth involvement was an extremely relevant line of work for the Forum. Part of the Coordination Group acted as spokesperson; subsequently, several formal/informal youth organisations, young members and/or activists of the Forum's members also joined. A cross-cutting working group was established to collect and adequately represent the position of youth organisations within the various working groups. Young people were called for **harmonisation of those institutional initiatives** that require their involvement and/or key role.

This long ongoing path of transformation aims to enhance civil society's proposals within the NSDS review and implementation processes. The Forum took an active part in the **review process** both through its participation in joint working moments (virtual World Cafés, Workshops, Technical Seminars) with central and territorial administrations, and by working on the NSDS working documents shared for consultation, as well as

in the workshops on **policy coherence for sustainable development**, organized in the context of the project "Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: mainstreaming SDGs in the Italian Decision Making" proposed by MiTE in 2019 and carried out with the scientific support of the OECD – Directorate

for Public Governance - and within the Structural Reform Support Program (now called Technical Support Initiative) of the European Commission - DG Reform.

In the review process the Forum contributed to the review of the strategic **choices, objectives, and 5 Ps indicators** (Planet, Person, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership), notably by highlighting major transversal topics concerning inequalities, rights, and economic system transformations required for sustainable transition and by reconciling the internal/national dimension and the external/international dimension of sustainable development. With regard to the area Partnership, the Forum (and specifically Working Group 1 of the *CNCS*) encouraged institutions to engage in a more coherent formulation of the text – increasingly in line with the other Ps – in order to overcome the deceitful dichotomy between the external dimension and the internal one.

The **Sustainability Vectors** were also redesigned through a participatory and inclusive approach drawing upon meetings involving both institutions and the Forum. that made it possible to recognize what was already in place, create connections and synergies, review the objectives, and identify tools associated with each Vector. For example:

- **Policy coherence** as the pivot for NSDS implementation and for an effective achievement of the sustainable development objectives. The dialogue paths activated on this theme made it possible to address the **spill-over effects** (potential negative impacts of public policies in third countries) and the importance of **public policy measurement and evaluation tools** that take into account legal requirements and the creation of a coherent and integrated system, in line with the need to move faster towards the alignment of planning/programming and evaluation tools for policies, plans and programmes.
- Centrality of **sustainability culture**; overcoming educational fragmentation; enhancing polycentrism and educational polymorphism; importance of building effective and institutionally "recognisable" educational networks; developing skills based on a critical and systemic approach to support social change towards sustainability.

This long and intense process of consultation and participation further strengthened the important role of the Forum within the NSDS

The reflections highlighted by the Forum in these contexts were taken into consideration and contributed to the definition of the contents of [Italy Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development](#)and, based on it, to the NAP-PCSD, shared with the Forum Coordination Group and Working Groups.

FOCUS – THE ROLE OF THE FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN NSDS AND NAP-PCSD

The Forum is recognised as a key actor of the NSDS and operates within the reference strategic framework together with central and territorial administrations. Furthermore, the importance of stable interaction with the CNCS through Working Group 1 is recognised in order to ensure coherence between the internal and external dimensions of sustainable development. As to NSDS implementation, in the coming years the Forum:

- will participate in the inter-institutional dialogue on policy coherence and in building the tools for assessment and monitoring as defined in the NAP-PCSD (Coherence Matrices and Fiches, Sustainability Labs, Sustainability dashboard);
- will contribute to the implementation of the Vector of sustainability 2 "culture for sustainable development" and its components (education, training, information, communication), recognising their transformative power and the key role of civil society;
- will contribute to creating innovative partnerships for sustainable development that bring together institutions, universities, research centers, education system and business;
- will collaborate with territories and territorial administrations to foster participation in coherence with the Vector of sustainability 3 "Participation for sustainable development" and on the basis of the experiments and collaboration between MiTE and DFP on Open Government;
- will organise the Sustainable Development Conference with MiTE.

5.1 Regulation review and experimentation of new modes of participation

The interactive and multistakeholder review process and the high number of different actors involved, in addition to the Forum, made it essential to use different engagement tools aimed at co-constructing "contents" and experimenting different ways of interaction and participation In some cases, actual experiments were performed to innovate the tools used by the Forum actors, also in view of implementing the third Sustainability Vector expressly dedicated to participation.

The paths undertaken therefore had the dual purpose of implementing the Forum's "operativeness" (i.e., its procedural and decision-making capacity) and strengthening its "functionality" in supporting the NSDS implementation and review processes.

On the "operational" side, the work focussed on the redefinition of tools to support and innovate the dynamics of meeting, debating and participation among the Forum's members. A key organisational step involved **amendments to the Forum Regulation –** drafted through plenary meetings, an online questionnaire, and Coordination Group discussions. The stakeholder engagement questionnaire aimed to identify: knowledge of NSDS contents; perception of one's own role as a Forum actor participating in the review process, and highlighting issues and potentials at working group/coordination group level; and the grounds of the new Forum Regulation.

On these bases, a Regulation was drafted to **consolidate the Forum's spaces of autonomy** and allow members to gradually assess best ways for internal interaction, with the organisational and operational support of MiTE and of the universities involved. In addition, the Regulation will be annexed to the new NSDS22, showing that the Forum has assumed a central role in the whole NSDS implementation and review process.

The Forum's logo was also created as a sign of identity of this space of dialogue.

In terms of "functionality", the central themes were to strengthen the Forum as a place for:

- Civil society participation and consultation on sustainable development;
- Development of a culture of sustainability capable of generating the conditions enabling the achievement of the sustainable development goals;
- Fostering a Multi-actor dialogue – also with and between institutions – aimed at achieving public policy coherence on sustainable development.

With a view to an integrated process aimed at strengthening the National Forum for Sustainable Development in its internal dimension (multistakeholder platform) and external dimension (meeting place of public policies with social energy), MiTE, supports the activities of the Forum (in coherence with the CIPE Resolution 108/2017) and to this aim launched a pilot project to promote the creation of a Forum working space on the ParteciPA[21] open-source platform in collaboration with the Department of Public Function *(DFP)* of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Such initiative is anchored within the **Fifth National Action Plan for Open Government 2022-2023**, in the broader framework of the

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[21] ParteciPA is an open source consultation platform to experiment with innovative OpenGov models. Formez PA supports the DFP in its implementation.

Open Government Partnership (OGP) – Italy has been participating since 2011 to promote open government policies at national level.

The project supports the contribution of the Forum to the NSDS review Process and to the VNR process through the participated construction of a **Position Paper** that provide recommendations for the implementation of the 2022NSDS in the coming years.

In this framework, the Forum's "operativeness" and "functionality" are indissolubly interwoven, due to the need for the Position Paper to represent the accomplished expression of civil society and non-State actors' demands on sustainability, as well as the result of a broad, participated, complex and, above all, shared work.

To such end, it was decided that the Position Paper could be developed through an experimental participation model – testing the use of PARTECIPA platform as a space for the Forum's empowerment.

The initiative aimed at creating a space to **systematise the dynamics of civil society's participation** in the NSDS implementation and review paths, fostering multi-actor dialogue for stakeholder consultation, and defining instruments of institutional dialogue, co-designing of initiatives and spaces for listening, debate and accountability. In addition, *DFP* collaboration ensures that the dialogue between institutions and non-State actors takes place under the **Open Government** principles, such as transparency and support for civic participation to improve the quality of public decision making and the democratic life of communities. The whole space is the result of a **co-design project** relying on the synergic work of Forum representatives, as well as MiTE, supported by *DFP* and *Formez PA*.

In addition to the Assembly, two further transversal processes were built to support the activities of the whole Forum: **the Coordination Group space; and the Participatory space**.

The purpose of the Coordination Group is to foster synergic meeting of ideas, positions and proposals from the various Working Groups components. It will thus be possible to activate internal exchange and debate processes, return documents on consultation and/or Forum positioning processes, and put forward proposals consistently with the Forum Regulation.

The Participatory Space, on the other hand, is intended to guarantee these prerequisites, facilitating exchange, promotion and awareness among the several Working Groups and components of the Forum, and ultimately favouring a common shared path.

In addition to demonstrating the functionality of "ParteciPA" and of the new participatory models, the results of the pilot project – hence the Position Paper attached to this VNR – reaffirm the key role played by the Forum in supporting the NSDS implementation and review processes through a two-way approach. On the one hand, participation fosters a sustainability culture that is essential to achieve the established objectives; on the other hand – through a participatory model debate based on listening, consultation and co-designing – it enables intercepting "new" issues, instances and needs to outline the next sustainable development challenges in the Country.

