



PROGRESS REPORT 2022

of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy



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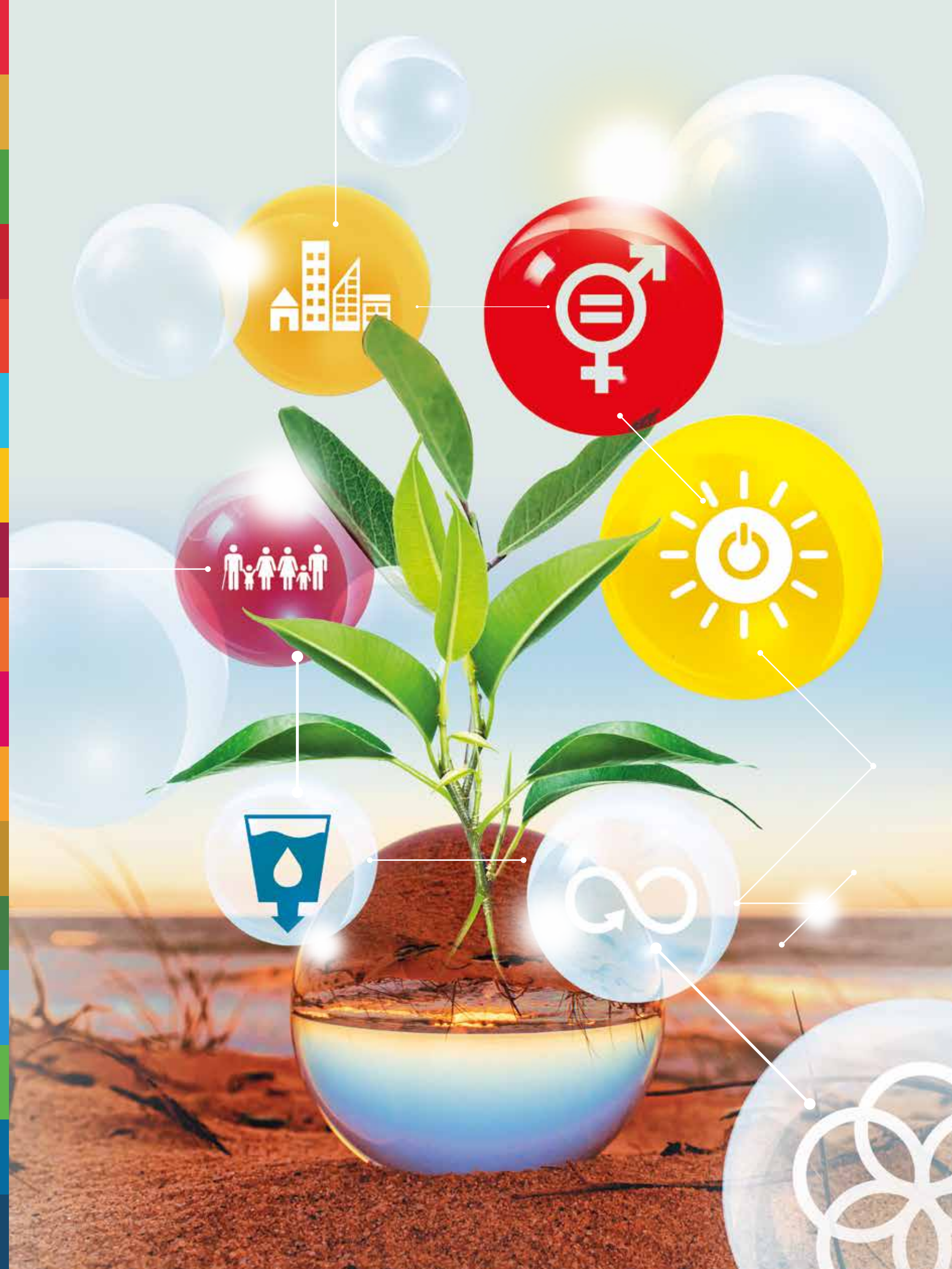
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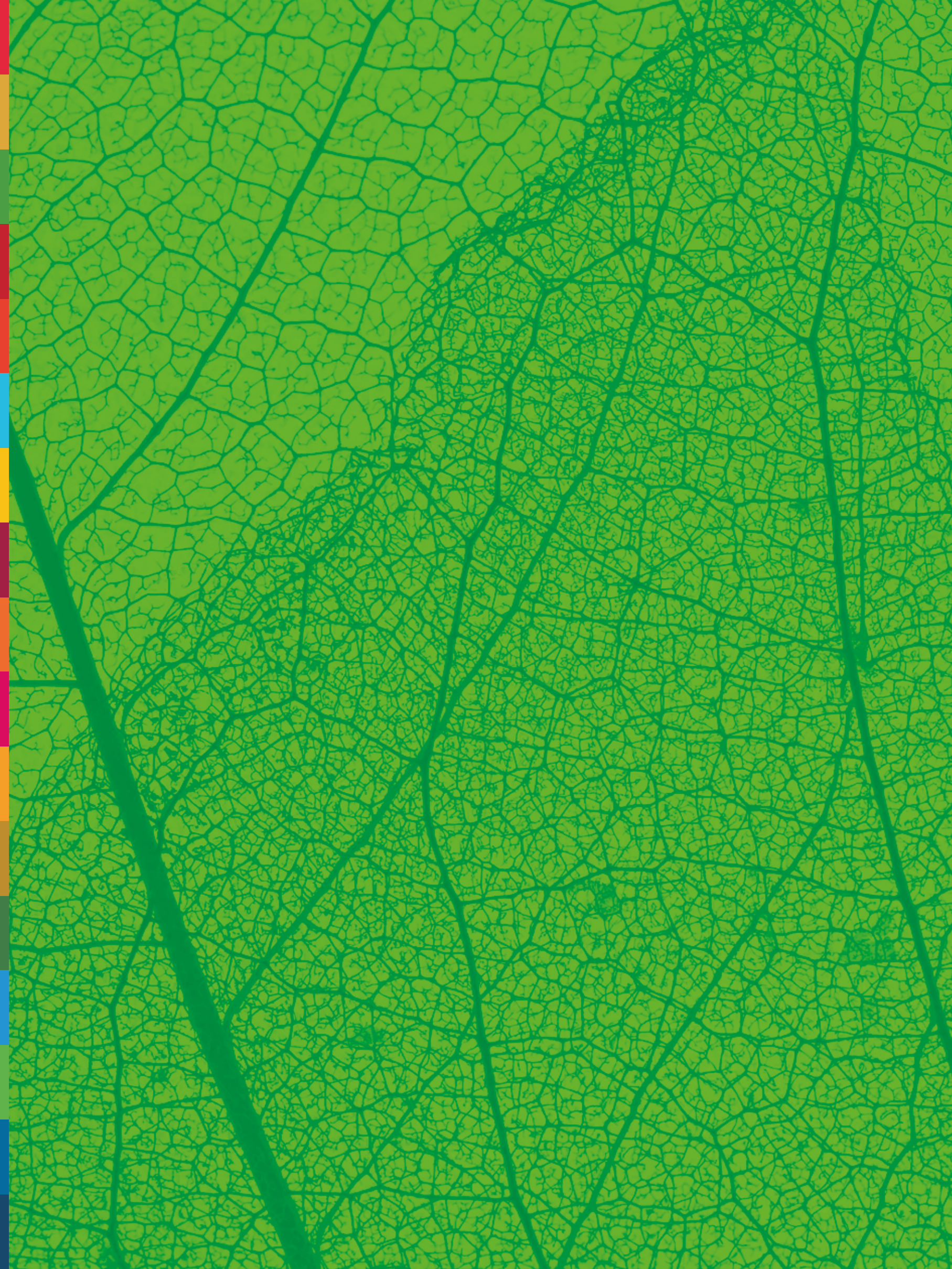


PROGRESS REPORT 2022

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FOREWORD

FOREWORD: PROGRESS REPORT 2022

One more year, we have the opportunity to present the Progress Report to analyse the advanced and remaining challenges in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. This is the third progress report we have presented in less than three years, demonstrating our willingness to be accountable for the work we have done and to identify the next steps we need to take. This is precisely the spirit of the 2030 Agenda: to work every day for a fairer and more sustainable tomorrow.

When 193 countries signed this international commitment in 2015, the challenges we faced were already daunting. High levels of poverty and inequality and the climate emergency were realities that had long been in need of a decisive international response. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought the world to a standstill in March 2020 was far away on the horizon, as was the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, adding to other bloody international conflicts in many parts of the world and causing thousands of human losses, millions of displacements and terrible economic and social consequences. In short, we live in complex and difficult times, where a compass such as the 2030 Agenda, based on peace, the advancement of rights and the protection of our planet, is essential.

That is why, despite the high degree of uncertainty, we in the coalition government have worked together with all the administrations on the Sustainable Development Goals as a clear guide for our actions. We have demonstrated this over the years and have continued to do so this past year. We have implemented measures that move towards sustainability, such as reducing the price of public transport; towards the fight against inequality, with new social shields; towards strengthening the common good, with unprecedented investments in public services; towards decent work, recovering rights and committing to stable and quality employment, and towards equality between men and women, where we are international benchmarks in feminist policies. We have shown that rights do not always have to be the main victims of the crisis, but quite the opposite, it is the first thing that we must protect.

This work has allowed us to absorb the problems caused by an unprecedented setback in the Sustainable Development Goals, despite the difficult times that we live in. We are aware that there is much work ahead, and that in addition to mitigating the effects of the current situation, we should continue to get to the root of existing problems, with the aim of building a future on more solid foundations. In this sense, we continue to work, for example, by making an unprecedented investment in the fight against child poverty or in the consolidation of a State Care System that is on a par with other pillars of the Welfare State.

Undoubtedly, the work shown in this document is a joint effort. For this reason, I would like to thank the regional and local administrations, civil society, academia, the private sector and all the actors that have participated in its preparation and in the achievement of the SDGs for their work and commitment. The road to a better future is only possible with the commitment of everyone, at all levels.

This 2022 report also has two special features. It is the first Progress Report we produced after approving the Sustainable Development Strategy, which received congratulations from the United Nations for its collaborative work and has become our country's roadmap for making the 2030 Agenda a reality. Moreover, it is

the last balance sheet before we pass the halfway point of the deadline, we gave ourselves when we signed the 2030 Agenda, which should make us look back at what progress we have made and what challenges lie ahead. Because, in addition to recognising the work done, we should be critical and non-conformist and know that there is still much to do if we want to say in 2030 that we have achieved our goals.

We still have many challenges and we should step on the accelerator to advance faster and with deeper transformations. In this task, we in this Government will continue to work with everyone, because the best ideas and the best results always come from collective work. Let us continue to write the future together.

Ione Belarra Urteaga

Minister for Social Rights and 2030 Agenda





**PRESENTATION
OF THE REPORT**

II. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

25 September marked seven years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a roadmap endorsed by 193 countries that was created to encourage more determined efforts to correct structural imbalances that have been lingering for decades, allowing us to move towards a fairer, more sustainable and prosperous world, where happier and more dignified lives are possible.

In this sense, the 2030 Agenda inherits much of the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals, but with a much more ambitious approach: it is not only about improving the situation of impoverished countries, but also moving from a partial perspective to a global vision of the planet's challenges, where all countries should implement measures to contribute to sustainability and address global and national challenges.

Among the important goals set by the international community for this period are the eradication of poverty, the reduction of inequality in all its forms, the transition to a sustainable production model and the curbing of the climate crisis, to name but a few.

Now that we are at the halfway point, it is necessary to look at where significant progress has been made and where it is proving more difficult, promoting partnerships between different levels of government and with all sectors of society to achieve the goals set, and accelerating efforts in line with the call made by the United Nations in 2020, when the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals began.

Globally, our planet is on a path of rapid change and there is no guarantee, in the absence of strong governance, that these changes will translate into a better quality of life for most of society.

Numerous indicators paint a bleak picture at the international level: progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals is insufficient and it is no exaggeration to say that the hopes and expectations placed in the 2030 Agenda run a certain risk of being dashed if we do not redouble our efforts through the implementation of policies consistent with the principles and mandate of the 2030 Agenda.

For the first time in years, for example, we have seen a significant setback in the fight against poverty and global inequality, largely caused by factors such as COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. According to the United Nations, the number of people living in poverty could rise from 581 million before the outbreak of the virus to between 657 and 676 million.

This figure is worrying, as it is the first increase in extreme poverty since 1998 and the largest rise since 1990. In just one year, the gains of the last four years have been lost, demonstrating the fragility of the path of progress for those on the lowest incomes and the risk that, with each new crisis, the most vulnerable sections of society will be the hardest hit.

Inequality has increased between countries and also within state borders: the income gap between the richest and poorest territories has increased for the first time in a generation, and in-work poverty rate has risen for the first time in two decades.

The effects of these figures are evident in the daily lives of millions of people. One in ten of the world's population suffers from hunger and almost one in three face moderate or severe food insecurity, which means living under the threat of not being able to access food on a regular basis. The war in Ukraine may further aggravate this situation by disrupting food production and export processes, thus limiting food availability.

According to UN estimates, 22% of children under five are stunted by causes such as lack of food, and while some progress has been made, at the current rate it will be impossible to achieve the goal of halving child malnutrition by the end of this decade. In this context, more ambitious efforts are needed to ensure that progress leaves no one behind.

Coronavirus has also highlighted the weakness of public services in many countries. Thus, in addition to direct deaths from COVID-19 or its effects on health systems and society - estimated at around 15 million - virtually all countries experienced disruptions to essential health services, and millions of pupils experienced serious setbacks in their schooling that have not been fully reversed: up to 24 million children are at risk of not returning to regular school attendance after the pandemic, a phenomenon that particularly affects the most disadvantaged backgrounds. In the same vein, there has also been an increase in the proportion of young people who are neither in education nor in employment, which may exacerbate existing social imbalances.

The climate crisis is also a risk factor for rising inequality, and the evidence shows that faster and more in-depth action is needed to correct the climate crisis. Currently, the gap between the emissions reduction pathway needed to mitigate climate change and the actual data is widening.

Energy-related CO₂ generation, for example, increased by 6% in 2021 to its highest level in history, bringing us closer to a devastating scenario for the survival of the planet and humans themselves. The consequences translate into an increase in global average temperature that could lead to a profound reconfiguration of ecosystems and the planet as we know it.

At this rate, 700 million people will be displaced by droughts and more than 1.6 billion people will be without safe drinking water by the end of this decade, demonstrating the urgency of tackling the climate agenda more decisively and undertaking unprecedented transformations.

Among other changes, it is necessary to tackle the dumping of plastics into the oceans, where plastic pollution could double or even triple by 2040, posing a serious threat to marine life, and to halt deforestation, which is currently advancing at a rate of 10 million hectares per year.

Pollution also directly affects the health of millions of people: 99% of the urban population breathes polluted air, according to WHO standards, resulting in 4.2 million deaths per year.

In order to curb the devastating consequences, we are already facing and prevent them from becoming irreversible very soon, it is necessary to abandon short-sighted visions and for environmental measures to be relegated in the order of priorities when other crisis factors are present.

The materialisation of threats that were much more diffuse years ago, such as the climate crisis, and the appearance of disruptive events that were not part of any possible forecast seven years ago, can generate a social climate that tends towards anxiety, uncertainty and, ultimately, pessimism. Proof of this is that phenomena such as depression and anxiety have increased, especially among young people and women.

Women, who make up more than half of the world's population, continue to experience inequality particularly acutely - for example, in the form of lower wages and more precarious jobs - and still have a long way to go to achieve full equality of rights and freedoms. Globally, it is estimated that, even today, two out of five women aged 15-49 who are married or in union are still unable to make their own decisions about their sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health, highlighting the need to promote public policies that guarantee women's sexual and reproductive rights.

In the European context, the latest available data show improvements in several of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to strong institutions, reduction of poverty and exclusion, use of clean energy, and innovation and infrastructure.

Also noteworthy is the decision to incorporate the analysis of the evolution of the SDGs in the specific recommendations for the Member States that are generated annually in the framework of the European

Semester. Fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda thus becomes an important element of this exercise in coordinating the European Union's economic, budgetary, social and employment policies.

However, the war in Ukraine has generated a scenario of instability that affects key elements for the achievement of these goals, with increasing difficulties in accessing energy at affordable prices and an inflationary crisis triggered by these energy costs, which has a major impact on household purchasing power.

Faced with this situation, Spain has shown boldness in promoting measures such as the cap on the price of gas in the wholesale electricity market to lower household energy bills. It also aspires to play a leading role in the deployment of renewable energies, which have not only proved decisive in preserving the environment, but also in defending democracy and sovereignty.

Our country aspires to be a benchmark in the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, since the current coalition government was formed, a series of milestones have been completed that have allowed us to accelerate its deployment and demonstrate our commitment to this roadmap and to accountability.

In this process, the driving forces present in civil society have also been decisive, as it has clearly and persistently demanded that the administrations implement public policies that are equal to the challenges we have to face and has urged us to implement them in a decisive manner.

The first major step was the approval by the Council of Ministers of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in June 2018, that is, almost three years after these commitments were signed at the international level, which shows the delay that our country has suffered to reach cruising speed in the work to move towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Also in June 2018, as part of the framework of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, Spain underwent a Voluntary National Review for the first time, an exercise that was repeated three years later, in 2021.

In addition, in June 2021, the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy was approved, a comprehensive document through which Spain renews and deepens its commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Spain renews and deepens its commitment to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, translating the Sustainable Development Goals into eight major country challenges and setting out which public policies can enable us to address them successfully. A Strategy that, in addition, represents a major political and social agreement to undertake the major structural transformations we need to shape the country we want to be in the 2030.

This Progress Report, an annual accountability exercise since 2019, is therefore the first one following the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and the first occasion on which the analysis is carried out within the framework of its commitments.

The document continues with this sustained work of evaluation and improvement, reporting to the United Nations and the Spanish public on the achievements of the last period and setting out courses of action to overcome the challenges identified, with new commitments to accelerate the pending transformations and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This success will only be possible with a shared effort at different levels of government. For this reason, the State Secretariat for the 2030 Agenda has redoubled its efforts in terms of coordination and co-governance, seeking the involvement of all levels - state, regional and local - whose progress and contributions are also reflected in this document.

In the area of social justice, further steps forward have been taken with measures such as the improvement of the Minimum Vital Income, the amount of which has been increased by 15% to protect the most vulnerable families from the price hikes resulting from the war in Ukraine and to reduce the risk of poverty.

The approval of the labour reform, for its part, has been a milestone for the creation of stable and quality employment, and has been accompanied by other measures in the area of labour rights, such as the continued increase in the Minimum Interprofessional Wage and the approval, in September, of Royal Decree-Law 16/2022, which has entailed, among other measures, the recognition of the right of domestic workers to social protection in situations of unemployment.

There are also several forthcoming laws that will contribute to reducing the income gap between the most disadvantaged and the most privileged classes in our country. These include the Housing Act, currently undergoing parliamentary procedures, which will represent a decisive step forward in guaranteeing a constitutional right on the part of the public authorities, significantly increasing the public housing stock and preventing evictions of vulnerable families with no housing alternative, while at the same time curbing the escalation of rents, which will help households to deal with what is often their main monthly expense.

Along the same lines of contributing to the guarantee of rights and the well-being of the social majorities, the preliminary draft Family Law, which is already at an advanced stage of preparation, will allow for a significant leap in the social, legal and economic protection of families, contributing to the reduction of child poverty and inequality.

These measures, however, are not the only ones adopted to resolve structural inequality in Spain, and complementary actions are still necessary. To this end, it is essential that the State and the regional and local administrations manage to raise the necessary resources through the tax system, which should at all times comply with the constitutional principles of sufficiency and progressivity.

In the first of these areas, measures are being taken to consolidate the sustainability of public accounts in the face of the tax collection gap with neighbouring countries, with the aim of making it more equitable, progressive and fair, while at the same time strengthening public policies of general interest, guaranteeing quality public services and meeting poverty reduction targets.

Secondly, since 2021, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, measures have been adopted to increase the progressivity of the tax system, prioritising economic recovery, taking into account the context at all times, and under the principle of gradualism in design and implementation.

Inequality also continues to manifest itself between men and women in unacceptable ways, which is why guaranteeing feminist rights and eradicating sexist violence and the gender gap is one of the main challenges for our country, not only to fulfil the mandate of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, but also to achieve a truly democratic society.

On this point, the Government has deployed measures such as the Comprehensive Organic Law to Guarantee Sexual Freedom, a key regulation for the prevention and tackling of sexual violence, as well as to improve sexual education at all educational stages.

The Plan for Effective Equality and the Co-Responsibility Plan have also been adopted, two public policies aimed at closing the gender pay gap and establishing a new, fairer and more equitable distribution of care tasks, an overwhelming majority of which are carried out by women.

There are also two pieces of legislation undergoing parliamentary procedures that will help to protect the rights of feminists and the LGTBI community. The first of these is the Draft Organic Law on Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy, which in addition to guaranteeing the exercise of the right to abortion in the public system, will also imply advances in rights such as leave for painful and incapacitating menstrual periods.

The second is the Draft Law for the real and effective equality of trans people and for the guarantee of the rights of LGTBI people, which will bring Spain into line with international standards in terms of the depathologisation of trans people and will strengthen the protection of the rights of the whole group.

The current energy crisis may also lead to increased inequality and reminds us of the need to act decisively on the climate crisis to halt biodiversity loss, preserve our ecosystems and ensure that the planet's living conditions remain habitable for humans.

To achieve these goals, the Government has approved the Climate Change and Energy Transition Law, which proposes specific measures to reduce polluting gases, such as the Low Emission Zones, the Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the Law on Waste and Contaminated Land for a Circular Economy, which will favour a drastic reduction in the use of single-use plastics.

We must also continue to make progress in decarbonising the energy system, which is currently responsible for 75% of greenhouse gas emissions in our country, in reducing food waste, with regulations such as the Food Waste and Loss Prevention Bill currently undergoing parliamentary procedures.

The climate issue must also play a central role in the transformation of our productive system, which must move towards a model that is not only more sustainable, but also capable of providing greater added value, taking advantage of new niches for economic development.

Among the advances are regulations such as the Food Chain Law, which prevents small and medium-sized producers from being forced to sell at a loss, favouring the economic viability of their farms and contributing to the sustainability of rural areas.

The industrial sector has also been protected, with measures to cushion the impact of high energy prices on the electro-intensive industry, and the Science Law has been passed, guaranteeing a funding floor and improving job stability for research personnel. The boost to these two sectors is directly linked to the objective of achieving a more productive and diversified economic system.

Finally, a national Strategic Project for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE in Spanish) has been approved to boost the social and care economy with more than 800 million euros. This project will allow us to generate employment opportunities linked to care, outlining a new pillar of the welfare state and a network of public services that guarantee the quality of life of citizens in a context of a general ageing of the population.

All these transformations undertaken in Spain, however, will not make sense if they do not take place in a global context of advances in social justice, environmental sustainability and respect for democratic values and human rights.

Conscious of this reality, the Government is giving new impetus to international cooperation for sustainable development, to also enable the achievement of the 2030 Agenda beyond our borders. This is being done through a new regulatory framework currently undergoing parliamentary procedures.

Work is also underway to promote a standard on due diligence of companies in the field of Human Rights and environmental sustainability; a text that will regulate the responsibility of Spanish companies with an international presence and guarantee respect for human rights regardless of the country in which they are operating.

In short, seven years after the approval of the 2030 Agenda, Spain has reached cruising speed in the adoption of measures to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. In a complex global context, our country can and should aspire to play a leading role in the transformations needed to address the challenges ahead. To this end, it is necessary to continue promoting the accelerating policies and priorities for action committed to by the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, as well as continuing to strengthen collaboration with all levels of administration and also encourage the collaboration of civil society organisations. The ultimate goal is to build fairer, more sustainable and more democratic societies around the world.



**PROGRESS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY**



III.

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

This section presents the progress made in the implementation of the priorities for action set out for each of the eight accelerating policies for sustainable development during the first year of implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS). Beforehand, a general diagnosis of the situation is provided for each of the prioritised country challenges, based on the indicators defined for each of these areas, providing a perspective of evolution from 2015 to the present, based on the most up-to-date data available.

This tour includes, firstly, the most strategic actions developed by the General State Administration, to which information from the autonomous communities, autonomous cities and local entities has been added, the latter represented through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), thus providing the necessary territorial perspective. The development of progress is accompanied by tables that systematise the measures implemented, putting them in relation to the priorities for action and country targets committed to in the 2030 SDS.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 1.

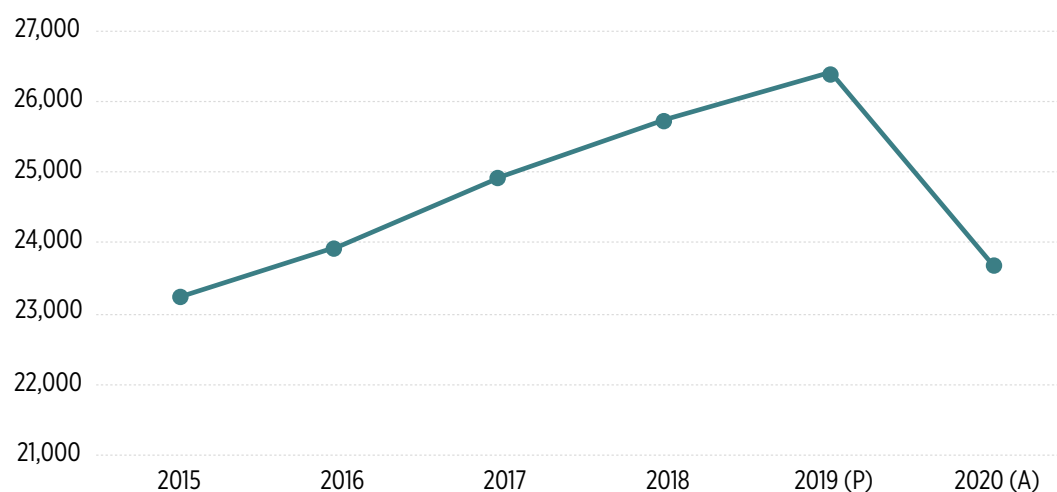
END POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

1. Evolution of the main income and inequality indicators in Spain

Aggregate data show that average income over the period 2015-2019 has followed the path of GDP and GDP per capita. During this period, average economic growth was 2.84% per year, while GDP per capita grew by 3.5% per year (Figure 1). Thus, while in 2015 GDP per capita reached around €23,200, in 2019 it reached €26,400. Subsequently, the economy is particularly affected by the health crisis, with an estimated reduction in GDP of 11.3% in 2020 and growth of 5.5% in 2021. In 2020, GDP per capita fell to almost the same levels as in 2015.

FIGURE 1. DEVELOPMENT OF GDP PER CAPITA, AT CURRENT PRICES

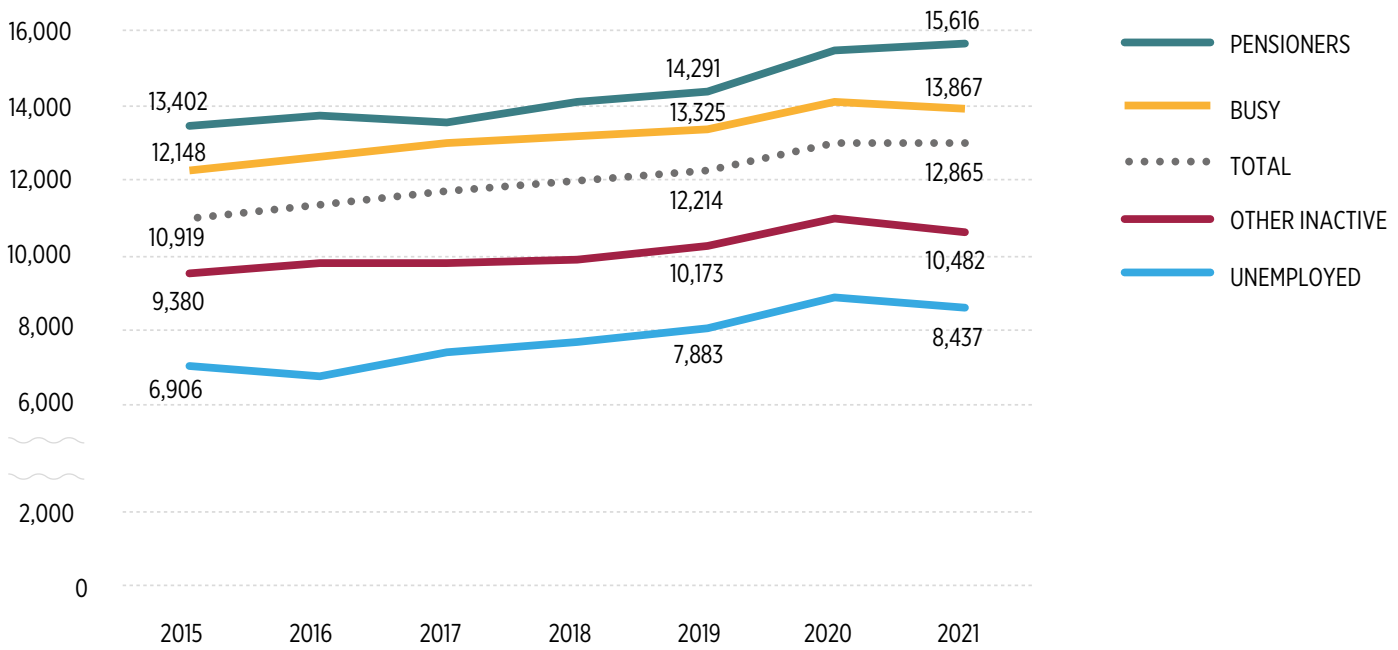


Source: National Statistics Institute

During these two years, however, **the average annual income has maintained a stable or growing trajectory**, so we see **a cumulative net increase in income between 2015 and 2021**. This growth in income in the period 2015-2021 has occurred regardless of the type of activity exercised, which includes retired, inactive and unemployed people (the latter have even seen their income increase to a greater extent than the other groups). Despite this, it is significant that the fall during the pandemic has hit the most vulnerable people, such as the unemployed (fall of 3.5% in the period 2020-2021, compared with an average of 0.5%) and the inactive non-retired (-3.6%) (Figure 2).

The overall upturn (2015-2021) of income in the most vulnerable population is driven by active public policies to improve the economic conditions of various social groups: for the labour market, especially noteworthy are the increase in the Minimum Interprofessional Wage (SMI), the revaluation of pensions, and other measures that have mitigated the effects of the standstill and reduction of activity in 2020, such as: Temporary Redundancy Regulations (ERTES), the updating by the State Public Employment Service (SEPE) of the amounts of benefits for dependent children (automatic inclusion of children in ERTE benefits), the State Housing Plan 2018-2021, the Aid Programme to help minimise the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on rents for habitual residence, and the Aid Programme for victims of gender-based violence, people subject to eviction from their habitual residence, homeless people and other vulnerable groups.

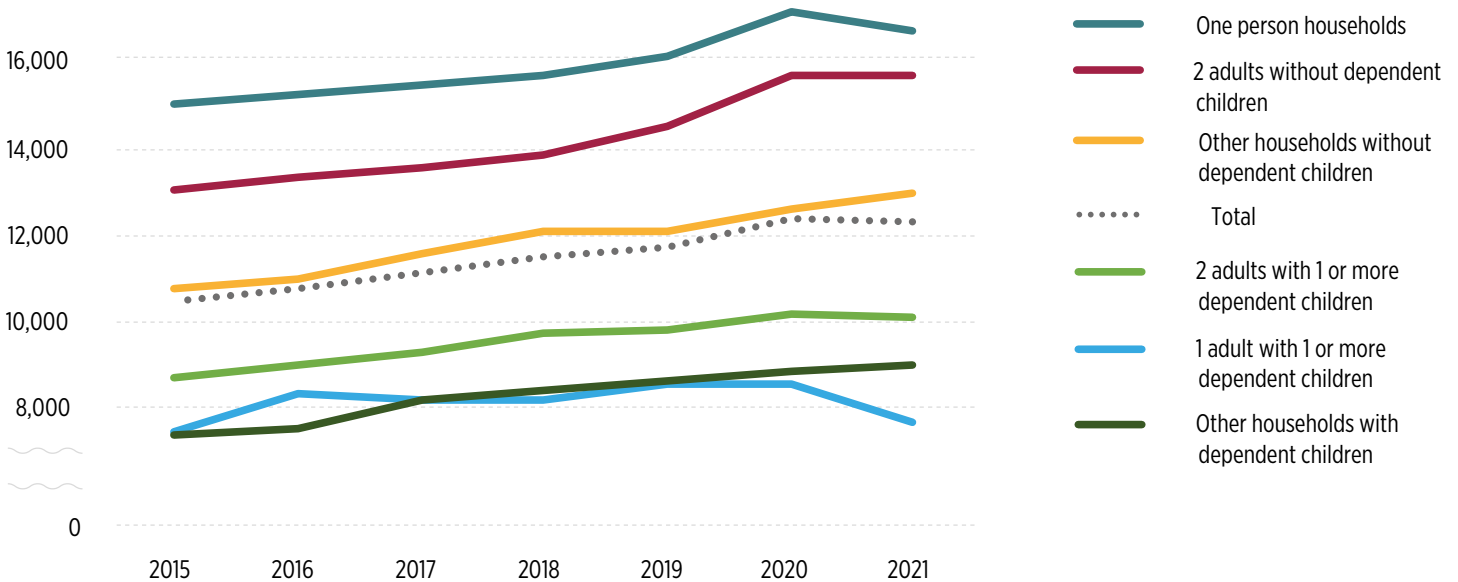
FIGURE 2. AVERAGE NET ANNUAL INCOME (EUROS) PER PERSON IN RELATION TO ACTIVITY (PERSONS AGED 16 AND OVER)



Source: National Statistics Institute

Similarly, all household types have seen their income improve to a greater or lesser extent between 2015 and 2021. That said, the effects of the COVID crisis have most strongly affected one-person households (which are those with the highest incomes) and those comprising a single adult with one or more dependent children (which, conversely, are those with the lowest incomes) (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3. AVERAGE ANNUAL NET INCOME (EUROS) PER PERSON, BY TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD

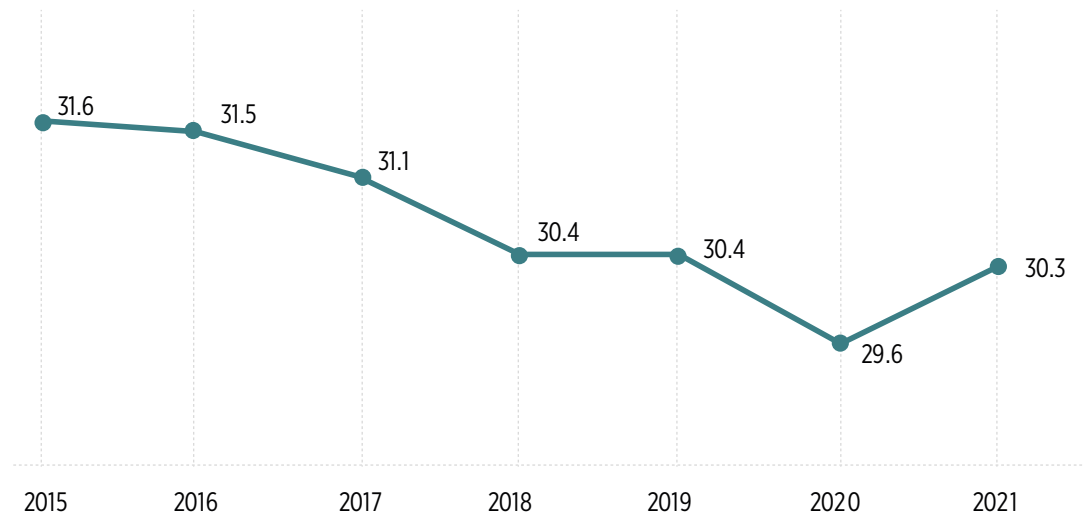


Source: National Statistics Institute

Overall, **income growth has been accompanied by a reduction in inequality**. The gap between the average income earned by the 20% of the population with the highest income (top quintile) and the average income earned by the 20% of the population with the lowest income (bottom quintile) has been declining since 2015, from a ratio of 6.9 to 5.8 in 2020, before rising again to 6.2 in 2021.

The **Gini coefficient (with imputed rent) also reports a decrease in inequality in Spain over the period 2015-2020** (in 2020, it was below 30 for the first time), but also an increase of 0.7 points in the year of the pandemic, which nevertheless leaves inequality levels below those recorded in 2015.

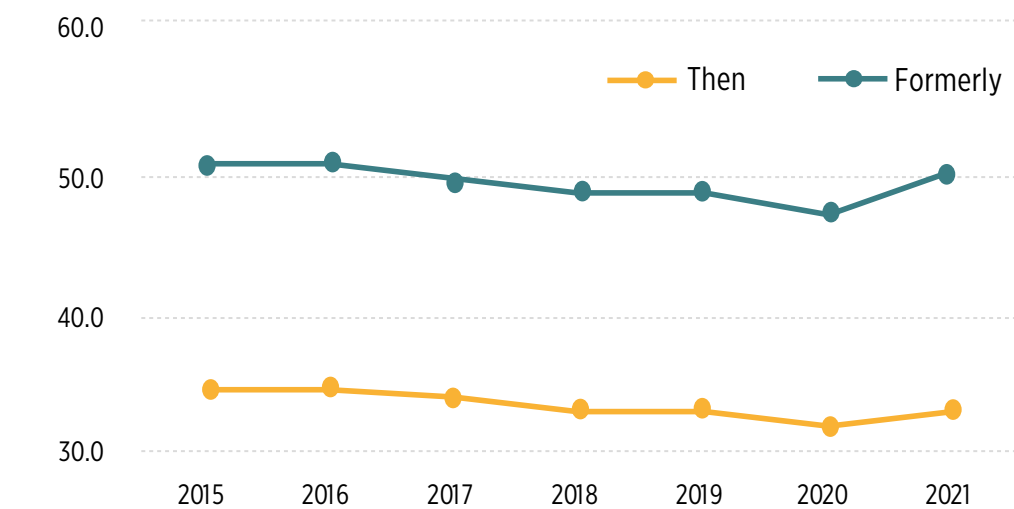
FIGURE 4. GINI COEFFICIENT (WITH IMPUTED RENT)



Source: National Statistics Institute

Moreover, from Eurostat, we know that social transfers (including pensions) have contributed, over the whole period, to a reduction in inequality equivalent to 15.8 Gini points on average (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5. GINI COEFFICIENT BEFORE AND AFTER SOCIAL TRANSFERS (INCLUDING PENSIONS)

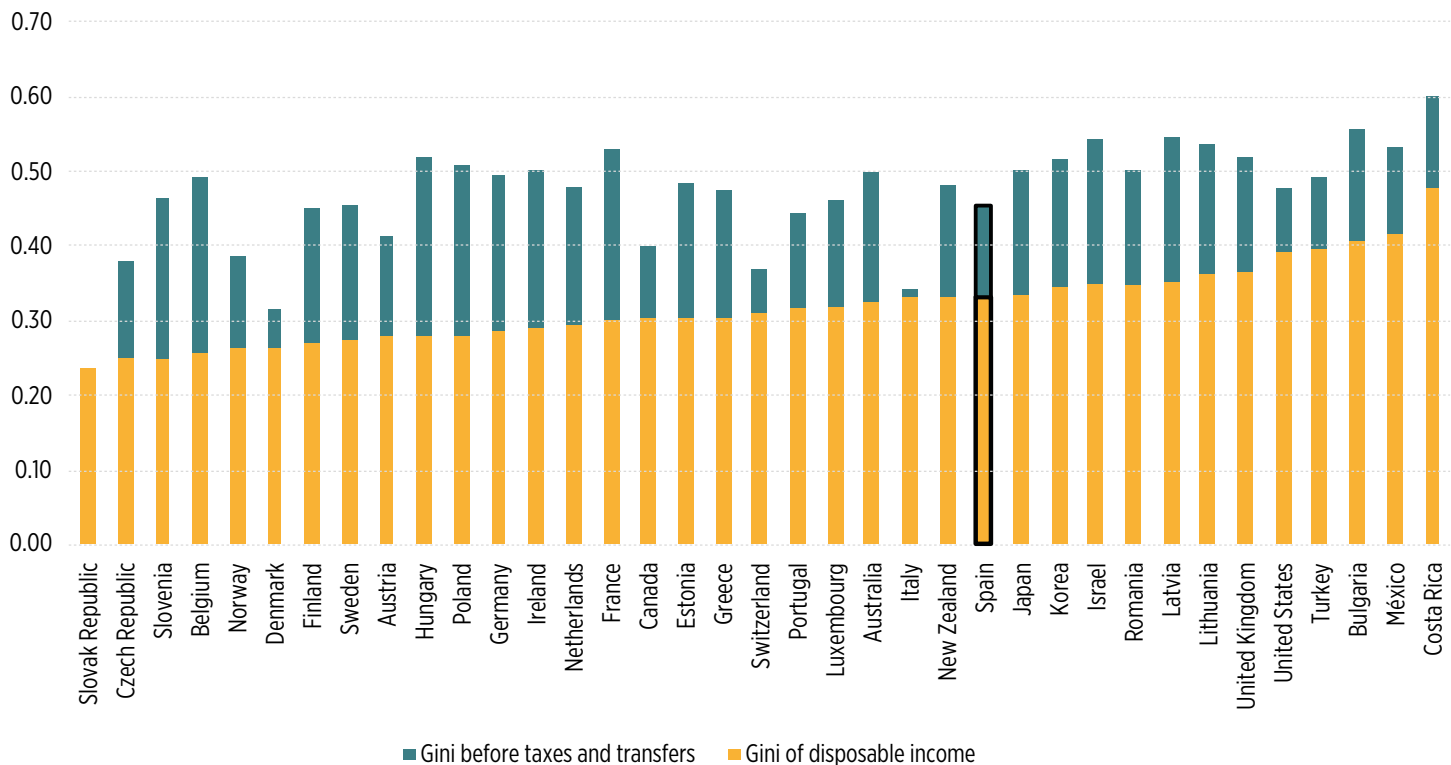


Source: Eurostat

Moreover, this redistributive effect has contributed, in the years 2020-2021, to cushioning the effect of the pandemic on inequality in Spain: while the Gini coefficient, before social transfers, has increased by 6.8%, the post-transfer indicator has increased by less than half (2.8%).

At this point it is worth questioning the behaviour of our tax system to redistribute income and reduce the GINI index before taxes and transfers. Here it is useful to compare Spain with other neighbouring and OECD countries. As we can see in Figure 6, which reproduces data from Eurostat's official statistics, specifically the EU-SILC statistical data module, for 2018 Spain presents GINI indices before taxes and transfers similar to other high-income countries, such as Germany, Finland, Belgium or France. However, the GINI after taxes and transfers places Spain as a more unequal country than these and other European countries, although this comparison does not include public services in kind, which improves Spain's relative situation. In short, when talking about policies to reduce inequality in Spain, it is necessary to address the tax and transfer system, which is less redistributive in comparison with other European countries.

FIGURE 6. INEQUALITY OF PRIMARY INCOME (BEFORE TAXES AND TRANSFERS) AND DISPOSABLE INCOME (AFTER TAXES AND TRANSFERS), 2018



Source: Ayala and Cantó (2020) with OECD data.

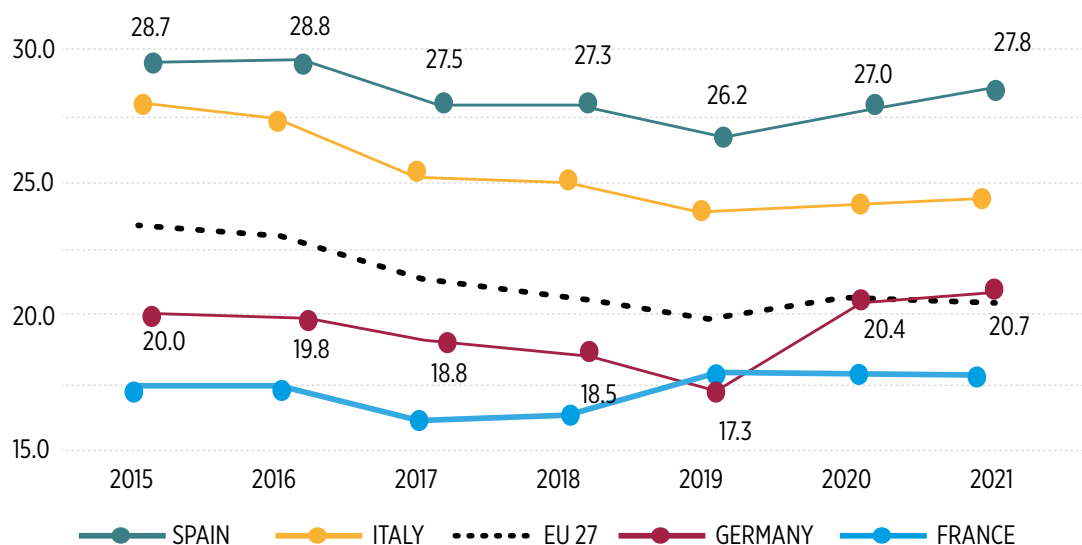
2. Evolution of the main indicators of poverty and social exclusion in Spain

a. Comparison with EU27 average evolution

Between 2015 and 2021, the probability of being at risk of poverty or social exclusion fell by 3.1% in Spain. This decrease was, however, lower than that recorded by the EU 27 countries as a whole (9.6%) during the same period.

If the trend was more or less similar up to 2019 in Spain and the EU 27, the 2020-2021 interval (COVID-19) implied a more pronounced increase in risk in Spain (3.0%) than in the Union as a whole (0.5%) and, in particular, than in other economies such as Germany (1.5%), France (0.0%) and Italy (1.2%) (Figure 7)¹

FIGURE 7. AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION

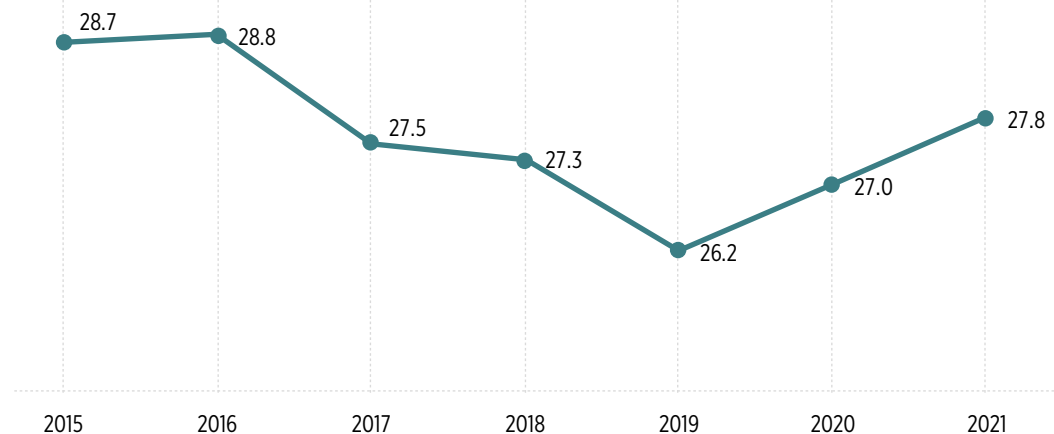


Source: Eurostat

b. Risk of poverty and social exclusion by different individual typologies

The risk of poverty or social exclusion in Spain is a structural phenomenon that has affected more than 20% of the population throughout this century. From 2015 to 2021, the risk of being poor or socially excluded in Spain decreased², although the pandemic generated a regression equivalent to four years. Taking the AROPE indicator (definition of 2021) as a reference, two significant decreases in terms of reduction in the rate of risk of poverty or social exclusion can be observed within the period analysed, in 2017 and 2019, with an increase in the period 2020 and 2021 related to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The latter drop has brought the level of risk back to a value close to that of 2017 (Figure 8).

FIGURE 8. AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NEW DEFINITION OF 2021)



Source: National Statistics Institute

¹ In the case of Germany, however, there is a jump of 17.9% between 2019 and 2020. Taking the period 2019-2021 as a reference, Germany would lead, just ahead of Spain, the increase in the risk of poverty or exclusion.

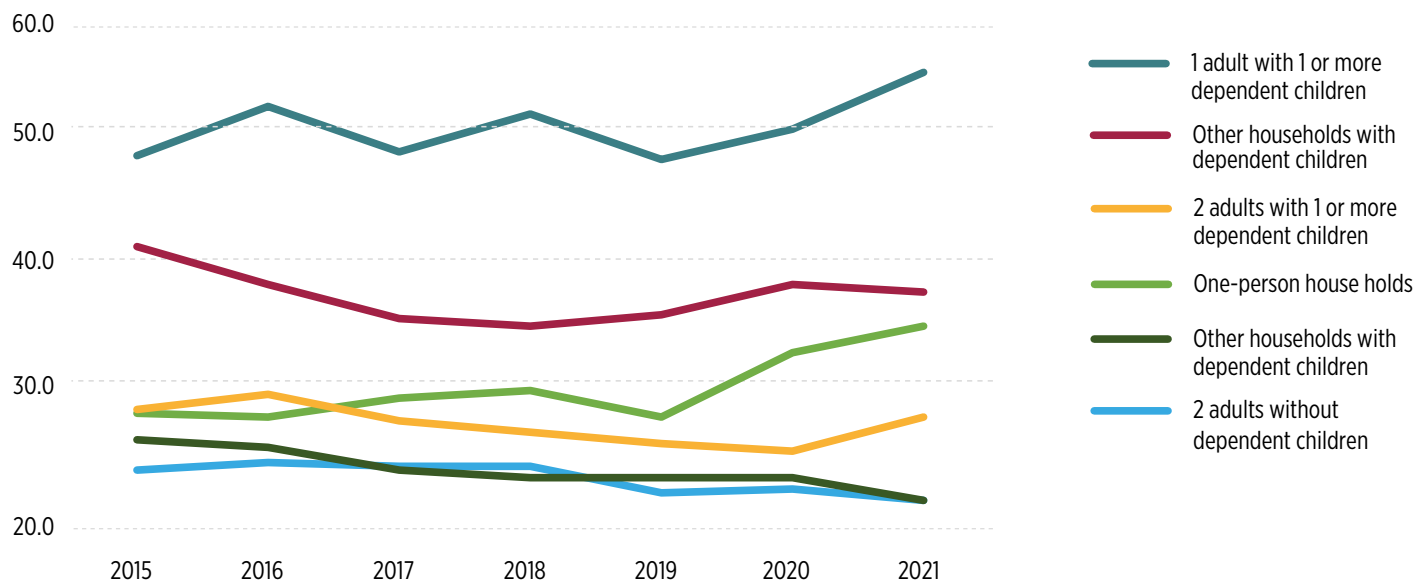
² Meanwhile, the income threshold for considering a household to be at risk of poverty (60% of median annual income per consumption unit) has risen by 16.0% in the period from 2015 to 2021, and by 5.5% in the period from 2019 to 2021, both in the data analyses for one-person households and for households with two adults and two children.

The picture is similar when analysing only the percentage of the population at risk of poverty (not including other social exclusion variables), which reached its lowest level in 2019 (20.7%) increasing to 21.7% in 2021 but without reaching levels of 22%, present in 2015 and 2016.

The following paragraphs present an analysis of the situation of risk of poverty and/or exclusion by type of household, sex, nationality and age, and by Autonomous Community. **In the different typologies, a common trend of a decrease in the risk of poverty and social exclusion can be seen throughout the years up to 2019. From 2020, with the onset of the health crisis, the positive trend breaks down with very different results by social group: women, foreigners from outside the EU and single-parent households with dependent minors are the most affected.**

The analysis by household type shows that the risk of poverty or social exclusion is higher in households with dependent children and in single-person households (with or without dependent children) (Figure 9).

FIGURE 9. AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NEW DEFINITION OF 2021) BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE



Source: National Statistics Institute

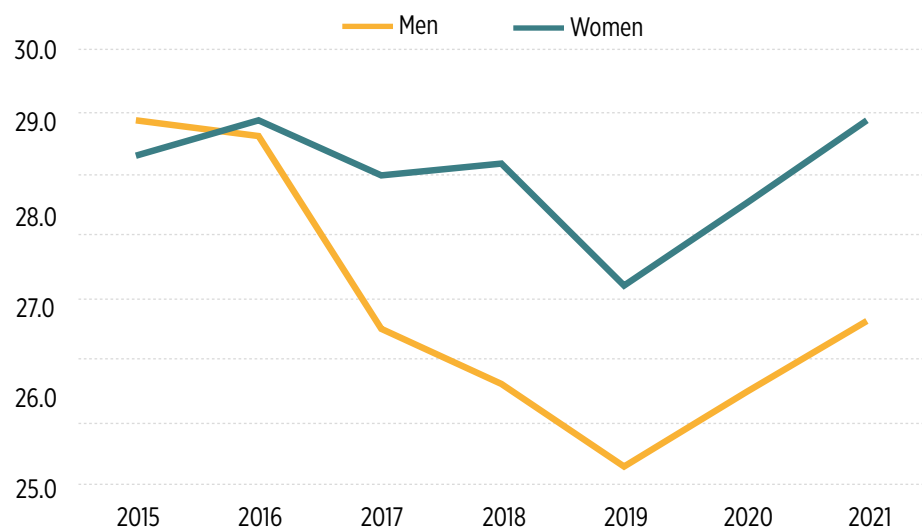
Moreover, precisely these latter single-adult households (with or without children) have seen their risk of poverty or exclusion increase by between 13.6 and 24.5% over the period 2015-2021 (with particularly accelerated increases during the pandemic), while all other households have seen their risk reduced since 2015.

These data may suggest that pandemic mitigation measures have not had the same effect on single-parent families with dependent children (in most cases female-headed families). However, it should be noted that the data used do not yet include the impact of the Minimum Vital Income on families, as the statistical data are from earlier years. The amount of this benefit increases in the case of single-parent or single-parent families (up to 108.16 euros per month in 2022).

In terms of gender, the risk of a woman over 16 years of age being at risk of poverty or exclusion in Spain is higher today than in 2015, a phenomenon that does not occur in the case of men. When analysing the risk of poverty or exclusion disaggregated by gender, it can be seen that the female poverty risk rate increases by 1.38%, while the male rate falls by 8.24%. This trend is repeated in all age ranges.

In the specific period 2020-2021, there is a similar worsening (3%) in men and women, with no reduction, therefore, during the pandemic, of the gap existing in previous years.

FIGURE 10. AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NEW DEFINITION OF 2021) BY GENDER (PERSONS AGED 16 AND OVER) (PERCENTAGE)



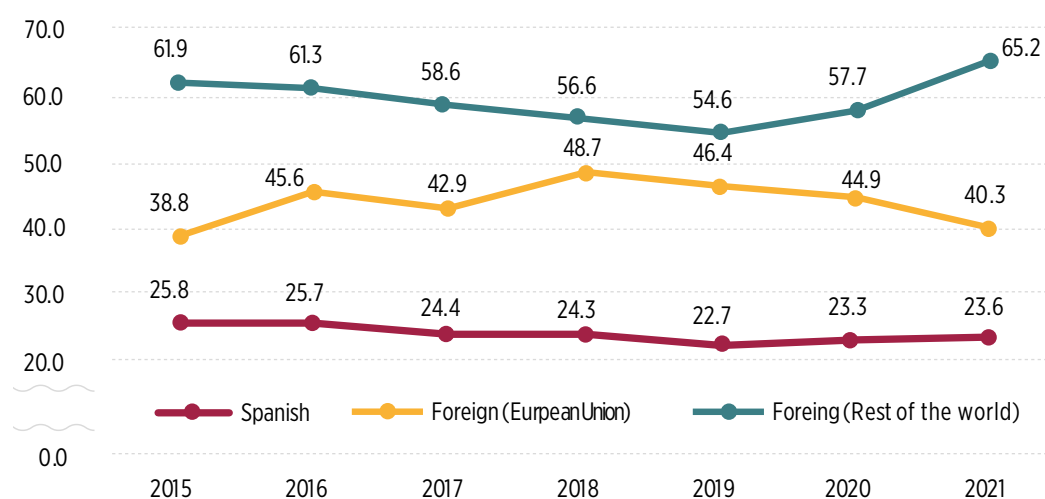
Source: National Statistics Institute

If the analysis is carried out with respect to the disaggregated at-risk-of-poverty situation, the same dynamics are observed as in the previous indicator for the period 2015-2021: a reduction in risk of 6.6% for men, but an increase of 1.8% for women. In the period 2020-2021, the risk increases in both cases, and more so for men, but men remain consistently better off than women (Figure 10).

This situation may reinforce the existence of a wage gap between men and women, as well as lower paid and more vulnerable jobs that are mainly carried out by women, and in many cases without the right to unemployment benefits, as is the case of people who work as domestic workers, a situation that has changed in 2022.

Nationality is another factor that increases the risk of being in a situation of poverty and/or social exclusion: a Spaniard is less likely to be in poverty and/or social exclusion than an EU foreigner and, at the same time, the latter is better off than the non-EU foreigner (Figure 11).

FIGURE 11. AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NEW DEFINITION 2021) AND ITS COMPONENTS BY NATIONALITY (PERSONS AGED 16 AND OVER) (PERCENTAGE)



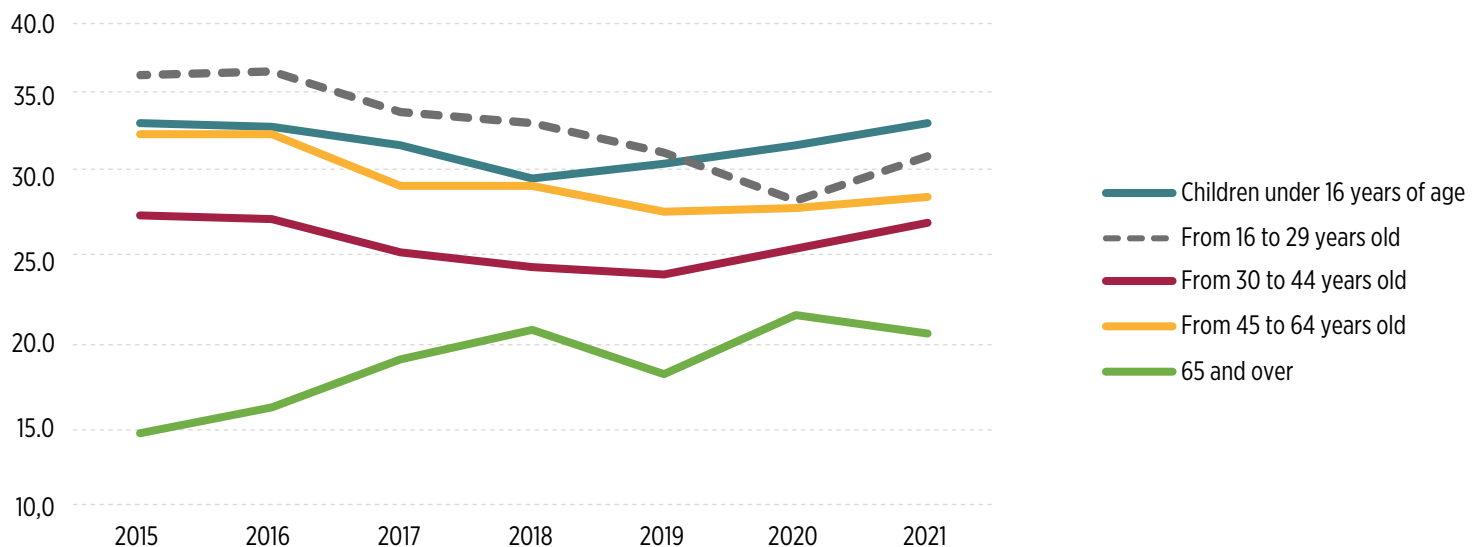
Source: National Statistics Institute

That said, trends have been mixed in the period under analysis. On the one hand, there has been a more or less constant reduction in the at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate in the case of the population of national and foreign-EU origin, with very little effect from COVID-19. However, a significant worsening of the situation of the foreign population than that seen in the rest of the world, who were left in 2021 in a state of greater risk than the one suffered six years earlier in 2015, as a result of the effects of COVID-19. This could be due to greater vulnerability caused by more precarious employment and poorer access to the income transfer system due to lack of knowledge or non-compliance with the established requirements.

In terms of age, there is a notable difference between the different age ranges. The highest rates are recorded among the youngest people (under 16 and between 16 and 29) and, conversely, the lowest rates are found among those aged over 65³. Despite this, it is precisely the over-65s who are the only age group whose situation has worsened in the period 2015-2021.

In the period 2015-2021, the risk falls for the population aged 16-20 (-15%) and 45-64 (-13%), remains stable for those under 16 and for the 30-44 age group, and, as noted above, increases by 29% for those aged 65 and over (Figure 12).

FIGURE 12. AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NEW DEFINITION OF 2021) BY AGE (PERCENTAGE)



Source: National Statistics Institute

If the analysis focuses on the period 2020-2021, there are also differences. The at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate has risen by a maximum of 5.5% across all age groups, with two exceptions: people over 65, whose risk has fallen by 5.37%, and people aged 16-29, whose risk rate has risen by almost 9%.

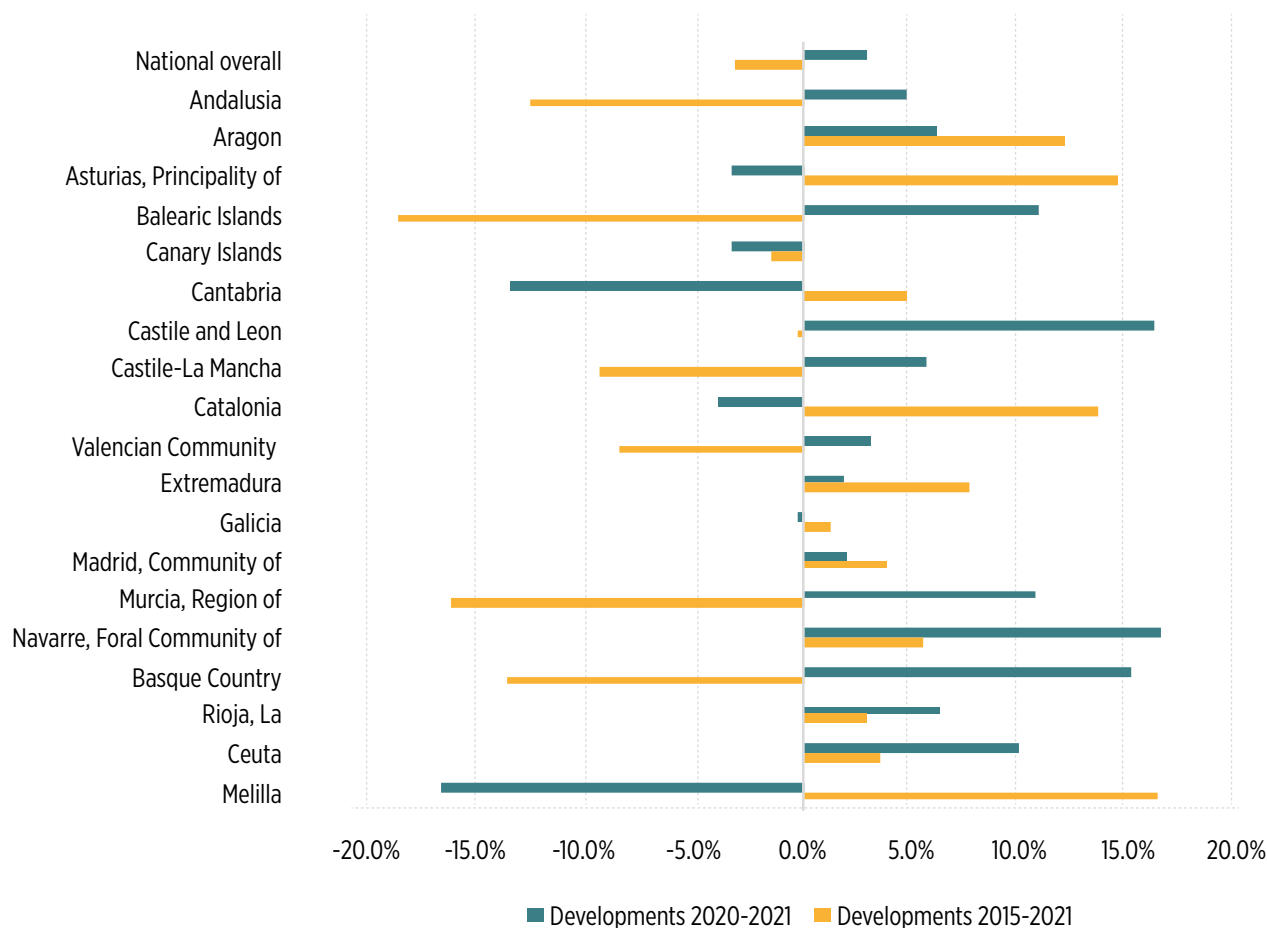
At the territorial level (Figure 13), the Autonomous Communities (ACs) with lower household incomes than the average are Extremadura, Andalusia, Castile-La Mancha, the Canary Islands and the Region of Murcia, while those with higher incomes are Navarre, Madrid, the Basque Country, the Autonomous City of Melilla and Catalonia. In the period 2015-2021, household incomes increased in all the autonomous communities, from 6.3% in Aragon to 20.3% in the Region of Murcia.

Both the at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate and the at-risk-of-poverty rate, as well as their evolution over the years 2015 to 2021, vary from one autonomous community to another, so that it is difficult to draw relevant conclusions. There does appear to be a difference on the north-south axis. The Autonomous Regions in the northern half, plus the Balearic Islands, are below the national average in terms of the at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate, while the Autonomous Regions in the south, including the Canary Islands, and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla are above the average⁴.

³ Collective covered by contributory and non-contributory pensions.

⁴ The study of the percentage at risk of poverty yields similar conclusions: the southern half of Spain is above average and the northern half is below average.

FIGURE 13. RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NEW DEFINITION 2021) BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY (PERCENTAGE)



Source: National Statistics Institute

However, the geographical axis does not explain the differences in the evolution of the at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate⁵. The largest reductions in risk in the period 2015-2021 are found in the Balearic Islands (-18.75%), the Region of Murcia (-16.27%), the Basque Country (-13.75%) and Andalusia (-12.66%). In contrast, the largest increases were recorded in the Autonomous City of Melilla (16.19%), Asturias (14.45%), Catalonia (13.45%) and Aragon (12%) (Figure 11).

The hierarchy also changes when the analysis focuses on the 2020-2021 period marked by the pandemic. The communities that saw the greatest reduction in the at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate during COVID-19 were the Autonomous City of Melilla (-16.76%), Cantabria (-13.55%), Catalonia (-4.04%), the Canary Islands (-3.44) and Asturias (-3.42). Those with the steepest increases, on the other hand, were Navarre (16.33%), Castile and Leon (16.02%), Euskadi (15%), Illes Balears (10.71%) and Region of Murcia (10.65%) (Figure 11).

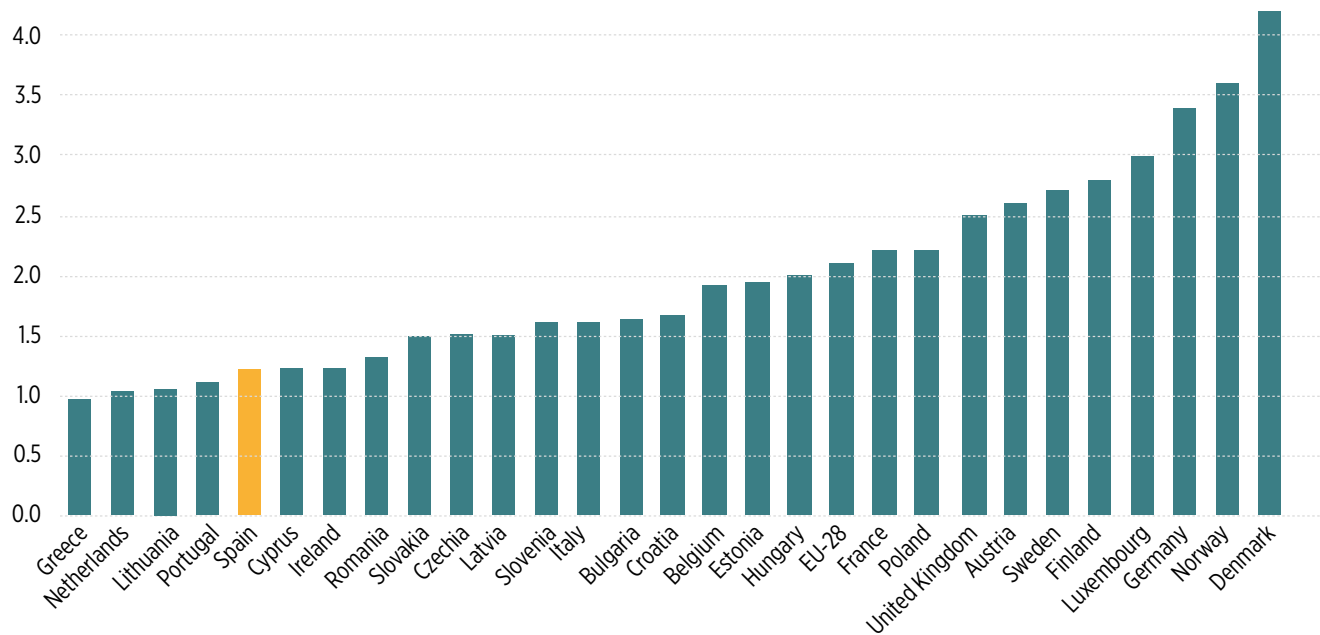
c. Child poverty

The at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate for the child population reaches between four and five percentage points higher than the average rate for the population as a whole, with the gap in 2021 (5.6%) being similar to that of 2015, although the trend was converging since 2018. The situation is similar when analysing the at-risk-of-poverty rate. The gap amongst children reaches seven points in 2021 after increasing by 12.5% in the period 2020-2021 and finally reaching the 2015 level. That said, **the percentage of severe material depriva-**

⁵ The period-by-period analysis of the percentage at risk of poverty presents a picture very similar to the one presented in these paragraphs, without a pattern that would allow any concrete lessons or conclusions to be drawn.

tion in this age group has barely moved from 11% in the period analysed. In addition, an improvement is observed in the percentage of households with low work intensity, where it went from 11.5% in 2015 to 8.8% in 2021, with a trough of 6.9% in 2020. This situation would emphasise the need to reinforce strategies to reduce inequality, such as the continued improvement of the minimum wage to the levels recommended by the EU and the strengthening of social protection mechanisms in households with minors. In this regard, **spending in Spain on family policies (a combination of transfers, services, tax credits as a percentage of GDP and permits) in 2016 was well below what most European countries spend (Figure 14).**

FIGURE 14. EXPENDITURE ON FAMILY POLICIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP, 2016



Source: Ayala and Cantó (2020) based on Eurostat data.

The fight against child poverty is an EU priority. In this regard, the European Commission (2021) has adopted the Recommendation of the Council of the European Union of 14 June 2021 establishing the European Child Guarantee. This recommendation aims to prevent and combat social exclusion by ensuring access for children in need to a set of key services such as effective and free access to high quality early childhood education and care, school education and activities, and a healthy meal every day at school, among others.

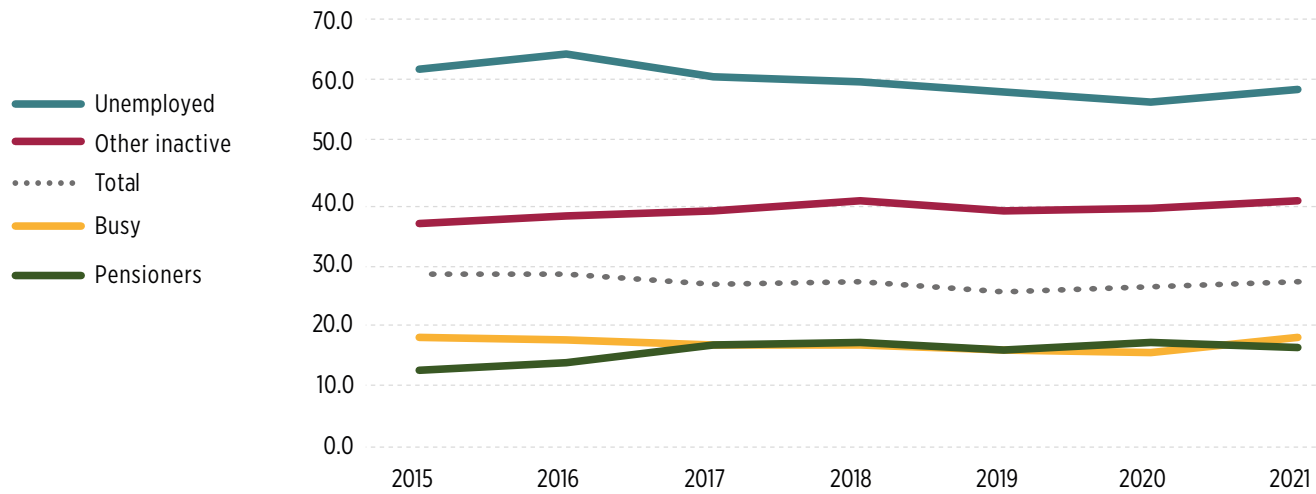
For its part, Spain awaits the development of the National Strategy on the Rights of Children and Adolescents 2021-2030 (ENDIA), which includes a new strategic approach that differs from what has been the planning of childhood and adolescence policies until now, and which emphasises the importance of measures aimed at not exacerbating the inequality gap in the field of childhood and adolescence. Here, the recent public policies of the Spanish government since 2019 could be making progress in reducing deficits and child poverty. The implementation of the Minimum Vital Income and its supplement for households with children, the increase in the period of paid paternal and maternal leave, the investment in early childhood education from 0 to 3 years of age and the possible extension of tax deductions for dependent children can be counted as advances. However, with regard to the latter policy, a recent OECD report recommended Spain to introduce a universal transfer per dependent child and an integration of family services (OECD, 2022).

d. In-work poverty

With regard to poverty in relation to activity, taking into account the data on the risk of poverty or social exclusion in relation to activity (people aged 16 and over), it can be seen that during the period 2015-2020 there was a continuous reduction of more than two percentage points in the case of employed people, although the effects of the pandemic caused a setback that brought the figures for 2021 back to 2015 levels, i.e., 17.9% of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

A similar process was followed in the case of unemployed people, although not reaching 2015 levels, with the at-risk-of-poverty or exclusion rate being three percentage points better than in that baseline, with a worsening of two percentage points between 2020 and 2021 (Figure 15).

FIGURE 15. AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (NEW DEFINITION 2021) BY ACTIVITY-RELATEDNESS (PERSONS AGED 16 AND OVER) (%)



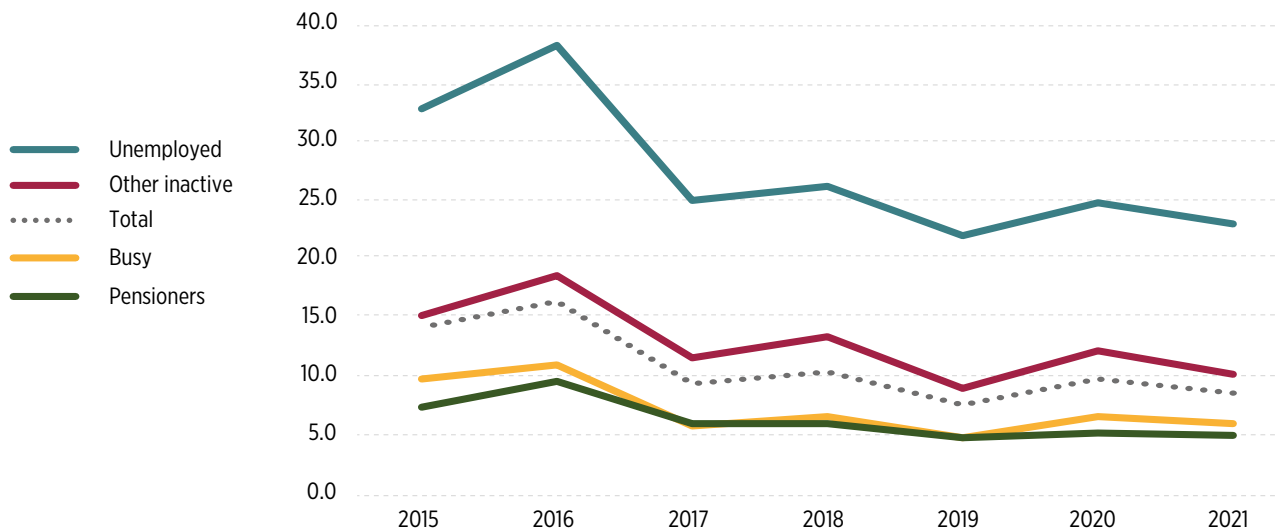
Source: National Statistics Institute

If we take as a reference the employed people who have difficulties in making ends meet, we observe a continuous improvement from 2015 to 2021, when the percentage of people with difficulties was reduced to almost half (from 9.6% in 2015 to 5.8% in 2021) (Figure 16).

This evolution coincided with periods in which inflation was at stable levels and with a notable increase in the MIS since 2019, which has placed it, at present, at €1,000 per month versus €756.7 in 2015 and €858.6 in 2018.

FIGURE 16. PEOPLE AGED 16 AND OVER BY DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING ENDS MEET AND RELATIONSHIP WITH ACTIVITY (PERCENTAGE)

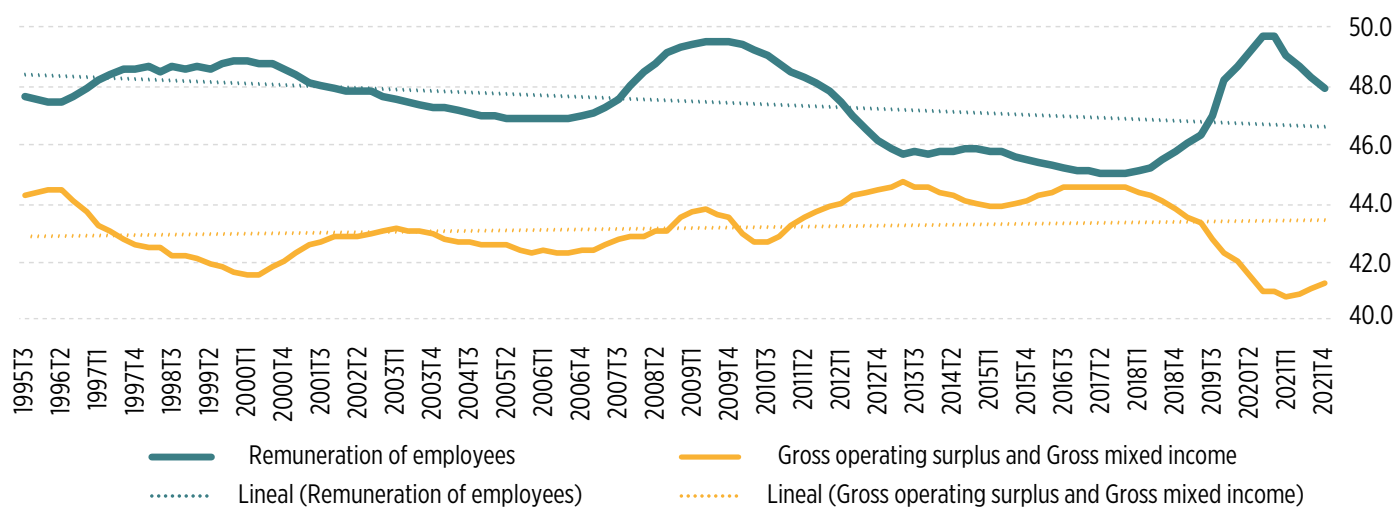
Source: National Statistics Institute



One of the risks for the increase in working poverty is the downward trend in the wage share of GDP in recent decades. Whereas in the late 1990s the share stood at 48% of GDP, before the pandemic it was close to 45% of GDP (Figure 17). The anomaly of the pandemic has led to an upturn, but both the increase in business margins and wage restraint in a context of high inflation, as well as the historical trend the country has been experiencing since the 1990s, call for ambitious labour and wage policies, such as an increase in the minimum wage (MIS), to allow for a higher wage share. This could have a key effect on reducing the risk of pover-

ty and on the financing of public social protection policies, including unemployment benefits and minimum incomes, which are key tools for preventing people outside the labour market from falling into poverty.

FIGURE 17. EVOLUTION OF THE SHARE OF WAGES AND OPERATING SURPLUS IN INCOME GDP (PERCENTAGE)



authors with data from the INE. 5-year moving average.

e. Energy poverty

The National Strategy against Energy Poverty 2019-2024 establishes four indicators as a reference to measure the evolution of the energy poverty problem: disproportionate expenditure indicator (2M), insufficient expenditure indicator (M/2), inadequate temperature and late payment of bills.

Indicator 2M and the percentage of households maintaining an inadequate temperature in winter are linked to the energy efficiency of dwellings and consumption patterns, while the other two indicators show those individuals and households that find themselves in need of a benefit measure to secure energy supply. These situations are mainly observed in the first, second and third deciles.

TABLE 1. INDICATORS OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY STRATEGY 2019-2024

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Disproportionate Expenditure Indicator (2M)	16.6	16.7	17.3	16.9	15.2	16.1
Under-expenditure indicator (M/2)	12.2	12.6	12.5	11.0	11.5	11.2
Inadequate temperature	10.6	10.1	8.0	9.1	6.6	9.6
Late payment of bills	8.8	7.8	7.4	7.2	7.6	10.9

Source: MITECO (2019)

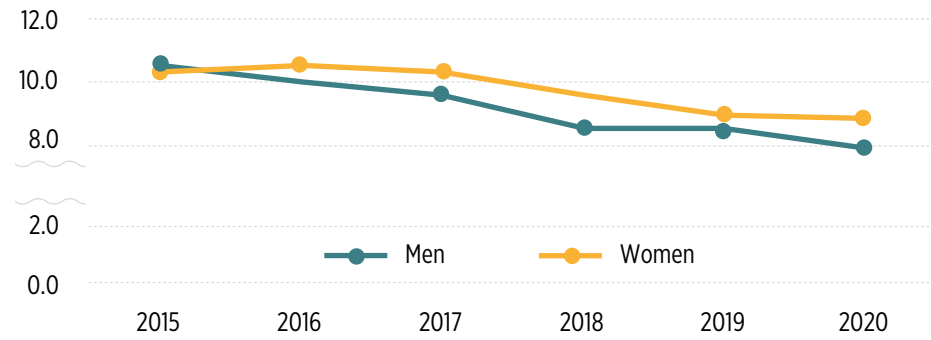
The analysis of the indicators shows a continuous process of decline that is altered by the situation of economic paralysis and confinement caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, although only the indicator of delay in the payment of invoices exceeds the starting point of 2015 (Table 1).

The option of the **social bonus** for those people at risk and subject to the Last Resort Tariff (TUR) allows for the creation of buffer measures to meet energy costs, which would respond to two of the four indicators analysed.

f. Access to housing

The share of the population with high housing costs slowly but gradually decreased over the period 2015-2020 (at a faster pace since 2018). In 2015, 10.3% of the population had difficulties in accessing housing, compared to 8.2% in 2020.

FIGURE 18. POPULATION WITH HIGH EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING, TOTAL AND BY SEX (PERCENTAGE)

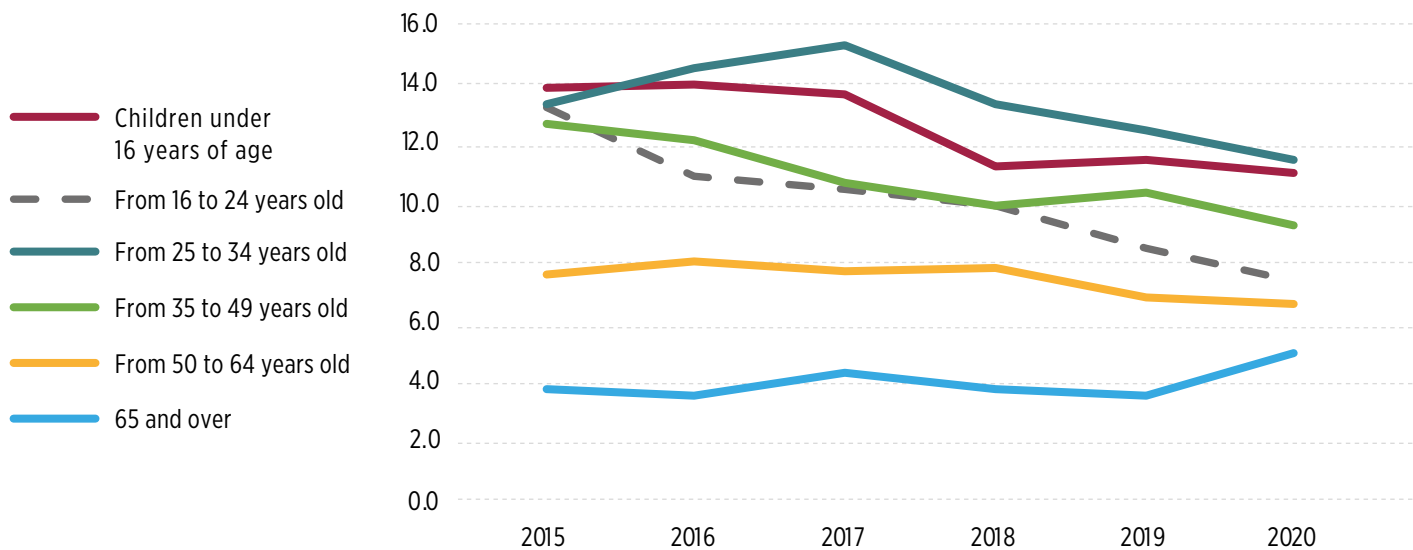


Source: National Statistics Institute

Women and men have not equally benefited from this trend. Indeed, although the situation of both sexes has improved, the gender gap for this indicator has increased from 0.2 percentage points (2015) to 0.9 (2020) (Figure 18).

Similarly, all age ranges have seen a reduction in the weight of those with high housing costs. That said, it is the younger population, and especially those under 16 and in the 25-34 age bracket, who have the greatest difficulties and, therefore, the greatest barriers to independence (Figure 19).

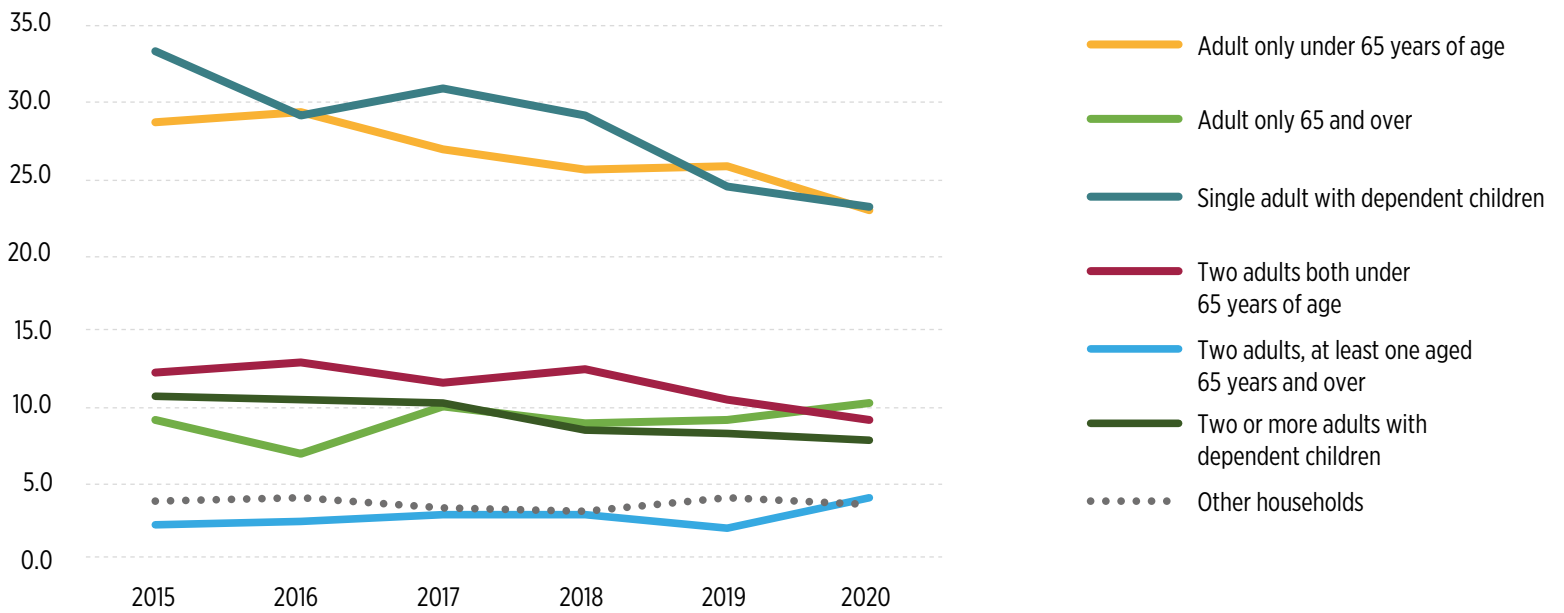
FIGURE 19. POPULATION WITH HIGH EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING, BY AGE (PERCENTAGE)



Source: National Statistics Institute

When the analysis is broken down by household type, the most vulnerable households are those consisting of a single adult under 65 years of age and/or with dependent children. These households are almost three times more likely than the rest to have to spend more than 40% of disposable income on housing. Despite this, it is precisely these households that have improved their situation the most over the period 2015-2020 (Figure 20).

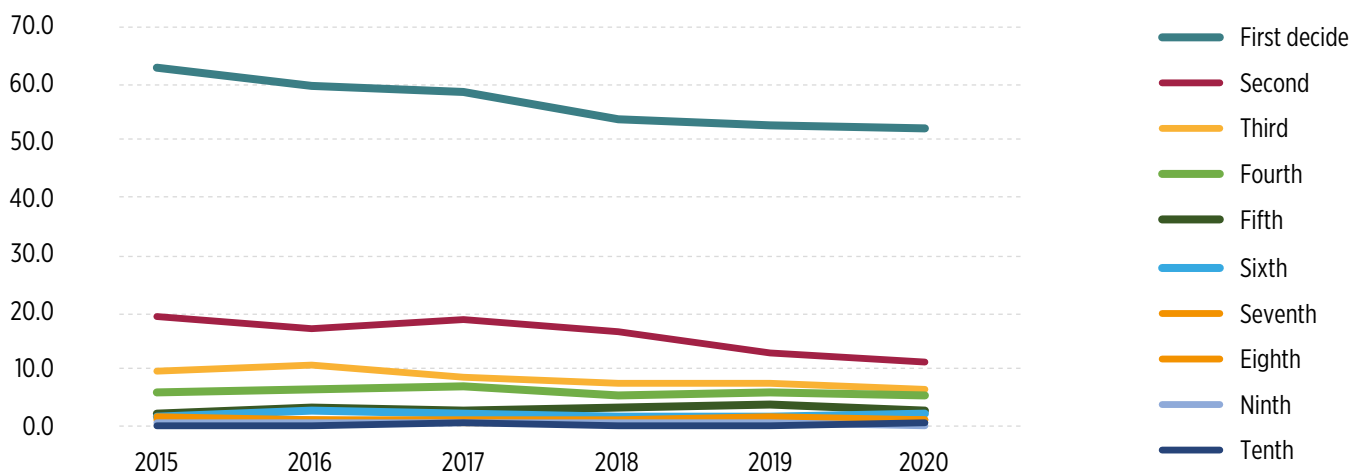
FIGURE 20. POPULATION WITH HIGH EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING, BY TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD (PERCENTAGE)



Source: National Statistics Institute

The lower income population also stands out from the rest. The first decile is home to more than 50% of the population with high expenditure on housing, compared to 11.2% in the next highest decile. As with the most vulnerable by household type, the most vulnerable by income decile have also seen their situation improve to a greater extent than the other groups over the years 2015 to 2020 (Figure 21). This situation may suggest that there is insufficient social rental housing to facilitate access to the right to housing for the population with fewer resources.

FIGURE 21. POPULATION WITH HIGH EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING, BY INCOME DECILE (PERCENTAGE)

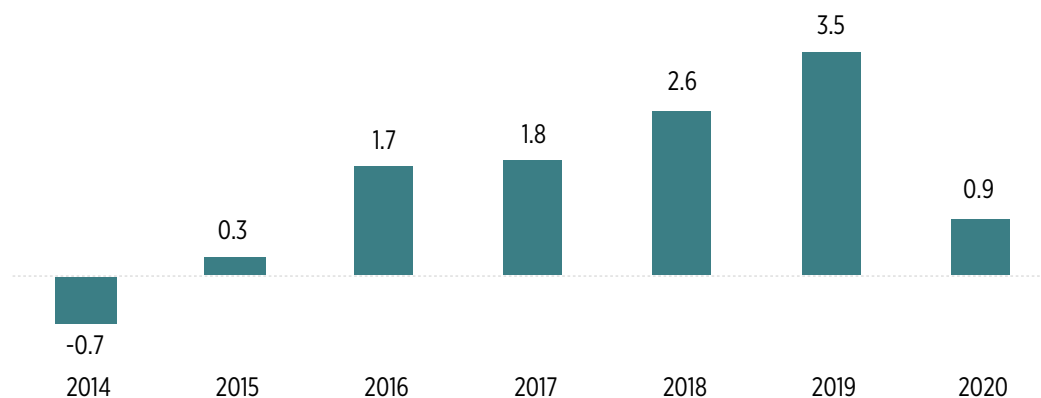


Source: National Statistics Institute

The effects of the pandemic were hardly felt in the area of housing affordability. In fact, the annual change in the Rental Housing Price Index (RHPI)⁶ in 2020 was 0.9%, more than two and a half points lower than in 2019 and the lowest since 2015 (Figure 22).

⁶ This is an experimental statistic, not definitive, and does not contain data for the whole of Spain. Its sources are derived from the Tax Agency and cadastral data, and it excludes the Basque Country and the Autonomous Community of Navarre (INE, 2020).

FIGURE 22. ANNUAL RATE OF THE RENTAL HOUSING PRICE INDEX (RHPI), (PERCENTAGE)



Source: National Statistics Institute (2020)

In short, the public policies implemented in recent years and the targeted measures to tackle the social and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have been fundamental in mitigating the impact of the health crisis. Between 2019 and 2020, **the weight of public spending on GDP increased by almost a quarter to tackle the crisis**, an effort that put Spain in third place at a European level and almost double those made by the EU-27 as a whole and by the countries with the greatest economic weight in the EU. Despite this, the challenge of reversing the upward trend generated by the pandemic and achieving the poverty risk reduction targets established in the Sustainable Development Strategy is of great magnitude. To this end, it remains essential to continue implementing measures to reduce job insecurity, expand social coverage and reduce the gaps between different social groups, as well as to ensure access to housing and energy.