This element is of major importance, primarily as the NSDS is subject to three-year review and annual reporting. Only through an open debate with all the relevant actors – institutions, civil society, and private subjects – is it possible to outline the next sustainable development objectives.

5.3   Forum's Position Paper for Italy's VNR 2022

As a result of the pilot actions carried out by DFP and MiTE, the present position paper was developed and shared by the Forum for Sustainable Development and the CNCS focusing on the same three thematic areas of the VNR, adding value to both the perspective and the vision enshrined in this document.

Introductory and summary remarks

1.1   It is important to preserve and increasingly structure the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) as a space for dialogue between institutions and non-State actors and participatory policy making between institutions and non-State actors, whether profit or not-for-profit bodies that act to empower the social rights of the most vulnerable social groups.

1.2   As per Articles 9 and 41 of the Italian Constitution as amended in 2022, environment, biodiversity, natural ecosystems and health are now interlinked "assets" to be protected and promoted as part of the national heritage and the Italian natural, social and cultural capital to be protected. The economic objectives of private initiatives must be consistent with the objective of safeguarding social rights and the environmental equilibrium of flora and fauna. This is the outcome of a longstanding struggle and advocacy work led by *ASVIS* and other non-State actors' coalitions.

1.3   Widespread and effective awareness-raising activity on the 2030 Agenda, culminating in the Sustainable Development Festival (2,789 events over 4 years), organised by several hundred organisations, under *ASVIS* lead.

1.4   We acknowledge a general issue of fragmentation in integrating sustainability concerns in general policy making both within a horizontal and a vertical perspective. Such challenges become more urging in the current context of the war in Ukraine and other ongoing conflicts, and should be addressed in a consistent way and in structural terms. Within this perspective, it is important to enhance the role of Italy and the European Union in reframing the method of multilateralism notably with regard to an urgent structural reform of the United Nations to put at the heart of human rights, solidarity, and a notion of international cooperation as a means of human development.

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: a challenge for Italy's institutional system

2.1   The PCSD is a rising priority in policy making. In order to develop the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda, it needs to be understood not only in terms of interaction between objectives and targets, but also in terms of coherence with the principles of the Agenda, and in terms of coherence between internal and external agendas.

2.2   Specific attention in enhancing the PCSD should be paid and further developed by introducing and/or improving gender mainstreaming in policies and monitoring their gender impact.

2.3   The lack of integration between the internal and external dimensions of the sustainable development agenda poses issues. The 'Partnership' section of the expected Sustainable Development Strategy follows a different outline from that of the other sections, exclusively focused on International Development Cooperation.

It is still unclear where the dialogue on the Partnership issues beyond development cooperation should take place, including all issues related to migration, defense, trade and foreign investment policies (among others). Consultation on the Partnership section took place within the working group on planning of the mentioned National Council for Development Cooperation (*CNSC*); the working group operating on the 2030 Agenda then prioritised the PCSD.

2.4   Informing the policy-making process in a perspective of coherence requires a complex arrangement in institutional terms. We welcome the forthcoming adoption of the Plan for the PCSD. The Plan has been the object of analysis and reflection through an open consultation process.

2.5   Yet, some aspects of the institutional design on PCSD governance still require refinement, in order to become effective in contributing to overall policy making and aligning with the 2030 Agenda.

2.6   The system of indicators used to monitor advancements in terms of sustainability still represents a challenge. Indicators are often conceived as a purely technical and neutral element: there is a strong need for discussing "what" we are measuring, and to what extent we need develop alternative metrics. In this perspective, it appears necessary to develop the presence of Non-State Actors and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs/NSAs) in those technical instances where indicators are decided upon and approved, in order to identify a more appropriate set of indicators for measuring the stated objectives.

2.7   Major practical concern in terms of PCSD focuses on how the most fragile and vulnerable population (those who are hit the hardest and pay the highest costs) will be accompanied through the ecological and digital transitions. This should include specific awareness-raising provisions and local level initiatives that may allow for a gradual approach and familiarity to new systems.

2.8   In terms of current policy challenges, there is an important gap to be filled in how sustainable development is integrated into the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Italy's *PNRR*). No meaningful process of participation was established in view of its elaboration; its formulation only very weakly expresses the need for alignment to the 2030 Agenda principles and objectives; its monitoring is still very limited due to absence of data and accountability, which compromise proper evaluation processes.

2.9   Particularly in view of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan implementation phase, it is important to strengthen analysis and action on coherence at the local and regional levels with the participation of regional forums and town assemblies; and more in general all provisions to foster active citizenship. Participation is key in making policies really responsive to communities' needs.

2.10   Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development needs be brought at a more "concrete" level in establishing policy making where the different elements of the 2030 Agenda (economic, social, environmental) are integrated since the earliest phase of policy foresight and conception.

The 2030 Agenda and the localising process: the role of territories and local authorities

3.1 Policy integration for sustainability is a challenge integrating the different levels of policy making, linking the concerns arising at local level with those emerging at national and supra-national levels. Metropolitan areas may represent a crucial crossroad as a sharing, innovation and experimentation arena, and international decentralised cooperation ground experiences may be regarded as inspiring sustainable practices.

3.2 It is important to take sustainability concerns to a better degree of integration between the environmental level needs and requirements, on one side, and social level issues, on the other, by conceiving integrated policies that encompass both the dimensions since the very beginning, and generate shared measures that value civic commitment.

3.3 The territorial dimension is the level at which the integrated approach to sustainable development can be effectively designed and implemented. This includes small, medium and metropolitan areas, as well as marginalised and sparsely populated areas.

3.4 Governance arrangements and planning/programming measures for sustainable development should be designed at all these levels and notably as to the metropolitan dimension, in which the Metropolitan Sustainable Development Agenda is an important tool for policy integration.

3.5 Fostering an adequate and homogeneous level of participation at local level is an important element to be developed; these processes should include non-formal actors and groups, which are active at grass-roots levels.

3.6 Improving the relations between local forums and national forum, with bottom-up mechanisms, as well as virtual and physical channels of communication, which will allow introducing attention points from the "grass-roots" to the national level.

3.7 Deepening the involvement and support of "sustainability makers" within regional and metropolitan forums.

The participation of Non-State Actors and Civil Society Organisations: spaces, effectiveness, perspectives

4.1 The Forum for Sustainable Development is the arena that promotes the participation of Non-State Actors and Civil Society (associations, cooperatives, NGOs and not-for-profit organisations, charities and foundations, as well as small, medium and large enterprises) to the processes of assessment, review and reformulation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The different legal status of the members has produced positive exchanges of ideas and views. However, in order to improve the outreach of the National Strategy, some discontinuities need be addressed.

4.2 The Forum delivered relevant contributions to the Strategy in terms of policy recommendations. The working groups of the Forum produced five Positions Papers, which suggested specific attention points and cross-cutting topics addressing the new challenges for the Strategy. In order to make actors' engagement more effective, the Forum's role needs to scale up in the "ladders of participation'" towards "empowerment".

4.3 The Forum as a whole, within its different working groups, strongly argues in favour of the need of pursuing a "just" transition that must be: aware of its social dimensions and of the need to fight against inequalities; oriented towards the protection of people's rights, territories, natural capital, biodiversity; aware that our Country's sustainability is played out in a global context.

4.4 The participants in the Forum also underlined some aspects to be improved, notably referred to: networking (more opportunities to build relations and exchange knowledge); institutional dialogue (exchanges with national, regional and local institutions); relevance of creating an enabling network and promoting productive dialogues; Forum outreach (enhancing the capacity to involve participants to a wider extent in dissemination initiatives) and its capacity to become a credible reference point for local actors and grass-roots initiatives.

4.5 We therefore suggest strengthening the central coordination group to support the Forum in networking and dissemination activities. These activities will be co-designed by the Forum components and will be managed by the coordination group.

4.6 The participation of Non-State Actors and Civil Society in the Forum for Sustainable Development requires specific arrangements and mechanisms; the key issue concerns participation in policy-making, implementation, monitoring, and assessment activities. To have those voices actually heard, the above needs be operationalised through specific institutional and dialogue arrangements. Under this perspective, the Forum should be conceived as a tool to ensure wider empowerment of societal actors in sustainable development pathways, as well as to make the Strategy implementation process more accountable.