Currently, the Spanish tax and transfer system is very effective through the pension system and income taxes. The scope for improving the system lies, among other areas, in improving tax progressivity, and in extending family and income policies that prevent anyone from falling below a certain poverty line, as well as regulatory policies that exercise a pre-distributive function, including income policies that allow for a fair distribution of wealth.

THE IMPACT OF THE HEALTH CRISIS ON THE EVOLUTION OF INCOME INEQUALITY, INCOME POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND THE ROLE OF PUBLIC POLICIES

a. Health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis

As can be seen above, the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the Spanish economy and society, affecting in a particularly intense way those groups that were already at greater risk of exclusion before the outbreak of the health crisis. As with many other diseases and as has historically been the case with other pandemics, the prevalence of the coronavirus has been uneven across different social contexts. As various reports have shown (see, for example, Oxfam, 2021a), the impact of COVID has been concentrated in the most vulnerable social groups, who have faced, firstly, a reduced ability to isolate themselves in their homes, often shared between several families or between different generations of the same family; and, secondly, a reduced possibility of teleworking, especially among those engaged in manual work, customer service or care, many of which are clearly feminised activities. Thus, the higher risk of infection due to socio-economic circumstances has generally led to a higher cumulative incidence of the virus in lower income districts within large cities.

But not only has the pandemic had a greater impact on the health of the most vulnerable groups, but the economic crisis resulting from the spread of the pandemic and the social distancing measures put in place to try to curb it have affected to a greater extent those groups of workers who are more dependent on a regular income: young people, foreigners, women and, in general, those with lower wages, who suffer from underemployment (temporary and/or unwanted part-time work), who depend on the informal economy, and/or who are more at risk of unemployment, who in many, but not all cases coincide with lower educational levels (see, for example, European Commission, 2020). Indeed, ultimately, there has been a tendency towards a feedback loop between the pandemic and poverty and social exclusion. Not surprisingly, the varying degrees of reduced mobility across territories has led to a greater increase in the incidence of low income (CaixaBank Research, 2020).

In terms of **employment**, March 2020 saw the largest fall in enrolment in such a short period of time since records were kept. The profiles of this fall show that it was essentially due to the termination of atypical contracts (95% of the total), mostly in medium-sized or large enterprises (more than 10 workers), in five sectors (hotels and catering, retail and wholesale trade, agriculture, administrative activities and construction) and in four autonomous communities (Andalusia, Madrid, Catalonia and the Valencia Region). All this points in the same direction, due to the segmentation of the labour market in Spain, there has been a significant fall in enrolment despite the facilities for the suspension of contracts and reductions in working hours. Similarly, as explained by the Youth Institute (INJUVE) and the Youth Council of Spain (CJE) (2020b: 7), by age group, “young people are the ones who have most intensely experienced the effects of the economic crisis after confinement”. In fact, this “destruction of low-skilled and highly temporary jobs, mostly occupied by young people, is due to a pattern of cyclical structural adjustment, typical of the Spanish economy” (op. cit.: 9).

In terms of **wage income**, the National Statistics Institute’s Quarterly Labour Cost Survey shows that total labour costs per worker grew at around 2% in 2019, in parallel with wage costs. However, during the first quarter of 2020, this increase slowed down to below 1%. The second quarter of 2020 saw the largest year-on-year fall in labour costs per employee. In particular, total labour costs fell by -8.3% compared with -3%

year-on-year (the second highest fall in the historical series) in the fourth quarter of 2012. The third quarter of 2020 already showed signs of recovery, with a year-on-year fall of just -1%, to close the fourth quarter with a year-on-year fall of -0.2%. With regard to the change in labour costs according to classification of sectors, it was confirmed that the contraction in wages was concentrated in the sectors of activity most affected by the mobility restriction measures. The evolution of the different sections of activity reflects the degree to which they have been affected by the very special situation caused by the pandemic and the measures implemented to contain it. Thus, sections such as hotels and catering, transport and arts, recreational and entertainment activities experienced, in year-on-year growth rates, a sharp fall in the second quarter, a smaller fall in the third quarter (coinciding with the first escalation and before the second wave) and a larger fall in the fourth quarter of the year (third wave and approval of Decree 926/2020). In other words, an inverse V-shaped evolution.

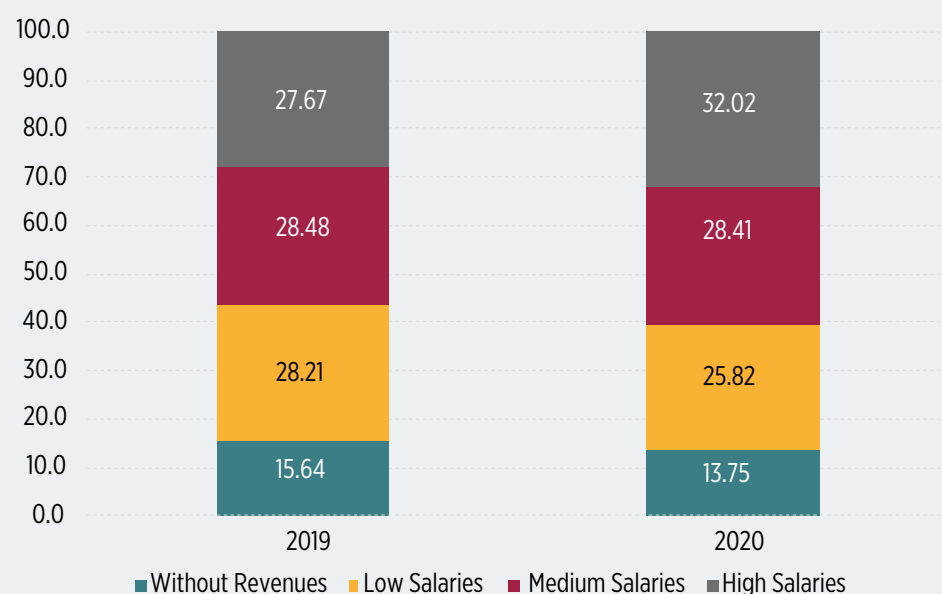
With regard to the evolution of **wage costs** per autonomous community, both the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands, experienced the largest falls. As expected, all the regions recorded a greater fall in wage costs in the second quarter of 2020. Cantabria, Castile and Leon, Castile-La Mancha recorded increases in wage costs above 2%, in the case of the Region of Murcia, the growth was 5.3%. This evolution of wage costs is a reflection, firstly, of territorial inequalities and, secondly, of the effect of the ERTes, given that the wage falls have occurred in the sections that have made most use of this employment protection measure with the subsequent maintenance of incomes, which we will analyse in detail in the second section, dedicated to the analysis of the public policies implemented.

b. Impact of the crisis on wage inequalities and potential impact on poverty

The impact of the crisis on labour income has been very profound. However, social transfers, especially those linked to the ERTes, have made it possible to limit this loss of income to a large extent, as well as preventing further job destruction.

In particular, thanks to the comparison with 2019, it is possible to observe a worsening of wage inequalities, especially in terms of the increase in the proportion of workers with no income, a direct consequence of the extension of unemployment, as well as temporary job suspensions. According to data from CaixaBank Research (2020), the proportion of workers with no income (before taking into account social transfers) reached 31% in April 2020, gradually falling to 25.5% in December 2020, two and a half percentage points above the level in December 2019 (Figure 23).

FIGURE 23: DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE INCOME: DECEMBER 2020 VS. DECEMBER 2019



Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the CaixaBank Research Inequality Monitor. Low" wages are considered to be those below €1,000/month, "medium" wages between €1,000 and €2,000/month and "high" wages above €2,000/month.

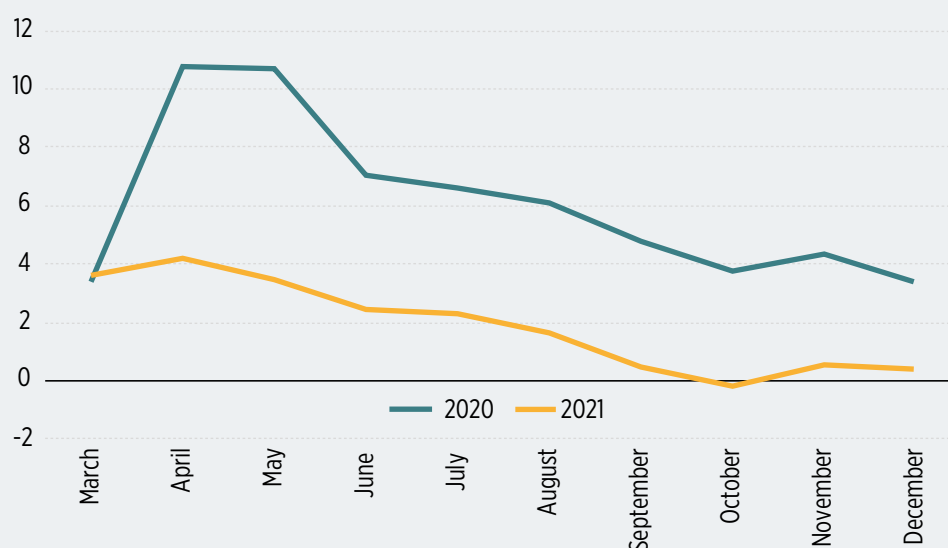
As CaixaBank Research (2020: 32) explains, during the first two months of the pandemic “one third of people with low incomes went without income” and of those “with average incomes, one third also moved to lower incomes: 13% moved into the low-income group and 20% went without income”. After the relaxation of lockdown and some revival of economic activity, “the proportion of people with no income fell considerably and the higher income groups, especially those with higher and middle incomes, regained weight” (ibid.).

Thus, the worsening of wage inequalities and, in particular, the extension of situations of absolute lack of income has had a greater impact on groups that were already more precariously integrated into the labour market before the pandemic. This is shown by comparing income inequality indicators before the intervention of public policies in three different dimensions: age, gender and nationality, with young people, women and foreigners being the most affected groups.

On gender, inequality transcends the monetary sphere. As Oxfam-Intermón (2021a: 16 and 17), based on the report of the Women’s Institute for Equal Opportunities, the unequal gender impact of the pandemic can be explained by the overburdening of health work and essential services, in which women are over-represented; the centrality of care tasks, which, according to the available evidence, would have corresponded to a greater extent to women during lockdown, which in turn is linked to a greater reduction in their paid working hours; the greater job insecurity and poverty suffered by women; and finally, the greater risk of suffering gender-based violence as a consequence of lockdown.

Having analysed the evolution of wage inequality within the different social groups (by age, nationality and gender), it is possible to examine the impact of the pandemic on primary income inequality (before considering the effect of public policies). According to data from the CaixaBank Research Inequality Monitor, the Gini index before social transfers would have suffered a serious worsening compared with 2020 (Figure 24), increasing by more than 11 points (25%) during April, although it would have fallen thereafter. Overall, by the end of 2020, the index stood at a level of 54.3 points. To put this increase in perspective, during the last financial crisis, the Gini index before transfers peaked in 2014 at 50.9 points (Eurostat data). In other words, **in this crisis primary inequality has worsened by almost 7% more than in the previous one.**

FIGURE 24: EVOLUTION OF THE GINI INDEX BEFORE SOCIAL TRANSFERS: 2020 VS. 2021



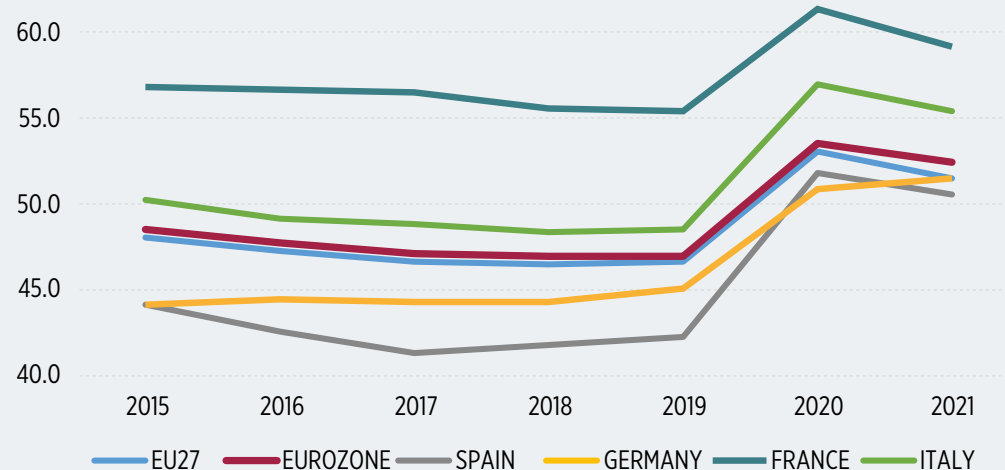
Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the CaixaBank Research Inequality Monitor.

c. Public policies implemented and their effects on inequality and poverty

In order to cope with the intense loss of income suffered, especially by the most precarious groups, various public policies were implemented to cushion the crisis. Of particular relevance were labour and social policies, as well as the different measures implemented to guarantee the right to housing and basic supplies. The main measures in each area are listed below.

First of all, between 2015 and 2020⁷, **public spending in Spain, as a percentage of GDP, increased by almost a fifth (19.4%), an increase above those recorded in the EU 27 (10.5%), in the Eurozone (11.0%) and even in the strongest EU economies, such as Germany (15.2%), France (8.5%) and Italy (13.5%)** (Figure 25). Although the trend in the weight of public spending was downward in all cases in the years prior to the pandemic, COVID-19 has abruptly changed the dynamics. In this sense, **Spain is the country that has increased its spending weight the most among all EU countries** (with the exception of Malta and Greece), with an increase of 24.5% in just one year (between 2019 and 2020) that is almost double the increases recorded in the EU 27 (14.2%), the euro area (14.5%), Germany (12.9%), France (11.2%) or Italy (17.7%).

FIGURE 25. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP



Source: Eurostat

Concerning **employment**, the objective of the measures developed at first was to try to compensate for the loss of income generated by the economic slowdown, while trying to prevent this from leading to a large-scale destruction of employment and the end of the activity of many self-employed workers. To this end, multiple policies have been deployed. Firstly, **measures** were implemented **to protect people affected by the coronavirus** or who have had to carry out care tasks (temporary incapacity, "MECUIDA Plan" for people with dependents due to the health crisis situation, creation of recoverable paid leave, among others), as well as measures to protect employees from dismissal (prohibition of dismissal on objective grounds (article 52b) as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and prioritising the maintenance of employment). On the other hand, an especially relevant feature was the measures developed to **protect against unemployment in temporary reductions or suspensions**, by which the process of authorisation of ERTes was speeded up in order to maintain employment once the health crisis passed and the rights of workers were extended: the State has paid unemployment benefits for all workers affected by ERTes, unemployment benefits have not been deducted from the accumulated unemployment benefits, it was possible to receive benefits without having paid the minimum contributions currently required, and in ERTes due to force majeure the employer's contribution has been exempted from contributions.

Likewise, social dialogue was reactivated to establish a "social agreement in defence of employment" which included the following measures: extensions of ERTes due to force majeure caused by COVID-19, maintenance of exemptions from payment of the employer's contribution to social security contributions and continuation of the commitment by companies to maintain employment for 6 months from the date of resumption, even partial, of activity, in all ERTes due to force majeure, among other measures to encourage the maintenance of employment. In addition, measures were established to protect people with atypical contracts from unemployment (introduction of specific benefits for discontinuous permanent workers, creation of an exceptional unemployment benefit for the end of temporary contracts in certain cases, permission to access the benefit for workers whose contract was terminated during the trial period, among others). At the same time, measures were implemented to protect the unemployed: automatic extension of unemployment benefits, measures aimed at speeding up the processing, recognition and payment of unemployment benefits.

⁷ Eurostat only has public expenditure data up to and including 2020.

For the self-employed, measures of special relevance were also developed, such as the creation of an extraordinary allowance for cessation of activity for self-employed workers who saw their turnover fall by 75% or were directly affected by the crisis. On the other hand, for people integrated in the Special System for Household Employees, an extraordinary allowance for lack of activity was created for those people who had totally or partially stopped providing services. Finally, for the agricultural sector, the hiring of temporary workers was made more flexible in order to guarantee supply and maintain the level of family income, for example, by including the compatibility of work with the receipt of other unemployment benefits or subsidies.

In the **case of social policies**, apart from employment, the aim has been to try to ensure minimum income levels for the most vulnerable families and to strengthen the protection provided by primary care and dependency care social services for groups such as: the elderly, those with some degree of dependency and those with a disability because they require the attention of public services that may be affected by the development of the crisis; single-parent and single-parent households or households in poverty because they have fewer resources and fewer options to adapt to the consequences of the crisis; and the homeless or migrants because they do not have full access to health care or other public services.

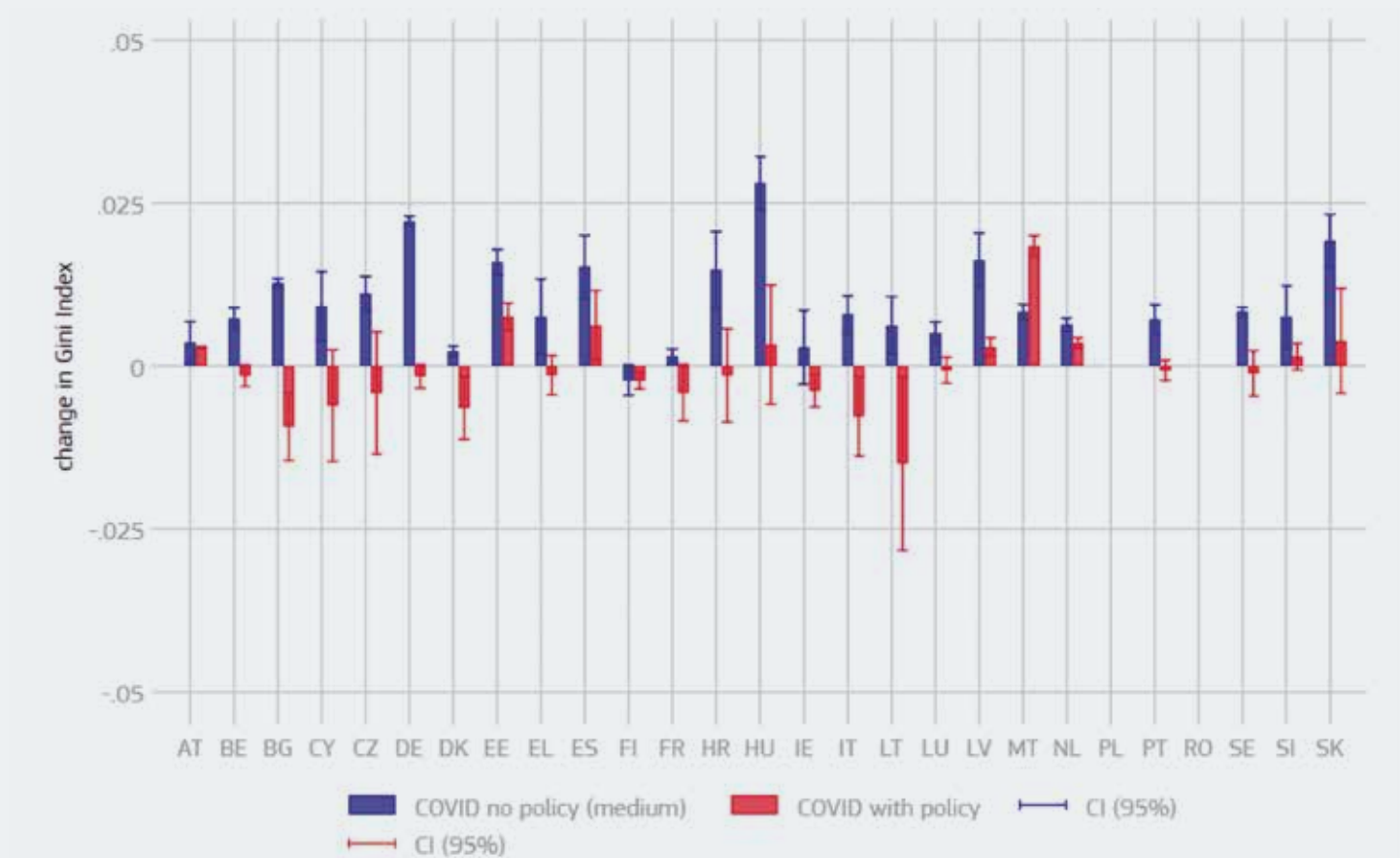
To this end, given the existing distribution of competences in our legal system, measures were taken at the local, regional and central levels of administration. In the latter case, two measures stand out. On the one hand, a significant increase in funding, of up to 600 million euros, to guarantee the provision of social services and reinforce social care for vulnerable groups articulated around two elements, an Extraordinary Social Fund (300 million euros), destined exclusively to the social consequences of the COVID-19 transfer from the General State Administration to the Autonomous Communities. In addition, local councils were empowered to use their surplus to invest in social care items: care for dependency, social services and all kinds of social problems (€300m).

On the other hand, it is worth highlighting the approval of the MLW, a non-contributory Social Security benefit that guarantees a minimum income to those who lack it and which is added to the social protection system on a permanent basis. Its objective is twofold: to provide care for those who have lost their income as a result of the pandemic and, at the same time, to respond to people who are in a structural situation of economic vulnerability and/or social exclusion, but who can access contributory benefits (such as unemployment benefits) and/or who have exhausted their entitlement to them.

In the area of the right to housing and the guarantee of basic supplies, important measures have also been implemented, such as the suspension of evictions without a housing alternative and the extraordinary six-month extension of rental contracts for permanent housing, the moratorium on the payment of rent for all people who were having difficulty making payments as a result of COVID-19, as well as a moratorium on mortgage payments. It also established the prohibition of cuts in utilities during the state of alarm and extended the criteria for access to the social voucher. A moratorium on the payment of basic utilities (water, electricity and gas) for vulnerable groups was also implemented, as well as a moratorium on consumer credit for those consumers who fall within the criteria of economic vulnerability.

All these measures have had a cushioning and redistributive effect on the impact of the crisis, limiting the worsening of income inequality and the spread of income poverty. Despite this, there has been a significant extension of situations of poverty and social exclusion, which need to be addressed so that it does not become a permanent consequence of the pandemic. Looking at the Gini index, **it is estimated that the measures implemented could have more than halved the potential increase in the index by 2020** (Figure 26). In other words, the policies implemented have been effective in reducing the potential increase in inequality caused by a larger drop in income for poorer groups. However, in other countries, such as Germany, which would have suffered a larger increase in inequality without the implementation of policies, it managed to reduce the entire potential increase in the Gini index.

FIGURE 26. IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS ON INEQUALITY (GINI INDEX) IN EU COUNTRIES.



Source: Almeida et al. (2020)⁸

Overall, the significant increase in redistributive capacity has meant that, according to CaixaBank Research data, the final Gini index has increased only slightly, despite the very strong impact of the health crisis on wage income. The reduction in inequality achieved thanks to social benefits during the months of April and May 2020 would have been as much as 24%, almost three times the redistributive capacity of social transfers during the same months of the previous year. Estimates made by different studies at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic suggested that the increase in poverty would affect one million people. As the LCS data show, this increase turned out to be less than expected, affecting 345,667 more people than in 2020. We therefore consider that this increase has not been greater, possibly due to the strategy followed by the government to deal with the consequences of the crisis. In this sense, the containment measures taken during the health crisis and the measures contained in the Social Shield have had a positive impact on mitigating the consequences of the crisis for COVID-19.

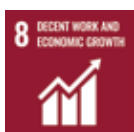
In terms of income, the various social benefits granted in the field of employment, whether for unemployment, ETEs or any of the extraordinary ones, have allowed the number of workers without income to be situated, despite the health and economic crisis, at a level practically the same as in 2019 (13.5% in 2020 vs. 13.4% a year earlier), having substantially limited the destruction of employment caused by the crisis, especially in relation to the historic fall in Gross Domestic Product. In other words, according to this indicator, the monetary benefits deployed to protect workers from the loss of their income would have been considerably effective, at least in minimising situations of absolute lack of income. There is also a significant drop in the number of people who find it very difficult to make ends meet, from 4.7 million in 2020 to 4.1 million in 2021, a fall of more than 562,000 people who were no longer in this situation in the last year.

⁸ Almeida et al. (2020) 'Households' income and the cushioning effect of fiscal policy measures during the Great Lockdown'. JRC Working Papers on Taxation and Structural Reforms, 06/2020.

Secondly, the redistributive capacity of the monetary benefits as a whole has had another clearly positive effect: **the reduction in inequality achieved thanks to them has been greater within precisely those social groups among which wage inequalities have originally increased the most.** In other words, those who would have benefited most from these benefits, at least in terms of their initial situation, are young workers, foreign-born workers and/or women (data from the CaixaBank Research Inequality Monitor). Specifically, this protective potential would have peaked during the months of April and May 2020 and, in particular, for young workers and workers born abroad. During these months, social transfers reduced inequality within these groups by between 28% and 30%. In the first case, this would largely be a consequence of the improvement in the unemployment benefit coverage rate of the young population, which in April 2020 would have been “for the first time in years, higher than that of the rest of the population (135.0% versus 125.8%)” as stated by INJUVE and the Spanish Council of Youth (INJUVE-CJE, 2020a: 7).

Of all the labour and social policies deployed, the **redistributive potential demonstrated** by the ERTE must be highlighted. According to Oxfam-Intermón (2021a: 37), “employment protection policy has saved 710,000 people in Spain from poverty, and the effect on inequality could be estimated at a reduction of 1.17 Gini points. The effect would have been more noticeable in the most unprotected deciles, with income support reaching 8% of annual income in the first decile”.

In terms of territorial divergences, social transfers would also have played a very important buffering role. Thanks to the public policies deployed, the greater impact that the pandemic would have had on wage income both in urban areas and in some particular autonomous communities, such as the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands, was offset to a very high degree (CaixaBank Research, 2020: 37). In other words, the aforementioned transfers prevented a greater loss of income in these regions compared to rural areas and the other Autonomous Regions.



ACCELERATING POLICY

1.

SOCIAL TRANSITION. REDISTRIBUTE WEALTH AND GUARANTEE RIGHTS

The 2030 Agenda identifies disparities in access to opportunities, wealth and power as one of the major challenges to be addressed to ensure sustainable development. In line with this, the Sustainable Development Strategy places the reduction of inequality and the eradication of poverty and social exclusion as one of its priority objectives through a broad set of actions in income policy and the broadening and guaranteeing of social rights, which are complemented and reinforced by the actions prioritised in the other policies to accelerate sustainable development for the labour market, territorial cohesion and the strengthening of the welfare state and public services. In short, the aim is to strengthen the social protection system, improve its redistributive capacity and ensure that it reaches the population as a whole and, in particular, those people, social groups and collectives that find themselves in a more precarious and vulnerable situation. These actions, largely within the framework of European commitments, have made significant progress in this first year of implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Firstly, the **Operational Plan 2021 for the Development of the National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion 2019-2023 (ENPLPES 2019-2023)** has been approved and developed. It establishes the general framework for government action to cover the social needs of citizens and, particularly, vulnerable groups in situations of poverty and exclusion, in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, approved at the Gothenburg Social Summit in November 2017. It provides a wide range of actions that contribute to the achievement of accelerator policy 1, as well as accelerator policy 6, focused on strengthening public services to ensure a democratic and resilient welfare state, and accelerator policy 5, which promotes quality and stability in employment.

Within this framework, the annual operational plans specify the measures designed to implement the 88 lines of action contained in the ENPLPES, which in turn respond to 13 objectives and 4 strategic goals to guarantee social cohesion and make the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda a reality in terms of social protection, and their associated budget. A budget allocation that has been increasing since the approval of the Strategy in 2019, with the most substantial increases starting in 2020, when the budget earmarked for financing the actions increased by 48%, from 28,119 million euros in 2019 to 40,820 million euros in 2020. This budgetary effort was maintained in 2021, with an allocation of 41,454 million euros, while the figure for the 2022 operational plan, currently being drawn up, is expected to rise to 44,292 million euros, i.e., 6.8% more than in 2021.

In the area of **guaranteed income**, linked to targets 1.1 and 1.3 of SDG1, and 10.1 and 10.4 of SDG10, with the aim of preventing, reducing and combating poverty by focusing efforts on the people and groups that suffer it most intensely, the implementation of the new subjective right represented by the **Minimum Vital Income (MLW)**, the implementation of which began with the approval of Royal Decree-Law 20/2020, of 29 May, is noteworthy. The various modifications to which this economic benefit has been subject in order to improve its configuration and coverage have culminated in the approval of Law 19/2021, of 20 December, which establishes the minimum living income. This in turn led to Royal Decree 64/2022, of 25 January, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum Living Income Monitoring Committee, Royal Decree 635/2022, of 26 July, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum

Living Income Advisory Council, Royal Decree 636/2022, of 26 July, which regulates the Social Inclusion Stamp, as well as the regulatory development of the employment incentive in application of article 11.4 of Law 19/2021, which regulates the organisation and functions of the minimum vital income Advisory Council, as well as the regulatory development of the employment incentive in application of article 11.4 of Law 19/2021. 11.4 of Law 19/2021, regulated by Royal Decree 789/2022 of 27 September, which regulates the compatibility of the Minimum Vital Income with income from work or self-employment in order to improve the real opportunities for social and labour inclusion of beneficiaries of the benefit.

Among the modifications made to extend the coverage and protective intensity of this social protection mechanism is the implementation of a Child Support Supplement (CAPI), a financial supplement of between 50 and 100 euros, which already benefits more than 280,000 families with dependent minors who receive the MLW, and the increase in the benefit for single-parent families and for people with disabilities. In addition, people between the ages of 18 and 22 who have been under the guardianship of public entities for the protection of minors in residential centres, or who are in a situation of absolute orphanhood (lack of parents or adoptive parents) can access the MLW, provided that they live alone and are not part of a cohabitation unit. These are therefore improvements that also have an impact on reducing child poverty, and whose protective intensity is reinforced by the decision to increase the amount of the benefit by 15%, adopted within the framework of the National Plan to respond to the consequences of the war in Ukraine, approved by Royal Decree-Law 6/2022 of 29 March.

In the area of simplifying procedures to facilitate access, each interested party expressly authorises the administration to process their application to obtain their tax data from the State Tax Administration Agency, and the obligations relating to the status of job seekers have been modified, adapting these requirements to the special circumstances of the group receiving the benefit, and measures have been adopted to make the resolution of the applications submitted as fast as possible. As a result, nearly two million applications have been studied, and just over half a million have been approved, which means that around 1.4 million people have benefited from this new subjective right⁹. In addition, a special campaign has been developed to tackle the so-called *Non-Take-Up* - a phenomenon whereby people who are entitled to public benefits do not benefit from them because they are unaware of their existence - which has made it possible to offer active support to 4,500 people in the management of the procedures to facilitate their access to the benefit.

Progress has also been made in the area of **making the accreditation of certain circumstances of the cohabitation unit more flexible**, with a view to facilitating access to the MLW. On the one hand, files are referred to the Social Services when their participation is required for the accreditation of certain circumstances of the applicants or their cohabitation unit. At the same time, Royal Decree-Law 3/2021 created the register of mediators, so that certain third sector entities can carry out a similar accreditation process for applicants for the benefit, and nine entities are already part of this register, regulated by Order ISM/1375/2021.

Finally, in the framework of promoting inclusive growth by linking social inclusion policies to the MLW, 34 social inclusion pilot projects for beneficiaries of this benefit or people in a situation of vulnerability have been approved, with an overall allocation of almost 212 million euros corresponding to the investments included in Component 23.17 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.

In addition, and in relation to Social Security pensions, in accordance with the provisions of Law 22/2021 on the General State Budget for 2022 and Royal Decree 65/2022 of 25 January on the revaluation of Social Security system pensions, pensions and other public social benefits for the financial year 2022, the amount of the non-concurrent minimum pensions of the Social Security and Passive Class system, of non-contributory pensions and of the extinct Compulsory Old Age and Disability Insurance (SOVI), as well as the non-concurrent SOVI pensions, for the financial year 2022, as well as SOVI pensions concurrent with widow's and widower's pensions from any of the Social Security system schemes, Social Security benefits for dependent children aged 18 or over and with a degree of disability equal to or greater than 65% and the mobility allowance and compensation for transport costs, were increased by 3% in 2022, a higher percentage than the increase in contributory pensions.

The public effort to **reduce the incidence of child poverty**, with a view to achieving the goal of *eradicating severe material deprivation suffered by children and adolescents, and reducing the relative child poverty*

9 Data as of early September 2022.

rate by less than half by 2030, has been articulated, in this first year of the Sustainable Development Strategy, also through the **Family Protection and Child Poverty Programme**, and the approval of the **State Action Plan 2022- 2030 for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Spain**.

The first of these had a budget of 60 million euros in 2021 and was distributed territorially in accordance with the project selection criteria agreed in the Territorial Council of Social Services and the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency, enabling the participation of all the Autonomous Communities - with the sole exception of the Basque Country and Navarre due to their special financing regime - and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, with no obligation to co-finance. The distribution corresponding to the 2022 financial year is in the process of being carried out.

Of the total allocation of this programme, 45 million euros were used to finance projects to meet the basic needs of vulnerable families with dependent minors, projects to support the reconciliation of family and work to facilitate the socio-occupational integration of people with family responsibilities in difficult situations, as well as projects and services for social intervention with families in areas such as parental education, family guidance and mediation, the implementation of meeting points, or socio-educational support for minors, among others. A total of 237 projects have been financed, which have provided benefits to 113,000 families and 300,000 people. The remaining 15 million have been used to finance 67 projects aimed at guaranteeing the basic right to food, leisure and the enjoyment of culture for children and adolescents during school holidays, while facilitating the reconciliation of family and working life. The **VECA Programme** has benefited 42,700 families and 106,000 people, mainly children and adolescents.

From a more structural perspective in tackling child poverty, the **State Action Plan 2022-2030 for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Spain**¹⁰ (PAEGIE 2022-2030) was approved on 5 July. This includes Spain's commitments for the implementation of this mechanism adopted within the framework of the European Union as a development of the commitments of the European Pillar of Social Rights, with the aim of promoting equal opportunities and articulating a broad network of social protection for children at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

The PAEGIE 2022-2030 is a fundamental tool for ensuring basic rights and services for children and adolescents, particularly those in the most vulnerable situations, through three strategic lines of action: the fight against child poverty and the reinforcement of social protection for children and adolescents; the universalisation of social rights through access to and effective enjoyment of essential quality, accessible and inclusive services; and the promotion of territorial equity, as well as protective, inclusive, egalitarian and participatory environments. To this end, 8% of the resources of the European Social Fund Plus will be earmarked, which means around 1 billion additional euros until 2027 for measures aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty.

In the area of reinforcing public services for children, particular attention will be paid to the objective of increasing the school enrolment rate for early childhood, especially for those in the most vulnerable situations, so that by 2030 coverage will reach 85% for children under 2 years of age, and 75% in the case of children living in lower-income families. In the field of education, early care services must also be guaranteed by 2030, within a maximum period of 45 days from the moment the application is registered. The Plan is committed to reducing school segregation by ethnic or immigrant origin, or by socio-economic level, as well as halving the digital divide. The Plan also includes 100% of oral health benefits in the National Health System and the progressive elimination of economic barriers in access to medicines for the most vulnerable children. With regard to the system of protection for children at risk or in distress, this roadmap proposes that by 2026 there should be no children under the age of 6 living in residential care, and no children under the age of 10 in the same condition by 2030, for which purpose incentives will be provided for the recruitment and training of potential foster families.

To conclude with the priorities for action related to the social protection of families and attention to child poverty, the **Draft Bill on Families** should be highlighted in **order to favour social protection and the legal recognition of the diversity of family structures**.

The main objectives of these regulations are the legal recognition of the different models of family coexistence, ensuring fairness and equal treatment for all of them, as well as improving the social, legal and economic protection of families, especially the most vulnerable ones, with general provisions fundamentally

10 Document accessible [here](#).

linked to support for parenting and reconciliation and others referring to specific family groups that require special treatment, such as single-parent or single-parent families, large families, families with people with disabilities, LGTBI families, foster families, or reconstituted families, among others.

At the same time, in February 2022, the project to support structural reforms financed by the European Commission, with technical assistance from the OECD, was completed with a **White Paper on a new regulatory framework for the protection of families in Spain**¹¹, which contains a diagnosis of the situation in this area, an analysis of good practices in other EU and OECD countries and, finally, a set of specific recommendations for the reform of the regulatory framework, which emphasises the need to fully incorporate family diversity into our protection system, the need to tackle child poverty through, among other measures, direct transfers to families with dependent minors, given the insufficient expenditure that our country allocates in terms of GDP to family and childhood (1.3%) in relation to the EU average (2.2%). It also refers to other improvements in terms of reconciliation and support for parenting, or access to housing, among other sector areas. These recommendations have served as a guideline for the text of the draft bill on families.

Finally, also in the field of protection and guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, it is worth highlighting the implementation of **the State Council for Child and Adolescent Participation (CEPIA)**, created with the aim of guaranteeing the effective participation of children and adolescents in social life and the environments in which they develop, as citizens with full rights. From this perspective, this body constitutes an authentic novelty at the state level, and collaborates in the fulfilment of the obligations derived from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Spain on 30 November 1990.

This consultative body is regulated under Order DSA/1009/2021 and so aims to promote the construction of active citizenship of children and adolescents as part of a democratic society through a forum for participation in which they can freely express their ideas and propose measures, defend the social recognition of their rights, formulate proposals on issues that affect them at state level and act as a spokesperson and interlocutor for children and adolescents before public institutions. It has the participation of 34 children and adolescents, aged between 8 and 17, elected at the proposal of other children and adolescents belonging to municipal and autonomous community participatory structures, as well as from organisations, associations, entities or platforms at the state level focused on the defence, guarantee and promotion of children's rights.

CEPIA's approach to its work is autonomous with regard to its procedures and decisions, although it is accompanied and assisted in processes by technical reference assistants, educators and legal guardians who act as channels for interlocution with the reference groups that they represent. In the meetings of this body held to date, its members have been consulted, among other issues, on the State Action Plan of the European Child Guarantee or the future **Strategy for the Eradication of Violence against Children and Adolescents**.

The commitment to targeted attention to groups in a situation of particular vulnerability to the risk of poverty and social exclusion, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind that runs through the whole of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, is also evident in the approval and development of the **National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma People**¹² (2021-2030), approved by the Council of Ministers in November 2021.

The Strategy is framed within the guidelines of the European Framework for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation until 2030 and is aligned with the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan (2020-2025), as well as with the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights 2020-2025 and the EU Strategy for Gender Equality. It also consolidates the actions that have been carried out in the fields of education, employment, health and housing, while it also touches on the areas of social inclusion, equality and participation. It has been designed taking into account the diversity within the Roma population and broadens its scope with respect to previous strategic frameworks by including initiatives in the fight against discrimination and anti-Gypsyism. The Operational Plan 2022-2026, which specifies the measures to operationalise the Strategy, is currently being drafted.

In addition to all this, there are the actions included in the **Roma Development Plan (PDG)**, a technical and financial cooperation instrument of the General State Administration with the autonomous communities, aimed at financing comprehensive social intervention projects with Roma communities in situations of greater vulnerability, promoting the coordination of public administrations with the organisations of the

11 Document accessible [here](#).

12 Document accessible [here](#).

Roma associative movement and the tertiary sector of social action. Its budget allocation was substantially increased in 2021 - by 264% with respect to 2020 - and by 33% in 2022.

In the area of actions aimed at **persons with disabilities, the Spanish Disability Strategy 2022-2030**¹³ was approved on 3 May, and is conceived as a roadmap for all public administrations to make the human rights of persons with disabilities and their families effective, in response to the recommendations made to Spain by the treaty bodies in their periodic reviews of compliance with the international human rights conventions ratified by Spain. The Strategy concept takes an intersectional approach and applies a gender perspective, with measures expressly aimed at ensuring, on the one hand, that disability actions and policies take gender into account and, on the other hand, that gender policies do the same with disability. The measures include a commitment to carry out a macro-survey on violence against women and girls with disabilities. Likewise, children's perspective is incorporated in a transversal manner, with special emphasis on early care, for which several measures are included.

This Strategy therefore constitutes an action plan for disability with a mid-term horizon, and will include operational plans in areas that require their own planning, such as accessibility, culture, education, health and women and girls with disabilities, whose specific actions will be largely financed through the investments foreseen in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the participatory process articulated for its development, which included a fully accessible citizen survey with more than 8,000 responses, 13 focus groups on key issues such as education, health, employment or independent living, in which 190 people participated, more than 60% of whom were people with disabilities. In addition, for the first time, contributions were made by people with major support needs (people without language or with very severe disabilities), who, through their life journeys and with the support of human and technological assistance, were able to communicate their needs and desires. Likewise, the Strategy has been nourished by the knowledge and experience of the Autonomous Communities and local entities, thus conceiving this instrument as a new element for strengthening territorial cooperation.

A final focus of attention to particularly vulnerable groups is the **updating of the Comprehensive National Strategy for Homeless People**, whose work began in March 2021 with the presentation of the process within the framework of the Delegate Commission for Social Services, and which at the time of writing this Progress Report is in the drafting phase, based on the contributions of the Autonomous Communities and the results of the mid-term evaluation of the First Comprehensive Strategy 2015-2020 carried out by the Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies.

Finally, continuing with the transversal actions aimed at people in vulnerable situations, one outstanding measure is the **Food Aid Programme for the Most Deprived**, which includes the purchase of food acquired on the market, its storage and free distribution to people in vulnerable situations, together with other accompanying measures. Investment in this programme in 2021 amounted to more than **59.6** million euros, which made it possible to assist close to 1.5 million people. The investment made for 2022 amounts to **90.2** million euros. In addition, in April 2022 the Territorial Council of Social Services approved the General Common Ground Agreement in relation to the objective of combating material deprivation for the programming period 2021-2027 of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

As regards the **basic social services programme**, developed through the co-financing of projects in the primary care social services network managed by local corporations, there has been a significant increase in the resources allocated, rising from 158.9 million euros in 2021 to 198.7 million euros in 2022, i.e., 25% more investment. The projects to be co-financed are aimed at the provision and maintenance of any of the facilities intended for the development of basic services, such as social service centres and complementary facilities (information services, social canteens and social centres, among others), shelters and reception centres (for women, minors and multi-purpose centres).

Access to decent housing in affordable conditions is one of the main structural challenges facing our country for the fulfilment of SDG 11 of the 2030 Agenda, with a clear effect on reducing the risk of poverty and/or social exclusion. It is also a right enshrined in Article 47 of the Spanish Constitution, which also stems from the obligations derived from the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) ratified by Spain in 1976. It corresponds, in turn, with objective 3.4 of the National Strategy to Prevent and

13 Document accessible [here](#).

Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion 2019-2023 linked to the need to facilitate access to and maintenance of housing in habitable conditions and in an inclusive environment, focusing on the most vulnerable families, as well as on young people.

In this area, it is worth highlighting the approval, in February 2022, of the **Draft Law on the Right to Housing**¹⁴, currently undergoing parliamentary procedures, which seeks to protect the social function that housing should fulfil and to give a special boost to affordable subsidised rented housing. To this end, the law establishes a compulsory reserve of 30 percent of both new developments and major renovations for subsidised housing, including 15 percent specifically earmarked for social leasing, with the aim of progressively generating a social housing stock that will bring Spain up to levels comparable to those of other European countries.

It also reinforces state action on housing and rehabilitation through multi-annual plans based on inter-administrative cooperation. It regulates public action on housing, rehabilitation and urban regeneration to guarantee access at affordable prices, and to favour the conservation and improvement of the housing stock and residential environments. It also defines the general framework for collaboration and cooperation between public administrations as a key strategy for achieving the aims of this policy through the main cooperation bodies such as the Sector Conference on Housing and Land, the Multilateral Housing and Land Commission and the bilateral commissions in the same field.

Another of its key aspects is the improvement of the regulation of the eviction procedure in situations of vulnerability, including guarantees in the procedure that may affect the habitual residence of households in situations of vulnerability, in such a way as to ensure effective and rapid communication between judicial bodies and the social services through a requirement for them to assess the situation and, where appropriate, guarantee a decent housing alternative that avoids situations of homelessness. Protection against evictions is therefore strengthened.

It also ensures that social services can offer housing solutions to those affected, avoiding situations of homelessness as a result of eviction. In addition, the time periods for suspending evictions in these situations of vulnerability are increased from 1 to 2 months when the owner is a natural person and from 3 to 4 months when the owner is a legal entity, and objective criteria are introduced into the procedure to define situations of economic vulnerability.

Likewise, the regulation proposed by the government establishes that in the event of eviction, the autonomous communities will be obliged to provide alternative residences, which should be decent housing. This is the most effective existing protection against evictions. Finally, it establishes a mechanism for the Autonomous Communities to control rental prices in order to guarantee access to housing.

A final essential aspect is that the regulation allows the competent administrations to declare areas of market stress and establish measures that make it possible to limit the price of rents, and establish tax incentives for small owners to reduce the price of rent. In turn, it is envisaged that local councils will be able to apply a surcharge of up to 150 percent in the Property Tax (IBI) on those properties that have been empty for more than two years without a justified cause, in order to encourage them to enter the rental or sale market.

In short, these measures are designed to meet the goals related to housing and protection against evictions set out in this policy to accelerate sustainable development, guaranteeing housing as a social right for all citizens and, in particular, for those sectors of the population that face the greatest difficulties of access, in line with the cross-cutting principle of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

We should also mention Royal Decree 42/2022, of 18 January, which regulates the **Youth Rental Bonus** and the **State Plan for access to housing 2022-2025**, a regulation that follows on from Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of 31 March.

Closely linked to the content of the Human Right to Housing is the guarantee of basic household utilities. In this area, the decisions adopted to curb the escalation of **electricity prices**, which has increased in the current context of the global energy crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine, and affects the entire population and, in particular, those groups already vulnerable to energy poverty, are noteworthy. To alleviate this situation, temporary tax cuts have been introduced, such as the reduction of the VAT rate applied

14 Document accessible [here](#).

to domestic consumers from 21% to 10% in June 2021, which was subsequently reduced to 5% one year later; the reduction of the rate of the Special Tax on Electricity to the minimum allowed by European regulations and the temporary suspension of the Tax on the Value of Electricity Production.

In addition, a mechanism has been implemented to reduce the income received by some infra-marginal installations that do not use natural gas, in order to recapture extraordinary profits and return them to consumers. On the other hand, the concept of Minimum Vital Utility has been created, which prohibits supply cuts and guarantees a subsistence supply, for 6 months after the 4 months in which legal guarantees already existed. This was implemented through Royal Decree-Law 12/2021, of 24 June, adopting urgent measures in the field of energy taxation and energy generation, and on the management of the regulation canon and the water use tariff, and Royal Decree-Law 17/2021, of 14 September, on urgent measures to mitigate the impact of the escalation of natural gas prices in the retail gas and electricity markets. In reaction to the effects of the war in Ukraine, these measures have been extended and additional measures have been adopted, which will be addressed in a specific section.