4.7 We also see the opportunity for building communication initiatives at local level, jointly prepared by regional and national Forums' members; and designing specific initiatives to create and/or strengthen communication channels between Forum's members and sustainability activists (especially youth organisations) at local level, in line with "open innovation" approaches, which can feed synergies among different perspectives. The same should be pursued in strengthening the Forum relations with educational entities and training agencies to improve the capacity to spread the sustainability culture. Also, online communities need be considered.

4.8 A perspective for of Non-State Actors and Civil Society participation should involve a clear concern for participation of young generations, and possible contribution of relevant/non-formal actors, besides the needed attention for formally represented actors and stakeholders.

6 Progress on objectives and targets: new and emerging challenges

The following texts are extracted and synthesised from the "2021 SDGs Report: Statistical Information for the 2030 Agenda in Italy" published by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), which produces and updates on a regular basis a set of indicators for the national monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with all members of the National Statistical System (SISTAN). Indicators are being updated twice a year: the latest update was released on February 2022[22].

National Statistical Offices play a key role for the production of accessible and transparent quality statistical information at national and intra-national level, aimed at monitoring the SDGs. The process of setting up national statistical measures adopts the current version of the 2020 revision of the indicators suggested by the UN-IAEG-SDGs. The synergistic work of inter-institutional comparison and enrichment of the wealth of information related to the SDGs indicators has produced the current Statistical Platform, built together with the various institutional actors belonging to the National Statistical System (Sistan) and beyond: Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), GSE (Energy Services Manager), ISS (Higher Institute for Health), MITE (Ministry of Ecological Transition), MAECI (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of University and Research, Invalsi, Asvis.

The national statistical measures for monitoring the SDGs have been made available progressively in the dedicated Istat Information Platform, as part of multiple releases since 2016, in order to allow for continuous updates and enrichments. In December 2016, the platform produced 95 national measures for 66 UN-IAEG indicators released; the 2021 release published 354 statistical measures for 135 indicators, the February 2022 release makes available 367 statistical measures for 138 indicators, including the update of 135 statistical measures and the introduction of 12 new measures compared to August 2021.

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[22] For a comprehensive statistical overview on the implementation of 2030 Agenda in Italy, please refer to the full report, available online at https://www.istat.it/it/files//2022/02/2021-SDGS-Report_Inglese.pdf , and the latest data release, available on line at https://www.istat.it/en/well-being-and-sustainability/sustainable-development-goals/istat-indicators-for-sustainable-development.
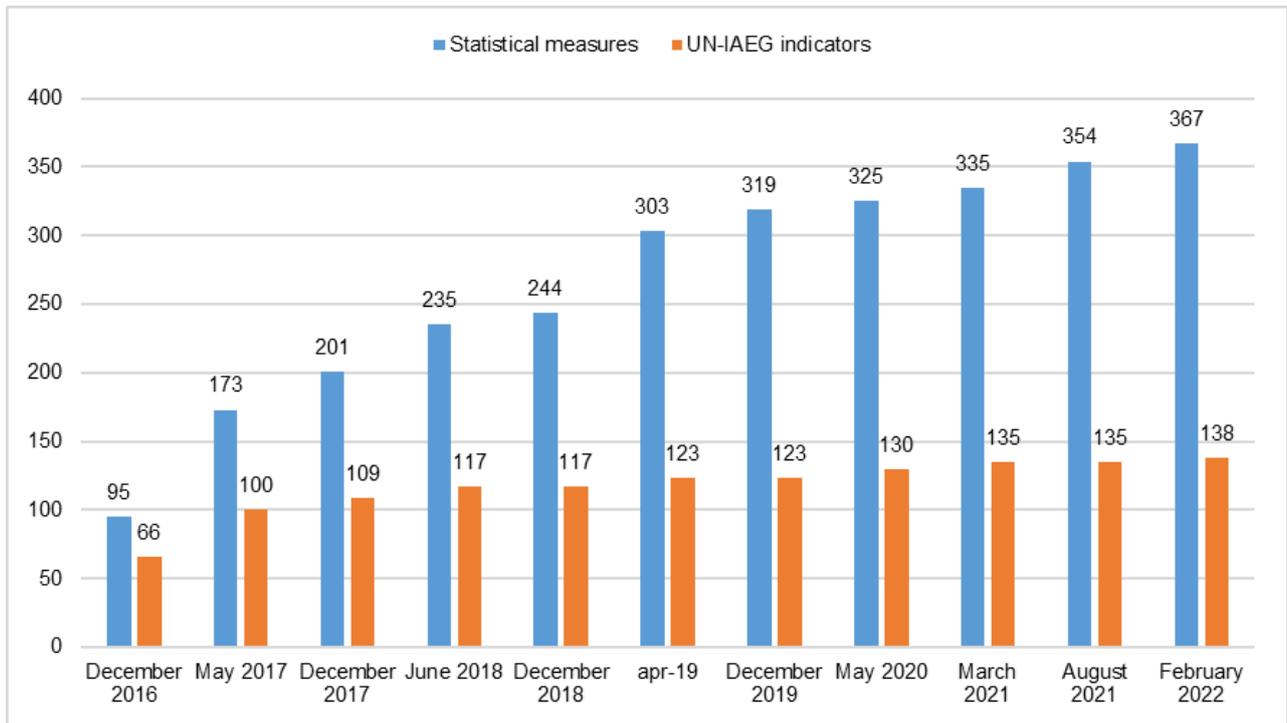
fig 19 Istat SDGs statistical measures and UN-IAEG-SDGs indicators, by date of dissemination (source ISTAT - SDGs Report, page 169-170, 2022 February update)

The implementation of the information platform defines national statistical measures identical to the indicators required by the UN-IAEG in its 2020 revision; in other cases, the measures are either similar or partial; moreover the platform makes available additional statistical measures specific to the national context. 109 statistical measures are identical, 132 are proxy or partial and 113 are national context specific.
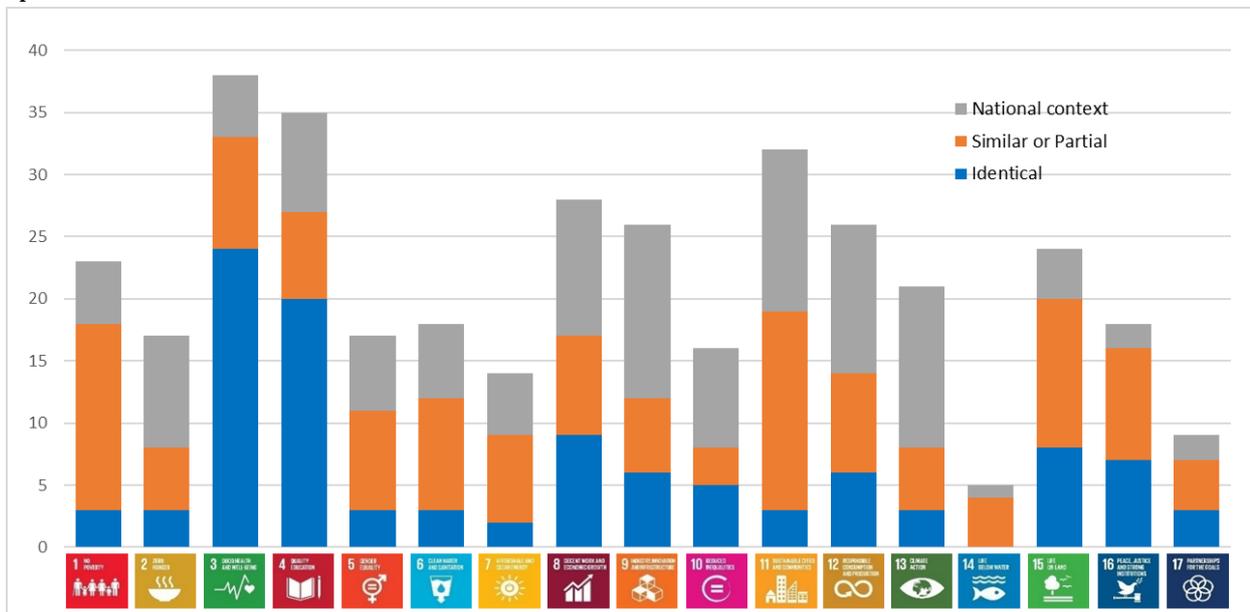

fig 20 Istat SDGs statistical measures, by taxonomy compared to SDGs indicators (source ISTAT - SDGs Report, page 170, 2022 February update)

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In accordance with the principle "to leave no one behind" and in order to meet the requirements of global, national and territorial information and data needs, the platform focuses especially on regional breakdowns, level of urbanisation breakdowns, as well as to gender, citizenship, and disability breakdowns (Figure 21). The territorial availability of data is quite crucial to the Italian context and one of the main challenges for the next future, in order to build a common knowledge basis within the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and to respond to the legislative mandate aimed at guaranteeing the integrated monitoring of the SDGs at different territorial level.

Dimension	Istat SDGs statistical measures	Goal
Degree of urbanization / Municipality / Municipality type	64	(SDG icons: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17)
Region	202	(SDG icons: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)
Province	15	(SDG icons: 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16)
Gender	120	(SDG icons: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17)
Age class	79	(SDG icons: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17)
Citizenship / Nationality	54	(SDG icons: 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16)
Presence of disability	17	(SDG icons: 1, 3, 4, 10)

fig 21 **Istat SDGs statistical measures, by available breakdown** (source ISTAT - SDGs Report, page 171, 2022 February update)

SDGs statistical measures record large communalities and interconnections with the system of Equitable and Sustainable Wellbeing indicators (Benessere Equo e Sostenibile - BES)[23] and with the BES indicators used in the Economic and Financial Document (DEF)[24]. 64 SDGs statistical measures are included also in the BES system.

6.1 Progress towards sustainable development and the impact of the pandemic

An overall positive picture emerges as to measures undertaken: 60.5% of them are improving, 19.1% are unchanged, and 20.5% are worsening. The intensity of favourable signals drops significantly if, on the other hand, data are based on the 2020 available update: compared to the previous year, the

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[23] See https://www.istat.it/en/well-being-and-sustainability/the-measurement-of-well-being/indicators
[24] See https://www.istat.it/en/well-being-and-sustainability/the-measurement-of-well-being/bes-in-the-economic-and-financial-document

percentage of improving measures decreases to 42.5% while the percentage of those worsening rises to 37.0%. The less encouraging picture mainly stems from the COVID-19 breakout. (Figure 20).
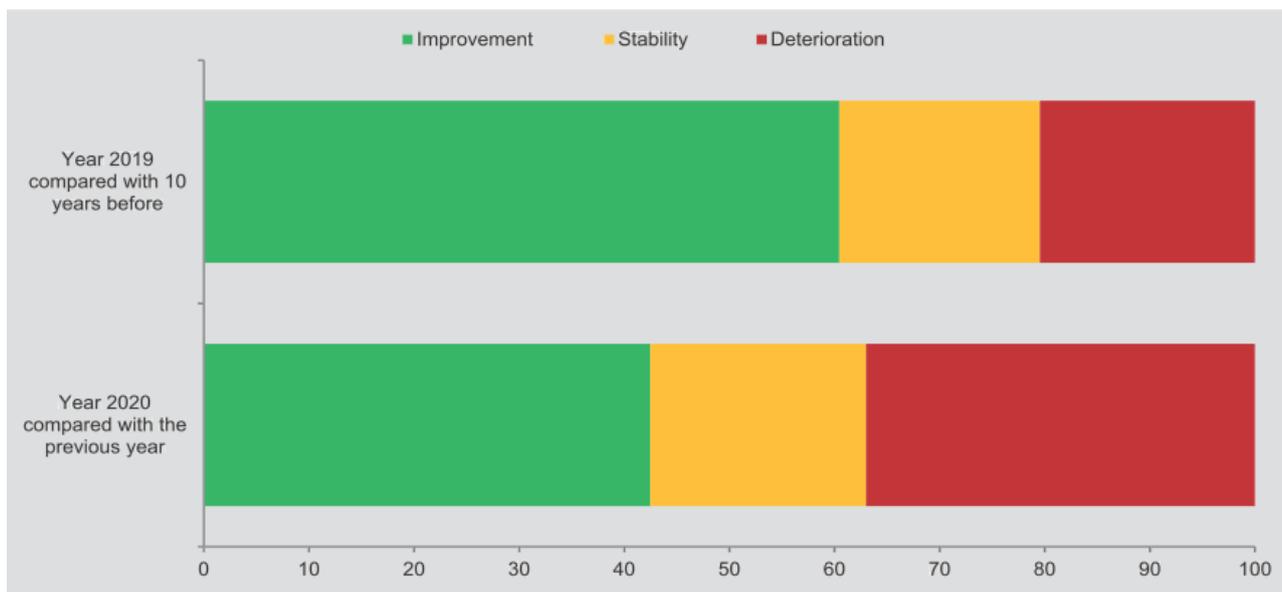

Overall trend in statistical measures updated to 2019 and earlier years compared with 10 years earlier and statistical measures updated to 2020 compared with the previous year (ISTAT - SDGs Report, page 8-9

6.2 Statistical measures for monitoring the National Sustainable Development Strategy

During 2018, MiTE established a Working Group on Indicators for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development with the aim of defining a narrow and representative core of monitoring indicators, building on statistical measures available in the Istat-Sistan Platform, preferably identical to UN-IAEG-SDGs indicators and coherent with the BES indicators, so as to ensure that measures respect the requirements of statistical admissibility too. Therefore, the working group adopted criteria of parsimony, feasibility, timeliness, extension and frequency of the time series, sensitivity to public policies, territorial dimension, focusing on statistical measures that had the best available territorial disaggregation, in order to identify a first experimental subset of statistical measures referable to the National Strategy. This approach was shared and implemented in the analyses for the Regional Sustainable Development Strategies and Urban Agendas. It consisted of 43 SDGs statistical measures, many of which are also included into BES. In accordance with the OECD PCSD recommendation, which indicates the need for the aforementioned institutional mechanisms, coherence is recommended between the budget law (that must also be compliant with environmental constraints), the cohesion policies and the objectives of the NSDS, including also the correspondences between the priorities in the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience and in NSDS, in order to include the long-term impact of new policies as key elements in the progress towards the SDGs.

The 43 indicators selected for NSDS constitute a systemic framework for indicators regarding sustainability and well-being, that include jointly SDGs, BES, and in particular those indicators included

in the DEF. The first selection was carried out in 2019 as a joint collaboration among the MiTE, MEF, MAECI, ISTAT, and the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).

This subset is under revision, in order to benefit from the larger data availability of the current SDGs statistical platform, but also to meet the requirements of the ongoing revision of the NSDS. Istat and Sistan will continue to enlarge the information mosaic, including, as usual, the evolution of international and national information systems and also analysing the interconnections between statistical measures in order to consider synergies and trade-offs

The strategic framework of the 2022 National Sustainable Development Strategy (2022 NSDS) is broken down into 5 Domains (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership) one for each pillar of the 2030 Agenda. Each Domain encompasses National Strategic Choices (NSCs) to which National Strategic Objectives (NSOs) correspond. Each NSC is complemented with one or more benchmark indicators. The set of measures associated with NSCs builds on the afore mentioned 43 indicators selected in 2018 and constitutes an initial synthetic set of indicators capable of rendering the level of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Italy and monitoring the progress of the SDGs as well as of the national strategic choices at different territorial level, following the legislative mandate in Italy.

For each NSC, indicators were identified on the basis of data availability, territorial disaggregation and recurrence within national strategic planning frameworks: the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Italy's PNRR), the Economic and Financial Document (Documento di Economia e Finanza – DEF), the Ecological Transition Plan (Piano per la Transizione Ecologica – PTE) and EU development policies related to economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The tables below show the 2030 Agenda SDGs associated with the NSCs of each 2022 NSDS Area. Based on the principle of multi-dimensional and cross-cutting nature of the Goals, each NSC is associated to more than one SDG and to more than one statistical indicator. The table shows, for each indicator, the trend (positive/stable/negative, respectively indicated by a green/yellow/red circle) of the indicator versus the previous year and versus the previous 10 years (where available). The table is complemented with a brief description of the indicator as available in the SDGs 2021 Report for the 2030 Agenda in Italy.

Legend

Improvement	🟢
Stability	🟣
Deterioration	🔴
Not Available - Not significant	--

Values reported in the following tables are those published in the 2021 edition of Istat's SDG Report, issued last August. As the updating process is continuous, several indicators have been updated since then: the complete dataset with the latest updates can be found at https://www.istat.it/en/well-being-and-sustainability/sustainable-development-goals/istat-indicators-for-sustainable-development.