The **defence of consumers' rights** is another of the priority areas of this policy to accelerate sustainable development, which was also developed extensively in the first year of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Proof of this is the approval of **Law 4/2022, of 25 February, on the protection of consumers and users in situations of social and economic vulnerability**, stemming from Royal Decree-Law 1/2021, of 19 January, and whose parliamentary processing has made it possible to extend protection to vulnerable consumers in three main areas. The first is the promotion of legislative modifications to guarantee personalised banking attention in payment services for consumers and users in vulnerable situations who so request, avoiding discrimination due to the digital divide. The second is the obligation for contracts that use non-individually negotiated clauses to ensure that the clauses are accessible and legible, so that the consumer is aware of them before signing the contract. In no case shall this requirement be deemed to be fulfilled if the size of the lettering makes it difficult to read. Finally, as a result of the development of this regulation, labelling will be implemented in Braille, as well as in other formats that guarantee accessibility for blind or visually impaired persons.

In addition, on 31 May, the Council of Ministers approved the **Customer Services Bill**, which establishes the minimum requirements for these services in order to facilitate the effective exercise of consumers' rights. Among other aspects, it establishes a reduction in the maximum period for resolving complaints, from the current one month to 15 days, and establishes that, in the case of queries or incidents regarding the continuity of service in successive contracts in basic services of general interest, such as energy supply or telecommunications, the response regarding the reason for the interruption and the estimated time foreseen for its continuity should be provided within a maximum of two hours. It also provides that the lodging of a complaint will prevent the suspension of the service when the cause of the complaint and the cause of the suspension coincide. Finally, this regulation also stipulates that customer services should have an annually auditable evaluation system to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the regulation.

With regard to the priorities for action implemented in the field of **regulation of the online betting and gambling sector**, the reduction of spending on sponsorship and advertising by 86% and 52%, respectively, with respect to 2020 is noteworthy. In the case of the regulation to achieve safer online gambling environments, which will include all those measures for action, intervention, control, prevention, awareness-raising and redress that make gambling activity safer, it is expected to be approved before the end of 2022. Finally, in the area of interconnection of player self-banning registers, which will make it possible to limit access to all types of face-to-face and online gambling activities, the different collaboration agreements with the autonomous communities are being processed, aimed at enabling the interconnection of all existing registers at a state level, with full operational operation planned for the first quarter of 2023.

Another of the cross-cutting objectives that permeate the Sustainable Development Strategy is to enable **equitable access to culture**, understood as a human right that should translate into the possibility, without exception, to participate freely in cultural life and enjoy its benefits. Moreover, culture is a driver of the social change that the 2030 Agenda needs, facilitating understanding of the challenges we face as a global society, and mobilising citizen involvement in the implementation of solutions that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, universal access to culture is a powerful tool to fight inequalities and social exclusion that directly and indirectly affects the reduction of social gaps, favouring social and territorial cohesion and inclusion.

Within this framework, among the priorities for action developed during the period of analysis of this report, the development of the Culture and Citizenship Programme stands out, and within it, the **Culture and Rural Areas Sub-Programme**, which aims to promote active participation in cultural life throughout our territory. This programme, developed through tools such as research, the identification and mapping of projects or the generation of meeting spaces and professional articulation throughout the territory, in collaboration with public and private agents, aims to promote cultural supply and activity in rural areas as a mechanism to guarantee cultural rights, also in close connection with the current ecological and climatic challenges, against which culture and the rural environment should play a central role. The aim, therefore, is for culture to constitute a regenerating, structuring and energising element of the territory, with an impact on cohesion and social innovation, while promoting the active participation of all citizens and the exercise of their cultural rights.

Within its framework, the **Plan of aid to expand and diversify the cultural offer in non-urban areas**, included in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR), has been promoted, with 20 million euros for the period 2022-2023, designed to promote at least 400 cultural projects or initiatives throughout Spain. Likewise, the programme's activities include an analysis of the challenges that post-COVID culture have to face, including the necessary sustainability of the cultural sector and its close links with the SDGs. Finally, work is being done on the analysis of the role of minorities in the field of culture and cultural sectors and institutions, with the aim of promoting their presence and visibility, while at the same time fostering the integration of agents currently working in this field.

Along the same lines, the **Library Laboratories Project** has been developed with the aim of promoting the confluence between the roles of libraries and citizen innovation. Its aim is to reinforce the concept of the library as a meeting place for citizens to develop projects. Among the results of this project, in which Latin American countries as well as Spain and Portugal participate, is the notable example of the creation of a website¹⁵ and the holding of the third edition of *How to set up a citizen laboratory in libraries and other cultural institutions*, an initiative that seeks to encourage the creation of citizen laboratories that build collaborative networks, with the participation of 1,197 representatives from 25 countries. These actions have been continued in 2022, with a participative conference on libraries in the educational ecosystem and a practical workshop for the creation of citizen participation laboratories in libraries. As a result of this initiative, 53 laboratories have been created in 14 countries, which together have developed 117 projects - 67 of them in Spain and 50 in the other countries - covering a wide variety of subjects. The development of library laboratories favours cooperation between cultural institutions and citizen communities and allows them to establish alliances at local, national and international level.

Along the same lines are the Conference on Social Inclusion and Education in the Performing Arts and Music, organised since 2009 by the Spanish National Institute of Dramatic Arts and Music (INAEM), and the creation of a website dedicated to social inclusion in the performing arts and music¹⁶, which offer institutional and artistic visibility to a series of inclusive stage and music projects. These conferences have become consolidated as a space of reference for social inclusion and its relationship with the performing arts and music.

With regard to the role of access to culture as an equaliser of opportunities, the project *Culture Breaks the Circle. Museums against child poverty*, as part of the State Strategy *Culture that transforms*, which will be launched in October 2022. Focused on groups of children in situations of poverty or social exclusion, its aim is to guarantee their right to access and enjoy culture, providing them with learning and the development of new skills applicable to different environments in their lives, thus contributing to better educational performance and improving their socio-emotional wellbeing. This action is complemented by the Museums + Social programme, within the framework of which various activities are carried out for the same purpose.

With the same aim of supporting the social inclusion of people who are in a situation of greater vulnerability, the programme *Sport breaks the circle against poverty* has been launched, with the aim of highlighting the role of sport in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion. In collaboration with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, work is also being carried out to promote local sports programmes to reduce inequality and to draw up a Guide to good municipal practices in this field.

15 Access the website [here](#).

16 Access to the website [here](#).

In addition to all of the above, the strategy of digitisation of historical and cultural heritage has the objective of making it more accessible to all citizens, regardless of their place of residence, thus reinforcing its function as a modelling element of the joint and diverse identities that should participate in civic life and at the same time as a dynamic resource for equal opportunities.

For its part, the debate on the **means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda has highlighted the key role that taxation plays** in raising resources to sustain public policies, as well as to generate more equitable effects on income and wealth distribution. Evidence of its importance is that the SDG17 includes a specific target that calls on governments to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation to improve domestic capacity to raise tax and other revenues. This approach is consistent with the role that the Spanish Constitution gives to taxation, determining that our country's tax system should address the principles of economic capacity, fairness, equality and progressivity.

The **reform of the tax system**, as a priority for action committed to this policy of accelerating sustainable development, must take into account these principles, which are also set out in the Coalition Agreement currently in force. This document establishes a commitment to citizens by setting out a number of specific measures, structured in turn around several axes: increasing the progressivity of the tax system, combating tax fraud and adapting the current tax system to the 21st century economy.

The tax actions being undertaken are being carried out with the priority of economic recovery, taking into account the context at any given time, and under the principle of gradualism in their design and implementation. With this in mind, measures have been adopted to increase revenue and the progressivity of the tax system, such as the creation of the Financial Transaction Tax and the Tax on Certain Digital Services.

In addition, progress is being made in environmental taxation: for example, with the taxes on non-reusable plastic packaging and on landfill, incineration and co-incineration of waste introduced by the Law on Waste and Contaminated Land for a Circular Economy; and with the reform of the tax on fluorinated greenhouse gases, approved in 2022.

In short, month by month, far-reaching measures are being adopted, whether structural or temporary, to consolidate the sustainability of public accounts, taking into account the unpredictability of the economic situation resulting from the invasion of Ukraine, which has forced countries, the European Commission and international organisations to revise downwards their growth forecasts; and the delays in the presentation or approval of regulatory projects at the European level, which is largely conditioning national regulatory forecasts.

As a result of these circumstances, the Government of the Kingdom of Spain has decided to adopt the measures included in the General State Budget Law for 2023, and to promote other parliamentary initiatives, such as the temporary energy tax, the tax on credit institutions and financial credit establishments, and the solidarity tax on large fortunes.

With regard to the **reform of the regional funding system**, an important part of the reform has been analysed together with the Autonomous Communities: the alternatives for configuring the adjusted population, one of the essential variables of the funding model that determines the distribution of part of the resources according to demographic, social or territorial circumstances.

With regard to the priorities for action linked to the prevention and fight against tax fraud, a notable feature is the approval of **Law 11/2021 of 9 July on measures to prevent and combat tax fraud**, transposing Council Directive (EU) 2016/1164 of 12 July 2016 laying down rules against tax avoidance practices that directly affect the functioning of the internal market, and amending various tax rules and on the regulation of gambling.










This law contains amendments to various regulations, mainly in the field of taxation, with a twofold purpose. On the one hand, to incorporate European Union law into domestic legislation in the area of tax avoidance practices. On the other hand, to introduce regulatory changes aimed at establishing parameters of tax justice and facilitating actions aimed at preventing and combating fraud by reinforcing tax control.













The amendments introduced by the Law are directly applicable to the actions carried out by the Tax Agency in its task of ensuring compliance with the tax obligations derived from the state tax and customs system. Others require regulatory development, such as, for example, the need to establish the technical specifications to be met by the information technology systems and programmes that support the accounting,











invoicing or management processes of those carrying out economic activities, in order to guarantee the integrity, conservation, accessibility, legibility, traceability and unalterability of the records, without interpolations, omissions or alterations that are not duly noted in the systems themselves. Similarly, regulatory development is required for several of the modifications that affect various procedural regulations included in the General Regulations on the Application of Taxes, approved by Royal Decree 1065/2007, of 27 July.

This regulation, in turn, takes up the priority of action set out in the 2030 SDS referring to the extension of the concept of tax haven to that of non-cooperative jurisdiction, by introducing amendments to Law 36/2006, of 29 November, on measures for the prevention of tax fraud, which affect the definition of non-cooperative jurisdiction. Among other parameters, there is the tax transparency criterion that includes the exchange of information upon request, and the automatic exchange of information (CRS) in accordance with the terms of reference approved by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes.

Finally, with regard to the deployment of the **Tax Agency's Strategic Plan 2020-2023**, it should be noted that progress has been made towards a new assistance model, increasing the quality of service provision, with an emphasis on encouraging voluntary compliance and prioritising the use of new technologies over traditional means of face-to-face assistance, without prejudice to maintaining quality face-to-face assistance, in order to facilitate relations with the population less familiar with information and communication technologies.

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
By 2030, reduce by less than half the proportion of men, women, boys, girls and adolescents who are overweight and at risk of poverty and/or exclusion (AROPE Rate)	National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion 2019-2023	ENLPES Operational Plan 2021 and Operational Plan 2022 2019-2023.	  
	Minimum Vital Income (MLW). Relaxation of the "cohabitation unit" criterion to facilitate access to the MLW.	Royal Decree 64/2022, of 25 January, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum Vital Income Monitoring Commission.	
By 2030, eradicate severe material deprivation among children and reduce the relative child poverty rate by less than half.	Approval of the General Regulations of the Minimum Vital Income that will develop the participation bodies such as the Advisory Council or the Monitoring Commission, the Social Stamp to involve the private sector in the inclusion policy and the improvements that will reduce the number of people who are entitled to the benefit but do not apply for it because they lack the necessary means and/or knowledge to do so.	Royal Decree 635/2022, of 26 July, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum Vital Income Advisory Council. Royal Decree 636/2022, of 26 July, which regulates Social Inclusion Stamp. Royal Decree 938/2021 of 26 October, which regulates the direct granting of subsidies from the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration in the field of social inclusion.	  
	EU Child Guarantee as part of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan which aims to promote equal opportunities by ensuring access to a set of key services for children at risk of poverty or social exclusion.	State Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Spain 2022-2030 (CM, 5 July 2022).	
	Family Diversity Action to promote social protection and legal recognition of the diversity of family structures.	Preliminary draft Family Law to promote social protection and legal recognition of the diversity of family structures in the pipeline.	
	Family Protection and Child Poverty Programmes to support the most vulnerable families:	Resolution of 14 July 2022, of the Secretary of State for Social Rights, which publishes the Agreement of the Territorial Council of Social Services and the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency, which establishes the criteria for territorial distribution and the resulting distribution between autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, of the credit destined for the financing in 2022 of the Programme for the Protection of the Family and Care for Child Poverty.	
By 2030, increase public spending on social protection to the EU-27 average.	Minimum Vital Income (Royal Decree 20/2020, of 29 May) which is a new social right that recognises a non-contributory benefit of a permanent nature.	Royal Decree 64/2022, of 25 January, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum Vital Income Monitoring Commission. Royal Decree 635/2022, of 26 July, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum Vital Income Advisory Council. Royal Decree 636/2022, of 26 July, which regulates the Social Inclusion Stamp. Royal Decree 938/2021 of 26 October, which regulates the direct granting of subsidies from the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration in the field of social inclusion.	  
	EU Child Guarantee as part of the Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights.	State Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Spain 2022-2030 (CM, 5 July 2022).	
	Family Diversity Act to promote social protection and legal recognition of the diversity of family structures.	Preliminary draft Family Law to promote social protection and legal recognition of the diversity of family structures. In process	
	New National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of the Roma Population in Spain.	National Strategy for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2021-2023 (CM 2 November 2021)	
	Update of the Action Plan of the Spanish Disability Strategy.	Spanish Disability Strategy 2020-2030 (MC 3 May 2022)	
	Strategy on the Rights of Children and Adolescents to develop new strategic planning that takes into account the observations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.	In the pipeline.	
	Implementation of the State Council for Child Participation where children can be consulted and participate in state policy issues.	Order DSA/1009/2021, of 22 September, creating the State Council for the Participation of Children and Adolescents.	
	Update of the Comprehensive National Homelessness Strategy to set a target to reduce homelessness.	In the pipeline.	

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
By 2030, expand the coverage of the Minimum Vital Income so that it protects all individuals and households in severe poverty.	Minimum Living Income (Royal Decree 20/2020, of 29 May) which is a new social right that recognises a permanent non-contributory benefit.	Development of Royal Decree-Law 3/2021, of 2 February, adopting measures to reduce the gender gap and other matters in the fields of social security and the economy. Royal Decree 938/2021 of 26 October, which regulates the direct granting of subsidies from the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration in the field of social inclusion. Royal Decree 378/2022 of 17 May, which regulates the direct granting of subsidies from the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration in the field of social inclusion.	   
	Easing of the accreditation of certain circumstances of the cohabitation unit , with a view to facilitating access to the Minimum Vital Income.	Development of Royal Decree-Law 3/2021, of 2 February, adopting measures to reduce the gender gap and other matters in the fields of social security and the economy.	
	Approval of the General Regulations of the Minimum Vital Income that will develop the participating bodies.	Royal Decree 64/2022, of 25 January, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum Vital Income Monitoring Commission. Royal Decree 635/2022, of 26 July, which regulates the organisation and functions of the Minimum Vital Income Advisory Council. Royal Decree 636/2022, of 26 July, which regulates the Social Inclusion Seal.	
By the end of 2022, guarantee the protection of persons and cohabitation units that, as a result of a situation of social or economic vulnerability, find themselves in a situation of eviction or eviction from their habitual residence, orienting housing policy resources and programmes to this end, and also reinforcing coordination between judicial bodies and social services.	State Housing Law that regulates the political actions that guarantee the right to housing recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Spanish Constitution, in coherence with the Resolution of the European Parliament of 21 January 2021 on access to decent and affordable housing for all.	In the pipeline.	  
By 2024, guarantee access to rental housing by establishing containment measures so that the effort made by households to pay the cost of rent and basic supplies (water, electricity, gas and telecommunications) does not exceed 30% of their income, thereby increasing the supply of affordable housing, especially in areas with a stressed residential market.	New State Housing Plan from 2022 onwards , including a human right to housing approach and ensuring a rapid and inclusive response to housing needs.	Royal Decree 42/2022, of 18 January, which regulates the Youth Rental Subsidy and the State Plan for access to housing 2022-2025.	 
By 2030, by boosting the stock of socially rented public housing, particularly in the so-called stressed market areas, to reach the current European average, stimulating the rehabilitation of the stock and the use of reserve land for social housing and social rental.			
By 2030, ensure the protection of vulnerable families in energy poverty in situations of non-payment and identified by social services, guaranteeing the application of the precautionary principle and the minimum vital supply.	National Energy Poverty Strategy (2019-2024)	Actions provided for in Royal Decree-Law 15/2018, of 5 October, on urgent measures for energy transition and consumer protection. Update of the National Fuel Poverty Strategy indicators in December 2021.	  
To reduce the incidence of fuel poverty by at least 25% by 2025, aiming to go further and achieve a reduction of up to 50% by 2030.			

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
By 2023, guarantee the rights of vulnerable consumers by adopting gender-sensitive regulation.	<p>Protection of Consumers and Users in situations of social and economic vulnerability (Royal Decree-Law 1/2021 of 19 January).</p> <p>Regulation of advertising in the online betting and gambling sector to protect the most vulnerable sectors, especially children (Royal Decree 958/2020 of 3 November).</p>	<p>Law 4/2022 of 25 February on the protection of consumers and users in situations of social and economic vulnerability.</p> <p>Actions provided for by Royal Decree 958/2020, of 3 November, on commercial communications for gambling activities.</p>	  
By 2030, guarantee the right to food through food distribution mechanisms to individuals and families in situations of social and economic vulnerability, as well as by encouraging food donations to social entities, guaranteeing criteria of nutritional quality and sustainability.	<p>Food Aid Programme for the Most Deprived Persons, which includes the purchase of food purchased on the market, its storage and free distribution to people in vulnerable situations.</p>	<p>European Aid Fund for the Most Deprived Programme FEAD 2022.</p> <p>General Common Basic Agreement on the objective of combating material deprivation for the ESF+ programming period 2021-2027.</p>	   
By 2030, modernise the tax system based on criteria of fairness, progressivity and redistributive capacity, to enable greater collection efficiency, reducing the gap with the European Union, which will result in the strengthening of public services and the reduction of inequalities, through an in-depth analysis of tax figures and existing tax benefits by 2030.	<p>Reform of the tax system to make it more equitable, progressive and fair, with more in-depth design of green taxation, incorporating the gender perspective and promoting public policies of general interest, such as health protection.</p>	<p>Resolution of 12 April 2021, of the State Secretariat of Finance, creating the Committee of experts to draft the White Paper on Tax Reform.</p> <p>Environmental taxation (creation of the tax on financial transactions; tax on certain digital services; taxes introduced by Law 7/2022 of 8 April on waste and contaminated soils for a circular economy; and reform of the tax on fluorinated gases).</p>	
	<p>Extend the concept of tax haven to that of a non-cooperative jurisdiction, which will include new, more demanding criteria of transparency and tax fairness.</p>	<p>Law 11/2021 of 9 July on measures to prevent and combat tax fraud, transposing Council Directive (EU) 2016/1164 laying down rules against tax avoidance practices that directly affect the functioning of the internal market, amending various tax rules and on the regulation of gambling.</p>	  
	<p>Deployment of the Tax Agency's Strategic Plan 2020-2023, which will enable more effective voluntary compliance with tax obligations.</p>	<p>Progress in the inclusion of new procedures that can be processed through the e-Office and telephone channels, and citizen services through non-face-to-face channels.</p>	

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Andalusian Regional Strategy for Social Cohesion and Inclusion (ERACIS) and intervention in disadvantaged areas.
- Integral Plan for the Roma Community.
- Andalusian Law on Childhood and Adolescence.
- Andalusian Law on Early Intervention (*).
- Live in Andalusia Plan, for housing, rehabilitation and urban regeneration in Andalusia 2020-2030.
- Emergency Plan to Accelerate the Minimum Social Insertion Payment in Andalusia (REMISA) and reform of REMISA to enable it to complement the MLW and improve economic coverage.
- Extraordinary Food Guarantee and Child Food Reinforcement Programme.
- Expansion of the network of resources of the Majority Programme, aimed at young people who, after reaching the age of majority, fall out of the protection system.



(*). Measure in progress.

The Andalusian Government's actions within the framework of the accelerator policy 1 have been articulated on the basis of developing the Andalusian Regional Strategy for Cohesion and Social Inclusion, the aim of which is to act on towns and cities where serious situations of social exclusion are registered and/or where there are risk factors of this taking place, as well as to act on the general context of the municipality in order to transform the vision of these areas and vice versa, so as to promote the elimination of territoriality as a factor of exclusion. Action has been taken in 95 disadvantaged areas of Andalusia in 61 municipalities with the aim of improving the socio-occupational inclusion of people, with the development of almost 33.33,000 personalised itineraries for socio-occupational insertion have been developed; social dialogue and networking of community social services with third sector entities has been strengthened, which has enabled the construction of a coordinated system of intervention, and work with families and intermediation with the educational community is being reinforced, creating inter-sector working groups in each Disadvantaged Area that facilitate the reduction of absenteeism.

The Strategy is complemented by the promotion of the minimum income system for people in situations of social vulnerability in the region through the activation of the Emergency Plan to Accelerate the Minimum Social Insertion Payment in Andalusia (REMISA), for which the teams that manage the REMISA extraordi-

nary measures files have been strengthened, which has favoured the reduction of the backlog of files pending resolution; and, additionally, a total of 4,696 children have been attended to in summer schools during 2021 from families in situations of severe material deprivation and without resources to guarantee them a healthy and balanced diet. In addition, a total of 4,696 children have been cared for in summer schools in 2021 from families in a situation of severe material deprivation and who do not have the resources to guarantee them a healthy and balanced diet.

From the housing perspective, the Vive en Andalucía Plan 2020-2030 was approved in January 2022, which incorporates actions and measures aimed at making the right to decent and adequate housing real and effective, a fundamental basis for the exercise of other constitutional and statutorily enshrined rights, giving preference to young people, people at risk of social exclusion, the elderly, people with disabilities and other groups at risk of social exclusion.

In addition, the Andalusian Government has continued to promote and strengthen actions aimed at groups in situations of greater social vulnerability, including the approval of the Andalusian Law on Childhood and Adolescence in July 2022; the creation of the Andalusian Council of the Roma People in November 2021 and the expansion of the network of resources of the Majority Programme, aimed at young people who, after reaching the age of majority, remain outside the protection system. In this last programme, 4,956 young people have been assisted.



ARAGON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Social and Economic Recovery Plan to counteract and correct the effects of COVID-19 with services and benefits aimed at the most vulnerable groups.
- Reform of the Social Emergency Law of Aragón to extend coverage to families at risk of exclusion currently not subject to benefits.
- Expansion of resources earmarked for family integration aid.
- Compliance with the Pact for Children in Aragón.
- Housing Act (*).
- Expansion of the public housing stock, with social rental housing.
- Promotion of the Register of Subsidised Housing.
- Promote a fair tax system inspired by the principles of equality and progressivity.

(*). Measure in progress.

The Government of Aragón has focused its efforts over the last year on strengthening Aragonese society and economy to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and to leave no one behind in the new normality, achieving fair, sustainable and lasting development in the economic, social and environmental dimensions. In this sense, the instrument that has guided the government's action has been the Aragonese Strategy for Social and Economic Recovery, which involved the development of 273 measures, 90% of which have already been implemented. Based on this key line of action, the Aragonese Alliance for the 2030 Agenda is being promoted as a space for strengthening multilevel dialogue which will include administrations, companies, social entities, knowledge centres and other social agents.

It should be noted that Aragón is the region with the lowest percentage of the population in a situation of severe material deprivation, being 2.4% in the case of minors, and that the region registers significantly lower rates of risk of social exclusion and poverty (AROPE rate) than the national average (26.4% in Spain and 18.5% in Aragón).

At the same time, the Aragonese government has promoted actions aimed at children and adolescents. The most relevant actions include the creation of the Working Group against Child Poverty under the Aragón

Inequality Observatory and the approval of the Pact for Childhood by the Aragonese Parliament, within the framework of which the Autonomous Council for Child Participation will be set up.

Lastly, the imminent submission to Parliament of the Housing Law, which will promote the right to housing in the region, should be highlighted. In the same line of action, work has been promoted for the development of the Register of Subsidised Housing.

CANARY ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Development of the Social Services Act.
- Draft Law on the Canary Islands Citizenship Income.
- Canary Islands Social Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021.
- Canary Islands Strategy for Children, Adolescents and the Family 2019-2023.
- Canary Islands Housing Plan 2020-2025.
- 2nd Social & Healthcare Infrastructures Plan 2018-2023.



In 2019, the Canary Islands Government approved Law 16/2019, of 2 May, on the Social Services of the Canary Islands, which established a new organisational structure for the coordination, social participation, study and proposal of policies in relation to the Public Social Services System. At the service of this system, and by virtue of the Regulation of Associate Bodies (Decree 22/2021, of 15 April), the following associated bodies have been set up: (1) the Sector Conference of Social Services; (2) the General Council of Social Services; (3) the Ethics Committee of Social Services; (4) the Social and Healthcare Council; (5) the Commission of Advice and Supervision in the Social and Judicial Sphere; and (6) the Canary Islands Observatory of Social Services.

In the specific context of actions to combat poverty, it is worth highlighting the promotion of policies to develop a minimum income system aimed at people in vulnerable situations, for which the draft Law on Citizen's Income is being debated in the Regional Parliament and the Regional Plan against Poverty is being developed.

Other efforts of the Canary Islands government have focused on housing. Within the framework of the Canary Islands Housing Plan 2020-2025, 15.3 million euros have been allocated to rental assistance, benefiting more than 6,000 people, and the Pro-Home Programme has been set up to provide comprehensive assistance to families who are in a situation of eviction or are about to be evicted. This is a service aimed at preventing the loss of housing and finding alternative housing solutions for the person or family affected. In 2021, a total of 231 evictions were paralysed, while the public company Visocan launched a public tender for the purchase of 180 homes for this programme. Currently, 62 homes have already been purchased between the two provinces.

In relation to the Canary Islands Strategy for Childhood, Adolescence and the Family 2019-2023, foster care has generated the most lines of action, and progress has been made in processing the decree on the remuneration of foster care. 50 residential foster care centres have been opened for the Immediate Reception of Unaccompanied Migrant Minors. The co-financing of municipal resources for child and family care has been increased, so that 16,363 minors have been cared for by the Municipal Services and the DG for Child and Family Protection. More than 120 projects have been financed for third sector entities with the aim of intervening in families with minors belonging to the most vulnerable groups, and progress has been made in the area of Juvenile Justice, among many other actions.

The 2nd Health Infrastructure Plan envisages the creation of a total of 5,466 new care places, both in residential resources and in day centres for the elderly and the disabled.

CANTABRIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Cantabria Housing Act (*), programme for access to public housing for vulnerable groups and definition of the Strategy against homelessness.
- Strategic Plan for Culture and Heritage (*) and decentralisation of cultural amenities.
- Promotion of women's sport and sport for people with disabilities.
- Digitisation of heritage resources to promote accessibility.
- Promotion of the construction of sports infrastructures at local level.
- Tax rebates in the autonomous region's personal income tax bracket, to encourage young people, the elderly and people with disabilities to rent their primary residence.
- General guidelines of the tax control plan of the Cantabrian Tax Administration Agency: control, verification and investigation of tax fraud.
- Incorporation of social criteria and clauses in public sector procurement. Publication of Decree with general policy guidelines.

(*) Measure in progress

The action of the Cantabrian government in this period has strengthened the public housing system through the processing of the Housing Bill and the increase in the public rental stock through the purchase of 5 homes for social renting. In addition, in the programme of aid for victims of gender violence, people subject to eviction from their habitual residence, homeless people and other particularly vulnerable people, 20 cases of aid for housing qualification were favourably resolved.

Along the same lines of increasing social protection for the most vulnerable groups, the Strategy against Homelessness has been promoted from a perspective of participatory and social dialogue. The Strategy will carry out a study of the situation and number of homeless people in the region, in accordance with the methodology proposed by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, as well as the definition of an integrated care system (personalised to the needs of homeless people) that coordinates all public and private resources. It is expected to be approved in 2022.

Among the priorities for action of the Government of Cantabria in this accelerating policy, those aimed at the contribution of culture and historical heritage as elements of sustainable development and social cohesion stand out. Thus, the Strategic Plan for Culture and Heritage is being designed with the aim of drawing up a diagnosis of the situation, establishing methodologies and strategic lines in terms of cultural policy and dissemination of the region's cultural heritage, as well as the enhancement of its cultural and creative sectors; actions are being carried out to decentralise the cultural offer in the region and the World Heritage caves belonging to the Government of Cantabria and the funds forming part of Cantabria's cultural heritage held in museums, libraries and archives are being digitalised and made available to the public.

Finally, among the actions carried out by the Government of Cantabria during this period, it is worth highlighting those carried out through sport with the aim of promoting social inclusion, especially for those people, social groups and collectives that are in a more vulnerable position. In this way, women's sport has been promoted in the region through support for the participation of women in sport in general and in bowling in particular, with the launch of the women's *bolo palma* (a local type of bowls) league, and the mixed pairs competition and sport for people with disabilities, for which a call for public subsidies was made with 12 beneficiaries.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Castile-La Mancha 2030 Agenda Strategy.
- Strategy against poverty and social inequality in Castile-La Mancha 2017-2020.
- Infancy and family plan 2018-2021 (new infancy care plan 2023-2026 (*)).
- Law on guaranteed protection and support for persons with disabilities.
- Strategy for comprehensive care for homeless people (*).
- Housing Act and Housing Plan.
- II Strategic Plan to tackle poverty and social inequality.
- Action Plan for the Roma (*).
- Care and Social Inclusion Plan (*).



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of Castile-La Mancha has promoted the development of the 2nd Strategic Plan against poverty and social inequality. The evaluation of the 1st Strategy concludes that it has benefited nearly 700,000 people in the region with the 58 measures developed. The Strategy has enabled the at-risk-of-poverty and social exclusion rate (AROPE) to be reduced to below 35%, placing us at 29.8% compared to the national average of 26.4%; the severe poverty rate has been reduced to below 4%, compared to the national average of 7%, and the rate of people under 60 living in households with low employment intensity has decreased by 15%. Compared to 2015, the year designated for the evaluation of the 2030 Agenda, the reduction in the Arope Rate means that there are 148,000 fewer people at risk of poverty.

Based on the idea of the Strategy as the cornerstone of the Castile-La Mancha Government's action, measures aimed at the most vulnerable people and groups have been strengthened, promoting both public policies and regulatory developments. From the perspective of children, the Castile-La Mancha Childhood and Family Plan (2018-2021) has been implemented, which has furthered the development of programmes aimed at promoting the health, well-being, safety, education, quality of life and participation of children and adolescents in social life, and the 2023-2026 Plan is in the process of being drawn up. On the other hand, the Law on Protection and Guaranteed Support for people with disabilities, unanimously approved by the Castile-La Mancha Parliament, is a novel regulation with two major objectives: a system of support and the guarantee of residential support. Finally, progress has been made in the formulation of the Action Plan for the Roma People within the Regional Council of the Roma People with the presentation of the study "Promoting processes of Inclusion and Social Participation in the Roma population of Castile-La Mancha" through awareness of their needs.

Finally, it should be noted that the drafting of the Social Care and Inclusion Plan has begun with the constitution of a working group for the elaboration of the new Social Intervention Model, with the aim of facing the new realities and responding to the social and economic consequences that affect the most vulnerable individuals, families and groups, and the implementation of the Regional Housing Plan in coherence with the recently approved State Housing Plan with the specific characteristics of the region.

CASTILE AND LEON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Adaptation of the Guaranteed Citizen's Income, to enable it to complement the MLW.
- Law on the organisation and functioning of the network for the protection and inclusion of persons and families in situations of greater social or economic vulnerability.
- Early intervention for minors, specialised according to their circumstances, from a coordinated system of immediate inter-institutional and inter-administrative action.
- Subsidies for renting, conservation, accessibility and energy efficiency, and urban regeneration and renewal.
- Promotion of the Public Social Rental Park, eradication of shantytowns and the Rehabitare Programme in rural areas.
- Promoting the digitisation of cultural heritage. Digital Library of Castile and Leon.
- Budgetary alignment of objectives and evaluation of results in key 2030.
- Inclusion of social clauses in public procurement.

The Government of Castile and Leon has promoted various social protection actions aimed at the socially and economically vulnerable population. Significant progress has been made with regard to the inclusion of social clauses in public procurement through Agreement 82/2020 of the Regional Government of Castile and Leon, which approves binding guidelines promoting the efficient execution of public spending on contracts and subsidies to obtain quality services that foster social integration, reward the efforts of companies committed to social responsibility, contribute to the settlement of the population and serve as an example to the rest of the public sector, the private sector and society as a whole. The latest available data shows that 1,666 regional government contracts had social clauses worth €411 M, 56.82% of the total amount awarded.

On the other hand, Law 2/2020 of 24 November was approved, which modifies the regulations governing the Guaranteed Income to make it compatible with the Minimum Living Income. Up to July 2021, the number of files with an MLW lower than the GCI that have been compensated by the Junta de Castile and Leon was 2,076. With the Anti-Crisis Plan, the amounts of the recipients of the Guaranteed Citizens' Income who are not beneficiaries of the Minimum Vital Income are increased by an average of 15% for three months.

Finally, in this line of action, the Law on the organisation and operation of the Network for the protection and inclusion of individuals and families in situations of greater social or economic vulnerability has been developed. The law acts effectively to alleviate situations of poverty and annually assists more than 174,000 families with an average expenditure of 220 million euros.

The Castilian-Leonese government's actions have focused on three specific sectors:

- a. Culture. The activities carried out by the Digital Library of Castile and Leon contribute to Country Challenge 1 by allowing equal and free access to its collections for all citizens, so that they can freely access information, reusing it and helping to generate new information. The reuse of information and its processing is a driving force for the creation of opportunities, both employment and cultural. In this way, processes of digitisation of bibliographic, newspaper, documentary and photographic collections held in the centres dependent on the General Directorate of Cultural Policies have been promoted, as well as the Heritage Digitisation Project presented to the REACT for 2022, which will contribute to improving accessibility to culture and specifically to the assets of the Cultural Heritage of Castile and Leon.
- b. Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning. The Junta de Castile and Leon, in relation to rental aid, guarantees its annual call for applications with sufficient funds to meet the applications of all those

who can prove that they meet the established requirements and has fulfilled the objectives set in terms of increasing the public housing rental stock.

- c Mobility and digital transformation. The inclusion of social clauses, gender equality or the protection of vulnerable people is reflected in the contracts related to the competences of the General Directorate for Roads and Infrastructures by the Contracting Services in coordination with the Regional Ministry of the Presidency.

CATALONIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Economic Recovery and Social Protection Plan, post-crisis COVID-19.
- National basic agreement for economic recovery with social protection within the social dialogue.
- Strategic Plan for Social Services 2020-2024.
- Regulation of Law 14/2017, of 20 July, on the Guaranteed Citizens' Income -GCI (by Decree 55/2020, of 28 April).
- Law 11/2020, of 18 September, on urgent measures regarding rent containment in housing rental contracts.
- Reallotgem.cat programme to mobilise currently unoccupied housing to house families who have a favourable report for be re-housing.
- Housing mobilisation programme in rural areas to promote access to housing and rehabilitation.



From the entry into force of the Guaranteed Citizens' Income Act in April 2019 to the end of December 2021, 219,019 applications were registered, including RGC, supplements to other pensions, benefits and aid and supplements. By 31 December 2021, there were 102,392 files and 170,798 recipients of GCI benefits and supplements. As of June 2022, the Department of Social Rights was managing more than 105,000 GCI dossiers, corresponding to more than 173,000 beneficiaries. The budget executed in 2021 was 526.79 million euros and the expenditure during the first half of 2022 was 268.31 million euros.

In November 2021, the Government created the Temporary Programme of the Office of the Pilot Plan to Implement the Universal Basic Income, prior to the full roll-out of this instrument. The programme, which will last 3 years, should provide the maximum information, with empirical evidence, to help predict what the observed trends and effects would be in the case of an eventual full implementation of the Universal Basic Income.

In December 2021, the Government and the local authorities signed the Framework Agreement for coordination, cooperation and collaboration between the administration of the Regional Government and the local authorities in the area of social services and other social protection programmes for the period 2022-2025. This framework agreement includes the main lines of action for the next four years and will be translated into a programme contract with the different local authorities for a total of 1,408 million euros. For 2022, an increase of 76.5 million euros was envisaged by the Department of Social Rights, reaching a total of 320 million euros. The agreement continues the 2016-2019 programme contract, which was extended until 2021 due to the pandemic.

In March 2022, the Government approved the Framework of Action for Tackling Homelessness in Catalonia 2022-2025, which is the Government's instrument for building a comprehensive and consensual model. The objectives of the Framework for Action are to address and reduce the number of people living on the street, reduce the time a homeless person spends living on the street or in an emergency facility before obtaining a decent housing solution, increase the stock of sheltered housing, establish an agreed model of intervention and support, and create a system for collecting reliable data and information. It is planned to allocate 97.8 million to tackle homelessness until 2025 through various channels, including the Framework for Action, the acquisition of housing for homeless people by the Housing Agency, and two lines of subsidy calls from the Next Generation EU funds for the construction and refurbishment of facilities.

In June 2022, the Government, the Bureau of Third Sector organisations and the Confederation, the Catalan Third Social Sector Employers' Confederation, signed a collaboration agreement to exchange information on Next Generation EU funds, specifically those coming from the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism (RRM). The aim of the agreement is to ensure that third sector organisations, potential beneficiaries of these subsidies, can make the most of the European resources that reach Catalonia and, above all, to work together to take advantage of the implementation of the PERTEs focused on the social and care economy.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Valencia Inclusion Income.
- Combating the feminisation of poverty.
- KUMPANIA, a specialised and individualised social service aimed at Roma children and adolescents.



The Regional Government of Valencia has continued to promote the minimum income system in the region aimed at the most vulnerable people. The regional system is articulated through the Valencia Inclusion Income (VII), defined as a subjective right, which takes the form of an economic benefit and/or a professional benefit to carry out a process of social inclusion, both aimed at covering the basic needs of the cohabitation unit that guarantee quality of life, combating social exclusion and vulnerability. The VII system is made up of 4 VII modalities, depending on the situation of economic, social or labour vulnerability of the person and their cohabitation unit. The number of beneficiaries was 75,681 in September 2021 and for 2022 it has a budget of 301,436,734.29 euros.

Likewise, the regional government has strengthened its efforts to fight against the feminisation of poverty both through the VII, where 67% of the beneficiaries and 55% of the recipients are women, and through the promotion of aid and subsidies for different social programmes and works. Of particular note are the actions carried out in the field of care in which it has promoted aid for non-professional carers, which during 2022 is expected to benefit 89,630 people, 80% of them women; or the action programme aimed at carers in the family environment who wish to integrate into the labour market in this professional sector, who are given access to a professional qualification in social and health care for people at home or in social institutions, a programme for which more than 2,100 applications were received in 2022. At the local level, a new specific budget line has been opened, endowed with €14.78M to implement the Corresponsables Plan, aimed at creating "care exchanges" in collaboration with the Community's local councils.

The regional government's commitment to the most vulnerable groups is reflected in the strengthening of different initiatives. In 2021, €250,000 in aid was allocated to social services programmes specialising in women in vulnerable situations. In addition, through the Valencia Women's Institute, 29 women at risk of social exclusion were accommodated in residential centres, accompanied by 27 minors under their care. Emphasis has also been placed on strengthening the Kumpania Programme, a specialised and individualised social service aimed at Roma children and adolescents, which this year has extended its activities to early childhood and post-compulsory education. This expansion, accompanied by an investment of 8.8 million euros, has enabled the number of programmes carried out to increase from 12 to 28 and the number of beneficiaries to rise from 274 to 651, as well as improving staff numbers, which have risen from 103 to 189 professionals, 76 of whom belong to the Roma community.

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Basque Youth Law (*).
- Bill on the Rights of Children and Adolescents (**).
- Basque Active Ageing Strategy and Inter-institutional Plan to combat unwanted loneliness (**).
- Basque strategy to support carers.
- Basque Strategy on Homelessness 2018-2021 (**).
- Basque Social Pact for Migration, and 6th Action Plan in the field of citizenship, interculturality and immigration (**).
- Inclusion Plan 2017-2021 for the articulation of prevention and social inclusion policies.
- II Strategic Plan for Social Services (**).
- IV Inter-institutional Plan to Support Families 2018-2022, to promote demographic change through aid, tax incentives and family support programmes.
- Child Guarantee Programme (Global Strategy against Child Poverty) (**).

(*): Adopted in March 2022.

(**): Adopted in February 2022.

(**): Measure in progress.

People have been at the heart of the Basque Government's management in a year still marked by the pandemic. Basque institutions have added to a budget of 12,442 million euros for 2021, an extraordinary economic effort to deal with the consequences of COVID-19. This effort has been evaluated at €5.1 billion in additional resources. Of this, €2.2 billion were direct aid to support the people and sectors affected and €2.9 billion in fiscal measures and subsidised loans and guarantees. From an ethical perspective and with a commitment to human dignity, attention to people has been a priority along with health care, and the accompaniment of other policies, especially in social policies and education.

As regards social policies, €179 million has been allocated to help those most in need and those most directly affected by the health crisis. Subsidies for renting the usual housing, complementary aid to reconcile work and family life, reinforcement of care services for dependent persons and special support programmes such as "Inor Atzean Utzi Gabe" (leave no one behind), in collaboration with the third sector, or the increase in Social Emergency Aid have been some of the measures reinforced to address the additional needs caused by the pandemic.

With regard to care for the elderly, the telecare programme has been strengthened and now serves 62,000 people. Experience has taught us the need to work together on a renewed model of care for the elderly, and to this end, in 2022 the preparation of the 2nd Strategic Plan for Social Services will be completed to promote the transition to a new model of care. A new model that enables the elderly to maintain an independent life in their own home and family environment for as long as possible. A new model of care homes that is more humane and closer, allowing greater integration of the health and social spheres.

In the area of youth, intensive work has been carried out on the draft youth law, also approved in March 2022. Its main objective is to bring forward the age of youth emancipation, through the Basque Youth Strategy 2030 and instruments such as the Basque Youth Emancipation Network, among others.

The Strategy will focus on those factors, both objective and subjective, that contribute most to reducing the age of emancipation of young people: quality employment and access to youth housing, information, guidance and personalised accompaniment in the transition to adult life and the culture (values and expectations) of young people and their families regarding emancipation and its conditions.

In 2021, the improvement and budgetary reinforcement of programmes that subsidise up to 275 euros for renting a home for young people began, together with other actions focused on young people included in the Housing Master Plan and the Strategic Employment Plan. And a first call for applications has been launched for grants to local councils for the systematisation and evaluation of actions for emancipation.

EXTREMADURA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Complement the MLW through the Extremadura Guaranteed Income, and its recognition as a subjective right.
- Programmes and services from the catalogue of the Public Social Services System, with personalised accompaniment for social inclusion.
- Extremadura Addictions Plan (2018-2023).
- Families Act (*).
- Child and Adolescent Care Plan (foster care, and the fight against child abuse and violence).
- REHABITA Programme, a self-promoted subsidised housing programme, and other aid programmes to facilitate access to housing, as well as access to basic supplies for groups in situations of exclusion.
- Support and promotion of cultural activities in rural and deprived areas, and Sports Promotion Plan.
- Actions to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities.

(*). Measure in progress.

The Government of Extremadura has contributed to the fight against poverty and inequality through different actions and measures. With reference to the Programmes and Services of the Catalogue of the Public Social Services System (SPSS), with personalised accompaniment for social inclusion: the CRISOL programme (Growth and Work Insertion) has intervened in 13 particularly vulnerable urban areas of Extremadura, in which 5,511 people at risk of social risk or exclusion, mainly long-term unemployed, have participated. Of these, the number of participants who have been reintegrated into the training or education systems after their participation is 1,236, and the number of people who have obtained employment has risen to 285.

In relation to access to basic supplies for groups in situations of exclusion, it is worth mentioning that the concept of energy poverty has been established to identify aid for minimum vital supplies aimed at facilitating access by people and families with fewer resources to basic supplies of electricity, water and gas in their homes. To this end, through the Municipal Economic Collaboration Programmes for Minimum Vital Supplies for 2021 and 2022, for an amount of €3,500,000 each, funds are transferred to the region's local councils to grant this aid to residents with the greatest economic difficulties, taking advantage of their proximity and better knowledge of the socio-economic reality of their surroundings (Regional State Gazette no. 55, of 23 March 2021 and Regional State Gazette no. 27, of 9 February 2022). In this regard, in 2021, 6,727 families were assisted, covering the need for basic supplies in their homes for a total of 15,557 people.

With regard to the Law on Families, during the first half of 2022, work is being carried out in a participatory process for the preparation of a preliminary draft of the Law on Support for Families in Extremadura.

With regard to the Plan of Care for Children and Adolescents against violence against minors, the development of a specific programme for the Evaluation and Treatment of Children and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Violence is maintained, as well as the campaigns "Don't touch me" and "They hurt", and the

participation of the Directorate General in various working groups, both at regional and national level, to define tools and strategies for the eradication of violence against children.

In relation to the Foster Care Programme, as an alternative protection measure to residential foster care, the Foster Care Promotion Unit was created at the beginning of the year, which aims, among other objectives, to develop strategies for attracting and raising awareness among families to subscribe to this programme.

Actions to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Autonomous Community of Extremadura merit mention of the fact that 105 projects aimed at the inclusion of people with disabilities have been developed, publicly financed and carried out by non-profit organisations from the third sector.

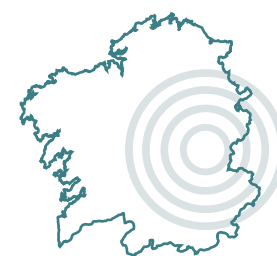
On the other hand, in July 2021, the first call for the selection of properties for the "Rehabilita" pilot programme will be made, to be developed in the municipalities of Alconchel, Casar de Cáceres, Garrovillas de Alconétar, Madroñera and Olivenza. With a budget of €635,851.66, the aim is to promote the conservation, rehabilitation and reform of the housing stock and thus recover part of the existing vacant housing to be used for renting in the municipalities. Of the applications submitted as of June 2022, only the one from Olivenza continues to go ahead, with an estimated €220,000.

The Sports Boosting Programme has contributed to territorial structuring through an action in which the Regional Government of Extremadura, provincial councils and 90.21% of localities with less than 20,000 inhabitants participate through the contracting of 123 sports boosters. On the other hand, all rural areas of Extremadura are structured throughout the year with cultural activities, the two most powerful programmes being the Mobile Stages programme, which reaches 57 towns with less than 2,000 inhabitants, with 185 performances and a minimum target audience of 50,000 inhabitants. And the Theatres Network programme, which reaches 49 localities with 292 performances and a target audience of 500,000 inhabitants, 50% of the population.

GALICIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Social Inclusion in Galicia. Social Insertion Income of Galicia (RISGA).
- Urgent social aid to avoid cuts in electricity supply to severely vulnerable consumers at risk of social exclusion.
- Plan of care for the homeless in Galicia 2019-2023.
- Digitisation of cultural heritage and bridging the digital divide to make culture more accessible to a larger number of citizens.
- Free 0-3 educational care for the second and subsequent children in the family unit.
- Concilia Bonus: financial aid for families of children aged 0-3 who have not obtained a place in a publicly funded nursery school.
- Creation of nest houses: creation of childcare resources for children 0-3 in those municipalities with less than 5,000 inhabitants where there is no other childcare resource.
- Plan for the prevention of childhood obesity in Galicia (Plan Xérmola).