PEOPLE

Promotion of a social dimension that guarantees decent life for the whole population, enabling all citizens to realize their potentials in a healthy environment. In this context, poverty eradication is associated with both the economic and the social dimensions (counteracting inequality in favour of greater social cohesion) and with the environmental dimension (reducing population's exposure to environmental and anthropogenic risk factors).

2030 Agenda SDG	NSDS 2022 Strategic National Choice (SNC)	Indicator	Variation versus 10 years earlier	Variation versus the previous year	Trend description
	I. Fight poverty and social exclusion, eliminating territorial gaps	1.2.1 Absolute poverty (incidence) (Istat, 2020, percentage values)	🔴	🔴	In 2020, more than 2 million households (7.7%), out of more than 5.6 million individuals (9.4%), were living in absolute poverty. Compared to the previous year, absolute poverty grew especially in the North-West (10.1% individuals in absolute poverty; +3.3 percentage points compared to 2019) and in the North-East (8.2%, +1.6 p.p.). On the other hand, the increase in the Centre (6.6%; +1 p.p.), in the South (11.7%; +1 p.p.) and in the Islands (9.8%; +0.4 p.p.) showed moderate intensity. Absolute poverty increased in every age class, except among those over 65 years.
		1.2.2 Severe material deprivation rate (Istat, 2019, percentage values)	🟡	🟢	Data retrieved from the Eu-Silc Survey make available additional measures of poverty. In 2019, 20.1% of residents in Italy lived at risk of poverty, 7.4% were in conditions of severe material deprivation
		10.2.1 People at risk of poverty (Istat, 2019, percentage values)	🔴	🟡	From the beginning of the 2008 economic crisis till end-2015, the income gap between the poorest and the richest classes increased. Per-capita income of 40% of lowest income population decreased more than the one of total population. The ratio between the amount of equivalent disposable income of the highest fifth percentile and that of the lowest fifth percentile of the population reached 6.3 in 2015.
	II. Guarantee the conditions for human potential development	4.1.2 Early leavers from education and training (Istat, 2020, percentage values)	🟢	🟢	In 2020, people in the 18-24 age class who left the education and training system without attaining a diploma or a qualification were 13.1% (543 thousand people), slightly lower than the previous year and higher than the European target (10%). Early school leavers were more likely males (15.6%). Territorial gaps were still wide and persistent.
		4.6.1 People having completed tertiary education (30-34 years) (Istat, 2020, percentage values)	🟢	🟡	In 2020, 27.6% of people in the 30-34 age class held a tertiary qualification (34.3% of women, and 21.4% of men). A share that has remained stable over the last 3 years, The European Union achieved and exceeded the target of 40% of individuals with tertiary qualification.
		8.3.1 Share of employed persons not in regular occupation (Istat, 2018, percentage values)	🔴	🟢	In 2020, the employment rate contracted again to 62.6%, with a decrease of 0.9 percentage points compared to the previous year. The unemployment rate (9.2%) decreased as inactivity rate increased, due to the limitations to job searching. Despite the slight decline versus the previous year, in 2018 Italy recorded significant levels of irregular employment: irregular employees were equal to 12.9% of total employment.
	III. Promote health and wellbeing	2.2.2 Overweight or obesity among minors from 3 to 17 years of age (Istat, 2018/19, percentage values)	🟢	🔴	In developed countries, the social and health impact of malnutrition is shown by the increasing prevalence of overweight in childhood, a predictor for obesity in adulthood and early onset of several chronic diseases. In 2019 the estimates available for Italy showed an increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity

					among children and adolescents equal to 32.1% for the youngest (3-5 years) and 25.6% for the 3-17 years group, respectively.
![SDG 3]		3.4.1 Healthy life expectancy at birth (Istat, 2020, average number of years)	🟢	🟢	The increase in mortality affected life expectancy at birth which, in 2020, fell to 82 years 1.2 years below the previous year. Life expectancy at birth fell to 79.7 years for men (1.4 years lower than the previous year) and 84.4 years for women (1 year lower than the previous year).
![SDG 11]		11.5.1 Population at risk of landslides (Ispra, 2017, percentage values)	🔴	—	In 2020 households concern about climate change declined by one percentage point to 70.0%, though it has been increasing over the years (it was 63.3% in 2012). Working towards prevention and strengthening of anthropogenic and natural systems is the basis of correct and effective risk management, aimed at reducing natural economic and human losses.
		11.5.1 Population at risk of floods (Ispra, 2017, percentage values)	🔴	—	In 2020 in Italy 22.57 inhabitants per km2 were exposed in areas at risk of flooding.

PLANET

Climate change is generating a 1.28 C rise in global temperatures, specifically 1.56 C in Italy, with consequences at several levels: loss of biodiversity, resulting in mutations of species and habitats; alteration of ecosystems, with loss of natural capital and related ecosystem services, up to the most significant impacts recorded in anthropic contexts in terms of liveability and health for the population.

2030 Agenda SDG	NSDS 2022 Strategic National Choice (SNC)	Indicator	Variation versus 10 years earlier	Variation versus the previous year	Trend description
15 LIFE ON LAND	I Halt the loss of biodiversity	15.1.2 Protected natural areas (Istat, 2017, percentage values)	—	🟡	Terrestrial protected natural areas aim to contribute significantly to halting biodiversity loss. In 2017, the percentage of natural protected areas including the official list of protected areas or belonging to the Natura 2000 Network was 21.6%.
14 LIFE BELOW WATER		14.5.1 Marine areas included in the Natura 2000 Network (Ministry for Ecological Transition, 2020, km2)	🟢	🟢	Marine Protected Areas are the main measure of European Union's biodiversity conservation policy. In 2020, the perimeter of marine areas included in the Natura 2000 network delimited a total area of 20,716 Km2, with an increase of 9,716 Km2 compared to previous year and tripled compared to 2018 (5,878 Km2) due to the establishment of new sites, as requested by the European Commission (infringement procedure - EUPilot 8348/16/ENVI).
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	II Ensure sustainable management of natural resources	6.4.1 Urban water supply network efficiency (Istat, 2018, percentage values)	🔴	🟡	The efficiency of urban water supply network has deteriorated steadily since 2008. The share of water input into the network reaching end-users was 58.0% in 2018 (0.6 percentage points lower than in 2015). Efficiency declined for more than half the regions. The most critical situations were concentrated mainly in Central and Southern Italy, and in the Islands.
15 LIFE ON LAND		15.3.1 Soil sealing from artificial land cover (ISPRA, 2019, percentage values)	🟡	🟡	Soil consumption has slowed down, although not enough to make achievable the zero-consumption goal by 2030. In 2019, further 51.9 km^2 of artificial cover (about 14 hectares per day) were added so to bring the total share of artificially sealed surface to 7.1% of national territory.
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	III. Create resilient communities and territories, protect landscapes and cultural heritage	11.7.1 Incidence of urban green areas on urbanised area of cities (Istat, 2019, m^2 per 100 m^2 of urbanised areas)	🟡	🟡	Green urban areas produce positive effects by mitigating temperature. In 2019, in Italy's 109 provincial capital cities, the average incidence of usable green areas compared to the incidence of urbanised areas was 9.1 m^2 per 100 m^2 of urbanised area, with a rather stable figure over time and large gaps between cities.
15 LIFE ON LAND		15.3.1 Fragmentation of natural and agricultural land (ISPRA, 2019, percentage values)	—	🔴	Excessive fragmentation of open spaces is a factor of degradation, as barriers made by buildings and infrastructures break the spatial continuity of ecosystems. In this case, not-large-enough unoccupied spaces are turned into ecologically inert and unproductive land. Moreover, in a fragile territory such as Italy, soil consumption is also a relevant factor of hydrogeological risk and landscape degradation.

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PROSPERITY

Ensuring the Country's prosperity means creating a new circular economic model that guarantees full development of human potential and more efficient and responsible use of resources. Therefore, it is necessary to build a development path that minimises negative impacts on the environment, fosters consumption cycles and more generally promotes rationalised use of resources and human capital enhancement.

2030 Agenda SDG	NSDS 2022 Strategic National Choice (SNC)	Indicator	Variation versus 10 years earlier	Variation versus the previous year	Trend description
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	I. Promote sustainable economic well-being	10.1.1 Adjusted disposable income per capita (Istat, 2020, euro (current prices)	🟡	🔴	In 2020, gross disposable income of households fell by 2.8% (purchasing power fell by 2.6%). The fall of gross adjusted disposable per-capita income, i.e. including the value of in-kind services provided by public administrations and public and non-profit institutions was less marked (-1.4%). The Government mitigated the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic by toning down the fall of disposable income of households.
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH		8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (Istat, 2020, percentage values)	—	—	In 2020, GDP dynamics was largely affected by the Covid-19 related crisis and the suspension of many production activities. GDP in Italy suffered an exceptional fall (-8.9%), stronger than both the euro area (-6.5%) and the European Union (-6.1%). GDP per capita fell by 8.4%.
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	II Fund and promote sustainable research and innovation	9.5.1 R&D intensity (Istat, 2019, percentage values)	🟢	🟢	Research intensity increased but remained below European average. Italy recorded a moderate growth of R&D to GDP investment intensity for several years. However, R&D intensity remained below the EU27 average, and showed a marked regional gap.
		9.4.1 CO_2 emission per unit of value added (Istat, 2019, tonne per million euro)	🟢	🟢	In 2019, CO_2 intensity per added value unit continued its progressive decrease, falling below 160 tonnes per million EUR, far below the 212 tonnes per million recorded in 2009. Manufacturing and supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning recorded a steady fall in the intensity of emissions; conversely, water and air transport increased.
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	III. Ensure full employment and high quality training	8.6.1 People not in education, employment, or training (NEET) (aged 15-29) (Istat, 2020, percentage values)	🔴	🔴	The problems experienced by the youngest are also witnessed by 15-29 year-old NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), whose share in the last year increased by 1.1 percentage points, reversing the positive downward trend observed since 2015 and reaching 23.3%. In 2020, Italy maintained the highest incidence of NEETs among EU countries, almost 10 percentage points higher than the EU27 average (13.7%).
		8.5.2 Employment rate (20-64) (Istat, 2020, percentage values)	🟡	🔴	The production pace decrease had significant impact on labour market. In 2020, the employment rate shrank again to 62.6%, with a 0.9-percentag-point decrease compared to the previous year. The unemployment rate (9.2%) decreased as inactivity rate increased, due to the limitations to job searching.

SDG 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	IV. Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns	12.2.2 Domestic material consumption per GDP (Istat, 2019, tonne per 1,000 EUR)	🟢	🟡	The progress to limit material consumption that has characterised Italy since 2010 and allowed for efficiency gains in production processes marked a setback. In 2019, domestic material consumption (DMC) per unit of GDP was stable compared to 2017 and 2018 (0.28 tonnes per 1,000 EUR).
SDG 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		12.5.1 Circular material use rate (Eurostat, 2019, percentage values)	🟢	🟢	Waste management processes and conversion into new resources recorded some progress. Italy's circular material use rate increased above the EU27 average.
SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER		2.4.1 Share of utilized agricultural land under organic farming (Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, 2019, percentage values)	🟢	🟢	In 2019, the surface of organic crops reached 15.8% Italy's utilized agricultural areas, almost doubling the EU average. However, the annual growth rate of the areas converted to organic farming or under conversion (+1.8%) was the lowest since 2012.
SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER		14.4.1 Over-exploited fish stock (Western Mediterranean) (Ispra, 2018, percentage values)	🔴	🔴	Intensive fishing activities, combined with the negative impacts of climate change, pose a threat to the sustainability of species inhabiting the seas, significantly limiting the reproductive capacity of fish stocks. In the Western Mediterranean, 92.7% of assessed fish stocks were overfished in 2018, with a 2-percentage-point increase compared to the previous year.
SDG 15 LIFE ON LAND		15.2.1 Forest area certified under an independent verification scheme (Istat-ISPRA, 2019, thousand hectares)	🟢	🟢	In 2019, the growth of forest areas certified for sustainability of production processes continued. However, their extension compared to the surface of Italian forests remained very limited (7.6 hectares per 100, against an EU average of 45).
SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	V. Promote mobility and transport sustainability and security	9.1.2 Passenger volumes, by transport mode (Istat, 2019, thousand)	—	—	Between 2010 and 2019, passenger transport recorded a steady increase in rail use. Air passengers recorded a higher growth, with a 38.9% increase. In the same year, local public transport passengers in capital cities of provinces reached 3.4 billion.
SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE		9.1.2 Freight volumes, by transport mode (Istat, 2019, thousand)	—	—	Between 2010 and 2019, total freight transport declined to 350 million tonnes due to the fall in road use. However, it remained the predominant transport mode in the Country. In 2019, road transport moved 978 million tonnes of goods (61.9% of total goods), and maritime transport moved 508 million tonnes (32.1% of total goods). Rail and air transport continued to be residual for freight.
SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	VI. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonise the economy	7.3.1 Energy intensity (ENEA processing on Eurostat and Istat data, 2019, tonnes of oil equivalent (Toe) per million EUR)	🟢	🟢	In 2019, energy intensity recorded a new decline (-1.3%). The gradual decrease in the ratio of gross available energy to GDP in the last decade (-12%) ranked Italy fourth in Europe. The trend reversal in industry in the last year raised energy intensity by 1%, while the service sector decreased by 5%.
SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY		7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the gross final energy consumption (GSE S.p.A. - Gestore dei Servizi Energetici, 2019, percentage values)	🟢	🟢	The overall share of energy from renewable sources on the gross final consumption was equal to 18.2%, a percentage slightly lower than the EU27 average (19.7%). Italy was for the sixth consecutive year above the 17% national target. Italy was among the European Union countries exceeding the national target assigned by the 20-20-20 targets.
SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION		13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year	🟢	🟢	The decrease in the volume of greenhouse gas emissions that began in 2005 continued. In 2019, greenhouse gas emissions were 415,622 thousand tonnes CO2 equivalent, with a further reduction of 2,8% compared to the previous year.

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PEACE

addresses the need to promote peaceful, fair and inclusive societies – for residents and migrants – by supporting the fight against discrimination (age, gender, disability, and race) and providing measures to combat organized crime, corruption and violence in all its forms.

2030 Agenda SDG	NSDS 2022 Strategic National Choice (SNC)	Indicator	Variation versus 10 years earlier	Variation versus the previous year	Trend description
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	I. Promote a non-violent and inclusive society respectful of human rights	4.a.1 Physically accessible schools (Istat, 2019/2020, percentage values)	—	● (red)	The percentage of physically accessible schools (based on necessary characteristics - lift, bathrooms, doors, stairs, and, if required, ramp and/or stairlift) decreased from 34.5% in 2019 to 32.3% in 2020.
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH		8.5.2 Employment rate (20-64) (Istat, 2020, percentage values) for citizenship	● (yellow)	● (red)	The reduction in the pace of production had significant impact on labour market. In 2020, the employment rate contracted again to 62.6%, with a decrease of 0.9 percentage points compared to the previous year. The unemployment rate (9.2%) decreased as inactivity rate increased, due to the limitations to job searching. For the first time in the last decade, the employment rate of foreign population (-3.8 p.p.) fell below the values recorded by Italian citizens respectively 60.6 and. 62.8%.
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS		16.1.1 Intentional homicide rate (Ministry of the Interior, 2019, per 100,000 inhabitants)	● (green)	● (green)	In 2019, in Italy there were 345 intentional homicides (0.5 per 100,000 population). From 2018 to 2019 homicide rate has reduced by 13 homicides.
5 GENDER EQUALITY	II. End discrimination in all its forms	5.4.1 Ratio of employment rate for women aged 25-49 with at least one child aged 0-5 to the employment rate of women 25-49 years without children (Istat, 2020, percentage values)	● (yellow)	● (red)	In 2020, the employment rate of women 25-49 years old with pre-school children and the employment rate of those without children was 73.4% slightly lower (-0.9 p.p.) than 2019. The ratio was worse for younger women in the 25-34 age class.
5 GENDER EQUALITY		5.5.1 Women and political representation at regional level (Individual regional councils, 2020, percentage values)	● (green)	● (green)	Women's participation in political and economic life showed some improvements. In the regional elections held in 2020, the proportion of women chairing councils rose by almost one percentage point to 22%.
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	III. Ensure legality and justice	16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (Ministry of Justice - Department of prison administration, 2020, percentage values)	● (green)	● (red)	As of 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Justice recorded 53,364 people detained in adult correctional institutions (in 2019 they were 60,769), of whom 51,109 were men and 2,255 were women. There were 8,685 inmates awaiting first trial, equal to 16.3% of the whole convicted population, which is marginally higher than in 2019.
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS		16.6.2 Length of civil proceedings (Ministry of Justice - Judicial organization department, 2020, number of days)	● (green)	● (yellow)	The pandemic has slowed the process of reducing the length to complete civil proceedings by ordinary courts. The average trial duration in 2020 was 419 days, two days less than the previous year. Days decreased from 2014 (505 days).