The Government of Galicia frames the actions carried out in accelerator policy 1, in the Galician Social Inclusion Strategy. The Strategy is an integrated framework of interventions aimed at responding in an effective and coordinated manner to personal and family situations of vulnerability, poverty and social exclusion through two types of inclusion priorities: cross-cutting (prevention of poverty and social exclusion, fight against child poverty, promotion of equal opportunities between women and men, etc.) and sectors (social services, specific attention to factors of exclusion, guaranteeing minimum income, promoting integration into the labour market, promoting access to education and training, among others).

Galicia has reduced the poverty rate by 16% since 2015, standing at 24.3% of the population in 2019, while the Galician population in a situation of severe material deprivation was reduced by more than 40%, meaning that Galicia is very close to halving this value by 2030.

It has also improved by 249% since 2015 in progressively achieving and sustaining income growth for the poorest 40% of the population at a rate above the national average.

Another axis on which the Government of Galicia has focused its efforts is related to the adoption of policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies to progressively achieve greater equality. To this end, the indicator defined is the proportion of GDP generated by work, and in Galicia this indicator has increased by 4% since 2015 for salaried work and has decreased by 1% for self-employment.

It is worth highlighting the urgent social aid to avoid cuts in electricity supply to severely vulnerable consumers at risk of social exclusion: between June 2021 and June 2022, aid was granted to 6,526 beneficiaries for the sum of €2,092,800. With this aid, it was possible to reduce the energy poverty of vulnerable people at risk of social exclusion by means of payment by the Regional Government of half of the electricity bill.

ILLES BALEARS - BALEARIC ISLANDS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Guaranteed Social Income aimed at cohabitation units in a situation of economic vulnerability.
- Law on the care and rights of children and adolescents.
- Law 8/2018, of 31 July, on support for families.
- Housing Law of the Balearic Islands.
- Energy Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings Programme (PREE).
- Strategy for the digitisation and promotion of technology in the cultural field.
- Law 2/2016, of 30 March, on the tax on tourist stays in the Balearic Islands and measures to promote sustainable tourism.
- Rural Development Programme of the Balearic Islands 2014-2020.

The Government of the Balearic Islands has prioritised the fight against poverty in its actions, especially through the Guaranteed Social Income as a fundamental instrument to combat poverty, prevent and reduce it by focusing on the most vulnerable population, as well as broadening the profiles and adapting them to the minimum living income. 30 million euros were earmarked for this type of aid in the 2021 financial year.

Together with the promotion of the Guaranteed Social Income, the Balearic Government has made significant efforts to prevent energy poverty and electricity vulnerability, for which it has promoted social aid amounting to €5.3 million with the aim of minimising and preventing the risk of social exclusion, reaching more than 30,000 beneficiaries and increasing by almost 50% the aid for families in a situation of economic vulnerability who cannot pay their electricity and gas bills compared to previous years.

Access to housing as a factor in the fight against poverty and exclusion has constituted another key axis of action of the Balearic government, having increased rental aid by 28% with respect to 2021, with a budget of 11.4 million euros and increasing the public housing stock by 66%. Different fiscal measures have been approved to favour access to housing (reduction of the Property Transfer Tax for the purchase of a primary residence, extension of the scope for autonomous deduction of income tax, ...).

As part of the Energy Rehabilitation Programme for Existing Buildings (PREE), financial aid has been launched for 26 municipalities (with less than 5,000 inhabitants) to meet the special needs of municipalities with demographic challenges.

On the other hand, the Strategic Plan for the personal autonomy of young people living in exile in the Balearic Islands 2021-2025 is a continuation of the previous version (2016-2020), making the existence of an effective support network a reality for young people included in a personal autonomy programme, who have greater difficulties than other young people in carrying out the emancipation process.

LA RIOJA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Policy against tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance.
- Inclusion of social clauses in public procurement, to guarantee the integration into the labour market of all those people who find it most difficult to access employment.



The efforts of the Government of La Rioja within the framework of accelerator policy 1 have been related to the development of economic policies that make possible a fairer distribution of wealth. In this way, action in the tax framework has been a priority, highlighting the application of the Tax Control Plan, through which more than €9 million has been obtained as a result of tax audits and the fight against tax fraud carried out in relation to the taxes managed by the regional Treasury. This amount was the result of the initiation of almost 9,000 tax control and anti-fraud measures, including income from sanctioning proceedings, with 144 proceedings having been settled for non-compliance with tax penalties, with an income of more than 436,000 euros in this respect.

The Autonomous Community of La Rioja has legislatively approved various tax measures and has been applying various deductions and reduced rates in the assigned taxes it manages (personal income tax, transfer tax, stamp duty) to benefit certain social groups most in need of protection in order to redistribute wealth, including the regional deductions in personal income tax aimed at young people under 36 years of age, such as the deduction for investment (acquisition or rehabilitation) in primary residence, which benefited 1.686 people; for renting a primary residence, with 632 beneficiaries; for amounts invested in the acquisition or construction of a primary residence, of which 466 people benefited; or the deduction for electricity and gas supply costs for domestic use for emancipated young people, with 318 beneficiaries.

In addition, fiscal support measures have been adopted in the form of reduced rates of Transfer Tax and Stamp Duty aimed at promoting access to housing for more vulnerable groups such as large families (177 beneficiary families), young people under 36 years of age (501 beneficiaries) and people with disabilities (101 beneficiaries).

NAFARROAKO FORU KOMUNITATEA - COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion, to prevent social exclusion and poverty, through coordinated interdepartmental actions.
- Plan for Children and Adolescents and updating of the normative framework to guarantee children's rights in a comprehensive manner.
- Housing Plan, to guarantee access and the social function of housing (Officially protected housing for rent, rental exchange, Emanzipa programme, Daviz programme, among others).
- Strategic Culture Plan. Also noteworthy in the field of libraries is the programme "Books and libraries to build the world we want".
- Actions relating to the fight against fraud and the improvement of the management of economic activities.
- Adoption of legislation to incorporate social and environmental criteria in public procurement.

Navarre continues to maintain poverty and inequality indicators at the lowest levels in the country; the result of both an egalitarian social structure and protection policies that have focused on this challenge for years. These policies are articulated through the Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion, whose main actions in the period analysed focused on (a) the creation and development of four inter-institutional coordination roundtables (employment, housing, health and education), since it is considered that this challenge can only be addressed through collaborative and networked work; (b) the advancement of the integrated care model between social services and employment services, through the formulation of the AUNA Project financed within the framework of the PRTR; and (c) the coherent and more efficient management of the income guarantee system (RG and MLI) offering coverage that exceeds 6% of the population.

On the other hand, in line with one of the priorities of the accelerating policy, which is the prevention and fight against tax fraud, the Treasury of Navarre has continued with its Plan to fight fraud and the underground economy by developing actions of information, assistance and prevention of fraud; collaboration with other tax administrations and public and private entities; investigation and verification actions of tax fraud; and, finally, control activities in the collection phase. This, among other results, has led to an increase of €133.1 million in the amounts regularised.

With Regional Law 17/2021, of 21 October, the Regional Law on Public Contracts has been amended by introducing, among the other provisions of these contracts, a section on the obligations of the person awarded the contract to ensure adequate compliance with social or environmental clauses. And also, on the rejection of abnormally low bids for not complying with the applicable obligations in environmental, social or labour matters.

In accordance with the integral nature of sustainable development, within the framework of the fight against climate change and the transition to a new energy model, Regional Law 4/2022 on Climate Change and Energy Transition has been approved, which acts on energy poverty by providing for the articulation of protection mechanisms for people and family units in a situation of "economic vulnerability", so that the continuity of basic energy supplies (electricity, fuels and water) is guaranteed "under all circumstances".

Based on the need to facilitate access to and maintenance of housing, in the last year the Navarre Housing Plan has awarded 98 subsidised housing units for rent (completed housing units that have been granted final classification), work has begun on 150 (provisional classification granted) and approval has been requested for a further 305 housing units (provisional classification has been requested). In addition, 61 new homes have been added to the rental stock. The recognition of the subjective right to housing (EmanZipa and David programmes) reaches more than 4,250 families, with around 800,000 euros being paid each month to help pay the rent (plus another million euros a month to subsidise the renting of subsidised housing). Meanwhile, a total of 1,015 homes have been declared administratively uninhabited.

Among the actions aimed at protection in situations of greater vulnerability, one notable feature is the approval of Regional Law 12/2022, of 11 May, on the care and protection of children and adolescents and the promotion of their families, which aims to ensure comprehensive care by establishing the legal framework of protection for children, adolescents and families and their rights, the measures and administrative actions for prevention and promotion, as well as the intervention of guidance and insertion with respect to minors subject to the juvenile justice system.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the monitoring of the Strategic Plan for Culture in Navarre based on a viewer that contemplates the application of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda in the ten axes that form the backbone of the cultural policies of the department responsible for culture.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- General Regulations of Law 4/2005, of 28 October, on Basic Social Wages, approved by Decree 29/2011, of 13 April.
- Regional Strategy for the Roma Population.
- Accessibility Strategy.
- Plan to support and extend Local Youth Councils, strengthen subsidies to youth associations and the role of the Asturias Youth Institute.
- Network of Child Care Services, IPT prevention actions, and transition to adult life programmes for minors in care.
- Promotion of public rental housing, with a focus on young people, and reinforcement of the rental, purchase and rehabilitation aid programme.
- Promotion of sports facilities.
- "Asturies, Cultura en Rede" Programme, and the creation of the Cultural Projects Office.



The actions of the Government of Asturias within the framework of accelerator policy 1 have focused on the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The current socio-economic context, marked by the difficulties of the pandemic, increased the difficulties of a large sector of the regional population, which made it necessary to adapt the Basic Social System to the new current circumstances through Decree 25/2022, which facilitates greater flexibility in processing, the simplification of the assessment of resources, and the modification of various aspects of the procedure for the review of the social salary. In the same line of action, the Government of Asturias has signed several agreements to promote the inclusion in the labour market of people receiving the social salary.

A second axis of government action in Asturias is related to social protection, which in the framework of childhood has been based on strengthening social dialogue and concerted action with non-profit social initiative entities that provide residential care services, transition to adult life and comprehensive day care places for minors and women with serious socio-family problems, giving these entities a greater role in the management of the services and recognising their participation in the development of the provision.

The regional government's efforts in the area of public housing are also noteworthy, with the regional public housing stock being the second largest in Spain. In the last year, 550 properties have been handed over for rent to as many families. The aim is to continue to increase this housing stock and rehabilitate it, guaranteeing environmental sustainability and energy savings. In the same line of action, the Youth Rental Bonus Bono is being promoted for youth emancipation, and in the Housing First system, which addresses the problem of homelessness with social accompaniment for inclusion combined with direct access to housing. Likewise, investments have been made in urban regeneration areas to carry out improvements in housing and environments in small councils, as well as in public buildings, paying for actions linked to energy efficiency, sustainability and digitalisation, among others.

Finally, actions aimed at the most vulnerable people and groups have been strengthened and, as a result of the commitment of the Government of Asturias, the first Regional Strategy for the Social Promotion of the Roma Population (2021-2023) has been approved, a tool that aims to end the discrimination still suffered by this group of more than 11,500 people in the Principality of Asturias.

REGION OF MURCIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strengthen the actions of Primary Care Social Services to report situations of risk of social exclusion.
- Streamlining procedures to facilitate people's access to the MLW and the Basic Integration Income.
- Development of other financial aid for people with disabilities, the elderly and victims of gender-based violence.
- Regulatory development and subsidies for family protection, attention to child poverty and for special category large families and single-parent families and former foster youth programmes.
- Aid for access to rental housing for vulnerable and excluded groups, especially young people in municipalities of less than 5,000 inhabitants with limited incomes and women victims of gender violence.
- Programme for the acquisition of housing for the re-housing of families and the eradication of shantytowns.
- Regional and local homelessness strategy.
- Providing means to promote access to sport for groups at risk of social exclusion.
- Incorporation of social criteria and clauses in public sector procurement.

The actions of the Government of the Region of Murcia within the framework of accelerator policy 1 have been carried out on the basis of the regulatory development of the Law on Social Services of the Region of Murcia. In this way, the Regional Plan of Social Services and the Decree regulating the catalogue of Benefits of the Social Services System of the Region of Murcia have been promoted.

In addition to this regulatory development, actions aimed at the most vulnerable population have been strengthened through the approval of different orders aimed at promoting aid for large families in the special category, families with children born from multiple births and single-parent families for 2021, for a maximum amount of ninety thousand euros. 330 applications have been granted, of which 235 (71.21%) are for Special Category Large Families, 93 (28.18%) are for Single-Parent Families (single parent, sole ascendant, exclusive parental authority, widowed or equivalent) and 2 (0.60%) are for Families with children from multiple birth or adoption (multiple birth or adoption of three or more children under 6 years of age). In this same line of action, 76 care places have been arranged for highly vulnerable young people at risk of social exclusion through a system of supervised flats. Finally, within the framework of the Family Protection and Child Poverty Programme, 88 projects have been carried out in collaboration with the City Councils of the Region of Murcia.

The most outstanding actions of the Government of the Region of Murcia in this accelerating policy include the fact that the programme to combat substandard housing has been extended, with 113 people having access to one of the homes purchased and fitted out by the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia. Of these, 62 are minors.

AUTONOMOUS CITY OF MELILLA

The Government of the Autonomous City of Melilla has focused its actions on protecting the most vulnerable people and groups at risk of social exclusion. In this regard, notable measures include the promotion of access to housing, especially for family units with low income levels, the extension of the use of social clauses in public procurement with the aim of favouring the insertion of people with greater difficulties in accessing employment into the job market, the annual maintenance of the Welfare Centre that provides several services to the population in a situation of social vulnerability and the development of the programme of study aids.

In the Autonomous City of Melilla, the care of unaccompanied foreign minors is of particular importance, so maintaining the network of centres for unaccompanied foreign minors with a budget allocation of close to €10 million is an essential feature.

Finally, the promotion of sport as a factor of social inclusion in the city of Melilla is given importance, for which institutional subsidies have been promoted for sports organisations to organise events. The aim of these cultural and sporting activities is to bring sporting events to the most deprived areas and groups at risk of exclusion in the city.



CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local entities have deployed a wide variety of initiatives to operate in line with the social transition that marks the accelerating policy focused on redistributing wealth and guaranteeing people's rights. With a similar roadmap, policies have been implemented that seek to target the most vulnerable groups in the most relevant areas for their social and labour insertion, such as housing, employment, education, transport or social protection.

Firstly, notable measures include those aimed at facilitating access to decent housing and basic supplies, such as the payment of rents, aid for obtaining and purchasing basic supplies and basic necessities, or contributions for the maintenance of housing, together with the possibility of obtaining social vouchers.

In some municipalities, housing advice is also offered to facilitate renting of housing adjusted to the needs and situations of each client. At the same time, the number of subsidised housing units has been increased and access to them has been facilitated, paying special attention to promoting the emancipation of young people.

Employment and transport assistance has also been provided, in the latter case with a view to reducing the cost borne by users.

In education, sports and recreation, local entities have also played a major role through aid for education, study grants, provision of school materials, promotion of recreational and sports activities, as well as the development of different cultural activities, not only focused on children, but also on all citizens living in the municipalities, thereby promoting the reinforcement of intergenerational ties.

Elderly people in the municipalities are monitored to check that all their needs are being attended to and covered; such actions are complemented with the promotion and improvement of the services offered by the local entities to people with functional diversity.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the involvement of the different local institutions in the food bank initiatives promoted by NGOs to ensure that the most vulnerable groups can acquire basic foodstuffs, in addition to other noteworthy actions such as the social canteens or the prepaid cards to facilitate the procurement of these basic necessities.

Child participation and social protection against child poverty is addressed by local authorities through measures and initiatives, such as support for transport through the creation of school routes and canteen services, along with activities related to health and sport to promote healthy habits among children.

As regards children's leisure activities, schools and summer camps have been set up that also set out to balance the work and family life of parents. Along with the children's and/or summer schools, toy libraries and other extracurricular activities have been created, the latter with the aim of reinforcing the studies and knowledge acquired in primary and secondary schools. Other types of socio-educational activities have also been established, such as outings and excursions, dance, music, plastic arts, etc.

In terms of aid, scholarships and grants, aid has been announced for newborns and for different levels of study, an action that is reinforced by the improvement of the physical and emotional well-being of children

and adolescents belonging to vulnerable families who access the counselling and support services offered by local entities.

Finally, for the area of **social and intercultural coexistence**, we find activities such as municipal sports programmes, reception programmes and, linked to these, family support programmes. To encourage the reception of children, work accompaniment programmes have been carried out, which not only help migrants, but also other disadvantaged groups or those with difficulties in obtaining employment. Integration programmes have also been established, with socio-cultural activities of different kinds for different sectors of the population, in addition to educational activities aimed at migrant population groups with the aim of facilitating their integration and improving their command of the local language.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 2.

ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

1. Evolution of processes associated with climate change

As indicated in the Fourth Biennial Report of Spain (MITECO, 2019a)¹⁷ prepared within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Spain is a country that is particularly vulnerable to the possible effects of climate change, both due to its geographical location and its socio-economic characteristics. It is therefore necessary to firmly face up to the commitment to fight climate change through the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, energy saving and efficiency and the use of clean energy.

Furthermore, the Mediterranean region is considered one of the global “hot spots” in terms of climate change. This directly or indirectly affects a wide range of economic sectors and all Spanish ecological systems, accelerating the deterioration of resources essential to our well-being, such as water, fertile soil and biodiversity, and threatening people’s quality of life and health.

As indicated in the report on the state of the climate in Spain 2021 published by the State Meteorological Agency (AEMET, 2022)¹⁸ since the 1980s, each new decade has been warmer than the previous one. The place that each specific year occupies in the overall ranking should be interpreted from a long-term perspective, especially because the differences between years are sometimes very small. It should be noted that the seven warmest years have all occurred since 2015, with the top three places in the rankings going to 2016, 2019 and 2020. As far as 2021 is concerned, the La Niña episodes between 2020 and 2022 have led to a transient reduction in the increase in average global temperatures and so the warming experienced in 2021 was slightly less pronounced. Even so, 2021 was warmer than other years that also experienced La Niña. Nevertheless, 2021 has become one of the seven warmest years on record, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

According to the same report, the year 2021 was also very warm in Spain, with an average temperature of 14.3 °C (14.2 °C on average in mainland Spain, 17.3 °C in the Balearic Islands and 18.6 °C in the Canary Islands), which is 0.5 °C warmer than the normal annual average (reference period 1981-2010). This was the eleventh warmest year since the beginning of the series in 1961, and the ninth warmest of the 21st century. Of the ten warmest years in the series, eight belong to the 21st century and seven of them to the decade 2011-2020.

The AEMET data for 2022¹⁹ show a summer (period from 1 June to 31 August 2022) that was extremely hot, with an average temperature over peninsular Spain of 24.0 °C, a value that is 2.2 °C above the average for this season (reference period 1981-2010). This was the warmest summer since the beginning of the series in

17 Document accessible [here](#)

18 Document accessible [here](#)

19 Document accessible [here](#)

1961 and therefore of the 21st century, exceeding the previous highest value in the series, which until now was that of 2003, by 0.4 °C.

The average summer temperature was the highest in their series at 40 AEMET main stations. In addition, at 45 stations the average daily maximum was the highest since observations began, and at 33 the average minimum was also the highest in their respective series.

The summer saw a heatwave of exceptional duration and intensity between 9 and 26 July, and two other heatwaves, due to invasions of warm air from North Africa: the first one between 12 and 18 June, and the second between 30 July and 15 August.

The system for monitoring daily mortality from all causes (MoMo), developed by the Carlos III Institute of Health (ISCIII), estimates that in Spain there have been just over 4,700 deaths related to excess temperature between the end of April and the beginning of September. This represents around 3.2% of observed deaths from any cause, double the record of deaths attributable to the highest heat for these dates - recorded in 2017 - and three times the average of the last five years. Some 3,800 of these deaths occurred between July and August alone.

According to the European Commission's report, *Climate change impacts and adaptation in Europe* (JRC, 2020)²⁰ the benefits of adaptation measures are long-lasting, yet the damage from inaction grows over time and with increased global warming. According to the report, if global warming of 3°C were to occur, the annual welfare loss for the EU as a whole could amount to 1.4% of GDP, considering a limited set of climate impacts (river flooding, coastal flooding, agriculture, droughts, energy supply, mortality from extreme temperatures and windstorms).

2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs)

One of the main elements contributing to climate change is the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHG). The GHG data respond to the reporting obligations of the Spanish Emission Inventory System established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN, 1992) and its Kyoto Protocol, and Regulation (EU) No. 525/2013 concerning a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and for reporting, at national or Union level, of other information relevant to climate change, as well as Implementing Regulation (EU) No 749/2014 of said Regulation.

Gross national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are estimated at 274.7 million tonnes CO₂-eq in 2020, which represents a decrease in emissions of -12.5 % compared to the previous year. The total emission level is -5.3 % compared to 1990 and -37.9 % compared to 2005.

According to the *National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: Summary Report. Edition 1990-2020* (MITECO, 2022b)²¹ CO₂-equivalent emissions have recorded an overall decrease of -12.5% in 2020, in a context marked by the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a decrease in GDP of -10.8%. The reduction in emissions is driven by a reduction in transport emissions (-19%), and a decrease in electricity demand of 5.5%.

The Advance Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory estimates gross emissions of 288.6 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent for the year 2021²², which implies an increase of equivalent CO₂ emissions of 5.1 % in 2021 when compared to the previous year. The overall emission level is -0.5% compared to 1990, and -34.7% when compared to 2005.

There was also an increase in the production of renewable energy (44% of the total electricity generated in 2020 in Spain) due mainly to the increase in hydro and solar photovoltaic production in the last year, +23.9% and +65.4%, respectively. In non-renewable energies, the decrease is due to the lower production of combined cycle plants, which generated -20.3% less than in 2019, and coal-fired plants, which accounted for only 2% of the energy mix.

20 Document accessible [here](#)

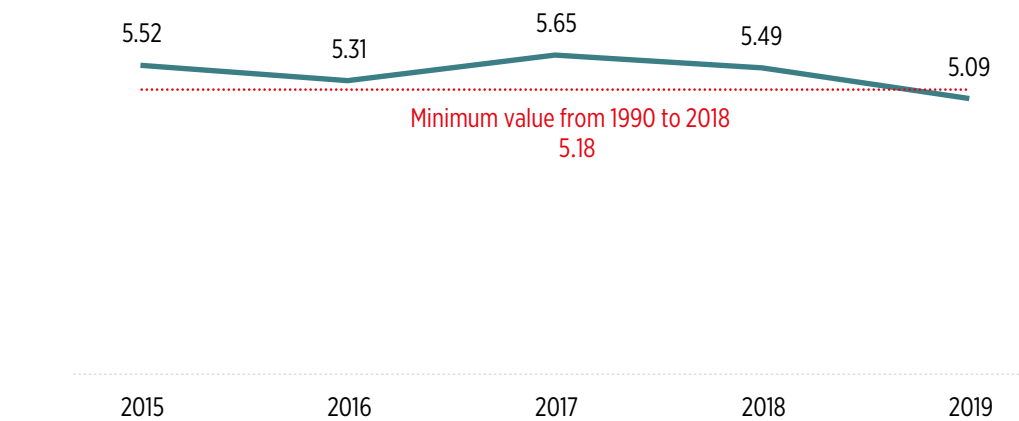
21 Document accessible [here](#).

22 Estimates have been made on the basis of provisional data for the year 2021.

The sector with the largest share of overall GHG emissions in 2020 is transport (27%), followed by industrial activities (20.8%), agriculture and livestock as a whole (14%), electricity generation (11.8%), fuel consumption in the residential, commercial and institutional sectors (9.2%), and waste (4.8%). CO₂ from gas accounts for 77.7% of total GHG emissions, followed by methane (13.7%).

Emission per capita analysis, according to World Bank data²³, places Spain at a level of 5.09 emissions, which is the lowest level in the entire historical series that began in 1990 (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1. CO₂ EMISSIONS IN SPAIN (UNITS: METRIC TONS PER CAPITA)

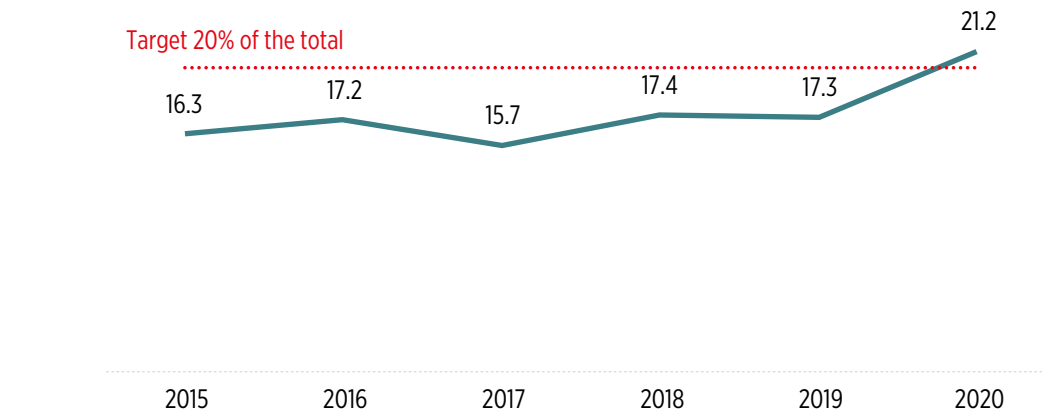


Source: World Bank

3. Energy efficiency

As shown in the previous section, a major proportion of GHGs is related to electricity production, which is an element that has become particularly important in Spain since 2018. In 2020, the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption is 21.22%, exceeding the 20% target set for Spain in the Renewables Directive (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSUMPTION (UNITS: % OF TOTAL FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION)



Source: World Bank (2010-2019), MITECO (2021)²⁴.

²³ Data available [here](#)

²⁴ The 2015-2019 series is sourced from the World Bank. The 2020 figure is taken from the MITERD press release, available [here](#).

Renewable production has reached 46.7% of generation in 2021, an all-time record since records were kept. (Red Eléctrica Española, 2021)²⁵. Among the factors contributing to this increase was a notable growth of 10.1% in renewable generation compared to the previous year, which was combined with a 4.81% decrease in gross demand. These results consolidate the decarbonisation path of the electricity generation sector, which for the second consecutive year has broken records in emissions reduction.

This situation has been helped by the development of renewable energy auctions. Two were held in 2021, on 26 January for 3,000 MW of installed capacity and on 19 October for 3,300 MW of installed capacity.

The share of renewables in final energy consumption in transport increased from 7.61% to 9.54%. This growth was contributed to by the fall in demand, as well as by the policy of promoting biofuels in road transport, which has boosted the increase of this target in recent years.

The share of renewables in heating and cooling has increased from 17.20% to 17.97%, mainly due to reduced demand.

In 2020, the primary energy reduction percentage (PEC) reached 35.4%, far exceeding the target undertaken by Spain of 20%, mainly due to the lower economic activity resulting from the pandemic. Primary energy consumption in Spain in 2020 was 110,847 ktoe, a reduction of 12.0% compared to 2019. Final energy consumption, meanwhile, fell by 13.4% compared to 2019, to a total of 79,436 ktoe.

4. Atmospheric pollution

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} particles are among the most important air pollutants to act as a hazard to human health, as they can be inhaled and enter the respiratory system causing significant damage.

According to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain, due to its climatic and geographical conditions, has high levels of these particles, whose concentration sporadically and naturally increases due to the intrusion of African dust. For this reason, current legislation establishes a procedure whereby the contribution of PM₁₀ due to natural sources can be discounted for the purposes of compliance with the legislated values.

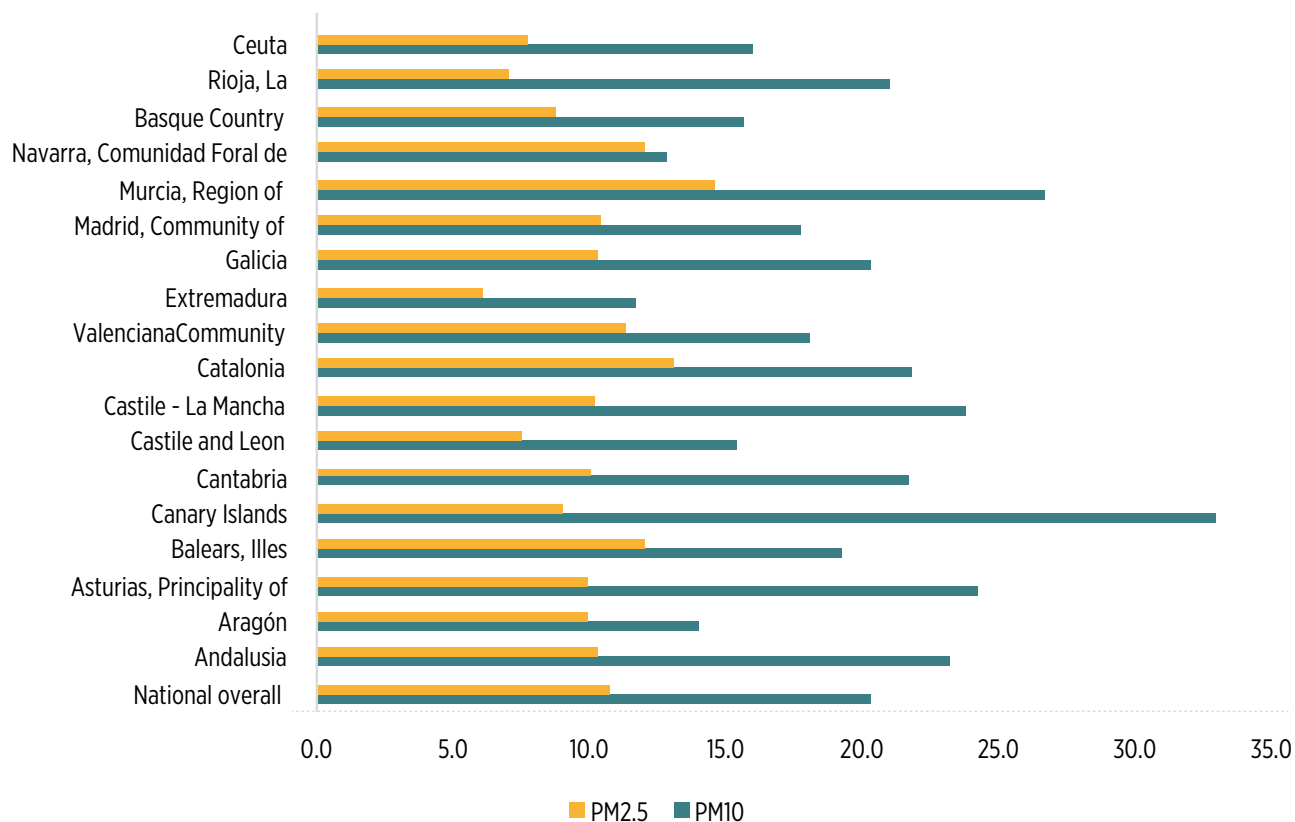
According to the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE), the population-weighted average annual PM₁₀ concentration measured for municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants has decreased significantly in the period 2004-2013. In this period, the highest value was reached in 2006 (37.2 µg/m³), a value very close to the annual limit value legally established since 2005 (40 µg/m³). In 2013, the annual average PM₁₀ concentration value was 20.8 µg/m³ (20.8 µg/m³). In 2014 the value of the annual average PM₁₀ concentration increased slightly to 21.7 µg/m³ and in 2020, the annual average PM₁₀ concentration was 20.3 µg/m³.

For autonomous communities, the highest value of annual average PM₁₀ concentration weighted by population in 2020 was in the Canary Islands (32.9 µg/m³) and the lowest value was in Extremadura (11.7 µg/m³).²⁶

25 Document available [here](#)

26 Accessible [here](#).

FIGURE 3. POPULATION-WEIGHTED AVERAGE ANNUAL AVERAGE CONCENTRATION OF PM₁₀ AND PM_{2.5}, 2020 BY AUTONOMOUS REGION AND PARTICLE TYPE, 2020 (UNITS: MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE).



Source: National Statistical Institute

The daily limit value for PM₁₀ particles (24-hour mean value) has been legally established since 2005 at 50 µg/m³ and should not be exceeded on more than 35 occasions per calendar year. Taking this reference, and comparing it with the population-weighted average of the number of days per year on which the daily limit concentration of PM₁₀ is exceeded by Autonomous Communities, what appears is that this value decreased significantly in the period 2005-2013 (70.3 days in 2005 and 4.3 days in 2013), but increased in 2014 (7.8 days) with respect to the previous year and increased again in 2015 (12.9 days). In 2016 the value was 9.2 days, in 2017 it was 11.9 days and in the latest available year, 2020, it was 8.3 days.

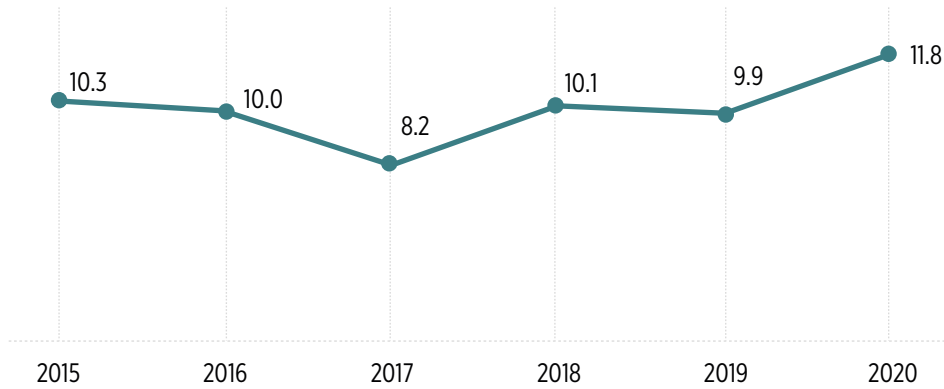
The percentage of the population in urban areas exposed to PM₁₀ concentrations exceeding the daily limit (50 µg/m³ or more than 35 days per year) has decreased in Spain since 2004 (72.5% of the population) according to the Europe 2020 Indicators, Resource Efficiency in Europe. In 2015, Spain reached a value of 7.0%. In the EU-27 in 2015 a value of 26.8% was reached. In the year 2020 in Spain a value of 1.9% was reached and in the EU-27 this value was 11.6%.

From a methodological point of view, it should be noted that the data mentioned in the previous section come from Eurostat, which only considers urban background stations, consequently, the number of stations participating in the calculation is lower and therefore the population exposed to these levels is also lower, since it is the population corresponding to the municipality of each station. In addition, there are several networks that do not have urban background stations.

For PM_{2.5}, the annual population-weighted average concentration for municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants has been decreasing for more than a decade, reaching a value of 10.7 µg/m³ in 2020.

The population suffering from pollution and other environmental problems has barely changed by 10% in the period 2015-2020, from 10.3% to 11.8%, with continuous variations in this period, with the highest peak between 2019 and 2020 (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4. POPULATION SUFFERING FROM POLLUTION AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SPAIN (UNITS: % OF TOTAL POPULATION)



Source: National Statistical Institute

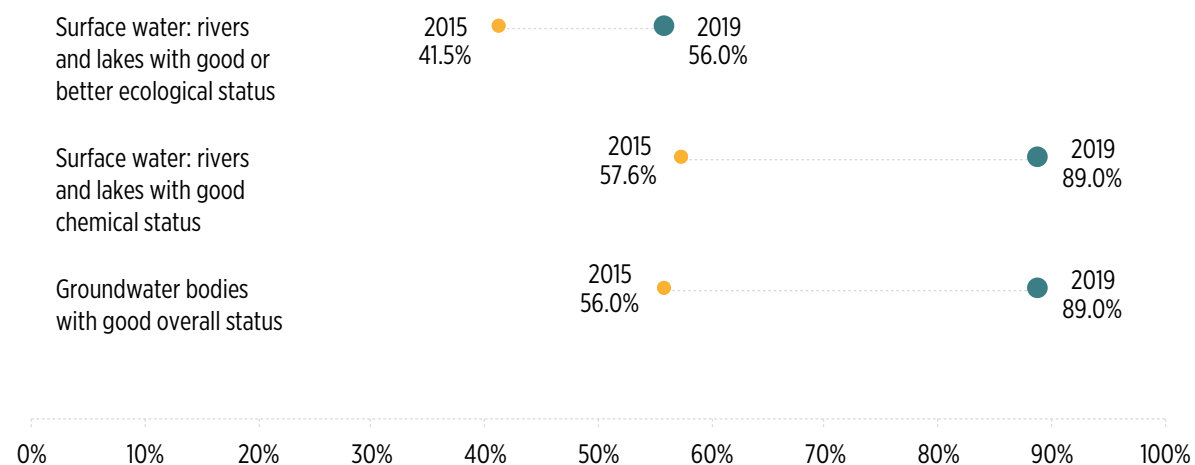
5. Biodiversity and ecosystem restoration

Central to Country Challenge 2 is the need to protect biodiversity and the necessary promotion of the restoration of terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems, the variability of living organisms and diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Spain has one of the richest natural heritages with a major environmental, landscape, scientific and cultural value as a source of biological and geological diversity. The indicators established in SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”; SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”; and SDG 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” are taken into account.

With regard to inland water quality, a notable improvement can be observed in all indicators (surface water: rivers and lakes with good or better ecological status; surface water: rivers and lakes with good chemical status; groundwater bodies with good overall status) in the comparison of the base year 2015 with the latest data corresponding to 2019 (Figure 5). The improvement is 25.98% in the case of water with good or better ecological status, 35.3% for chemical status, and 37.06% in overall status.

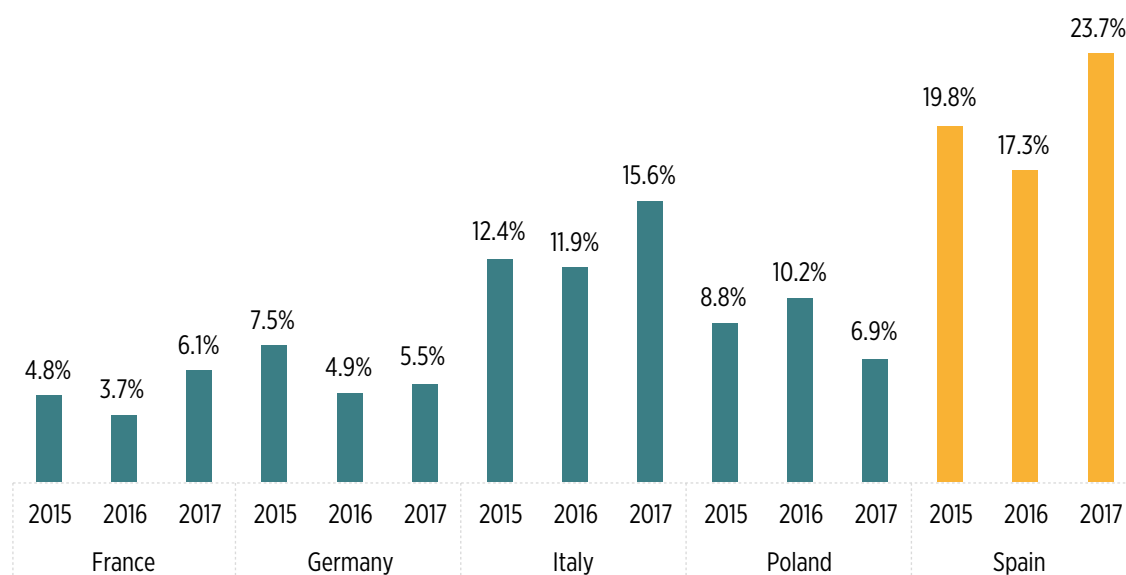
FIGURE 5. WATER BODIES OF GOOD QUALITY (UNITS: % OF TOTAL)



Source: National Statistical Institute

Another reference indicator for water resource management would be the WEI+ index (acronym for *Water Exploitation Index*). In 2015, the WEI+ in Spain ranged from 19.8% to 25.6%, and currently stands at 23.7%. According to data from the *European Environment Agency*²⁷, the WEI+ value in Spain has always been higher than in European countries of similar size such as France, Germany, Italy and Poland (Figure 6).

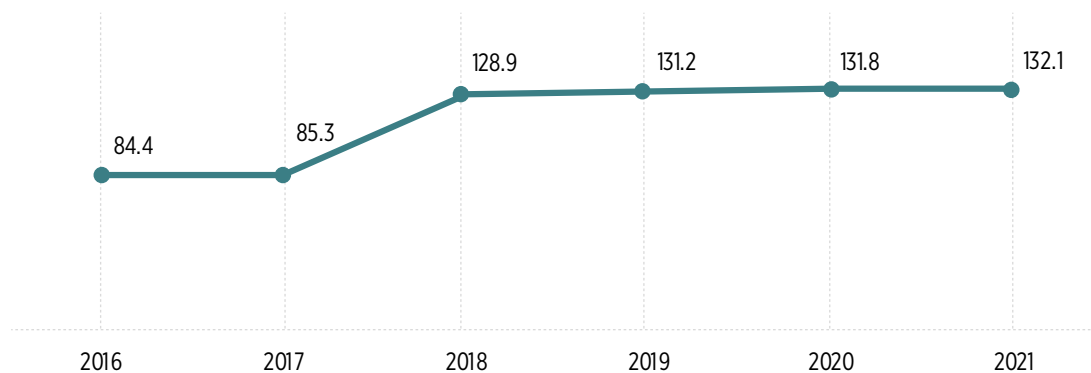
FIGURE 6. EXPLOITATION RATE WEI+ BY YEAR AND COUNTRY (UNITS: % OF WATER USED)



Source: European Environment Agency.

As for indicators related to SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, the benchmark indicator is the coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas, which has undergone a significant increase in recent years, from 84.4 thousand square kilometres in 2016 to 132.13 thousand square kilometres in 2021 (Figure 7)²⁸.

FIGURE 7. COVERAGE OF PROTECTED AREAS IN RELATION TO MARINE AREAS (UNITS: THOUSAND SQUARE KILOMETRES)



Source: National Statistical Institute

Finally, with regard to the indicators of SDG 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt

²⁷ Data available [here](#)

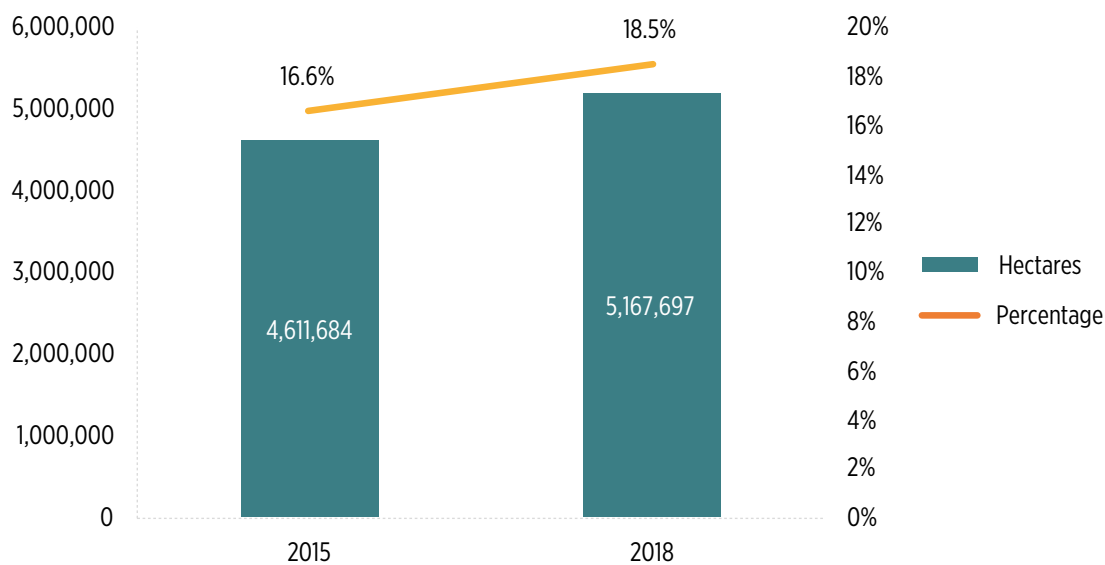
²⁸ The INE does not have a value for the year 2015.

biodiversity loss”, these can be listed in terms of the management of land, freshwater and protected areas, as well as the living beings that inhabit them.

In the case of the proportion of degraded land in relation to the total land area, the situation remains unchanged at 18.2% between the base year data (2015) and the latest available data from 2018 (INE). If these data are analysed with respect to land use (1 cropland (16.22%); 2 forest (49.52%); 3 grassland (29.34%); 4 other land (2%); 5 settlements (0.78%); 6 wetlands (2.14%)), only base year data (2020) are obtained, so it is impossible to analyse development.

Regarding the management of wooded areas, the indicators taken are the ones referring to the area of woodland as a proportion of the total area available in the INE. The situation remains almost unchanged between the base year data (2015) and the latest available data (2018), having improved slightly from 36.44% to 36.48%.

FIGURE 8. FOREST AREA WITH A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING INSTRUMENT IN PLACE



Source: National Statistical Institute

The forested areas with a sustainable forest management planning instrument in force have increased from 4,611,684 hectares in 2015 (16.58%) to 5,167,697 hectares in 2018 (18.58%) (Figure 8).

According to data from the Coordination Centre for Forest Fire Information (CCNIF), the confinement caused by the coronavirus and agricultural and livestock restrictions, coupled with heavy rains, contributed to a 50 per cent reduction in fire losses in 2020 compared to the average of the last decade, 3,490 compared to 7,928.

According to data from the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), 84,827 hectares were burned in 2021, compared to an average of 66,965 hectares in the period 2006 - 2021.

For other relevant indicators to assess progress on biodiversity, the INE only has data for the years 2020 or 2021 as a baseline. For example, the proportion of sites important for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity included in protected areas was 2.14% in 2020. There is also information on the Red List Index²⁹ (RLI) for different species groups (Table 1).

²⁹ This indicator offers a theoretical and aggregate measurement of how far from extinction the species present in Spain are (the closer the indicator is to 1, the further away from extinction the species is). It is one of the biodiversity indicators used by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to monitor progress towards achieving the targets set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Document available [here](#)

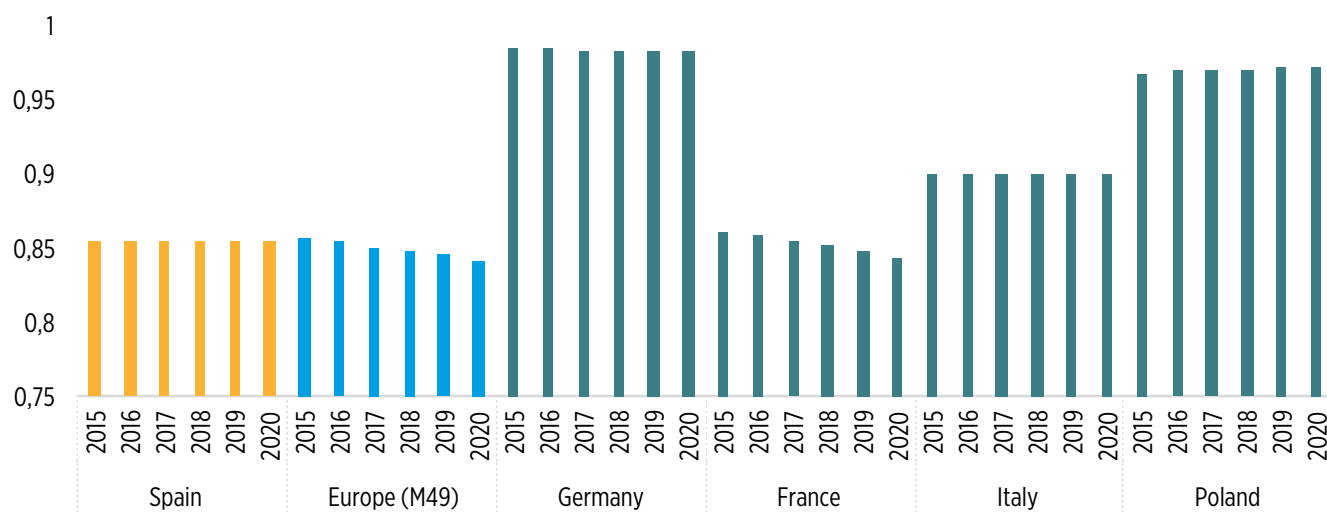
TABLE 1. RED LIST INDEX FOR SEVERAL SPECIES IN SPAIN (2021)

Total	0,89
Amphibians	0,87
Birds	0,95
Invertebrates	0,86
Mammals	0,92
Fish	0,94
Vascular flora	0,87
Non-vascular flora	0,74
Reptiles	0,81

Source: National Statistics Institute

In the period 2015-2020, the aggregate RLI for all species has remained stable at around 0.85 in Spain. This places the country in a better position than Europe as a whole, which started from a higher level in 2015 (0.86), but has seen its risk of extinction progressively increase to 0.84. That said, countries of similar size such as Germany, Italy or Poland have higher RLIs³⁰ (Figure 9).

FIGURE 9. AGGREGATED RED LIST INDEX FOR ALL SPECIES



Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature

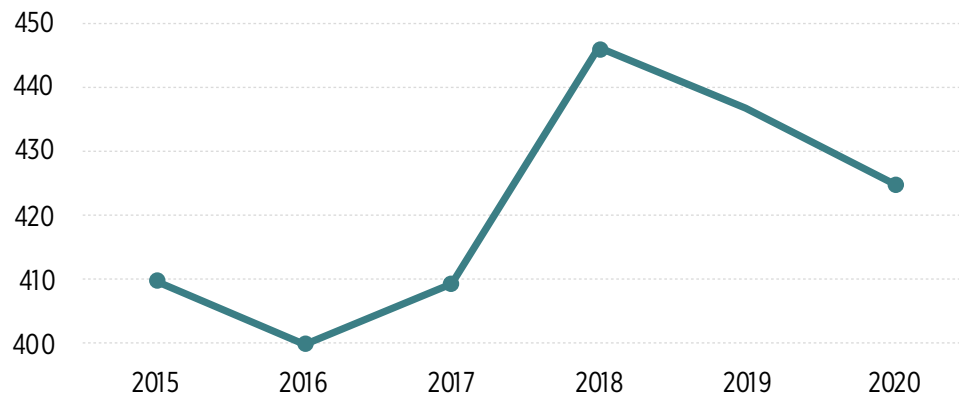
Of particular concern is the exploitation of the Doñana aquifers, which, combined with the drought, is causing waterfowl to stop coming to the Santa Olalla lagoon, the largest permanent lagoon in Doñana, according to the Doñana Biological Station - CSIC.

30 An exception in this respect is France, whose ILR has followed a similar progression to that of Europe.

6. Circular economy and waste management

In 2020, material consumption of 424.8 million tonnes was recorded according to data from the INE environmental accounts³¹, decreasing by 2.7% compared to 2019, with a decline since 2018, although still far from the values of previous years. Materials consumption per inhabitant decreased by 3.2% in 2020, standing at 9.0 tonnes (Figure 10).

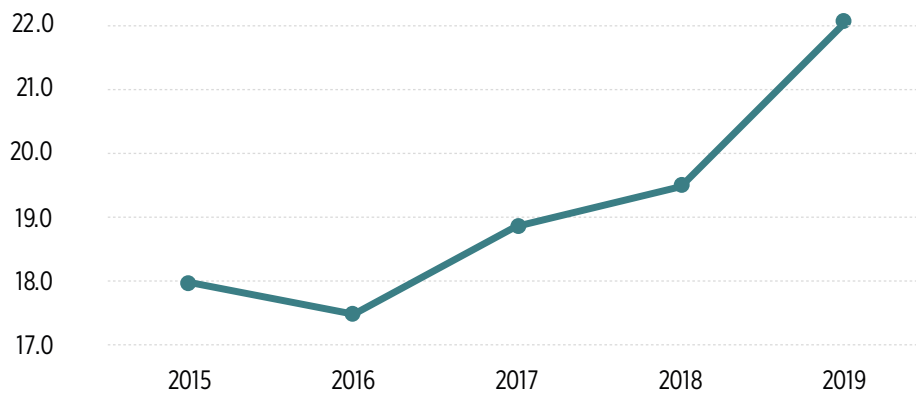
FIGURE 10. EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS (MILLIONS OF TONNES)



Source: National Statistics Institute

The latest data on waste generation correspond to years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and include both a trend towards higher waste generation with 22.78 million tonnes of waste generated in 2019, and an improvement in separate collection which increased by 13.5% compared to 2018, reaching 5.02 million tonnes of waste collected in separate fractions. This variable is growing at a higher rate than waste generation, as shown in the Figure below:

FIGURE 11. SEPARATE WASTE COLLECTION (PERCENTAGE)

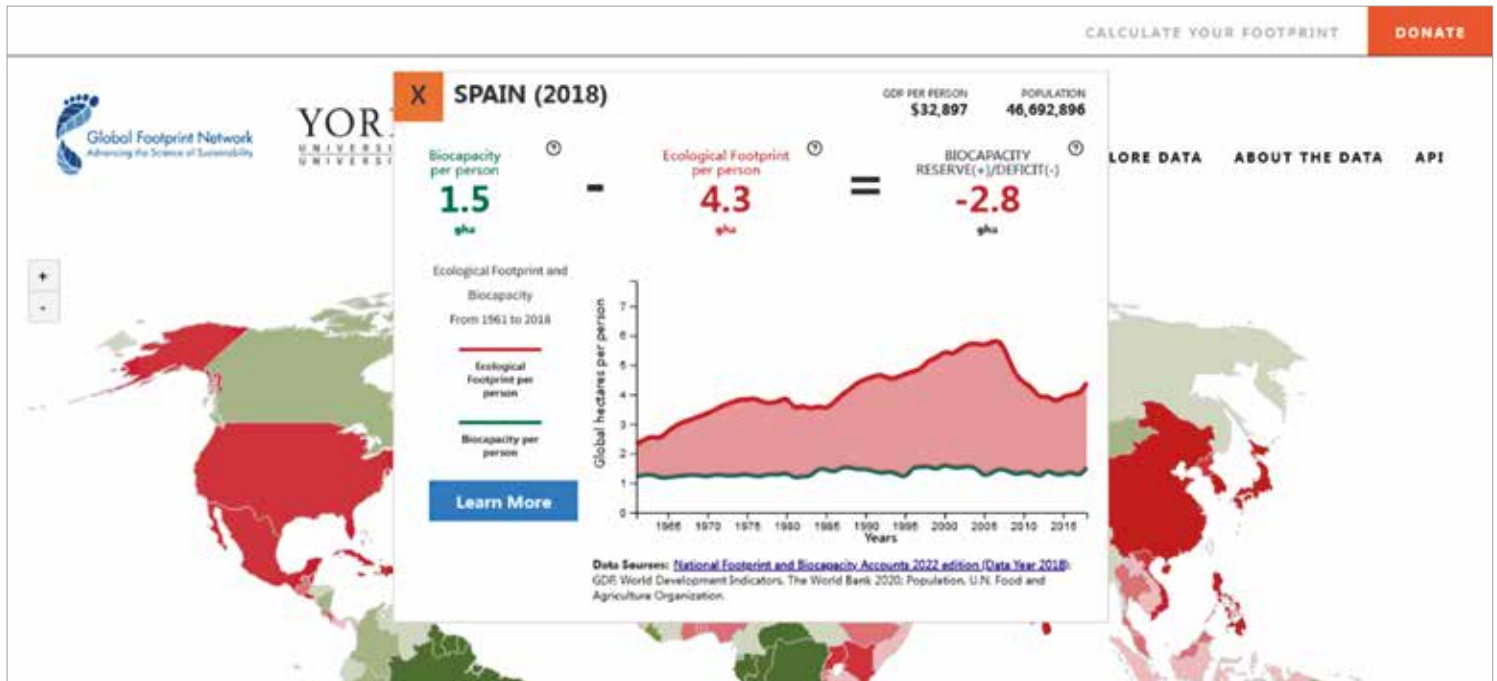


Source: National Statistics Institute

As an aggregate figure and according to the latest data of the Global Footprint Network (2022) In 2018, Spain has an ecological footprint of 4.3 global hectares (gha) after several years of decline since 2008 due to the Great Recession, with its ecological deficit standing at 2.8 gha (Figure 12).

³¹ Document accessible [here](#)

FIGURE 12. EVOLUTION OF THE SPANISH ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT



Source: Global Footprint Network (2022)³²

ACCELERATING POLICY 2.

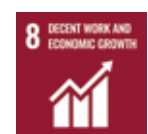
A COUNTRY THAT RESPECTS PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

The United Nations has underlined that there is a growing gap between the actual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction pathway and the commitments made by the States Parties to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, adopted at COP21. In this regard, the UN Secretary General has highlighted the need to urgently respond to the threat of climate change and rectify the current path to ensure the sustainability of life on the planet. The European Union (EU) has responded to this call by adopting the European Green Deal and the 2050 Long-term Strategy.

The path to tackle this threat is clearly defined by both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both international agreements adopted in 2015. It involves transforming our economic model and committing to a new social contract based on shared prosperity within the limits of the planet. Both agreements show that the profound change needed can only be achieved globally and in a multilateral framework that lays the foundations for a shared path towards full decarbonisation and thus be able to face the challenges posed to humanity as a whole.

In this context, in January 2020 the **Government's Declaration on the climate and environmental emergency**³³ was approved, formalising Spain's commitment through the adoption of 30 priority lines of action to combat undeniable climate change and **promote a fair and inclusive ecological transition** that minimises the economic, social and environmental impact in the transition to a green, circular, fair and climate-neutral economy by 2050, leaving no one behind. A very significant number of the priorities for action, public policies and actions included in this accelerator policy are derived from this declaration, as well as the transversal integration of aspects related to climate emergency in other public policies and actions contemplated in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS).

One of the main measures included in this Declaration and which has served to promote an ambitious set of cross-cutting strategies and actions is **Law 7/2021, of 20 May 2021, on Climate Change and Energy Transition, which establishes the regulatory framework to place, at the centre of political action, the fight against climate change and energy transition, setting a national target for the reduction of GHG emissions** of at least 23% compared to 1990, as a prelude to climate neutrality in 2050. In order to activate this commitment, the Law is based on different planning tools aimed at articulating the implementation of measures, such as the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) 2021-2030 (art. 4), the Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy 2050 (art. 5.2), the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) and its Work Programmes (art. 17), the Specific Renewable Gas Plans (art. 12.1) and the Just Transition Strategy (art. 27.1). These strategic tools have been taken up in their entirety as priorities for action that contribute to the achievement of this accelerating policy of the 2030 SDS, to which other priorities for action have been added that equally address key aspects in the promotion of the ecological transition of our country, such as the protection of our biodiversity and natural resources, or the commitment to an increasingly circular production model, among others. All of this will be set in motion, while also ensuring that the transition is



approached from parameters of social justice, offering public support to those groups and sectors that could be affected.

In order to facilitate the reading of the progress made by this accelerating policy in the first year of implementation of the 2030 SDS covered in this report, the different priorities for action have been organised on the basis of the strategic areas to which they refer.

However, prior to listing these advances, three cross-cutting actions are listed below. The first is the application of the principle of **no significant harm to the environment** (DNSH) in actions linked to the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR). To this end, the Division for the Monitoring of the Implementation of Environmental Regulations has been created to advise other ministries and public administrations on compliance with this principle and on the labelling of the climate and environmental contribution of investments. In addition, a **Guide of Recommendations** has been published for the design and development of actions in accordance with the principle of not causing significant damage to the environment³⁴ which includes a catalogue of practices and recommendations for adapting both the design and development of PRTR actions to the DNSH principle, with the aim of serving as a guide for all the administrations involved in the execution of the Plan. This has resulted in the review of 307 legal instruments for the execution of the reforms and investments of the PRTR, the resolution of 137 consultations formulated by various public bodies, and the delivery of 14 training courses and specific thematic workshops aimed at the staff of the different public administrations.

In addition, the commitment included in component 29 of the PRTR to draw up a report on the **alignment of the 2023 General State Budget (PGE) with the ecological transition** has been implemented. It accompanied the 2023 PGE Bill when it was submitted to Parliament. This report is based on the European taxonomy of sustainable activities, defined in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, presenting quantitative information (degree of alignment) and qualitative information (significant actions and measures), analysing all the spending programmes of the entities with a limited budget.

One last transversal area is the development of the **Action Plan for Environmental Education for Sustainability 2021-2025 (PAEAS)** and which this year has involved the development of 25 actions that aim to integrate Environmental Education for Sustainability (EES) in public policies and administrative structures, train and qualify public sector professionals on the use of social instruments (education, communication, participation) as key tools to advance towards sustainability, improve quality and innovate in the design and development of EAS programmes, projects and activities so that they are in line with the needs of a fair ecological transition. They are also geared towards the generation of changes at the curricular level, or the design and implementation of programmes and projects coordinated with the community context of schools and universities, among other actions.

Electrification and decarbonisation of the electricity system

Three out of every four tonnes of GHGs originate in the energy system, so **its decarbonisation is key to achieving the declared emission reduction targets**. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to drastically reduce the use of fossil fuels and boost the development of renewable energies in general and, in particular, increase their penetration in the electricity sector, while at the same time scaling up the electrification of a significant part of the demand. With the measures proposed below, renewable energies are expected to account for 42% of final energy demand and 74% of production in the electricity system by 2030, thus contributing to progress towards the achievement of SDG7 and SDG13.

In June 2021, the Council of Ministers submitted to Parliament the Draft Law on **creating the National Fund for the Sustainability of the Electricity System (FNSSE)** with a threefold objective: to avoid increases in electricity prices; give clear signals to the economy of the commitment to electrification; and to provide certainty, sustainability and balance to the system that will enable the necessary investments to be mobilised in the coming years. It is therefore a question of sending appropriate price signals to investors and consumers through a new system of financing regulated costs in line with the evolution of the market and the objectives of the energy transition, which encourages the transition to clean technologies.

This Fund, which foresees a gradual implementation schedule of five years, will make it possible to finance and redistribute among all energy sectors the fixed costs of policies to promote renewables, high-efficiency

34 Document accessible [here](#).

cogeneration and energy recovery from waste (RECORE), a cost that until now was only associated with the electricity sector. This draft law is currently undergoing parliamentary procedures.

In relation to the priority of action linked to the planning of the electricity transmission grid, in March 2022 the **Plan for the Development of the Electricity Transmission Grid 2021-2026**³⁵ was approved. Its main features include the change towards a fundamentally renewable generation mix, in accordance with the PNIEC 2021-2030 Target Scenario, in which the transmission grid proposed for 2026 is essential to achieve the decarbonisation path set by the PNIEC, and that the greatest investment effort will be allocated to the integration of renewables and the resolution of technical restrictions. In short, the proposal encourages the use and improvement of the existing grid, and makes standardised use of new technologies, minimising the environmental impact.

On the other hand, following the approval of the Energy Storage Strategy, which estimates energy storage needs at 20 GW in 2030, the first call for grants for innovative R&D&I energy storage projects has been launched as a key enabler for the integration of renewables, within the PERTE for renewable energies, renewable hydrogen and storage³⁶. In turn, two regulations directly linked to energy storage have been promoted. On the one hand, **Royal Decree 477/2021**, of 29 June, approving the **incentive programme for the implementation of facilities linked to self-consumption and storage, with renewable energy sources**, as well as the implementation of renewable thermal systems in the residential sector, with an initial amount of 660 million euros to be managed by the autonomous communities and autonomous cities. On the other hand, **Royal Decree-Law 29/2021**, of 21 December, **which adopts urgent measures in the energy field to promote electric mobility, self-consumption and the deployment of renewable energies**, which introduces storage as a component that can be fully integrated into the electricity grid so that it contributes to guaranteeing the safe operation of the transmission grid.

Finally, it should be noted that work is underway to define the regulatory bases for the granting of public aid on a competitive basis for innovative energy storage projects hybridised with electricity generation facilities using renewable energy sources, the draft of which has already been submitted for public consultation. Likewise, the notification process to the European Commission is being carried out, which is mandatory for the granting of public aid for autonomous or *stand-alone* energy storage.

In the area of renewable energy promotion, December 2021 saw the approval of the **Roadmap for the Development of offshore wind and marine energies in Spain**³⁷, a strategy to boost Spanish leadership in technological development and R&D&I of the clean sources that make use of natural marine resources, with special attention to wind energy that guarantees the orderly deployment of installations in territorial waters, and minimising their environmental impact.

In relation to **renewable gases**, the **Renewable Hydrogen Roadmap**³⁸ and the **Biogas Roadmap**³⁹ have been approved. The former identifies the challenges and opportunities for the full development of renewable hydrogen in Spain, providing a series of measures aimed at promoting investment action, taking advantage of the European consensus on the role this energy vector should play in the context of green recovery. Along these lines, two calls for aid have been promoted, one corresponding to the incentive programme for the innovative value chain and knowledge of renewable hydrogen, and the other aimed at promoting pioneering and unique renewable hydrogen projects. For its part, the Biogas Roadmap identifies the challenges and opportunities for the development of this gas of renewable origin and proposes a 3.8-fold increase in its production by 2030, exceeding 10.4 TWh, in line with the provisions of the PNIEC. In addition, the first aid will soon be available for unique projects for biogas installations that contribute to decarbonising different sectors of the economy. A budget of 150 million is foreseen for this purpose.

Just Transition

As established in the Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition, the transition to a decarbonised economy also requires measures that facilitate a Just Transition for the most vulnerable groups and geographical areas, so as to minimise negative impacts and guarantee a new production model that is not only more environmentally friendly, but also socially beneficial for all citizens.

35 Document accessible [here](#).

36 Documentation available [here](#).

37 Document accessible [here](#).

38 Document accessible [here](#).

39 Document accessible [here](#).

The Just Transition Strategy falls within this perspective, **in line with** the recommendations of the ILO, which proposed a framework for work under the Just Transition concept agreed in 2013 at the 102nd International Labour Conference between governments, employers and trade unions around the world. The Just Transition Strategy constitutes the state-level instrument aimed at optimising opportunities in activity and employment in the transition to a low greenhouse gas emission economy and at identifying and adopting measures to ensure fair and supportive treatment of workers and territories in this transition. Within the framework of the Just Transition Strategy, Just Transition agreements are being developed with the aim of promoting and modernising economic activity, as well as the employability of vulnerable workers and groups at risk of exclusion in the transition to a low-carbon economy, particularly those affected by the closure or re-conversion of installations.

In the period of analysis of this report, a total of thirteen **Just Transition Agreements** have been implemented⁴⁰ related to coal closure: three in Andalusia (Carboneras, Puente Nuevo-Valle del Guadiato and Los Barrios), one in Aragon (Andorra-Comarcas Mineras), three in Asturias (Suroccidente, Valle del Nalón and Valle del Caudal-Aboño), three in Castile and Leon (Montaña Central Leonesa-La Robla, Guardo-Velilla and Bierzo-Laciana), two in Galicia (Meirama and As Pontes), and one in the Balearic Islands (Alcudia). In relation to the closure of nuclear power plants without conversion plans, two Just Transition Agreements have been implemented: one in Burgos (Garoña) and the other in Castile-La Mancha (Zorita). Specifically, diagnoses have been drawn up for each of the fifteen agreements, which have undergone public participation and external evaluation. In short, processes have been developed in which more than 700 agents have participated and more than 1,800 ideas and proposals have been received.

Among the main measures implemented in relation to the Just Transition Agreements and the Urgent Action Plan, we can highlight the development of a programme to improve employability, training and support for labour market insertion for mining workers registered in the Mining Labour Exchange; an agreement with electricity companies so that their workers and those of auxiliary companies affected by the closures of their power stations are given priority in the dismantling of these plants and in training courses in new green occupations; support for municipal and infrastructure projects; aid for business projects and small investment projects in the affected areas to generate activity and alternative employment; funding for environmental restoration projects in areas degraded by mining, with priority in hiring for surplus miners; a programme to support cultural revitalisation and young artists in areas of Just Transition; a programme to support social, environmental and digital projects, and the transversal prioritisation of Just Transition zones in the package of Strategic Projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE) for Renewable Energies, Renewable Hydrogen and Storage, financed with funds from the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, among other actions.

Energy efficiency and sustainable mobility

Progress in energy efficiency is an essential objective for reducing energy consumption, reducing our dependence on foreign energy and contributing to meeting European and global targets for reducing GHG emissions. This is why the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act sets the objective of improving energy efficiency by reducing primary energy consumption by at least 39.5% compared to the baseline in accordance with EU regulations. In turn, the PNIEC 2021-2030 incorporates seventeen energy efficiency measures designed to comply with the final energy saving obligation derived from the application of article 7 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive. In this sense, the main advances in this period can be grouped into two large blocks, energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable mobility.

A first area concerns the improvement of energy efficiency in buildings, through the deployment of the **Long-term Strategy for Energy Retrofitting in the Building Sector (ERESEE, 2020)**, aimed at supporting the renovation of residential buildings, transforming them into energy-efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050. The implementation of the ERESEE since June 2021 has been carried out essentially through the approval of a line of guarantees for the partial coverage by the State of the financing of refurbishment works that contribute to the improvement of energy efficiency, through Royal Decree-Law 19/2021, of 5 October on urgent measures to boost building refurbishment activity in the context of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, and the aid programmes for residential refurbishment and social housing, approved by Royal Decree 853/2021, of 5 October.

According to the information available, between April 2021 and March 2022, a total of 94,014 applications for aid have been requested within the framework of the plans to promote the rehabilitation of the residen-

40 Accessible [here](#).

tial stock, compared to 56,344 in 2020, and 50,527 on average in the previous ten years (2011-2020). For its part, the total number of definitive qualifications for subsidised housing rehabilitation between the second quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022 amounted to 44,909, compared with 53,327 on average in the previous ten years, with 21,856 corresponding to state plans and the remaining 23,053 to regional plans⁴¹.

Secondly, the **Energy Rehabilitation of Buildings Programme (PREE)** continues to be implemented, through which aid is granted to improve energy efficiency, with a special focus on vulnerable consumers, from which in turn the PREE 5000 programme is derived, approved by Royal Decree 691/2021, which is aimed at existing buildings in municipalities with demographic challenges. The objective of PREE 5000 is to boost the sustainability of buildings through actions ranging from changes in the thermal envelope, to the replacement of thermal generation facilities with fossil fuels for thermal generation based on renewable sources such as biomass, geothermal, solar thermal or heat pumps, and the incorporation of regulation and control technologies, as well as improvements in energy efficiency in lighting.

With the same aim of providing incentives for energy efficiency measures in buildings, **Law 10/2022 on urgent measures to promote building refurbishment** has been approved. The measures of the law include temporary deductions in personal income tax for permanent or rented housing of 20% of the value of the works carried out, provided that they contribute to a reduction of at least 7% in heating and cooling demand, The deduction for permanent or rented housing of 40% of the value of the works carried out, provided that they contribute to a reduction of at least 30% in the consumption of non-renewable primary energy, also accredited through the home's energy efficiency certificate. Finally, it includes a deduction for dwellings located in predominantly residential buildings of 60 % of the amounts paid for energy refurbishment works provided that a reduction of at least 30 % of non-renewable primary energy consumption is accredited or that the building's energy rating is improved to obtain an "A" or "B" energy class.

The timeframe for these deductions has been extended by Royal Decree-Law 18/2022 of 18 October, which approves measures to reinforce the protection of energy consumers and to contribute to the reduction of natural gas consumption in application of the Plan + security for your energy (+SE), as well as measures regarding the remuneration of public sector staff and the protection of temporary agricultural workers affected by the drought.

Along the same lines, **Law 9/2022, on the Quality of Architecture**, passed last June, has the general objective of protecting, promoting and disseminating the quality of architecture as an asset of general interest and promoting the protection of architectural heritage, fostering conservation, and promoting research and innovation. Its objectives also include the promotion of rehabilitation, regeneration and renovation of urban environments. In addition, Royal Decree 450/2022, which amends the Technical Building Code (CTE), introduces a new energy-saving requirement in the CTE relating to the minimum provisions for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in building car parks. This connects the building sector with the mobility sector as strategic areas for the efficiency and decarbonisation of the economy.

One notable measure in sustainable mobility is the approval in December 2021 of the **Safe, Sustainable and Connected Mobility Strategy 2030**⁴², which constitutes the roadmap that will guide actions in the field of transport and mobility over the next ten years. It is developed through 9 strategic axes, which are made up of more than 40 lines of action with more than 150 specific measures. The Strategy is supported by a regulatory instrument, the **Draft Law on Sustainable Mobility**. Both initiatives are part of component one of the PRTR, which includes a total investment of €6,667 million.

Within this framework, aid has been granted to municipalities for the implementation of low emission zones and the digital and sustainable transformation of urban transport, through Order TMA/892/2021 of 17 August. As a result of the call, 171 municipalities and two supra-municipal entities, where 24.5 million people live, have benefited from this aid, enabling the implementation of 656 actions to transform urban mobility. The actions financed are of four types: implementation of low-emission zones, measures to transform public transport and promote healthy mobility, actions to transform public transport fleets or digitalisation measures that result in greater efficiency or improve the accessibility of public transport. Most of the funds, 40% of the total, will be allocated to active mobility measures, such as the construction or adaptation of bicycle lanes or pedestrianisation. Beneficiary entities should complete their projects by December 2024. In 2022, a second call was launched for this same programme, endowed with an additional 500 million euros.

41 MITMA. Online statistical bulletin. Available here. The data provided can only be considered indicative in relation to energy rehabilitation activity in the residential stock as they do not refer specifically to actions with energy content and do not include interventions to improve the energy performance of buildings that do not require a technical project or apply for public aid.

42 Document accessible [here](#).

Both energy efficiency and sustainable mobility are closely linked to the need to continue to deploy the strategic objectives set out in the **Spanish Urban Agenda (AUE)** to achieve the sustainability of urban policies in the year 2030, and contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 11. The AUE offers a Decalogue of Strategic Objectives that deploy, in turn, a total of 30 specific objectives, and 291 lines of action, so that local authorities can develop their own Action Plans.

With the aim of promoting and encouraging the development of these action plans, a call for aid has been launched for the development of pilot projects for local action plans of the AUE through Order TMA/957/2021. As a result of this call, 120 pilot projects for local action plans have been identified, 110 of which correspond to municipalities of different sizes and populations, 7 to provincial councils, 1 to island councils and 2 to groups of municipalities.

Equally related to urban environments are the **commitments on improving air quality**. In this area, one outstanding feature is the development of the **Predicted Air Quality Index (AQI)**, which provides information on air quality in advance. This index uses a chemical transport model to provide information on the prediction of air pollution for the current day and the next, enabling decisions to be taken in advance in the event of possible episodes of high pollution, and informing the population of the potential impact on health of poor air quality.

A new short-term Framework Action Plan has also been approved in the event of high pollution episodes for airborne particles below 10 microns (PM₁₀), particles below 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂). The plan establishes uniform values and actions for all administrations, so that the responses to pollution alert situations and the actions that may be implemented are similar for each of the levels of action, regardless of the geographical area.

With the same objective, and in response to the worrying ozone concentrations that occur in a large part of Spain, work is being done on the **draft of a National Ozone Plan** that will be integrated and coordinated with the rest of the programmes underway to improve air quality.

Alongside the objective of improving air quality and therefore protect health, the measures deployed by the **National Air Pollution Control Programme (PNCCA)** seek to reduce the number of premature deaths linked to air pollution by between 17 and 36% compared to the trend scenario by 2030, having set reduction targets for the main air pollutants by 2030: 92% for sulphur dioxide (SO₂), 66% for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), 30% for non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), 21% for ammonia (NH₃) and 50% for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). With regard to compliance with these targets, it should be noted that, according to 2020 data, all of them meet the reduction commitment set, with the sole exception of NH₃, which increased by 0.7% compared to 2005⁴³.

In addition, the **Strategic Health and Environment Plan 2022-2026⁴⁴ (PESMA)** has been approved to protect the population from environmental risks. The document was approved in November 2021 at an extraordinary meeting of the Plenary Session of the Interterritorial Council of the National Health System in conjunction with the Sector Conference on the Environment. This Plan responds to the environmental remains that affect the health of citizens and which, according to WHO estimates, could mean around 250,000 additional deaths a year as a result of illnesses linked to climate change or exposure to harmful chemical products. The Plan proposes actions to reduce the impact on health of the main environmental factors and their determinants, in order to promote environmental settings that improve the health of the population and reduce the risks associated with exposure to environmental factors.

One final important area in this regard is the establishment of Low Emission Zones (LEZs), an objective set out in the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act for municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, island territories and municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants that exceed the regulated pollutant limit values, by 2023. The creation of these low emission zones is also provided for in the PNIEC 2021-2030 and the PNACC. To this end, the **Guidelines for the creation of low emission zones** have been approved⁴⁵, which include criteria on air quality, energy efficiency, noise and climate change in order to provide guidance for their implementation. They also set out the procedure for implementation, together with a proposal for monitoring indicators and an extensive catalogue of measures that local governments can adopt to encourage a shift towards more environmentally sustainable mobility that will also lead to an improvement in the quality of the air we breathe.

43 Data accessible [here](#).

44 Document accessible [here](#).

45 Document accessible [here](#).

As a continuation of this work, a draft Royal Decree has been prepared to regulate low emission zones, which was submitted for public information between 21 April and 13 May 2022 and is currently in the final stages of processing.

The Royal Decree implements the provisions of the Climate Change Act for this issue, establishing the minimum requirements that the projects of SPAs need to comply with. On the one hand, this homogenises the system and sets out to provide greater legal certainty to all operators, and on the other hand, it favours compliance with the objectives of improving air quality and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, on 18 March 2022, the guide for the development of environmental projects in schools was published, which establishes common guidelines for the development of citizen science projects in schools to address the problems of air quality and noise pollution. The ultimate goal is for these projects to promote knowledge and awareness of these environmental challenges.

Biodiversity protection and ecosystem regeneration

Spain is one of the European Union countries with the greatest diversity and wealth of flora and fauna, and is the country that contributes the most natural surface area to the Natura 2000 Network. A valuable natural capital, whose protection, balanced management and restoration should be made a fundamental basis for sustainable development. With this objective in mind, this accelerating policy incorporates a series of priorities for action that are closely linked to the fulfilment of several Sustainable Development Goals such as SDG 14, SDG 15, and also SDG 6, whose progress is reported in this section.

Firstly, the **Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (PEPNB)**, which will be approved by royal decree before the end of 2022. This Plan, aligned with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, will constitute the new strategic reference framework for Spanish biodiversity policy, reinforcing action for the conservation and recovery of biodiversity over the next decade.

Likewise, in 2022, the **Biodiversity and Science Strategy (BS&S)** is expected to be approved. It will act as a bridge between sector policies, science and the practical implementation of actions to improve knowledge and conservation of biodiversity. It is supported by the implementation of a biodiversity knowledge management and monitoring system and is presented as an integrating tool, which visualises the contribution of science to biodiversity conservation, a link between national biodiversity, natural heritage and science, technology and innovation initiatives. Having a planning instrument that brings together the priorities of biodiversity and science will enable science to be geared towards the application of biodiversity conservation under common objectives, avoiding fragmented and unconnected actions between territories, strengthening decision making by managers, and providing greater support and credibility to management.

Promoting greater integration of scientific knowledge in conservation and ecological restoration actions is also one of the priority areas of the **National Strategy for Green Infrastructure, Connectivity and Ecological Restoration**, in force since 2021, as a strategic planning document that regulates the implementation and development of green infrastructure in Spain with the aim of reducing the fragmentation of habitats and ecosystems and improving the ecological connectivity of the territory.

The undertakings developed in the first year of implementation of the SDS2030 included preparation of the first work programme of the National Government, currently being processed, which will serve to operationalise the actions necessary to achieve the strategic goals committed to in the National Strategy.

In addition, calls for proposals have been launched to support transformative scientific and technical projects for the promotion of the bio-economy, for research programmes and projects in the field of biodiversity management, and for the renaturation of cities and rivers urban areas, and flood prevention.

Likewise, actions have been promoted within the framework of the **Spanish Biosphere Reserves (RRBB)**, which is a concept of protection and conservation that promotes sustainable forms of relationship between local economies and the environment, through support for producers, entrepreneurs and local services. This initiative is linked to protecting Intangible Cultural Heritage, linked to traditional, craft-based and sustainable forms of exploitation of natural resources. The main actions carried out in the period under analysis include the incorporation of the Ribeira Sacra and Serras do Oribio e Courel into Biosphere Reserves, the drawing up of the Catalogue of Maritime Biosphere Reserves, and the implementation of a publicity campaign to promote this form of protection. In addition, the Strategy for Strengthening compliance with the MaB Programme and governance in the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves has

been approved, and a Guide has been drawn up to include the gender perspective in the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves⁴⁶.

At the same time progress is also being made in the consolidation and expansion of the **Network of National Parks**, unique spaces that include an exceptional selection of the natural systems of our territory. July 2021 saw the declaration of the sixteenth national park, the Sierra de las Nieves, in the province of Malaga, which has increased the representative qualities of the Network, and furthers the contribution it makes in terms of the country's geology, geography and biodiversity.

The improvement of the state of **conservation of our forests and forest ecosystems** is also a priority area of the policy to accelerate sustainable development. This is basically expressed through the revision of the **Spanish Forestry Strategy** and the **Spanish Forestry Plan**. The Strategy will be aligned with the strategic reference instruments at international and European level, in particular with the new EU Forest Strategy 2030⁴⁷, as part of the flagship initiatives of the European Green Deal. The **Spanish Forestry Strategy 2050** is expected to be adopted by agreement of the Council of Ministers before the end of 2022, with the participation of the Autonomous Communities through the State Commission for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity and its Forestry Committee, and civil society stakeholders and other sectors, through the National Forestry Council. The Spanish Forestry Plan, which specifies the actions, will undergo strategic environmental assessment and then be subsequently approved. Together with the Strategy, the Common Basic Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management will be approved with the main objective of facilitating forest management in all types of forests to ensure their conservation and make them more resilient, contributing more to the rural development of many regions.

A second action is the approval of **Royal Decree 159/2022 of 1 March on the conservation of forest genetic resources and wild flora**⁴⁸. The aim of this regulation is to establish the basic rules on the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources of national interest and, specifically, the planning, coordination and collaboration instruments for their in situ and ex-situ conservation. With this the conservation of forest genetic resources is regulated for the first time in Spain, in accordance with the mandate of article 54 of Law 43/2003, of 21 November, on Forestry. It also develops part of the Spanish Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Genetic Resources, approved at the Sector Conference on the Environment in 2010, and the aspects related to the ex-situ conservation of endangered wild flora of Law 42/2007, of 13 December, on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.

As regards the impact, it is expected that this regulation will contribute to greater resilience of forests, given that the conservation of the genetic resources of forest and wild flora species facilitates their capacity to adapt to changes and disturbances, especially in the face of climate change and new emerging pests and diseases aggravated by this process. In addition, it will generate an important indirect social impact, since the conservation of these resources can contribute to mitigate the risk of depopulation of rural areas, which adds to the cultural impact by helping to preserve the legibility and unity of the landscape in terms of visual, aesthetic and cultural appreciation.

Likewise, it is worth highlighting the progress and improvement of the **National Forest Inventory (IFN)**, which is a monitoring project of Spanish forests that has been running for over 50 years, the objectives of which have been expanding, while adapting to different information needs, going from providing only information on areas and volumes to data on the multifunctional management of the ecosystem resources of forests. The IFN, together with its mapping (SFM), are key tools for understanding the status and evolution of forests and are therefore closely linked to the achievement of SDG 15, especially in relation to monitoring sustainable forest management and reducing biodiversity loss. To date, the IFN of Castile and Leon has been completed and published, and work continues on the FN4 of Castile-La Mancha, Aragón and Valencia.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the approval last June of the **National Strategy to Combat Desertification (ENLD)**, thus updating the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification published in 2008. This new Strategy ensures compliance with Spain's commitments as a party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)⁴⁹, while at the same time establishing a framework for policies and initiatives to combat this threat at national level, ensuring coordination and effectiveness.

46 Document accessible [here](#).

47 Document accessible [here](#).

48 Royal Decree 159/2022 of 1 March on the conservation of forest genetic resources and wild flora, amending Royal Decree 1424/2008 of 14 August, which determines the composition and functions of the State Commission for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, lays down the rules governing its operation and establishes the specialised committees attached to it, and Royal Decree 1269/2018 of 11 October, which determines the composition, functions and rules of operation of the National Forestry Council.

49 Accessible [here](#).

The Strategy establishes a series of actions around three main lines of action: territory; institutional capacity building and governance; and actions to improve knowledge, transfer and participation of society. These include the implementation of a plan for the restoration of land affected by desertification, the development of a network of pilot and demonstration projects to combat desertification, the implementation of a national soil inventory, the application of good practices for sustainable land management in the agricultural, forestry and water resource sectors, the creation of a National Council and a National Committee to Combat Desertification, the drafting of a law on the conservation and sustainable use of soils, the preparation of a desertification atlas in Spain, the establishment of a platform for consultation and information exchange, the organisation of participatory roundtables and workshops, and the promotion and support of international initiatives in the field of the UNCCD, among others.

The **sustainable management of water resources** is a fundamental factor in the protection of biodiversity, especially in the context of climate scenarios marked by decreasing precipitation and significant changes in its annual distribution⁵⁰.

In this area, firstly, the **reform and updating of the Water Law**, the regulations and other standards arising from same, currently in the drafting process, with the fundamental lines of the reform having already been defined and a draft that has been distributed to gather contributions. At the same time, work is being carried out on a reform of the regulation of the public water domain.

At the same time, the first steps have been taken to approve the **Water Strategy for Ecological Transition**,

the drafting of which is committed to in art. 19.2 of the Climate Change and Ecological Transition Act, and whose first milestone was the approval by the Council of Ministers of the document *Strategic Guidelines on Water and Climate Change*⁵¹. This Strategy establishes the strategic lines on water management and planning for the purpose of adapting to climate change with the aim of recovering, restoring and protecting bodies of water, increasing water security, making progress in improving sanitation and purification, combating diffuse pollution, making progress in flood and drought management, as well as recovering landmark areas, promoting the use of new technologies and encouraging sustainable economic activities. To this end, actions aimed at the recovery of riverbanks and aquifers will be strengthened, projects that contribute to saving water through the efficient and rational use of resources will be promoted, sanitation and purification actions in small, medium and large urban agglomerations that do not comply with the Water Framework Directive on purification will be promoted, and the measures in the Flood Risk Management Plans and Drought Plans will be prioritised. The economic investment foreseen for this is 8,000 million euros over 6 years.

In addition, the meetings of the **Water Cycle Round Table** have continued to be held regularly, with the participation of heads of the water administration, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) and associations of water operators. The work completed to date includes a major contribution in the form of the **preparation of the PERTE for the digitalisation of the water cycle**⁵² approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 March 2022. It will improve management of the entire water cycle and its main focus is on the urban water cycle, where a large part of the planned actions will be developed. It also develops measures in the field of digitisation of the agricultural and industrial sectors of the basin organisations themselves, and training and innovation actions.

On the other hand, the **National Plan for Purification, Sanitation, Efficiency, Saving and Reuse (DSEAR Plan)** was approved by Order TED/801/2021 of 14 July. Previously, the Strategic Environmental Declaration was published in the Official State Gazette of 18 June 2021. This established the environmental decisions that enabled better integration of environmental aspects in the Plan. The Plan is a governance instrument that reviews in depth the strategies for public intervention in water management and puts forward proposals for progress in resolving strategic problems detected after two planning cycles, mainly in the areas of purification, sanitation and reuse, the need to increase the energy and integral efficiency of water treatment plants and the establishment of mechanisms that promote the transfer of technology and innovation in public water management, among others.

The impact of the DSEAR Plan in the last year has become evident in the third cycle hydrological plans which in most of the Spanish river basin districts, including all the inter-community ones, are in their final stage, prior to final approval scheduled for the end of 2022. The preparation of the programmes of measures of the hydrological plans of the third cycle has been carried out in accordance with the prioritisation criteria

50 NNACC 2021-2030.

51 Document accessible [here](#).

52 Document accessible [here](#).

established by the DSEAR Plan, which has laid the foundations for overcoming the problems that had been dragging on in terms of sanitation and treatment.

These problems are particularly evident in two areas. The first is the significant delay in the implementation of several of the measures programmed in the second cycle water plans (2015-2021), which have shown a very low rate of execution in relation to the commitments made. On the other hand, the lack of implementation of the priority measures in the hydrological planning, which must be taken into account as they are the instrument for achieving the minimum requirements for compliance with the obligations established in EU legislation on water. This has led to an undesirable situation of non-compliance with Community water protection regulations.

As a consequence, the **Third Hydrological Planning Cycle (2022-2027)** has the crucial challenge of reversing the findings made by the second cycle plans of more than 2,600 bodies of water that did not reach a good status or potential, which represents nearly 50% of the total number of bodies of water catalogued in Spain. This is a major challenge which highlights the weaknesses of the first two planning cycles and which, as was already mentioned, is addressed in the plans corresponding to this third planning cycle from the strategic guidelines provided by the DSEAR Plan.

On the other hand, at the end of 2021, Royal Decree 1159/2021 of 28 December was approved, which modified the **Hydrological Planning Regulation (RPH)**. This modification of the RPH is important to ensure and reinforce some of the contents of the hydrological plans, and to update some issues derived from the Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition, and other guidelines and agreements established at European level through the Common Strategy for the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The Plans have incorporated the measures necessary to comply with the environmental objectives established by the Water Framework Directive; they have completed the definition of the ecological flow regime where necessary; they have taken into account the effects of climate change, incorporating actions such as the reduction of the allocations established for the different uses of water, thus reversing what until now was a continuous growth in water use. They have also included in their programmes of measures the studies and actions necessary to tackle a process of adaptation to climate change in each river basin district, thus incorporating the objectives foreseen for this action.

Also noteworthy is the approval of Royal Decree 47/2022, of 18 January, on the protection of water against diffuse pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, which updates a regulation approved 25 years ago and establishes more ambitious criteria and thresholds to better identify waters affected by nitrates and, consequently, for the designation of vulnerable zones. This is a relevant action given that it is estimated that 22% of surface water bodies and 23% of groundwater bodies are affected by nitrate pollution in Spain.

In line with the same objective of promoting sustainable management of water resources, in October 2021 the review process of the **National Strategy for River Restoration (ENRR)**, initiated in 2005, was launched in order to update the objectives and development mechanisms of the Strategy, taking into account the evolution of European and Spanish regulations on water, biodiversity and risk management, greater scientific and technical knowledge in these fields, as well as the evolution of social expectations regarding the role of rivers in human wellbeing, the provision of uses and services, and the protection of the environment and the cultural heritage linked to this natural resource.

This revision is being carried out in various phases, the first of which consisted of drafting a series of technical reports with the collaboration of teams of experts, universities and other institutions, on the diagnosis of the current situation after more than 15 years of implementing river restoration actions, identifying the main challenges and proposing new approaches for the revised ENRR. Parallel to this review, the execution of the different lines that form part of the ENRR continues, such as improvement of the longitudinal continuity of the rivers with 77 obstacles demolished in 2021 and another 8 that have been made permeable, which has meant the connection of 1,327 km of river.

Similarly, within the framework of the revision of the river basin hydrological plans, a proposal has been made to declare new hydrological reserves of all types, i.e., 28 river nature reserves, 19 lake nature reserves and 22 underground nature reserves.

Continuing with the actions in this area, and in compliance with Directive 2007/60 on the assessment and management of flood risks, progress has been made in defining the **2nd Cycle Flood Risk Management Plans (PGRI 2022-2027)** corresponding to the inter-community districts. At the same time, the implementation of the measures of the current PGRI (2016-2021) has continued, highlighting the development of the pilot programmes for adaptation to flood risk and the promotion of awareness of this risk in different

economic sectors. In addition, work is being carried out to improve the mathematical modelling tools for calculating floods and flooding and the delimitation of flood zones, in particular through the IBER software. These plans are expected to be approved by the end of 2022.

Another area of special relevance is the **protection and conservation of wetlands**, which play a key role in the conservation of biodiversity, acting as natural filters for the elimination of pollutants and for water purification, protecting against the risk of flooding and providing water to aquifers, as well as serving as a habitat for many species. In this area, progress has been made in drawing up the **Strategic Plan for Wetlands 2022-2030**, an initiative aimed at promoting safeguarding and recovery, and reversing the degradation of Spain's wetlands. The draft Strategic Plan includes measures to improve knowledge about our wetlands so that by 2030 they will all be included in the Spanish Inventory of Wetlands and that no protected wetland will be in an unknown state of conservation. The consultation and public information phase with the regional administrations has now been completed, and it is hoped that it can be approved before the end of 2022. Other advances are linked to the inclusion in the Ramsar List of the Maritime-Terrestrial National Park of the Atlantic Islands (Galicia), and the acquisition of nearly 55 hectares of wetlands in El Hondo Natural Park (Valencia), carried out within the framework of the LIFE Cerceta Pardilla project, whose objective is to improve the conservation status of more than 3,000 hectares of wetlands in order to reverse the risk of extinction of this species.

Finally, with regard to improving the hydrological management of **outstanding natural spaces**, one notable measure is the presentation of the Framework of Priority Actions to recover the Mar Menor⁵³, which includes a wide range of measures aimed at recovering the biological integrity of the lagoon, contributing to reorganising the socio-economic uses of its environment and making them more compatible with the preservation of its natural capital. The proposed measures have been agreed with the Hydrographical Confederation of the River Segura, and other regional and local authorities responsible for the management of the lagoon. Work has also been carried out on the management and oversight of the public hydraulic domain, sanctioning an area of illegal irrigation of 5,572 ha, and sending 260 warnings of subsidiary execution for sealing and disconnection for a total of 3,877 ha and signing 91 resolutions of subsidiary execution for 1,549 ha. Also noteworthy is the Plan for the Protection of the coastal fringe of the Mar Menor⁵⁴, and the Plan for the Protection of the coastline of the Ebro Delta, which is currently undergoing the Strategic Environmental Assessment Procedure.

Finally, with regard to the Doñana National Park, the conditions of the concession granted to the Fresno del Guadalquivir Irrigation Community have been modified, which has allowed the closure of 170 wells and prevented the extraction of 4.26 Hm³/year, while at the same time the control and inspection actions carried out by environmental agents of the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation and SEPRONA have been intensified.

As far as actions related to the protection of marine ecosystems are concerned, the first notable feature is the development of the commitments corresponding to the **second cycle of the Marine Strategies in Spain (2018-2024)**, whose main objective is the achievement of the Good Environmental Status of our seas, based on monitoring programmes and measures that will continue to be developed in the coming years. These strategies are regulated in Law 41/2010, of 29 December, on the protection of the marine environment, and are the main planning instruments for the marine environment to achieve its good environmental status, as defined in Directive 2008/56, the Marine Strategy Framework.