Partnership is dedicated to the breakdown of the "external dimension" of the Strategy, its areas of intervention and development cooperation objectives, as outlined by Law No. 125/2014.

2030 Agenda SDG	Indicator	Variation versus 10 years earlier	Variation versus the previous year	Trend description
	17.2.1 Net Official Development Assistance, total and to Least Developed Countries, as a proportion of gross national income (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, 2018, percentage values)	🟢	🟡	In 2019, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) ratio to Gross National Income (GNI) was 0.22%, 0.03 percentage points compared to 2018. The ODA-to-GNI ratio allocated to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) remained unchanged from previous years, at 0.06%.

7 The implementation of Agenda 2030: the external dimension 2017-2022

International development cooperation is for Italy at the core of the implementation of the external dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The National Sustainable Development Strategy for the implementation of Agenda 2030 incorporates Italy's Three-year programming and policy planning document 2021-2023 of international development cooperation. Symmetrically the latter fully reflects the principles and vision of the 2030 Agenda, of which it adopts logic, spirit and timeframe.

Italy worked successfully to uphold its development cooperation policy with a considerable growth of its budget share. Its approach is deeply rooted into 2030 Agenda main message of global and equitable development to strengthen peace in larger freedom.

7.1 INITIAL CONTEXT

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, Italy worked towards mainstreaming and integrating the objectives, vision and principles of the Agenda in policy initiatives and actions, including in its external dimension, and quickly adapted its foreign aid policy and programming documents to its logic. Italy emphasized these efforts on the occasion of the VNR in 2017. In the presentation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, Italy recognized that global challenges could be solved only through a joint effort of the international community and committed to help partner countries abroad to reach the same Goals that had to be reached domestically. The Three-year Strategic and Planning Document of the Italian development cooperation policy, which Italy reformed in 2014 prior to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, endorsed early on both content and structure of the 2030 Agenda. Macro-areas for action - that are reflected in the Partnership Section of the NSDS – were re-arranged to take into account the integrated nature and the structure of the 17 SDGs and included new sectors for action – such as data for development and domestic resources mobilisation – together with those of more traditional engagement.

To a wide extent, the law regulating the Italian development policy adopted in 2014 anticipated the new paradigm of international development that the United Nations adopted in 2015. The mainstreaming of 2030 Agenda logic grew further and the current programming document 2021-2023 adopts fully the logic, timeframe, values, in short - the whole paradigm - of Agenda 2030.

7.2 THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION: THE 2017 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda principles, visions and goals within the external dimension grew further over the years to the extent that the current programming document 2021-2023 reflects fully its logic and its values. This adaptation consisted of improvements and refinements, for the governance structure, i.e. institutions, procedures and vision of the Italian development cooperation stayed the same.

In 2017 as in 2022 the "external dimension" of the 2030 Agenda, including strategy, areas of intervention and targets of the Development Cooperation Strategy, intended as part of the wider Italian foreign policy are carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Principles and purposes of development cooperation policy still are defined by Law 125/2014 as follows: eradicate poverty and reduce inequality, improve people's living conditions and promote sustainable development; protect and affirm human rights, self-dignity, gender equality, equal

opportunities and democracy principles and rule of law; prevent conflicts, support peacekeeping processes, reconciliation, post-conflict stabilisation, democratic institutions building and strengthening. Law 125 stresses that the Italian development policy is based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Improvements and refinements lie primarily in the natural evolution of the institutional/governance dimension of the policy, particularly in the consolidation of the systemic view whereby the Italian development policy is a collective effort of the whole so-called system of Italian development cooperation. Emblematic of this natural evolution is the central role that the National Development Cooperation Council has acquired over the years. The Council is an advisory body to the Minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation where all stakeholders are represented, both public and private, profit and non-profit. While different – sometimes very different – views are expressed, the Council has proved very valuable in providing sound guidance due to the public deliberation approach adopted, whereby many important decisions are best made in partnership with the stakeholders, which are brought together in a process of learning mutual perspectives, debating and discussing based on the articulation of everybody's reasoning.

SDGS ARE A COLLECTIVE PURSUIT SUPPORTED BY A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

The experience of the National Development Cooperation Council gives a sense of the SDGs "the Italian way", whereby the System of the Italian development cooperation as a whole interprets the sustainable development goals as a collective pursuit supported by a collective effort. Public and private actors, profit and non-profit actors, as well as what those non-governmental, non-profit, values-driven organisations that Italy collectively refers to as "third sector", all together support the paradigm of development embodied in the 2030 Agenda.

It is worth noticing that this support makes the domestic and international action of Italy synergic, in that not just the actors are often the same, but also ideas, logic and values – in short: the language – are the same at home and abroad. The unitary paradigm of the 2030 Agenda supports very much this synergy.

SDGS ARE INTEGRATED BOTH UPSTREAM WITHIN POLICY DOCUMENTS AND DOWNSTREAM IN THE REPORTING PROCESSES

As it was already the case in 2017, efforts of the Italian development cooperation are framed within the integrated perspective set by the adoption of the 17 SDGs and the current programming document 2021-2023 reflects this logic. The sustainable development goals are fully integrated in the policy-making and decision-making process. The main strategic document, "Three-year programming and policy planning document 2021-2023", identifies thematic and sectoral priorities in relation to the sustainable development objectives and targets that Italian Cooperation aims to help achieve during the three-year period 2021-2023, as well as geographical priorities and aims.

All strategic and programming documents, including guidelines, action documents and any other official documents, all refer to sustainable development goals.

SDGs are also integrated downstream in the relevant reporting processes. Italy, as a founding member of the Development assistance committee of the OECD, reports its ODA to the OECD, which makes it public in its website. While reporting on the SDG focus is voluntary, Italy has made its policy to report to DAC also on SDG with the specific intention to support Agenda 2030.

In the same spirit, in 2021 Italy started reporting on the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD), the new international statistical framework for monitoring official resources and private finance mobilised by official interventions in support of Agenda 2030 and sustainable development.

7.3 THE ACTIVITIES. PROGRESS AGAINST AGENDA 2030

2017-2020

In the months following the Voluntary National Review of 2017, the 2030 Agenda was at the heart of the work programme of all international bodies, including the G7 under Italian presidency, which focused in particular on food security, education as well as on gender equality, which is a crucial contribution to progress towards sustainable development, as women and girls are powerful agents for change.

Also, in 2017 Italy supported from the very outset the UN Secretary-General António Guterres and its proposals to reform the United Nations development system in keeping with Sustainable Development Goals.

2018 then kicked off with the first Italian National Public Conference on development cooperation, (whose second edition took place in June 2022), with the highest Italian authorities, leaders, international guests, experts, citizens, youth and students, participating with the aim to enable the public and stakeholders to be aware of, understand and take action towards meeting global commitments on sustainable development. In 2018 and 2019 Italy confirmed its staunch support to the multilateral system, which is in its view an important channel of development co-operation and where it invested much more than half of its official development assistance. Support to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation and to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria stand out adding to the traditional support to food security and to international humanitarian response to victims of catastrophic events (natural or manmade), in order to safeguard human life, relieve suffering and maintain human dignity.

The COVID-19 epidemic, which the Director-General of the World Health Organization characterized as pandemic on 11 March, marked year 2020 and impacted on Italian development cooperation and on the implementation of Agenda 2030 at large. Italy acted immediately within the European Union, the G7, the G20 and the United Nations in support to a global reaction through multilateral instruments to the pandemic, which resulted in a triple health, economic and social emergency. Despite the apparent need for a major reprogramming of funds, the reprogramming was finally limited, thanks both to the traditional support to the multilateral system and to the strict compliance to the logic of Agenda 2030, which proved a reliable point of reference. In our view, the importance of the universal acceptance of the paradigm of the 2030 Agenda cannot be overstated, in that it helped all national and international actors speak the same language and have the same references for action, even in emergency.

2021 AND 2022

The 2021-2023 Programming and Policy Planning Document (PPPD) currently in force defines the strategic vision and overall objectives of the Italian development co-operation. Priorities reflect the SDGs over the guidance and time horizon of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The strategic vision of the Italian development co-operation builds on the 5 pillars of the 2030 Agenda with a watchful eye to "Persons" and fundamental human rights: the right to food, water, education, health, decent work and to a safe and healthy environment for everyone, without anybody being left behind.