In the period analysed by this report, work has been completed on the preparation and approval of the programmes of measures which are the fifth and final phase of the marine strategies, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities with a coastline and the ministerial departments with responsibilities in this area. This joint planning work has included neighbouring countries to ensure coordination at sub-regional level. The programmes of measures have been submitted to public consultation and their final contents were reported to Brussels in September 2022.

Linked to the above, progress has been made in the development of **Maritime Spatial Plans (POEM)**, which seek to promote coexistence between different uses and activities in marine areas without compromising the good state of the environment. Maritime spatial planning is a relatively recent exercise worldwide, promoted internationally through initiatives such as the Global MSP project⁵⁵, jointly promoted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and the European Commission. This is

53 Document accessible [here](#).

54 Document accessible [here](#).

55 Marine Spatial Planning Global. Accessible [here](#).

the first time this exercise has been carried out in Spain, in compliance with Directive 2014/89/EU, so that the resulting MSPs will be the first maritime spatial plans and will cover the 2022-2027 cycle. In short, given the importance of fishing and tourism for Spain in terms of gross added value and job creation, the POEMs are a fundamental cross-cutting instrument for applying a coordinated, strategic and cross-border approach to organising human activities in marine areas, allowing for sustainable use through the integration of ecological, economic and social objectives. In July 2022, the complete dossier was sent to the Directorate General for Environmental Quality and Assessment of the MITECO for completion of the strategic environmental assessment of the plans. They are expected to be approved by royal decree before the end of 2022.

For its part, the **National Strategic Plan for Coastal Protection**, an initiative funded by the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Programme, aims to increase the naturalness of the coast, favouring its natural resilience as a means of preventing erosion risk and adapting to climate change, while seeking synergies with flood risk management and incorporating adaptation to climate change. Its purpose is to guide decision-making in order to organise actions in this area until 2045. Strategies have also been implemented to protect the coast in those stretches with the greatest erosion problems, such as the Maresme, the coastline between the port of Castellón and the port of Sagunto, and between the port of Valencia and the port of Denia, as well as in other parts of Andalusia and the Balearic Islands.

Finally, among the actions related to the **conservation and protection of the marine environment**, the development of two additional initiatives has continued. On the one hand, the definition of the **Master Plan for the Network of Marine Protected Areas of Spain (RAMPE)** and the minimum common criteria for the coordinated and coherent management of the Network, whose approval is also scheduled for the end of 2022.

On the other hand, part of the framework of the LIFE IP INTEMARES project⁵⁶ is the **consolidation of a new management model for the marine Natura 2000 Network** based on participatory governance and the application of the best scientific knowledge available. To this end, from the end of 2022 and over the next two years, six demonstration projects will be launched for the protection of protected marine species and analysis of the factors that cause their decline, such as accidental catches, the impact of climate change, tourism or underwater noise. These initiatives, which will be developed in coordination with autonomous communities and the Autonomous City of Ceuta, will carry out a risk analysis from which adaptation measures will be taken for each area. Likewise, three initiatives will be implemented to achieve adhesion to the System for the recognition of the sustainability of nature tourism in the Natura 2000 Network. Two of them correspond to pilot experiences to test measures to minimise sperm whale collisions with boats in the Balearic and Canary Islands, another two to analyse the effectiveness of the National Garbage Fishing Scheme and five additional projects to put into practice the Lost and/or Abandoned Fishing Gear Protocol. Finally, other proposals are being designed for the use of new technologies for the surveillance of marine areas, as well as for the monitoring of the impact generated by underwater noise.

Furthermore, as a key complementary action, the **declaration of new protected marine areas** is planned, corresponding to the seven currently under study within the framework of the aforementioned LIFE IP INTEMARES project, which represent approximately 3.78% of the marine surface area and, on the other hand, the eleven areas that have been identified as requiring protection due to their high ecological value. All of this will increase the protected marine surface area in Spain, fulfilling the objective committed in the PRTR to protect 15% of the marine surface area in 2023 and 18% in 2025.

In the National Parks Network, work is underway to extend its marine surface area and the representative quality of its natural systems. On the one hand, in 2019, the waters of the Cabrera Archipelago Maritime-Terrestrial National Park were extended by 80,000 ha, which has contributed to progress in the objectives of the percentage of protected marine surface area. On the other hand, work is underway to expand the network with the incorporation of possible new marine national parks, especially in the Canary Islands.

It is also supporting the development of underwater archaeology and underwater archaeological mapping projects that also contribute to the conservation of marine and coastal areas, as well as marine research and technology. These projects include the creation of a database of underwater archaeological heritage as a basis for future inter-institutional collaboration in this field.

A final area related to the protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems is the preventive work carried out by the Civil Guard, through SEPRONA and SEMAR. This work includes surveillance, inspection, control and reporting of illegal activities affecting our natural heritage in the National Parks Network, the Spanish

56 Information available [here](#).

Network of Biosphere Reserves, and in the Centres and Estates of the National Parks Autonomous Body, which are part of the State's Natural Heritage. The actions carried out include participation in operations coordinated by INTERPOL. An example of this is the operation *30 days at sea 3.0*, jointly developed in 2021 by 56 countries.

Adaptation to climate change

The consequences of global warming are already a reality in all regions of the planet, which is why adopting measures to avoid or reduce its potential impacts and to promote better preparation for recovery from damage is a fundamental priority, as well as a specific goal of the 2030 Agenda. Within this framework, the **National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) 2021-2030** is the benchmark planning instrument to promote coordinated and coherent action to address the effects of climate change in Spain. The PNACC defines 18 areas of work, which have been developed during the period of analysis of this report. The most relevant actions are summarised below, without detriment to other related initiatives that have already been addressed in other sections of this chapter.

The first of these is the **channels for social participation**, included in the PNACC's First Work Programme, which covers the period 2021-2025. The Citizens' Climate Assembly (ACC), provided for in article 39 of the Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition, has been held throughout 2022. The Assembly has been configured as a democratic exercise, made up of 100 people, with the aim of generating reflection, collective knowledge and finding out about citizens' assessments and proposals. This deliberative process lasted a total of 8 months, and has resulted in the approval of 172 recommendations to achieve a fairer and safer Spain against climate change. This report of recommendations was also delivered to the Council of Ministers on 11 July and the Council of Ministers has undertaken to send it to the Congress of Deputies.

On the other hand, with regard to the cross-cutting aspect referring to **cross-border effects**, work is being done to improve knowledge about the impact in Spain of climate change generated beyond our borders in the following sectors: trade in goods and direct investment, trade in food products and tourism. All this has been done with the aim of proposing adaptation measures that can be integrated into public policies for adaptation to climate change, in accordance with the guidelines defined in the PNACC. This study has focused on the review of the state of the art in the three sectors, the establishment and application of a methodology for the analysis of their main effects, as well as an economic and social analysis of the repercussions of these cross-border effects of climate change in Spain.

Continuing in the field of **education and society**, an exhaustive study has been completed to establish the strategic guidelines for the Spanish labour market to respond to the ambitious package of instruments launched in our country in the field of energy and climate and biodiversity conservation. With the expert opinion of more than 200 key agents, it has identified the sectors that will constitute the main sources of employment, their professional profiles, education and training needs and possible training itineraries. The study includes guidelines related to the PNACC's cross-cutting areas of social and territorial vulnerability and gender equity.

In the field of **research and innovation**, a set of guidelines to assess risks arising from climate change has been published, with expert knowledge from key agents in a wide range of sectors. This guide will make it possible to identify the effects of climate change that will foreseeably affect geographical, social and economic areas, facilitating the design of appropriate adaptation measures in response to the climate risks and challenges identified.

Finally, in 2022, a **national multi-stakeholder innovation and collaboration platform will be launched**, aimed at providing services to cities committed to climate neutrality, which will facilitate and accelerate urban transformation, within the framework of the implementation in Spain of the **European Mission for Climate Neutral and Smart Cities**. This initiative will provide the necessary services for cities that aspire to be climate neutral, and can work on their own territories, also guaranteeing the connection with other pioneering European cities in the field, through the NetZeroCities (NZN) programme.

With regard to **human health**, in November 2021 the **Strategic Plan for Health and the Environment (PESMA)**⁵⁷ was approved, providing a working framework for developing the specific measures deemed appropriate to protect the health of the population from environmental risks and reduce the negative impact of human activities on the environment, thus promoting healthy and sustainable environments. To this end, it

57 Document accessible [here](#).

includes specific actions in areas as varied as climate risks, air and water quality, industrial pollution and environmental noise. As a result of this work, the first PESMA Action Programme (2022-2023) has been approved, which includes actions related to the necessary reduction of the carbon footprint in the health sector and the fight against atmospheric pollution.

An outstanding measure in the field of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and food is the Plan to boost the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture and livestock (III), integrated in component 3 of the PRTR. Priority will be given within the investments to support the transformation of agricultural and livestock farms to actions related to manure management systems in livestock farming, integral transformation and modernisation of greenhouses, energy efficiency and renewable energies, as well as the application of precision agriculture and 4.0 technologies in the agricultural and livestock sector.

Circular economy and waste management.

Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns is one of the central axes for making sustainable development a reality and an objective in itself of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, the commitment to the promotion of a **circular economy** is fundamental. Significant progress has been made in this area during the first year of implementation of the 2030 SDS.

The first of these is the approval of **Law 7/2022 of 8 April on waste and contaminated land for a circular economy**, aimed at guaranteeing the protection of the environment and human health by preventing and reducing the generation of waste and the adverse impacts of its generation and management. It thus favours the transition to a circular economy, guaranteeing the functioning of the internal market and Spain's long-term competitiveness, and prevents and reduces the impact of plastic on the environment. This regulation includes two new taxes with a clear environmental component, which will enter into force on 1 January 2023: a special tax on non-reusable plastic packaging, and a tax on the deposit of waste in landfills, incineration and co-incineration of waste. The aim is therefore to reduce the generation of waste and improve the management of waste that cannot be avoided by promoting the first options in the waste hierarchy, to the detriment of the waste treatments that will be taxed, which are those at the bottom of the waste hierarchy (landfill, incineration and co-incineration).











The regulations on end-of-life tyres (Royal Decree 731/2020), batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment (Royal Decree 27/2021) and end-of-life vehicles (Royal Decree 265/2021) have also been revised.


















The progress made in the regulatory development of waste management includes the **Draft Royal Decree on packaging and packaging waste**, currently in the process of being drawn up, which will revise the current implementing regulations to comply with the provisions and objectives set out in Directive EU/852/2018 of the Circular Economy Package. It aims to implement and develop the extended producer responsibility regime (EPR) for all packaging and packaging waste, taking into account the framework regulation established in Law 7/2022. In this way, it aims to promote clear advances in prevention, reuse and recycling, through new forms of management such as deposit, return and refund systems (DRS), which will be mandatory if the targets set are not met.)

Also noteworthy is the development of **Royal Decree 646/2020 of 7 July**, which regulates the disposal of waste by landfill, with a timetable for reducing the quantities of municipal waste dumped, including intermediate targets of 40% of the total amount of waste generated by 2025, 20% by 2030 and, finally, 10% by 2035. Furthermore, the approval of **Royal Decree 553/2020**, of 2 June, which regulates the shipment of waste within the State, has led to improved traceability by incorporating an electronic procedure for the submission and control of shipment documents. From the mandatory launch of the procedure in September 2021 until July 2022, more than 450,677 pre-notifications and more than 1,450,303 identification documents (in different phases) were sent.











Another related item of legislation is the **Food Loss and Waste Prevention Draft Law**, which aims to contribute to the achievement of SDG 12 target 12.3. This initiative sets out to prevent food from being disposed of as waste by establishing a hierarchy of priorities for the use of surplus food. Specifically, it will first prioritise its use for human consumption, including donation and other redistribution mechanisms for human consumption. At a second level, food that is still fit for consumption can be used for processing into other products for human consumption. Next in order of priority is for use in animal feed and animal
















feed manufacture. Other possible uses include composting for use in agriculture, or for the generation of biogas and other types of energy recovery. All agents in the food chain will be obliged to apply the hierarchy of priorities established by the law, in any of the links where food waste may be generated, in order to prevent it. It also establishes the obligation for all actors in the food chain to have a food loss and food waste prevention plan. This bill is currently undergoing parliamentary procedure.









Targets	Priorities for action	Measures/Advances	SDG
By 2030, reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 23% below 1990 levels, as a prelude to climate neutrality by 2050.	Implementation of the provisions of the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act , as an institutional framework to activate a cross-cutting, solidarity-based and inclusive response to the climate emergency.	Law 7/2022 of 8 April on waste and contaminated soils for a circular economy (DA5). Modification of the Horizontal Property Law to facilitate and make photovoltaic installations for self-consumption in Communities of Owners more flexible (DF10). Royal Decree-Law 29/2021, of 21 December, adopting urgent measures in the energy field to promote electrical mobility, self-consumption and the deployment of renewable energies (Article 15.10). Royal Decree 376/2022 of 17 May, which regulates the criteria for sustainability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels, as well as the system of guarantees of origin of renewable gases (Article 12.1 and 12.2).	    
	National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 (PNIEC) , which establishes the framework and measures for the fulfilment of Spain's climate change objectives.	Royal Decree 205/2021 of 30 March on the promotion of biofuels and sales or consumption targets for 2021/2022. Royal Decree-Law 29/2021, of 21 December, adopting urgent measures in the energy field to promote electrical mobility, self-consumption and the deployment of renewable energies, among others. Development of Royal Decree 569/2020, of 16 June, which regulates the incentive programme for efficient and sustainable mobility (MOVES II Programme). Royal Decree 266/2021, of 13 April, which approves the direct granting of aid to the autonomous communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla for the implementation of incentive programmes linked to electric mobility (MOVES III). Development of Order TED/800/2021, of 23 July, approving the regulatory bases of the Incentive Programme for singular projects in electric mobility (MOVES Singular Projects II Programme), Order TED/1427/2021, of 17 December, which regulates the bases of the Programme of aid for light vehicle fleet electrification projects (MOVES FLOTAS Programme).	
	Development of a green tax policy aimed at discouraging harmful behaviour, promoting sustainable mobility and facilitating compliance with environmental commitments, as part of a new socially fair tax scheme.	Advice on the application of the principle of "no significant harm to the environment" (DNSH) in actions linked to the PRTR. Creation of the Division for Monitoring the Application of Environmental Regulations (OFFICIAL SPANISH GAZETTE no. 294 of 9 December 2021).	
By 2030, achieve a penetration of renewable energy in final energy consumption of at least 42%.	Implementation of the provisions of the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act , as an institutional framework to activate a cross-cutting, solidarity-based and inclusive response to the climate emergency.	Modification of the Horizontal Property Law to facilitate and make photovoltaic installations for self-consumption in Communities of Owners more flexible (DF10).	
By 2030, to achieve an electricity system with at least 74% of generation from renewable energy sources, ensuring that the new generation is respectful of biodiversity conservation	National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 (PNIEC) , which establishes the framework and measures for the fulfilment of Spain's climate change objectives.	Royal Decree-Law 29/2021, of 21 December, adopting urgent measures in the energy field to promote electric mobility, self-consumption and the deployment of renewable energies (Article 15.10). Transposition of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of 11/11/2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and the definition of a guarantee of origin mechanism. Royal Decree 1124/2021, of 21 December, approving the direct granting of aid to the Autonomous Regions and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla for the execution of incentive programmes to implement renewable thermal energy installations in different sectors of the economy. Order TED/1444/2021, of 22 December, approving the regulatory bases for the granting of aid corresponding to the incentive programme for the renewable hydrogen innovation and knowledge value chain within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. Order TED/1445/2021, of 22 December, approving the regulatory bases for granting aid to renewable H2 production and distribution facilities. H2 Pioneers Programme. Auctions for Renewable Electricity Generation: A. Granting the second auction with 3,124 MW under Order TED/1161/2020, of 4 December. B. The third and fourth auctions, scheduled for 25 October and 22 November respectively, will put more than 3,800 MW of renewable energy on the market. Royal Decree-Law 6/2022, of 29 March, adopting urgent measures within the framework of the National Response Plan to the economic and social consequences of the war in Ukraine. Measures to speed up renewable projects, accelerate decarbonisation and reduce energy dependence.	    
	Development of the regulation of the economic regime of renewable energies for electricity production facilities (Royal Decree Law 23/2020, Royal Decree 960/2020).	Approval of the Draft Law establishing the National Fund for the Sustainability of the Electricity System (FNSSE) (CM, 1 June 2021)	
	The Biogas Roadmap will be the tool to guide and promote the deployment and development of this biofuel in Spain, given its capacity to integrate the circular economy in the generation of renewable energy.	Approval of the Biogas Roadmap (CM on 22 March 2022)	
	Roadmap for the development of offshore wind and ocean energy , with the aim of boosting the deployment of such technologies.	Royal Decree 376/2022 of 17 May, which regulates the criteria for sustainability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels, as well as the system of guarantees of origin of renewable gases. Approval of the Roadmap for the Development of Offshore Wind and Marine Energy in Spain (CM of 10 December 2021)	
	Planning of the Electricity Transmission Grid 2021-2026 , which will define, among other aspects, the objectives that will shape the electricity system in the medium and long term in terms of integration of renewable energies, reduction of emissions and security of supply at the minimum cost to the consumer.	Approval of the electricity transmission grid Horizon 2026 (CM of 22 March 2022)	

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures/Advances	SDG
By 2030, improve energy efficiency, reducing primary energy consumption by at least 39.5% compared to the baseline set in EU legislation.	Energy Rehabilitation of Buildings Programme (PREE) , through which aid will be granted to improve energy efficiency, with a special focus on vulnerable consumers.	Royal Decree 691/2021, of 3 August, which regulates the subsidies to be granted for energy rehabilitation actions in existing buildings, in execution of the Energy Rehabilitation Programme for existing buildings in municipalities with demographic challenges (PREE 5000 Programme),	    
By 2030, improve energy efficiency, through the renovation of thermal installations in 300,000 homes per year, and actions on the thermal envelope of a total of 1,200,000 homes.	<p>Long-term strategy for energy renovation in the building sector (ERESEE, 2020), aimed at supporting the renovation of residential buildings.</p> <p>Development of the regulation linked to the accounting of individual consumption in thermal installations in buildings (Royal Decree 736/2020), which will make it possible to improve energy efficiency in buildings, based on individual consumption.</p>	<p>Royal Decree-Law 19/2021, of 5 October, on urgent measures to boost building renovation activity in the context of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Development of the actions provided for in Royal Decree 736/2020, of 4 August, which regulates the accounting of individual consumption in thermal installations in buildings.</p>	    
Until 2030, guarantee the protection of workers in vulnerable situations due to the impact of the energy and ecological transition, mitigating the potential negative effects through just transition agreements, boosting their socio-economic dynamism to preserve the sustainability of employment and living conditions in the affected territories.	Just Transition Strategy , an instrument that allows for the identification and adoption of measures that guarantee equitable and supportive treatment for workers and territories affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy.	Implementation of 13 agreements related to coal closure: 3 in Andalusia (Carboneras, Puente Nuevo-Valle del Guadiato, Los Barrios), 1 in Aragon (Aldorra-Comarcas Mineras), 3 in Asturias (Suroccidente, Valle del Nalón and Valle del Caudal-Aboño), 3 in Castile and Leon (Montaña central leonesa-La Robla, Guardo-Velilla and Bierzo-Laciana), 2 in Galicia (Meirama and As Pontes) and 1 in the Balearic Islands (Alcudia), in the Balearic Islands (Alcudia).	  
By 2030, reduce the degree of external energy dependence from 74% in 2017 to 61%, by reducing the consumption of fossil fuels and increasing the share of renewables, thus contributing to improving national energy security.	<p>Energy Storage Strategy, a tool to drive the deployment of energy storage.</p> <p>Renewable Hydrogen Roadmap, aimed at boosting the deployment of hydrogen generated from renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>Energy Storage Strategy (CM of 9 February 2021).</p> <p>Royal Decree 477/2021 of 29 June, Incentive programmes for the implementation of installations linked to self-consumption and storage, with renewable energy sources (RES), as well as the implementation of renewable thermal systems in the residential sector, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR).</p> <p>Adoption of the Hydrogen Roadmap (CM of 6 October 2020).</p> <p>Order TED/1444/2021, of 22 December, approving the regulatory bases for the granting of aid corresponding to the incentive programme for the renewable hydrogen innovation and knowledge value chain within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Order TED/1445/2021, of 22 December, approving the regulatory bases for granting aid to renewable H₂ production and distribution facilities. H₂ Pioneers Programme</p>	   
From 2023, municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, as well as those with more than 20,000 inhabitants that exceed the limit values, will develop sustainable urban mobility plans that will include low emission zones, measures for the improvement and use of active transport and public transport, as well as other actions aimed at improving air quality.	Safe, Sustainable and Connected Mobility Strategy 2020-2030 , which seeks to respond to current mobility and transport challenges through 9 strategic axes and 40 lines of action.	<p>Order TMA/892/2021, of 17 August, approving the regulatory bases for the Programme of aid to municipalities for the implementation of low-emission zones and the digital and sustainable transformation of urban transport, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, and approving and publishing the call for applications for the 2021 financial year.</p> <p>Guidelines for the establishment of Low Emission Zones (LEZs) published - 19 November 2021.</p> <p>Draft Royal Decree on Low Emission Zones in the pipeline.</p>	   

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures/Advances	SDG
By 2030, achieve a 28% share of renewables in transport-mobility, through electrification and the use of advanced biofuels.	Safe, Sustainable and Connected Mobility Strategy 2020-2030 , which seeks to respond through 9 strategic axes and 40 lines of action to the current challenges in terms of mobility and transport.	Order TMA/892/2021, of 17 August, approving the regulatory bases for the Programme of aid to municipalities for the implementation of low-emission zones and the digital and sustainable transformation of urban transport, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, and approving and publishing the call for applications for the 2021 financial year.	   
	Sustainable Mobility and Transport Financing Act , which will respond to the environmental, technological, demographic and urban challenges facing Spain.	In process. Approval at first reading of the Preliminary Draft Sustainable Mobility Law (CM 1 March 2022).	
	Development of the Spanish Urban Agenda , as a reference framework to achieve the sustainability of urban policies in 2030.	Order TMA/957/2021, of 7 September on the Bases regulating the granting of aid for the development of pilot projects for Local Action Plans of the Spanish Urban Agenda.	
By 2030, achieve the following reductions in pollution levels compared to 2005, leading to an improvement in air quality and a 17-36% reduction in premature deaths associated with air pollution (compared to the baseline scenario): 92% for SO ₂ , 66% for NO _x , 30% for NMVOC, 21% for NH ₃ and 50% for PM _{2.5} .	National Air Pollution Control Programme 2030 (PNCCA) , which commits to actions for a 92% reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions, a 66% reduction in nitrogen oxides, a 21% reduction in ammonia and a 50% reduction in fine particulate matter, enabling constant monitoring of air quality through the Air Quality Index.	In March 2022, the forecasted Air Quality Index (AQI) was incorporated, which enables air quality to be known in advance, in compliance with the emission reduction undertakings established by Directive (EU) 2016/2284 for NO _x , NMVOC, SO _x and PM _{2.5} in 2020.	  
	National Ozone Plan.	In the pipeline.	
By 2030, completed specific measures in each and every one of the sector-based and cross-cutting lines of action defined in the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change 2021-2030, in response to the main climate change risks identified for Spain and considering their nature, urgency and magnitude.	Strategic Plan for Health and Environment , which will seek to respond to the challenges and risks linked to health as a result of problems arising from environmental factors.	Strategic Plan for Health and Environment (Extraordinary CM of 24 November 2021) The 1st PESMA Action Programme (2022-2023) is under preparation.	 
	National Strategy for Green Infrastructure, Connectivity and Ecological Restoration , which will address the deterioration of ecosystems and their environmental services, as well as their fragmentation.	Order PCM/735/2021, of 9 July, approving the National Strategy for Green Infrastructure and Ecological Connectivity and Restoration.	
By 2030, ensure the conservation of ecosystems through the sustainable development of the natural and rural environment, sustainable forest management, ecological restoration where necessary, and other actions aimed at reversing the loss of biodiversity, guaranteeing a sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation and improvement of their ecosystem services, paying special attention to the fragility of island systems and the fight against desertification through active policies that take into account the increased risk generated by climate change scenarios.	Spanish Forestry Strategy and the Forestry Plan , the elaboration and development of which will respond to current forestry needs and demands.	In the pipeline, together with the Common Basic Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.	  
	Approval and development of regulations on the conservation of forest and wild flora genetic resources , in order to establish the basic rules on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic forest resources of national interest.	Royal Decree 159/2022 of 1 March on the conservation of forest and wild flora genetic resources.	
	National Forest Inventory and Forest Information System , which provides detailed information on the ecosystem services provided by forests and other forest ecosystems.	In preparation.	
	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPD) , aimed at preventing degradation and reclaiming desertified land.	National Strategy to Combat Desertification (approved in CM of 21 June 2022)	
	Spanish Biosphere Reserves , a concept of protection and conservation that promotes sustainable forms of relationship between local economies and the environment.	Incorporation of the RB of Ribeira Sacra e Serras do Oribio e Courel. Approval by the Spanish Committee of the MaB Programme the Guide to include the gender perspective in the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves (September 202).	
	Master Plan for the National Parks Network (2016-2026)	Approved by Royal Decree 389/2016 of 22 October.	

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures/Advances	SDG
By 2030, 20,000 hectares of wetlands will have benefited from conservation and ecological restoration actions.	Update of the Strategic Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.	In the pipeline.	 
By 2030, the mainstreaming of green infrastructure concepts, objectives and approaches at different levels of territorial planning will be ensured, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance and restoration of connectivity and the functionality of ecosystems and their services.	Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (PEPNB) 2021-2030 , which will establish the objectives and actions to be developed to put Spanish natural heritage and biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030.	In the pipeline. Development of the actions provided for in Royal Decree 389/2016 of 22 October, approving the Master Plan as the main instrument of coordination and activity of the National Parks Network.	 
By 2030, enhance the contribution of natural sinks and the deployment of green infrastructure, enabling urban areas to cool and mitigate the impact of natural disasters.	Strategic Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (PEPNB) 2021-2030 , which will establish the objectives and actions to be developed to put our natural heritage and biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030.	In the pipeline.	 
By 2030, reduce national material consumption relative to GDP by 30% from 2010 levels.	Spanish Circular Economy Strategy 2030 , which establishes strategic guidelines and lines of action covering aspects such as production, consumption, waste reduction and management and water reuse.	The First Action Plan of the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy 2030 was approved in May 2021 and includes the measures to be developed by the National Government during the period 2021-2023.	
By 2030, reduce waste generation by 15% from 2010 levels, and increase reuse and preparation for reuse to 10% of municipal waste generated, contributing to reducing GHG emissions to below 10 million tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent.	<p>Law on Waste and Contaminated Land, which will establish the regulatory framework for the prevention and reduction of waste generation.</p> <p>Royal Decree on packaging and packaging waste, which will revise the current implementing legislation to comply with the provisions and targets set out in the Circular Economy Package Directive (EU Directive 852/2018).</p> <p>Development of the regulation of waste disposal by landfill.</p> <p>Development of the regulation of waste shipments within the State (Royal Decree 553/2020), which will contribute to improving the traceability of shipments from the place of origin of the waste to the final destination.</p> <p>State Inspection Plan for Trans-Frontier Waste Shipments 2021-2026 (PEITTR), which will ensure compliance with waste shipment regulations through more effective inspections.</p> <p>Development of the legal regime applicable to different waste streams: end-of-life tyres, batteries and accumulators, electrical and electronic equipment and end-of-life vehicles.</p>	<p>Law 7/2022 of 8 April on waste and contaminated soils for a circular economy.</p> <p>In the pipeline.</p> <p>Development of Royal Decree 646/2020 of 7 July, which regulates the disposal of waste by landfill.</p> <p>Mandatory implementation of the procedure regulating the shipment of waste within the territory of the State (September 2021).</p> <p>State Inspection Plan on Trans-Frontier Shipments of Waste 2021-2026 (MC of 19 January 2021).</p> <p>Royal Decree 27/2021, of 19 January, amending Royal Decree 106/2008, of 1 February, on batteries and accumulators and the environmental management of their waste, and Royal Decree 110/2015, of 20 February, on waste electrical and electronic equipment, in order to transpose Directive (EU) 2018/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 30 May 2018.</p> <p>Royal Decree Royal Decree 731/2020 of 4 August amending Royal Decree 1619/2005 of 30 December on the management of end-of-life tyres.</p> <p>Royal Decree 265/2021 of 13 April on end-of-life vehicles and amending the General Vehicle Regulation, approved by Royal Decree 2822/1998 of 23 December.</p>	  

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures/Advances	SDG
By 2027, meet the climate and environmental objectives of the new Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027, as a contribution to the EU's overall climate action and biodiversity protection efforts.	Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy Post 2020 (PEPAC) , which will contain the instruments to promote an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural sector.	Plan to boost the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture and livestock farming, integrated in component 3 of the PRTR (MC 16 June 2022). Draft Law to implement the management system of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (CM 7 June 2022).	  
By 2030, agriculture and livestock farming in Spain will have moved towards more sustainable production models, increasing resilience to climate change through the transformation of the production processes.	Plan to boost the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture and livestock farming (III) , integrated into component 3 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. Plan for the improvement of efficiency and sustainability in irrigation.	Four investment support programmes have been established. MAPA-SEIASA Agreement, Phase II for the modernisation of irrigation systems (OFFICIAL SPANISH GAZETTE of 23 July).	 
By 2030, improve water use efficiency by 10%, introducing measures to increase the circularity of the water cycle and reduce net consumption, and promote the use of renewable energies, ensuring water security and the achievement of environmental targets for water bodies.	Third Hydrological Planning Cycle (2022-2027) , which will provide greater protection for water bodies and associated protected areas. Reform and update of the Water Law , the regulations and other standards deriving from same, including the regulation of the planning and instruction of hydrological planning, the regulation of the public water domain, and other standards deriving from same. Urban Water Cycle Roundtable to gather information and initiate structural reforms leading to a better governance model for urban water services. National Plan for Purification, Sanitation, Efficiency, Saving and Reuse (DSEAR Plan) and its Strategic Environmental Study. National Strategy for River Restoration (ENRR) , which will enhance the conservation and restoration of good river condition. Emblematic natural areas , where the improvement of management and transparency in hydrological information associated with wetlands of special relevance linked to water management, such as the Mar Menor, Ebro Delta, Daimiel, Doñana and Albufera de Valencia, will be promoted. Flood Risk Management Plans of the second cycle, which will allow a coordinated and contingent management of flood risks, integrating the effects of climate change.	Royal Decree 1159/2021 of 28 December amending the Hydrological Planning Regulation (RPH). Proposed text is currently being drafted. Royal Decree 1159/2021 of 28 December amending the Hydrological Planning Regulation. Royal Decree 47/2022 of 18 January on the protection of water against diffuse pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. Strategic Project for Economic Recovery and Transformation for the digitisation of the water cycle (MC of 22 March 2022). Order TED/801/2021, of 14 July, approving the National Plan for purification, sanitation, efficiency, savings and reuse. In the pipeline. The Framework of Priority Actions to recover the Mar Menor was presented in November 2021. Work is underway on the preparation of a programme of actions to improve the management of the sediment regime of the Ebro Delta and the definition of an action plan for the recovery of the natural hydrological regime of the Tablas de Daimiel National Park. In the pipeline.	     
By 2030, increase R&D and innovation funding for decarbonisation and sustainability, prioritising key areas such as electrification of production and transport, circular economy processes, renewable energy storage technologies, green hydrogen development, nature-based solutions, climate change research and monitoring, and social innovation.	Development of a green tax policy aimed at discouraging harmful behaviour, promoting sustainable mobility and facilitating compliance with environmental commitments, as part of a new socially just tax scheme.	Advice on the application of the principle of "no significant harm to the environment" (DNSH) in actions linked to the PRTR. Creation of the Division for Monitoring the Application of Environmental Regulations (OFFICIAL SPANISH GAZETTE no. 294 of 9 December 2021).	   

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures/Advances	SDG
By 2030, at least 30% of the national territory, and 30% of the marine area under national jurisdiction, will be protected, ensuring effective and socially participatory management and the achievement of the conservation objectives based on the best available scientific knowledge.	National Strategic Plan for the Protection of the Coast , an initiative funded by the European Commission's (EC) Structural Reform Support Programme at the request of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD).	In the pipeline.	
	Master Plan for the Network of Marine Protected Areas of Spain (RAMPE)	In the pipeline.	
	Maritime Spatial Plans (POEM), for each of the five marine demarcations established in Law 41/2010, on the protection of the marine environment.	In the pipeline.	
	Consolidation of a new management model for the marine Natura 2000 Network, which will include the declaration of at least nine new marine protected areas through the promotion of the LIFE INTEMARES project, which will run until 2024.	Implementation of a science-based participatory management and governance model for the Natura 2000 network at sea.	
By 2030, improve the conservation status of marine ecosystems, through the implementation of specific marine strategies and maritime spatial plans, the promotion of sustainable fisheries, and the integration of climate change adaptation into coastal planning and management.	Spanish Marine Strategies (second cycle), whose main objective is the achievement of the Good Environmental Status of our seas.	In the pipeline.	
	Development of preventive plans for the conservation of natural marine spaces by the Civil Guard to monitor and prevent dumping in order to guarantee the conservation of Spanish oceans, seas and natural marine spaces.	Agreement between the National Parks Autonomous Body and the Directorate of the Civil Guard (SEPRONA and SEMAR) on surveillance, inspection, control and reporting of illegal activities in the National Parks Network and the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves.	 
By 2022, legislation on minimum durability, use-by and best-before dates will be revised in collaboration with European institutions, contributing to the reduction of food waste.	Food Loss and Waste Prevention Act, which will contribute to the achievement of circular economy objectives.	Undergoing parliamentary procedure.	
By 2030, sustainable consumption patterns will have been promoted, encouraging reparability and the consumption of local and organic products, through the development of communication campaigns and other actions.	Implementation of curricular developments that incorporate the objectives of sustainable development into the essential skills and knowledge of compulsory education plans and programmes.	Royal Decrees 95/2022, 157/2022, 217/2022 and 243/2022, which establish the organisation and minimum teaching standards for Infant, Primary, Compulsory Secondary and Baccalaureate Education, respectively, and which guarantee a curriculum structure at the service of inclusive education and in line with the acquisition of competences, which also values diversity and addresses the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.	
	Environmental Education Action Plan for Sustainability 2021-2025 (PAEAS) which, based on the diagnosis of the current situation, will establish the strategic lines of environmental education in Spain.	The Environmental Education for Sustainability Action Plan (CM of 3 August 2021). Work Programme for the year 2022 (adopted on 10 December 2021).	 
	Animal Welfare Act	Undergoing parliamentary procedure.	

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Circular Economy Act (*).
- Strategy for Sustainable Mining in Andalusia Horizon 2030.
- 6th Integral Plan for the Promotion of Domestic Trade in Andalusia 2019/2022.
- Andalusia Energy Strategy 2030 (*).
- Strategic environmental statement of the Andalusian Integrated Waste Plan. Towards a Circular Economy in the 2030 Horizon.
- Andalusian Climate Action Plan (PAAC) and strategic environmental assessment.
- Programme of Incentives for Energy Improvement in Transport in Andalusia (MOVES Andalusia).
- Action plan for the environmental restoration and recovery of materials and soils in areas degraded by uncontrolled waste dumping (REMAS Plan 2020-2030).

(*) Measure in progress

The Andalusian Government's actions within the framework of the accelerator 2 policy are expressed in the Andalusian Climate Action Plan (PAAC). The Andalusian Climate Action Plan (PAAC), approved by the Governing Council on 13 October 2021 and published by Decree 234/2021 of 13 October, is the general strategic planning instrument in Andalusia for the fight against climate change, and derives from Law 8/2018 on climate change in Andalusia. Its mission is to integrate climate change into regional and local planning, in order to align them with the plans of the Spanish government, the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement, thus contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

The Andalusian Government has made a significant effort to provide itself with strategic planning instruments that promote the fight against climate and environmental emergencies in the region and that complement the action of the PAAC. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the approval of the Andalusia Energy Strategy 2030 in June 2022, which constitutes the Junta de Andalucía's energy planning instrument that will guide the development of this policy for the next decade within the framework of regional powers and aims to reduce energy consumption by 39.5%. Its main purpose is to promote the transition towards an efficient, sustainable, safe and carbon-neutral energy model, which takes advantage of the renewable resources available in the region and results in economic growth and the generation of employment, also contributing to the fulfilment of European and national energy and climate objectives.

A fundamental line of work has been the development of the Circular Economy Law, the preliminary draft of which is currently in Parliament. After passing the first debate on the regulatory text, the contributions of the groups are being studied in order to continue progressing towards the final approval of the law. Decree 131/2021, of 6 April, approving the Andalusian Integrated Waste Plan. Towards a Circular Economy in the 2030 Horizon. This framework for promoting the circular economy also includes the resolution of 9 March 2021, of the General Secretariat for the Environment, Water and Climate Change, which issues and makes public the strategic environmental declaration of the Andalusian Integrated Waste Plan. Towards a Circular Economy in the 2030 Horizon (Official Gazette of the Regional Government of Andalusia number 50 of 16/03/2021).

Likewise, in June 2022, the formulation of the Strategy for sustainable mining in Andalusia was approved, which will establish the basis of the regional policy to support this sector until 2030. The new planning aims to strengthen this industry throughout the value chain, improve its competitiveness, support the internationalisation of its business fabric and promote research into available mineral resources.

From the perspective of improving sustainable mobility, the Andalusian Transport Energy Improvement Incentives Programme (MOVES Andalusia) has been promoted by means of a call for the 2021-2023 financial year, on a non-competitive basis, for incentives for energy improvement in transport in Andalusia under Royal Decree 266/2021, of 13 April (MOVES III Programme).

ARAGON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Aragonese Strategy against Climate Change.
- Aragonese law on climate change and energy transition.
- Aragon Forest Plan (*).
- Promote Zero Waste through organic matter recovery, packaging return and legislation against plastics and single-use items, among others.
- Coordinate and improve resources for soil decontamination.
- Aragon Circular 2030.



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of Aragon has reinforced the Aragonese Climate Change Strategy (EACC 2030) with the commitment to develop a specific immediate plan to develop the reduction of diffuse emissions in Aragon and reduce diffuse GHG emissions up to 40% in 2030 while the elaboration of the Aragonese Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition is still in process. However, government action is promoting measures and actions in this area, such as the renewal of fleets of official zero-emission vehicles, energy efficiency in public buildings through temperature control, installation of low-energy lighting, insulation in buildings, promotion of e-government and teleworking, approval of guidelines for green public procurement and green purchasing, etc.

Within the framework of the Aragón Circular 2030 Strategy, whose objective is to create the political, economic and social framework that will enable the transition to an innovative circular economy in Aragón, efficient in the use of resources, generating quality employment and structuring the territory, more than a hundred companies and organisations have applied for the Aragón Circular Seal in the first call for applications for this mark, which publicly recognises the commitment to the circular economy of Aragonese organisations.

Continuing with the actions within the framework of the promotion of the circular economy, the promotion of the Aragon Integrated Waste Management Plan 2018-2022 has continued. In addition, measures related to waste management have been strengthened, including work on digitalisation for the collection of information on the declaration of packaging placed on the market and on business plans for packaging prevention, as well as participation in the Interreg CECL project "Citizen involvement in circular economy im-

plementation” to develop regional policies for citizen participation in the circular economy and sustainable consumption.

Finally, the Aragon Forestry Plan is in the final stages of being submitted to the Aragon Parliament for final approval. Work is already underway on sustainable forest certification and, in 2020, Aragon was the autonomous community in Spain with the highest growth in hectares with sustainable forest management certification.

CANARY ISLANDS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Canary Islands Climate Action Strategy, and Canary Islands Strategy for Just Transition and Climate Justice.
- Law on Climate Change and Energy Transition, and the Canary Islands Energy Transition Plan.
- Canary Islands Climate Action Plan.
- Canary Islands Circular Economy Strategy, Circular Economy Law, Integrated Waste Plan of the Canary Islands (PIRCAN), Support for Island Waste Plans, and Integrated Waste Life. Organic Canary Islands.
- Biodiversity and Natural Resources Act.
- Urban Agenda and Canary Islands Sustainable Mobility Strategy.
- 3rd Cycle Hydrological Plans.
- Flood Risk Plans.

The Government of the Canary Islands has initiated the construction of an ambitious legislative and strategic framework with a view to guaranteeing: a neutral balance of greenhouse gas emissions in the Islands by 2040; the progressive reduction of the use and consumption of fossil fuels, the establishment of an energy model based on demand management and renewable energies; mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change to reduce the vulnerability of people and their property, natural resources, infrastructures, public services and terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems; the promotion of the resilience of the social and economic sectors to the effects of climate change; the promotion of a sustainable development model based on the use of renewable energies; the promotion of a sustainable development model based on the use of fossil fuels and renewable energies; the promotion of a sustainable development model based on demand management and renewable energies; the promotion of resilience of social and economic sectors to the effects of climate change; the promotion of education, training, innovation, R&D, competitiveness and technology transfer; the integration of public health into climate action policies as a mechanism for risk prevention and management; and the promotion of policies for ecological transition, social cohesion and climate action at the level of the outermost regions (ORs) and other territories.

The Canary Islands Climate Action Strategy has already been published and is in the process being reviewed. The Canary Islands Strategy for Just Transition and Climate Justice is being drafted. The Climate Change and Energy Transition Law is in parliamentary procedure. The Energy Transition Plan is now being processed. The Canary Islands Climate Action Plan is being processed. On the other hand, the Canary Islands Circular Economy Strategy was approved on 15 July 2021, together with the Canary Islands Blue Economy Strategy.

Along these lines, the Canary Islands Government is developing the Canary Islands Circular Economy Law. This has already passed the process of participation and public information, and the proposals have already been integrated into the new text. The dossier is now being prepared for the Consultative Council and its referral to Parliament. This law is an appropriate legal tool to ensure that growth, competitiveness and employment in the Canary Islands are planned from the perspective of the circular economy, so that it responds to the challenges of the sustainable use of energy and natural resources and allows progress to be made in energy efficiency.

The Canary Islands Circular Economy Law is accompanied by the Integral Waste Plan of the Canary Islands (Pircan), which has already been approved and communicated to the European Commission and the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD). The Island Waste Plans are currently being processed. The Integrated Waste LIFE is being prepared for the call for proposals, while Canarias Orgánica has begun with the pilot experience of La Palma Orgánica. At the same time, the Canary Islands Government is developing the Canary Islands Plastics Strategy.

The Canary Islands Government has taken the initiative of approving a law, the Law on Biodiversity and Natural Resources, which is capable of meeting the challenge of preserving, recovering and enhancing the biodiversity of the archipelago, and sets out to achieve a balance between the economic development of the islands and the conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity. This law is currently being submitted to the Canary Islands Parliament following the report of the Consultative Council.

A base model of the Urban Agenda has been developed and made available to municipalities. Its adaptation as an instrument of use is being prepared. The Canary Islands Sustainable Mobility Strategy is currently being drafted.

Finally, the Third Cycle Hydrological Plans for La Gomera and El Hierro are in the process of initial approval and pending Strategic Environmental Declaration. Those of Gran Canaria and Tenerife are pending initial approval before the summer. The plan for Lanzarote is pending initial approval in September, while the plan for Fuerteventura is on public exhibition until October. As for La Palma, an extension has been requested until 2024. The Flood Risk Plans have already been processed and notified.

CANTABRIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Revision of the Cantabria Climate Change Action Strategy 2018-2030, to align its objectives and measures with the new objectives at state and EU level, and the Climate Change Act (*).
- Promoting sustainable mobility.
- Promote environmental prevention and control in Cantabria through specific legislation.
- Surveillance and control of pathologies associated with environmental risk factors.
- European pilot project of the EU's COSME programme for the creation of resilient regional and local ecosystems.
- Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Fight against Forest Fires, and Strategic Plan for the Management and Control of Invasive Alien Species.
- Cantabria Forestry Plan 2023-2050 (*).
- Cantabria Energy Sustainability Plan, 2021-2030 (*).

(* Measure in progress)

Over this period, the Government of Cantabria has strengthened its actions in accelerator policy 2 by establishing the Cantabria Climate Change and Environment Advisory Council as a top-level consultative body, chaired by the President of Cantabria and with representation from the economic, social, professional and academic sectors of the Community. The Council incorporates two Observatories of a technical nature, the Climate Change Observatory and the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Observatory.

The Advisory Council is the basis for the development of the draft bill on Environmental Prevention and Control in Cantabria, which reinforces the mechanisms for prevention and monitoring of environmental quality in the region and will promote more flexible procedures in the processing of environmental licences.

Likewise, priority has been given to actions in energy efficiency, having achieved the milestone of a 25% reduction in the global annual energy demand for heating and cooling. The energy efficiency programme

for buildings stands out in this regard, where 4 actions have been subsidised, and led to energy savings of 879,803 kWh/year, and a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 179,024 kg CO₂/year.

A priority line of action for the Cantabrian government has been actions to promote the preservation of the region's natural resources. Firstly, the PIMA Plan has been drawn up, which is currently being revised, and within the framework of which the study "Analysis of the Risks of Climate Change on the Coast of Cantabria" has been carried out, in which the risks of climate change on the natural and socio-economic systems of the Cantabrian coast have been identified in different emission scenarios and over different time horizons. On the other hand, the procedure for the strategic environmental assessment of the new Forestry Plan of Cantabria has begun and the interim assessment of the Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Fight against Forest Fires has been initiated.

Finally, the government of Cantabria has implemented epidemiological surveillance of pathologies associated with environmental risk factors, during which no risk situations were detected.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Castile-La Mancha 2030 Agenda Strategy.
- Circular Economy Strategy 2030 and Circular Economy Law.
- Castile-La Mancha Climate Change Strategy. Horizons 2020 and 2030.
- Strategic plan for energy development. Horizon 2030.
- Regional strategy on bio-waste management, and Integrated waste management plan 2016-2022. (New plan 2023-2030 under preparation).
- Environmental Education Strategy. Horizon 2030.
- Environmental Assessment Act.
- Law 2/2022, of 18 February, on Waters of the Autonomous Community of Castile-La Mancha.
- Responsible Consumption Strategic Plan 2021-24.
- Master Plan for Transport (*).
- Landscape Law (*).
- Strategic water treatment plan (*).
- Preliminary draft law amending Law 3/2008 of 12 June on forests and sustainable forest management (Start of participatory process).

(*) Measure in progress

The actions of the Government of Castile-La Mancha in the framework of the fight against climate and the environmental emergency are conveyed through the Climate Change Strategy of the region, which was approved in 2019. In this context, during the period under analysis, a climate change awareness campaign has been developed in the region and aid has been approved for local entities to promote the creation of low-emission areas and the implementation of climate change adaptation projects.

Another strategic planning instrument of the regional government was the approval in May 2022 of the Strategic Plan for Energy Development, Horizon 2030, which aims to promote renewable energies, improve energy efficiency, reduce GHG emissions and promote energy assets. The Plan includes the Renewable Energy Promotion Programme (18 measures) and the Energy Saving and Efficiency Programme (24 measures). In 2021, more than 38 million euros in incentives were allocated to all sectors and the Administration to accelerate the implementation of electricity generation with renewable energies, and the programme for the promotion of energy saving and efficiency implemented incentive measures for energy saving and efficiency in different productive sectors.