At international level, Italy confirmed leadership on global priority areas: health, food security, climate. Also did Italy reaffirmed its unweariable support to multilateralism. Italy's provisional data show an increase in 2021 of its official development assistance (DA). This is due to inter alia to increased contributions to multilateral institutions, banks and development funds and to Italy's contribution at multilateral level to fight the Covid-19 pandemics. According to the provisional data reported to the OECD/DAC, Italy spent a total of US$ 6 billion in ODA in 2021, reaching 0.28% of the country's gross national income (GNI). This confirmed the reliability and the countercyclical feature of its ODA.

Italy has been prioritising the health response to end the COVID-19 pandemic everywhere, improving economies by "building back better" and re-launching action towards the 2030 Agenda. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Italy supported the multilateral response through the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its pillars, and through contributions to International Organisations and multilateral institutions such as the Global Alliance for Vaccine Immunization, the World Health Organization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Coalition on Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and UNICEF. Under the Italian Presidency of the G20 in 2021, the membership agreed to establish a Joint Finance-Health Task Force which is currently setting up a dedicated Financial Intermediary Fund to enhance the co-operation on issues related to pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Italy co-organised the Global Health Summit on 26 May. The adoption of the Rome Declaration of Principles on pandemic preparedness at the Global Health Summit offered the opportunity to agree on how to work together to defeat the pandemic and prevent future ones.

Food security was at the centre of the agenda of the G20 ministerial meeting held in Matera on 29 June 2021. The main outcome of the meeting was the signature of a "Declaration on food security, nutrition and food systems" which led to the creation of a "Food Coalition" within FAO aimed at building a global alliance and favouring co-ordinated actions for food security. A few weeks later in July Italy hosted the pre-UN Food Systems Summit meeting in Rome.

In 2021, Italy worked with the UK in the process leading to the CoP26 on climate change. Italy and the UK committed to putting climate change and the reversal of biodiversity loss at the centre of the multilateral agenda and working together with international partners in support of a green and resilient recovery that promotes sustainable growth and jobs. At the CoP26 Italy pledged to triple its contribution to fighting climate change by US$1.4 billion per year for the next five years.

At the end of December 2021, the Budget Law for the year 2022 established the "Italian Climate Fund" with a yearly allocation amounting to €840 million from 2022 to 2026 and €40 million from 2027. The Fund will be jointly steered by the MiTE and the MAECI and will finance initiatives aimed at reaching the objectives of the Paris Agreement and meet Italy's commitments on climate change and environment protection. The resources of the Climate Fund will be primarily used for the benefit of developing countries.

In 2021, in the framework of the partnership agreement between Italy and the United Kingdom for the Presidency of the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC- COP26), Italy hosted, in Milan, a global event entirely dedicated to young people, entitled "Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition", on the margins of PreCop26.

The event offered 400 young people from all over the world an unprecedented opportunity to propose ideas, participate in debates and take action on some of the most urgent issues related to the climate

crisis. The result was the sharing by all young participants of a powerful and ambitious document: the Youth4Climate Manifesto, a bold plan for climate action.

Youth4Climate has now evolved into a global initiative, co-led by Italy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and co-shaped with youth, with a long-term strategic vision oriented to:

- Build on the successes, lessons learned, and recommendations from the 2021 Youth4Climate Manifesto and enable the convening of an annual flagship global event.
- Boost youth-led and youth-inclusive climate action on the ground by strengthening the identification and support of concrete and innovative youth-led solutions and nurturing a vibrant ecosystem for youth at all levels.
- Sustain meaningful and long-term engagement with and for youth by making possible the generation and exchange of knowledge, opportunities, experiences, and resources in a new global virtual space.

The Youth4Climate initiative is structured in the following three inter-related components: the **promotion of climate** action through the identification and support of concrete and advanced solutions led by young people, a **virtual platform for knowledge-sharing and training**, and an **annual event** to empower youth activities.

This year, the flagship event will be held on the margins of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Italy is also increasing its efforts to mobilise public support through promoting a number of initiatives to communicate its engagement in development co-operation and to inform on objectives, activities and results achieved. The second edition of the National Public Conference on Development Co-operation took place on 23-24 June 2022, with the highest Italian authorities, leaders, international guests, experts, citizens, youth and students again (after 2018) participating with the aim to enable the public and stakeholders to be aware of, understand and take action towards meeting global commitments on sustainable development.

Perspectives and further trajectories for the *NSDS system*

As stated by the OECD[25] *Italy is making progress in implementing the SDGs, but important challenges remain to consolidate progresses on single SDGs as well as to move towards a whole encompassing implementation of the 2030 Agenda.*

The NSDS revision process, as well the plenty of initiatives on SDGs that each institution is carrying on, pave the way towards a renewed undertaking of the 2030 Agenda transformational challenges, particularly in the light of the recent global issues including the recovery from pandemic.

Italian cities and regions see the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as a key uncertainty regarding possible changes in the global context over the coming 10 to 15 years. For most of the Italian cities and regions, the duration and uncertainty linked to the pandemic could lead to detrimental effects on their sustainable development objectives. Among others, they stated that the impacts of COVID-19 could slow down the transition towards a circular and greener economy and lead to setbacks in waste collection and recycling. What is more, the impacts of COVID-19 could boost social inequalities, deteriorate the outcomes of education and widen the digital divide among different parts of the society. The level of inequalities could also increase at the territorial level. For those cities and regions with a large influx of tourists, the consequences of COVID-19 could moreover mean that they will miss their (sustainable) tourism objectives. Other future challenges (beyond COVID-19) highlighted by Italian cities and regions include climate change, denatality, the lack of territorial investments, innovative capacities and socio-economic conditions at local and global level more broadly.

Considering provided efforts towards collaboration, SD governance and the 2030 Agenda enablement at both national and subnational level, the challenges ahead require a strengthened effort towards some critical issue. Among the others:

- The sectoral – in silos – organisation of the administrations constitutes an obstacle when trying to implement a cross sectoral approach to the strategic objectives related to the NSDS.
- The stream of work addressing the relevance of EU policies and financing mechanisms for sustainable development at subnational level should be reinforced
- Major efforts should be spent into the use of the NSDS as a frame for financial and programming instruments, for strengthening PCSD
- There is a need to better sync timelines and monitoring across levels for governance to improve policy coherence.
- Monitoring issues are to be faced when addressing integrated monitoring between territorial levels, as requested by Italian law
- Major national efforts are to be spent in order to systematize and operationalize governance mechanisms for SD
- Capacity building within the institution and within non-state organisations can drive the "collective journey" we all are engaged in
- Open government is key to SD. Essential motivation for CSOs and other stakeholders in participating to this the Forum for sustainable development is to enhance their real capacity to influence the policy cycle through direct engagement with institutional stakeholders

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[25] See the abovementioned "Italian governance scan for policy coherence for sustainable development"

- Better assessing and managing spill over effects, even in a transboundary perspective, remains one of the open challenges to be answered

Italian institutions see the value of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a policy making tool, beyond compliance. Basing on this assumption, the NSDS22 and its annexed NAP PCSD identify main trajectories for answering to those urgent challenges and effectively enable the transformational path required by the 2030 Agenda.

Having drafted a shared vision and defined preliminary tools for implementing the sustainable development framework in Italy, most attention will be paid into the further strengthen these mechanisms in order to support national and subnational governance.

To this aim, targeted initiatives will be put in place within the "Vectors for sustainability", particularly addressing education, training, stakeholder engagement, institutional collaboration. The spaces for interaction already put in place within the NSDS system and the Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning document will be further promoted, being collaboration the key for reaching the SDGs while respecting the 2030 Agenda principles.

Policy coherence for sustainable development has now reached a high level of awareness and consideration at both institutional and non-state actors' level. This will allow boosting the efforts in adopting the NSDS as a main reference framework orienting policy, and, most of all, valorising synergies and collaborative tools for integrating the SDGs into the whole policy cycle.

Territories will continue playing a key role, providing even major efforts in reaching and accompanying local entities at sub regional and sub metropolitan level in the 2030 Agenda journey.

Italy is fully aware of the long way ahead and can now rely even more than before on people and partnerships to support the task of protecting the planet, of boosting ecological transition to produce prosperity, and of making peace a common and shared ground.