The Circular Economy Strategy of Castile-La Mancha, based on the provisions of Article 6.1 of Law 7/2019 on the Circular Economy of Castile-La Mancha, covers areas related to the efficient management of resources, production, consumption, waste and innovation. In this field of action, during the analysis period, the impro-

vement and expansion of the region's Air Quality Network was carried out and Order 32/2022 of the Regional Ministry of Sustainable Development was approved, regulating the authorisation and communication procedures and the technical requirements to be met by clean points in the Autonomous Community of CLM.

In the same line of action, in March 2022 the Strategic Plan for Responsible Consumption was approved, which for the first time incorporates new consumer rights in relation to the sustainability and inclusiveness of our consumption model.

The Regional Strategy for Environmental Education. Horizon 2030, saw the creation of the new web portal Environmental Education in Castile-La Mancha, where people can find updated information on this subject in the region: activities, equipment, resources, grants, etc.

The Alliance for Ecosystem Services in Castile-La Mancha, a platform for dialogue and public-private cooperation that the regional government, together with the five provincial capitals, has set up to recognise the value of the services that the region's ecosystems provide to the well-being of citizens and the economy as a whole, has been signed in the area of biodiversity conservation and natural spaces. The Alliance is therefore committed to public-private cooperation to mobilise more resources and meet the challenges that global change poses to our territory, as promoted in the framework of international policies to combat climate change, biodiversity conservation and the private sector's commitments to environmental and corporate social responsibility. All of this has been done to benefit the restoration, conservation and sustainable management of the natural heritage and the people who live in the territory.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the approval in February 2022 of the Water Law, the purpose of which is to establish the regulatory framework governing the policy of water supply, sanitation and wastewater treatment in Castile-La Mancha, as well as the organisation of the corresponding infrastructures in terms of planning, execution, management and financing.

CASTILE AND LEON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Restoration of natural areas affected by mining activities and mining management and inspection.
- Climate Change and Energy Transition Law (*).
- Sustainable mobility plans.
- Evolution of the mobility model towards technological modernisation, and social and environmental sustainability.
- Air Quality Improvement Strategy.
- Regional Strategy for the Circular Economy 2020-2030.
- Infrastructure Map.
- Programme to promote agricultural infrastructures of general interest to improve efficiency in the use of water.



(* Measure in progress)

Within the framework of accelerator policy 2, the Government of Castile and Leon has promoted the development of the Autonomous Strategy for the Circular Economy 2020-2030 with 200 new actions developed by the Agricultural Technological Institute of Castile and Leon included within the Bioeconomy Strategy. It is also preparing the draft bill on climate change, which will soon be submitted for public information.

The Circular Economy Strategy of Castile and Leon was approved by Agreement 115/2021 of 14 October of the Junta de Castile and Leon. Within the framework of this Strategy, two regional Circular Economy laboratories have been implemented, focusing on repair and reuse and the collaborative economy, such as product repair with 3D printing, textile repair, food waste prevention with a community workshop, and textile workshop, both in urban and rural areas. A marketplace has also been created for the dissemination of circular economy products and services in the northwest Iberian Peninsula, with a database of good practices that can act as

inspiration for accelerating the transition to the circular economy. More than 200 companies have registered their good practices.

In agriculture, the Castile and Leon Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 has promoted actions in agricultural infrastructures included in the Map of Infrastructures through infrastructure works on 67,723 hectares, continuing execution until 2025, actions in modernisation of irrigation in 63,551 hectares, in different phases (agreements, tender, execution, completion), which represents 100% of the ones planned, and actions for the implementation of renewable energies (photovoltaic) have started in 10 Irrigation Communities of Castile and Leon with a surface area of 21,800 hectares of irrigated land, which covers 100% of the area planned.

A second area of action is the restoration of natural areas affected by mining activities and mining management and inspection, with the completion of the restoration of an open-cast mine in the province of Leon, which covered an area of 406 ha degraded by coal mining and enabled the replanting of the affected area to establish tree and shrub habitats.

A third line of action is made up of policies and actions in the area of sustainable mobility. In this area, educational actions are being developed with the four public universities of Castile and Leon to support environmental management in order to promote sustainable mobility for the entire university community, promoting bicycle loan and carpooling systems, encouraging alternative transport systems and increasing the training and information offer in these areas.

It should also be noted that the installation of electric vehicle charging points has been completed in the network of Protected Natural Spaces of Castile and Leon, amounting to a total of 28 points, and the free loan service for electric cars and bicycles has continued to be developed in four natural parks of Castile and Leon.

Finally, the Strategy for the Improvement of Air Quality, which derives from the "Strategy for the improvement of air quality in Castile and Leon. 2020-2030", includes the "Plan for the improvement of air quality due to tropospheric ozone in Castile and Leon (PMCAOT)" and has been approved by Agreement 138/2021 of 16 December of the Junta de Castile and Leon.



CATALUNYA - CATALONIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Law 16/2017 on Climate Change.
- Catalan Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change 2021-2030 (*).
- Implementation of the CO₂ Tax and creation of the Carbon Fund and the Natural Heritage Fund with the recaptured resources.
- Catalonia's global energy strategy (PROENCAT 2050).
- Roadmap for the Circular Economy in Catalonia (*) and Bioeconomy Strategy 2021-2030 (EBC2030).
- Law 8/2020 on the protection and management of the coast, and the Coastal Protection and Management Plan for the integrated management of the terrestrial and marine environment (*).
- Maritime Strategy of Catalonia 2030, creation of the Coastal Observatory, and development of the Coastal Dynamics Information System (SIDL).
- Catalan Forest Agenda 2020-2025 and Catalan Rural Agenda.
- Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

(*) Measure in progress

On 4 February 2022, the Government approved the PROENCAT 2050 energy observatory for Catalonia, which sets out the long-term vision for the future of the energy system. Based on energy and environmental objectives, it defines 20 strategies aimed at managing demand, transforming the electricity system and introducing new energy vectors that will enable the energy system to contribute to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

The Catalan Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change 2021-2030 was approved by the Interdepartmental Commission on Climate Change in July 2022 and is expected to be approved by the Government by the end of 2022.

A participatory process for the definition of the Circular Economy Roadmap has been carried out in the reporting period of the progress report. The Bioeconomy Strategy 201-2030 was approved on 14 September 2021. It is a roadmap whose main objective is to promote the growth and sustainable development of the Catalan economy by promoting the production of renewable biological resources of proximity, giving a second life to products from the forestry, agri-food and maritime sectors and ensuring the sustainable provision of ecosystem services to move towards a circular bioeconomy, in accordance with the urgent needs of adaptation and mitigation in the face of the climate emergency.

The Rural Agenda of Catalonia was approved on 24 May 2022 and will be deployed through an action plan to be approved in the coming months. It identifies the needs and challenges of the rural territory in order to guarantee its living conditions and development. The drafting of the Agenda is an initiative of the Interdepartmental Commission on Rural Depopulation. It was drafted by a commission formed by the Association of Rural Initiatives of Catalonia (ARCA), the Catalan Association of Municipalities (ACM), the Association of Microvillages of Catalonia and the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (CADS), and was piloted by a Steering Committee made up of more than 35 organisations representing the territory. The participatory process promoted to draw up the Rural Agenda made it possible to gather the opinions of more than 1,200 people and draw up a document with 892 actions (of which 277 are priorities and 59 are strategic), organised around 7 major challenges: people, wellbeing and the demographic challenge; ecological transition; connected territory; agri-food system; forest management; innovation; forest management; innovation and social and economic stimulation, and governance.

In relation to Law 8/2020 on coastal protection and planning, and the Coastal Protection and Planning Plan for the integrated management of the terrestrial and marine environment, two prior participatory processes were initiated in June 2022. One for the design of the Coastal Protection and Planning Plan (PPOL), which Law 8/2020 considers to be the basic instrument for the integrated planning and management of the land and marine environment of the Catalan coastline, and the other for the definition of the Coastal Observatory.

As regards the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2030, an outstanding feature is the creation of the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Observatory (OPNB), the reference body responsible for improving the organisation, integration, processing, dissemination and accessibility of information on natural heritage and biodiversity in Catalonia. This information is key to understanding the country's natural wealth, assessing the state of conservation of species, habitats and natural spaces, and appropriately guiding and prioritising management efforts and policies to guarantee conservation. The Observatory also aims to inform and raise public awareness so that it can become a participatory and critical actor, with its own criteria and a relevant role in collective and individual decision-making on nature conservation in Catalonia.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Valencian Urban Agenda.
- Sustainable Energy Plan of the Valencian Community.
- Valencian Climate Change and Energy Strategy 2030.
- RENHATA Plan, aid to replace domestic boilers with more energy efficient ones.
- Energy Saving and Efficiency in Industry Programme, Energy Audits in SMEs and Implementation of Energy Management Systems Programme, and Energy Saving and Efficiency in Buildings Programme.
- Cogeneration Promotion Plan.
- Decree Law 14/2020, on measures to accelerate the implementation of installations for the use of renewable energies due to the climate emergency and the need for urgent economic reactivation.
- Aid for the renewal and decarbonisation of passenger and freight transport fleets
- Promotion of cycle-pedestrian routes as an alternative mode of transport.
- New cartographies of the Valencia Cartographic Institute.



The Valencian Government's action to tackle the climate and environmental emergency is based on the Valencian Climate Change and Energy Strategy 2030, the general objective of which is to become the fundamental tool for moving towards a new socio-economic model committed to the environment that leads to a minimisation of GHG emissions and increases the resilience of the territory in the face of the effects of climate change.

With the aim of promoting sustainability in urban development policies, the Valencian Government is involved in the drafting phase of the Valencian Urban Agenda, which currently has a document on guidelines, public participation and methodology to prepare it and a work programme with contents and comparisons with other types of agendas. A Protocol was signed in May 2022 between the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda and the Valencian Government, the first to be signed with an Autonomous Community for the preparation of the Agenda.

Within this framework of urban development actions, the Sustainable Metropolitan Mobility Plans for the areas of Castellón (July 2021), Alicante and Elche (September 2021) and Valencia (December 2021) have been presented, while public information periods have been opened in Castellón (January 2022) and Alicante-Elche (March 2022).

Another vital line of action of the Valencian Government is related to the promotion of the ecological transition by promoting renewable energies. The Sustainable Energy Plan of the Valencian Community is a notable feature in this regard. It includes the programmes for Energy Saving and Efficiency in Industry, Energy Audits in SMEs and Implementation of Energy Management Systems, and Energy Saving and Efficiency in Buildings, within which aid has been granted to promote renewable energy self-consumption installations, energy rehabilitation of buildings and energy saving and efficiency measures.

In this same line of action, there was the approval of Decree Law 14/2020, on measures to accelerate the implementation of installations for the use of renewable energies due to the climate emergency and the need for urgent economic reactivation. This regulation was modified by Decree Law 1/2022, of 22 April, of the Regional Ministry, which modifies several articles of the Consolidated Text of Town and Country Planning and the Landscape, as well as Decree Law 14/2020, to further speed up the implementation of renewable energy installations. In addition, €42.37 million in aid has been granted to implement incentive programmes linked to self-consumption and storage with renewable energy sources and renewable thermal systems in the residential sector.

Likewise, to promote the renewal and decarbonisation of the passenger and freight transport fleet, Order 2/2022 of 28 March has announced aid for the transformation of passenger and freight transport fleets of private companies providing road transport services, as well as companies providing complementary private transport services, for which nearly €18.7 million has been earmarked. Similarly, incentives have been provided for the acquisition of plug-in electric and fuel cell vehicles, together with the implementation of electric vehicle recharging infrastructures.

In addition, the Regional Ministry of Territorial Policy, Public Works and Mobility has added two initiatives: firstly, the promotion of cycle-pedestrian routes as an alternative mode of transport, with almost 50% of the Valencia Metropolitan Green Belt having been put into service, and the promotion of the development of Green Routes, itineraries closely linked to leisure in nature designed on old infrastructures, mainly disused railway platforms. Secondly, the development of new maps by the Valencia Cartographic Institute: the network of cycle routes has been included in the thematic mapping available through the map viewer of the Valencian Government. This information has been made available to the main travel planners, such as Google Maps, Moovit and Bing.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the actions that the Valencian Government has developed for the improvement of living conditions inside homes within the framework of the Renhata Plan⁵⁸. The main purpose of the aid is to promote actions that facilitate the conservation of homes, improve their energy efficiency and adapt them to the special circumstances of the people who live in them. In the 2022 call for applications, 3,003 applications have been registered, doubling those of 2021.

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58 Documentation available [here](#).

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Natural Heritage Conservation Act.
- Climate Change Strategy 2050-Klima 2050, and the Energy Transition and Climate Change Bill.
- Basque Country Energy Strategy 2030, and Strategic Plan for a Just Energy Transition.
- Basque Country Circular Economy Strategy 2030, and Basque Country Bioeconomy Strategy 2030.
- Biodiversity Strategy of the CAPV 2030, and Soil Protection Strategy 2030.
- Basque Strategy for Electric Mobility (*)
- Basque Urban Agenda Bultzatu 2050.
- Strategic Plan of the Network of Municipalities Towards Sustainability (**).
- Sustainable Mobility Plan 2021-2025, and Sustainable Transport Master Plan 2030. (**).
- 5th Environmental Framework Programme of the Basque Country 2030, and the Basque Environmental Administration Act (**).
- Green Procurement Programme 2030.
- Sustainable Mobility Plan 2021-2025, and Sustainable Transport Master Plan 2030.



(*): Approved in July 2022

(**): In preparation

The Basque Government's commitment to the planet is a strategic area. Environmental Sustainability, Circular Economy and Energy Transition are the elements where responses are being made to the commitments to the planet in the Basque Country.

In May, the Basque Green Deal Initiative was presented, in line with the European Green Deal. This initiative is not only a climate commitment or an environmental policy, it is a model with industry as the economic engine and technology as the main transforming lever.

2021 was a notable year in terms of planning and legislation linked to the Basque Green Deal. The Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Plan 2024, the Gastronomy and Food Plan 2024 (including the strategy against food waste), the Energy Transition and Climate Change Plan 2024, as well as the Waste Prevention and Management Plan 2030, which envisages investments of close to €100 million to promote recycling, reduction and reuse of waste, have been approved. At the same time, the laws on Environmental Administration and Conservation of the Basque Country's Natural Heritage have been approved.

With regard to the circular economy, March saw the opening of the Basque Circular Hub, a centre for advanced studies that is unique in southern Europe, where 130 young people have received training and work experience in the circular economy. Along the same lines, in June the agreement was signed for the implementation of the third period to 2025 of the Basque Ecodesign Centre. In total, 14 large Basque companies have joined this new agreement, in addition to Ihobe, the Basque Government's Public Environmental Management Company SPRI, the Basque Business Development Agency, and the Basque Government itself.

As regards energy transition, the "Energy Intelligence Centre" has been set up to promote renewable energies through public-private collaboration. Of note is the launch of the "Basque Hydrogen Corridor" a macro-project that is the result of public-private collaboration and in which more than 120 organisations are participating, including companies, technology centres and local entities, some of them belonging to the "European Clean Hydrogen Alliance".

In the field of climate action, the Basque Country has taken on the commitments of the COP 26 world summit for the planet held in Glasgow. The Basque Country is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% and to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. The first step has already been taken by Basque industry.

In October, Basque industry committed to achieving net zero emissions by joining the global alliance being developed by the World Economic Forum to drive the transition of industrial clusters in the Basque Country towards net zero emissions. The creation of the Basque Net Zero Industrial Super Cluster aims to accelerate the path towards net zero emissions in the Basque Country, promoting the decarbonisation of energy supply and energy efficiency in industrial sectors and creating market opportunities based on the expansion of new technologies and innovative services.

EXTREMADURA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Extremadura Integrated Energy and Climate Plan PEIEC 2021/2030.
- Aid programme for the promotion of renewable energies, electric mobility, energy efficiency and the promotion of biofuels.
- Strategic Agreement for the promotion of electricity self-consumption in Extremadura.
- Green Infrastructure and Ecological Connectivity and Restoration Strategy (*).
- Creation of the Extremadura Climate Change Observatory and the Interdepartmental Commission on Climate Change.
- Urban Water Cycle Law (*), and Multiannual Strategic Water Infrastructure Plan 2016-2030.
- Regional Strategy for the Promotion of the Electric Vehicle in Extremadura 2018-2030
- Extremadura Sustainable Mobility Plan 2022-2030.
- Extremadura Green and Circular Economy Strategy 2030.
- Biodiversity Strategy (*).
- Green hydrogen round table in Extremadura.

(*) Measure in progress

The main actions of the Extremadura Government in the framework of accelerator policy 2 have focused on the accelerated development of the Extremadura Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PEIEC 2021-2030) whose objective is to advance in the energy transition of the Extremadura economy, based on a political, social and economic roadmap oriented towards the climate neutrality of the region in the 2030 horizon. To this end, the PEIEC 2021-2030 establishes 57 actions to be implemented in the specific areas of mitigation, adaptation, research and innovation and social activation to tackle climate change in the current decade. To this end, quantified targets are set in terms of GHG emissions (10.03% reduction in Extremadura's GHG emissions compared to 2017 emissions and 9.8% increase in the GHG emission absorption capacity of sinks), penetration of renewable energies and energy efficiency (Contribution of 40.6% of renewable primary energy and 35.7% of renewable final energy in 2030, a 22% reduction in primary energy in 2030 compared to 2017 and reaching a 99% renewable contribution to electricity generation in 2030), while minimising the impacts of climate change and the impacts on nature associated with Extremadura's energy system. As the most tangible result of the development of this Plan, Extremadura leads Spain in installed photovoltaic power, accounting for 26% of the national total in 2022.

In addition, the Extremadura Sustainable Mobility Plan for Extremadura (PEMS) is being drawn up and is expected to be approved in 2023. The PEMS arises from the need to carry out a set of actions aimed at implementing sustainable and efficient forms of travel in accordance with the existing characteristics of the Extremadura region and in line with the provisions of the Spanish Sustainable Mobility Strategy (EEMS). To this end, the PEMS will establish specific objectives, strategies and actions, which will be the basis of the mobility policy in Extremadura until 2030. Its objectives will be:

1. Articulate an integrated inter-urban transport system based on efficiency and the use of public transport in the areas of greatest mobility in the region.
2. Facilitate accessible and sustainable mobility in line with the objectives set for the demographic challenge, in relation to population recovery in inhabited centres of an eminently rural nature.
3. Promote low- or zero-emission travel to ensure efficiency and sustainability in transport modes.

4. Guarantee mobility and accessibility for all to different modes of transport, as a means of exercising the individual's right to mobility, in accordance with travel needs.

Citizen participation processes and the Regional Mobility Diagnosis are currently underway. The participation process began in March 2022, with the first call for sector roundtables and the launch of the Extremadura Mobility website. In this regard, 56 territorial agents (municipalities), transport operators, 17,250 telephone surveys, 8,994 face-to-face surveys and participation in sector roundtables have been used for consultation purposes. From October 2022, with the incorporation of the results of the surveys into the mobility diagnosis, the Action Plan, the timeframe and the indicators for monitoring will be defined.

In addition, the Regional Government of Extremadura has published the call for applications for subsidy programmes for residential rehabilitation and social housing under the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan regulated in RD 853/2021.

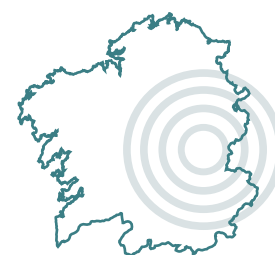
There are 3 lines: rehabilitation of buildings, housing, as well as the promotion of the Existing Building Book and comprehensive rehabilitation projects. The call will be open until August 2023, and has a budget of €11,180,551, with the possibility of increasing the budget.

Another notable point is that in September 2021, the Green Hydrogen Roundtable in Extremadura, headed by the Regional Ministry of Ecological Transition and Sustainability, was set up as a forum for the participation of companies, entities and administrations with the aim of drawing up a regional planning proposal that, taking into account the unique characteristics of Extremadura, will favour the penetration of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in the business fabric.

GALICIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Galician Climate Change and Energy Strategy 2050 and Integrated Regional Energy and Climate Plan 2019-2023.
- Galician Circular Economy Strategy 2020-2030.
- Law 6/2021, of 17 February, on waste and contaminated soils of Galicia Galician mobility strategy.
- Galician Energy Transition Agenda 2021-2030.
- Natural Heritage Law and Plan for the Promotion and Improvement of Galicia's Natural Heritage.
- Drought Plan.
- Flood risk management plan.
- Water Plan 2010-2025: a tool for the management and distribution of water resources for consumption by the Galician population.
- Coastal Management Plan.



To address the climate and environmental emergency, Galicia has various strategic and planning instruments, including the Galician Climate Change and Energy Strategy 2050 and the Integrated Regional Energy and Climate Plan 2019-2023, which is the Galician Government's roadmap for achieving climate neutrality.

Galicia decreased its total GHG emissions by 35.9% in 2020 compared to 1990. Regarding CO₂ emissions of resident units per unit of GDP and per unit of value added per sector, the data also show a positive evolution with a decrease of GHG emissions in Galicia in 2020 compared to 1990.

The share of renewable energies in electricity production has increased in value by 47% since 2015, reaching an absolute value of 75.57% in 2020, as did the share of recycled municipal waste in relation to total waste generated and treated, which improved considerably in 2019 compared to 2018, increasing by 12% since 2015.

The proportion of the population connected to the municipal supply network has improved, reaching 71.46% in 2020. In addition, the proportion of local administrative units that established policies and operational procedures for the participation of local communities in drinking water management and sanitation and bathing water management has already reached annual values of 100%.

The Galician Government is aware of the value of local produce and organic production in ensuring the sustainability of food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices that strengthen the capacity to adapt to climate change, and has therefore promoted several key instruments and initiatives that help to achieve this goal, including the Regulatory Council of Galician Organic Agriculture (CRAEGA) created in 2019, which in 2020 more than doubled the surface area of registered organic agricultural land.

Work has also been carried out in Galicia on the general objective of designing and implementing the necessary actions for the adaptation of the autonomous ports of Galicia to a changing climate, in order to guarantee the climate resilience of key infrastructures and sectors for the economy and society of the Autonomous Community through the Climate Change Adaptation Plans of the ports managed by the Ports of Galicia Public Business Entity.

The general and guiding principles that will govern the Climate Change Adaptation Plans of the ports managed by the Ports of Galicia Public Business Entity will be those that govern the environmental policies of the Community itself, as well as the state policies applicable in the Autonomous Community in this area. In particular, the governing principles will be those set out in the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC-2, 2021-2030) approved in September 2020 and in the Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change on the Spanish Coast of July 2017.

Based on the results of the risk analysis obtained for each autonomous port of Galicia, a list of adaptation measures that may be applied has been determined. An exhaustive analysis of the different measures proposed for each of the ports can be found in the working documents that will be published shortly.

With regard to the resilience of administrations, through the incorporation of climate change measures in national policies, strategies and plans, it is important to highlight the Technical Office of the Municipalities Agreement for Climate and Energy, framed within the Galician Climate Change and Energy Strategy 2050, which supports local entities in adhering to this initiative. There are already 285 Galician local councils participating in this initiative, which represents more than 90% of the Galician population. In addition, the Galician Government granted aid in 2020 and 2021 to these councils for the development of the Action Plans for Climate and Sustainable Energy (PACES), and there are already 248 councils that have approved these Plans.

It should also be noted that research and innovation need to play an important role in the creation of solutions to accelerate this transition to a low-emission region. In this regard, it can be seen that spending on research and development as a proportion of GDP has increased by 10% since 2015, as has the number of researchers per million inhabitants, which has increased by 26%.

Finally, in the field of promoting the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, the creation of the Inventory of Wetlands of Galicia should be highlighted. In this regard, the proportion of forest area in Galicia with respect to the total area shows a good performance and the proportion of forest area with management instruments in force increased by 22% since 2015.

ILLES BALEARS - BALEARIC ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Climate Change and Energy Transition Act.
- Law on waste and contaminated soils of the Balearic Islands.
- Law for the environmental and economic sustainability of the island of Formentera.
- Solarisation promotion plan.
- Sector Master Plan for Mobility.
- Special Action Plan for Situations of Alert and Possible Drought.
- Marine conservation investment plan.
- Environmental Assessment Act.
- Sector master plan for the prevention and management of hazardous waste.



The Balearic government has promoted a new policy to address the climate and environmental emergency: the Investment Plan for Energy Transition, which has a budget of 233 million euros to reach 30% of renewable energy production by 2026 and create 7,000 new skilled jobs. In terms of the impact achieved, 27% of CO₂ emissions linked to energy production on the island of Mallorca have been reduced. In the period 2022-2026, a reduction of 52,000 tonnes of CO₂ is planned. The Balearic Islands is currently the first Autonomous Community to produce green hydrogen from photovoltaic energy (Green Hysland Project) with 50 million euros, which will reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 20,700 tonnes per year.

Linked to the Investment Plan for the Energy Transition is another of the new implemented initiatives: the Balearic Islands Self-consumption Plan to produce up to 60MW of new power from renewable energy and reduce the electricity bill by 13 million euros, while at the regulatory level, Decree 48/2021 was approved at the end of 2021, to regulate the Balearic Carbon Footprint Register, created by Law 10/2019 on climate change and energy transition, which will serve to assess the effectiveness of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the island.

The actions carried out to promote sustainable mobility have been promoted through the Balearic Islands Sector Master Plan for Mobility, with positive impacts such as the renewal of the less polluting road transport system, the development of the Moves III Programme and the promotion of aid for the acquisition and use of electric vehicles. This year (2022) there will be 1,000 public access charging points (planned for 2025).

The Balearic Government together with the Island Council of Mallorca have promoted the first Citizens' Climate Assembly, consisting of a deliberative process of citizen participation, which poses the question: what do we need to do in the Balearic Islands and in Mallorca (Phase I) before the year 2030 to face the climate emergency in an effective and socially fair way?

Finally, the Balearic government is promoting the regional Waste Law, which includes an increase in aid for the transport of waste from 35% to 65% and an increase in aid to local authorities for the improvement of waste management.

LA RIOJA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Integrated Regional Energy and Climate Plan and Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
- Creation of the Riojan Agency for Energy Transition (ARTE).
- Actions to improve public transport.
- Modification of sewerage and wastewater treatment regulations to serve small population centres.
- New regulations on Biodiversity and the management of endangered species.
- Development and visibility of the Biodiversity Data Bank.
- Actions to control invasive alien species and to reintroduce local species.
- Expansion of the area of the Natura 2000 network and other protected areas in the region.
- Ecosystem restoration: river restoration plans (Ebro Resilience strategy) and gravel pit restoration.

The Government of La Rioja has promoted the Integrated Regional Energy and Climate Plan, which will form the basis for the strategic development of future actions in the field of energy and climate of the Government of La Rioja. It will include actions in the field of renewable energies, energy saving and efficiency, self-consumption or the production model in the Community and will describe actions for the 2030 target scenario based on the guidelines of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC). Along the same line of strategic planning is the creation of the Energy Transition Agency of La Rioja, whose creation project has been published in the Official Gazette of the Parliament of La Rioja in May 2022. Both constitute the fundamental strategic policies that articulate the action of the government of La Rioja.

An important line of action during this period has been to improve public transport in the region by incorporating demand-based transport in rural transport and extending the rural service to more municipalities. Interurban transport services have also been improved to discourage the use of private transport. To this end, the regional cycling strategy is being approved, which promotes the construction of cycle lanes in the region and the construction of a network of cycle lanes in the metropolitan area of Logroño. In addition, the Government of La Rioja has joined the network of cities for cycling and the first grants for cycling associations will be announced.

Also noteworthy is the regulatory drive by which the Government of La Rioja seeks to protect biodiversity in the region through actions such as the new regulations on Biodiversity and the management of endangered species; the draft decree extending the Natura 2000 Network in La Rioja (increasing it by more than 12,000 hectares) and approving the Natural Resources Management and Organisation Plans; the Decree of the Alto Najerilla Natural Resources Management Plan; and the Law for the creation of the Alto Najerilla Park. All of them are regulatory developments in process that will be approved in 2022.

One notable feature in the strengthening of the ecological transition to promote the use of renewable energies is the development of the first phase of the PRIEC, where the current situation of energy generation infrastructures is analysed, the energy consumption of La Rioja society and measures are proposed to achieve the objectives of the PNIEC adapted to La Rioja. In this same line of action, the renewable energy installations planned for December 2020 have been implemented (6 wind farms and 20 photovoltaic farms), 3 agreements have been signed with local councils for the creation of 4 energy communities in isolated rural areas and applications for self-consumption have been multiplied by 6, with 11 MW installed and 550 installations registered in the region.

NAFARROAKO FORU KOMUNITATEA - COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Roadmap for Climate Change in Navarre - KLINA.
- Navarre Energy Plan 2030.
- Rural Development Plan.
- Waste Plan of Navarre.
- Agenda for the development of the Circular Economy in Navarre 2030.
- Master plan for the integral urban water cycle in Navarre.



During the period of analysis, the Government of Navarre approved Regional Law 4/2022, of 22 March, on climate change and energy transition, which provides a regulatory, institutional and instrumental framework for tackling climate change and articulates the transition to a new energy model in Navarre. This milestone forms part of the Navarre Climate Change Roadmap (KLINA). The report on this roadmap, drawn up in December 2021, includes participation in international networks such as Under2Mou and Regions4, Climate Change indicators, monitoring of objectives and measures (transversal, mitigation and adaptation), budgetary commitment and the development of governance and participation bodies. The most outstanding fact is the 17.8% reduction in total GHG emissions, 0.8% more than expected.

The actions envisaged in the Navarre Energy Plan 2030 have been promoted. Planning actions include the Green Hydrogen Agenda for Navarre, the Agenda to promote electric mobility, legislation on energy communities, the study on decarbonisation of industry and the NAVEAC project (electric and connected vehicles). With regard to aid, the outstanding feature is the management of next generation funds (MOVESIII, self-consumption, etc.) and the management of its own funds and subsidies. The most relevant monitoring indicators measured in 2021 are:

1. The share of RES-E in gross final energy consumption was 23.79% (the 2030 target is 50%).
2. Electricity production with RES-E in total electricity consumption was 80.32% (2030 target: 100%).
3. The share of RES-E in transport was 5.3% (2030 target: 15%).

Regarding final energy consumption per capita, there has been a decrease of 16.15% in the last decade.

The Rural Development Plan is contributing to Country Challenge 2 through its agri-environmental, organic farming and livestock and Natura 2000 measures. The area covered by this aid amounts to 79,711 hectares in agri-environmental measures, 14,830 hectares in organic farming and 2,223 hectares in Natura 2000. The number of people who have received aid for any of these measures is 3,549, of whom 879 are women. Last year's implementation amounted to 5.19 million euros.

Water saving is present in the aid for the modernisation of irrigation of farms and communal areas, as a change to more efficient irrigation systems. Last year 418 hectares were modernised, with an execution of approximately 500,000 euros. The programme also contributes to the protection of forests by financing aid for the prevention and repair of damage to forests caused by fires, natural disasters and catastrophes and for investments that increase the adaptive capacity and environmental value of forest ecosystems. Last year, payments amounted to 2 million euros and the forest area affected amounted to 1,766 hectares.

The Agenda for the development of the Circular Economy in Navarre with a 2030 horizon has specified objectives and lines of work to aid in the commitment of the region to sustainability, the fight against climate change and the transition to the circular economy, from a cross-cutting and coherent perspective for all Public Administrations. Its main instruments include the S3 Smart Specialisation Strategy for Navarre (see country challenge 4); the Climate Change Roadmap, the 2017-2027 Waste Plan and the Regional Law on Waste and Taxation of Same.

In this line of action, the Navarre Waste Plan has enabled the implementation of important infrastructures for waste management, such as the centre for preparation for reuse (Arréglatelas) and the Sakana composting plant. A large number of clean points have been installed and are present in all the municipi-

palities. Subsidies from the waste fund have begun in the domestic waste stream and also for CDW and industrial waste.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the preparation and publication of the monitoring report of the Master Plan for the Integrated Urban Water Cycle in Navarre. In accordance with the Third Hydrological Planning Cycle, in relation to adaptation to climate change, in 2020, the consumption captured for supply will give a total volume of 76.5 hm³, which represents 1.56% of the water resources generated in the Autonomous Community, meeting the Plan's objective of not exceeding 2%.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



- Revision of the Sector Land Use Planning Guidelines for the use of wind energy.
- Drafting and processing of the Law of Integral Territorial Planning of Asturias, LOI-TA.
- Climate Action Strategy, Just Transition Strategy and Energy Rehabilitation Strategy for Buildings.
- Strategic Air Quality Plan.
- Aid to individuals and companies for the promotion of energy saving and efficiency, sustainable mobility and renewable energies.
- Plan for Multimodal Mobility in the Metropolitan Area of the Principality of Asturias
- Asturias Natural Resources Management Plan (PORN), and promotion of initiatives aimed at the environmental recovery of areas affected by mining and industrial activity.
- Water Law and master plans for water supply and sanitation and purification.
- Creation of the "Asturias Natural Network", as a unifying element of spaces, species, uses and customs, associated with the environmental values of the region.
- Projects linked to the energy transition: energy storage, hydrogen production, renewable energies, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and circular economy as well as projects for the decarbonisation of industry linked to the use of hydrogen, CO₂ capture and the use of new materials and production technologies.

The government of the Principality of Asturias is implementing a wide range of policies and regulations aimed at strengthening actions within the framework of the accelerating policy 2. The fundamental framework of these actions is composed on the one hand by the Asturian Climate Action Strategy, which is in the development phase after having carried out a study addressing the effects of warming on Asturian natural ecosystems and socio-economic sectors; and on the other hand, the Strategy for a Just Ecological Transition and the Strategy for the Energy Rehabilitation of Buildings, which have already developed their first drafts based on sustainability and renewable energies, promoting the decarbonisation of the regional economy and contributing to productive activity and employment in a changing scenario such as the one currently experienced by the energy sector. A final line of action in relation to the Asturian government's strategic planning is the Air Quality Plan with the aim of ensuring that air quality throughout the region converges towards the values recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Government action has boosted the ecological transition by promoting the use of renewable energies, especially through aid and also through the revision of the Sector Territorial Planning Guidelines for the use of wind energy, considered the most important renewable energy resource in Asturias, with the aim of reconciling the deployment of these facilities with the protection of the region's biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage. In this same line of action, aid has been approved to implement energy self-consumption facilities, storage and renovation of air conditioning systems with renewable energies aimed at companies, individuals, neighbourhood communities and local corporations.

Likewise, several actions have been carried out to promote electrical mobility through the Multimodal Mobility Plan for the Metropolitan Area of Asturias and aid for the promotion of sustainable mobility, Asturias being the autonomous community with the highest number of electric recharging and fast charging points and the fifth in terms of electric vehicle penetration.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the actions carried out in the field of conservation of natural resources and protected areas. In this respect, the Asturias Natural Resources Management Plan (PORNA) is committed to conserving natural resources by overcoming stages of indiscriminate development, with a new model of sustainable development that reconciles conservation and use of the biosphere; and the Asturias Natural Network unifies the protected areas (five natural parks, seven biosphere reserves and one national park) and harmonises their management by promoting their socio-economic development through the improvement and knowledge of these habitats and including investment in infrastructures.

As regards regulatory developments, the Water Law of the Principality of Asturias, currently being processed, aims to improve the quality of bodies of water and aquatic, continental and marine ecosystems, and to integrate environmental policies and land use planning into water planning. It thus incorporates collaboration between administrations into the integral water cycle to achieve more efficient and sustainable management, which is essential for territorial cohesion, to curb the demographic challenge and to protect the most disadvantaged. In addition, the master plans for supply and sanitation and treatment allow work to be carried out in an orderly sphere of action to address the challenges with a 2030 horizon.

REGION OF MURCIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Improving energy efficiency on farms.
- Regional Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Region of Murcia.
- Drafting and approval of the Passenger Transport Master Plan to guarantee sustainable, digital, structured and eco-efficient mobility.
- Geographical deconcentration and tourism deseasonalisation policies.
- Implementation of the "System for the recognition of sustainability of nature tourism in the Natura 2000 Network" of the Mar Menor, including the elaboration of a manual of good environmental practices for tourist companies.
- Encourage Species and Variety Conversion.
- Denitrification of surface water discharged into the Mar Menor using wooden bioreactors and green filters.
- Removal of plant biomass, cleaning of maritime areas and environmental monitoring of the actions.
- Various projects for the recovery and monitoring of the Mar Menor.
- Drafting and approval of the Passenger Transport Master Plan to guarantee sustainable, digital, structured and eco-efficient mobility.



The actions of the Government of the Region of Murcia, which declared a Climate Emergency in June 2020 in its territory, are framed within the Regional Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change and the Regional Climate Change Observatory. The Strategy addresses sea level rise scenarios for coastal urban development, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 or near-zero energy buildings, in addition to the recurrent measures to raise public awareness and conserve biodiversity.

The Region of Murcia has reinforced measures to improve energy efficiency in the agricultural sector: firstly, in farms through the call for aid to modernise the agricultural sector; secondly, in irrigation communities; and thirdly, through the modernisation of irrigation systems that will benefit 345 farmers by increasing the

efficiency of irrigation systems and saving water, as well as reducing energy consumption through the installation of renewable energies.

This line of climate action and energy transition of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia also includes the initiative developed by the Murcia Health Service (SMS) through the Comprehensive Plan for the Ecological Transition of the SMS - 2021 - 2030. It includes 6 general lines of action, mainly focused on reducing the climate footprint of the SMS, ranging from a firm commitment to renewable energies, energy rehabilitation of buildings and facilities, digitalisation at the service of energy efficiency and low-carbon mobility.

The development of sustainable mobility is framed within the actions of the Passenger Transport Master Plan, which foresees formulas for territorial cohesion in the Region of Murcia through sustainable mobility, structured in 4 axes: transport networks, services and infrastructures, pricing and financing, and management instruments.

One of the priorities of the Government of the Region of Murcia is the protection of the Mar Menor ecosystem, for which the Regional Government has been helping the local councils since 2017 in the task of removing biomass from the Mar Menor, to prevent its accumulation and decomposition, which is harmful to the Mar Menor ecosystem, on the recommendation of the scientific community. In the entire 2017-2022 period, 14,300 tonnes of biomass have been removed, at a cost of 7 million euros. In 2022 alone, 5,900 tonnes were removed, at a cost of depersonalisation 3 million euros, and it is planned to invest more than 7 million euros for the 2022-2023 period.

As a complement to the actions of control and inspection of compliance with the measures of Act 3/2020 for the recovery and protection of the Mar Menor, environmental tanks have been installed, which are infrastructures that retain the first rainwater, which tends to be the most polluted, thus minimising its impact on the Mar Menor. 10.6 million euros have already been invested in tanks in Los Urrutias (1), Los Alcázares (1), Santiago de La Ribera (3), Lo Pagán (2) and one more in Torre Pacheco, with the next one planned for Playa Honda at the end of 2022, at a cost of 6 million euros, which will be added to the one in La Unión.

After intensive processing the Transport Master Plan of the Region of Murcia was approved by Agreement of the Governing Council on 16 September 2021, thus complying with the provisions of Article 22 of Act 10/2015, of 24 March, which establishes the system of competences in urban and interurban transport in the Region of Murcia.

One of the plan's essential programmes is being developed after approval, which is the implementation of a New Concession Map or Daily Mobility Map, which consists of the approval of new interurban public passenger transport services for general use, which will replace the old concession system, and from which the greatest impact is expected in terms of establishing sustainable, digital, structured and eco-efficient mobility, although it is not yet possible to quantify or assess any impact, as processing, and therefore actual implementation, have yet to be completed.

Finally, the active participation of the Region of Murcia in the preparation of the new Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy for implementation on 1 January 2023, presenting initiatives to promote climate change and encourage energy transition in agriculture, forestry and rural areas. The creation of a Regional Climate Change Observatory is another notable measure.

AUTONOMOUS CITY OF MELILLA

The Government of the Autonomous City of Melilla has focused its actions within the framework of accelerator policy 2 on reducing atmospheric pollution caused by public facilities and buildings belonging to the Autonomous City of Melilla. This objective has resulted in the reduction of primary energy consumption in public buildings in 2021 of 2,476,296 Kw/year and in the reduction of 1,110 Tn CO₂/year in the emission of greenhouse gases in 2021.

In line with the objective of reducing GHG emissions, the Melilla Urban Mobility Plan has been promoted with an investment of €2,284,774 in 2021 and the subsidy programme for the acquisition of pedal-assisted bicycles has been developed with the aim of promoting sustainable mobility.

Finally, the promotion of renewable energies has been carried out through the implementation of solar energy in facilities in the Autonomous City of Melilla and with aid for energy rehabilitation actions in buildings.



CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In relation to initiatives to **support economic activities that enable a Just Transition to a circular and decarbonised economy**, the activities that are being carried out broadly cover initiatives involving changes in the heating system of state schools with biomass boilers; the installation of photovoltaic panels in different services and buildings; training campaigns on several topics related to organic farming and dissemination programmes related to these campaigns, seeking and promoting agro-ecological production initiatives.

Local authorities have also given courses on municipal waste management, while at the same time seeking to involve tourism in this national challenge with a view to carrying out more sustainable activities, thereby promoting the drafting of tourism sustainability plans at the destination.

Along the same lines, circular economy plans have been drawn up, making it a paradigm for a new model that seeks to make economic benefits compatible with those of an environmental and social nature.

In environmental conservation, local actions focus mainly on the sustainable and circular management of urban waste and water, as well as the adoption of measures to protect against atmospheric pollution through air quality plans. Specifically, with regard to environmental conservation, proposals are being made to promote reforestation, the control and monitoring of landfill sites and the implementation of recycling workshops.

In relation to integrated environmental management, a number of initiatives have been launched, such as studies to improve waste collection, training and promotion of ecological agriculture, implementation of various activities related to composting, etc. Thus, with regard to the management of solid urban waste, initiatives have been launched in some municipalities with campaigns offering a reduction in the municipal refuse tax to those businesses that adhere to it and demonstrate their commitment to the correct separation of solid urban waste. The promotion of composting has been addressed in different municipalities through home composting programmes to contribute to the reduction of organic matter and promote the circular economy, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of the municipality by reducing the volume of waste generated and disposed of in landfills.

As regards protection against air pollution, the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act stipulates that by the end of 2023, all Spanish municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants or with more than 20,000 inhabitants that exceed the established pollution limit values should have a sustainable mobility plan that restricts the circulation of polluting vehicles. To this end, many municipalities are implementing low emission zones that will greatly improve air quality, as well as different initiatives to promote the use of urban transport in the city.

With regard to the axis on the development of **sustainable urban planning measures**, it is worth mentioning the work on the preparation of sustainable or bioclimatic building ordinances for the municipality, which promote the use of renewable energies and encourage the revitalisation and regeneration of urban areas. A noteworthy initiative in this regard is the "Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability". This is an association that has been in existence for over 20 years and is made up of more than 300 local entities in Catalonia (317 as of June 2022), constituting a platform for cooperation and exchange between municipalities in the field of sustainable development, planning and environmental management.

The promotion of actions to achieve **energy efficiency** and the promotion of the use of **renewable energies** in public lighting and in public and private facilities and buildings, could be highlighted through aid for the improvement of energy efficiency in homes and other buildings, the renovation of public lighting, aid for the rehabilitation of public spaces, such as facades, or property tax rebates to promote the use of renewable energies. In this sense, initiatives such as the "Provincial Energy Saving Plans" have been implemented by several Provincial Councils to support municipalities that are working on energy sustainability through subsidies for works to improve the energy efficiency of facilities (especially public lighting), implement re-

newable energies, improve the thermal performance of the envelopes of municipal buildings and/or install charging points for electric vehicles, as well as monitoring/measuring/management systems for municipal energy consumption.

Finally, within this country challenge, and in relation to **the conservation and environmental restoration of the territory and the promotion of endogenous development**, different initiatives are being carried out related to environmental education, restoration of landscapes and different natural environments, re-forestation campaigns, atmospheric protection measures and activities related to waste management for children. The role of the youngest children in some local entities is fundamental for the construction of agro-ecological schools and ecological vegetable gardens.

As an example of local commitment and cooperation with the protection and conservation of the environment, we should highlight, given its relevance, the Municipalities Agreement for Climate and Sustainable Energy, which has allowed municipalities that are members to join forces to work together in the same direction. As a result of its consolidation and progress, although the initial objective was to achieve a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2020, this figure has been updated to achieve a 40% reduction by 2030 and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

Alcantarilla (Murcia) is an example of a municipality that signed up to the Agreement in 2017. The commitment was strengthened in 2019 with the approval of the Alcantarilla Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, through which the municipality undertakes to achieve the European Union's objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In June 2021, the Alcantarilla Town Council obtained the 'Carbon Footprint' seal (2019 calculation), which shows the commitment to environmental protection and the implementation of initiatives to reduce pollution and improve air quality, such as the promotion of less polluting means of transport, the use of solar energy in some municipal buildings and the use of LED lighting.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 3.

CLOSING THE GENDER INEQUALITY GAP
AND ENDING DISCRIMINATION

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

This situation diagnosis is based on an analysis of the evolution (2015-2020) of the indicators included in the publication "Women and Men in Spain" (National Statistics Institute), updating the data to 2021 and even to 2022 (where possible). Public statistical sources are always used, primarily from the series published by the National Statistics Institute. In addition, on occasions, other sources of public statistics from different sources are used, in order to be able to analyse specific aspects that are referenced in each heading.

1. Descriptive indicators of the gender gap

1.1. Labour market

Even under the premise of a relative improvement in the female employment rate, the truth is that it is still far from the rate obtained for men, and precarious forms of contracting are also prominent, i.e., part-time and temporary employment.

1.1.1. Employment rate.

A first approach to the labour market from a gender perspective allows the preliminary statement to be made: the employment rate is always higher in the male population (in all the years analysed and for all age groups). The gender gap is most pronounced throughout the series in the 55-64 age group. In 2015 the gap was 13.8 and in 2020 it was 13.6. The smallest gap is linked to the 16-24 age group, but in this case, there is an increase in the indicator, which in 2015 was 1.7 and in 2020 stands at a striking 4.2.

Taking Q1 2021 and 2022 as a reference, it is evident that the employment rate continues to show gender differences: in 2021 the employment rate was 43.3% for women and 53.9% for men. In 2022 it was 45.4% and 55.8% respectively, which shows a gap of 10.6 % in 2021, compared to 10.4 in 2022.

Looking at the gender gap totals, there was a growth from 2015 to 2018. In 2019, there was a change to the 2017 figure. The 2020 gap was 11.4% (0.2% higher than in 2015). The gap growth trend is redirected, albeit in an upward progression, in the following years. For Q1-2021 the gap was 9.59% and for Q1-2022 it was 10.44%.

The employment rate by level of education has also increased in absolute terms for the male population throughout the entire series, with the exception of 2020, which is justified by the health crisis. In any case, the evolution of the series is positive for all levels of education, with the highest growth in the first group (levels 0-2). In the case of women, the total indicator is 56.4 in 2015 and 60 in 2020. Although for all levels there is a growth in the employment rate, the effects of the pandemic can also be seen here, and 2020 shows results that are worse than in previous years.

In 2021, the employment rate by level of education and training continues to show a difference between men and women. At all levels, higher percentages are observed for men than for women: lower level first stage Secondary education (M-53.3 > W-31.8); first stage secondary education (M-71.4 > W-50.5); second stage secondary education (M-77.2 > W-64.2); higher education (M-84.6 > W-78.7).

As regards the comparison with the EU-27, the series concludes with a gap of 11.3, practically identical to the Spanish gap, although the reduction in the period is somewhat more significant at the European level (0.4% compared to 0.2%).

1.1.2. Part-time employment.

Part-time employment among women (as a percentage of the total number of employed) shows a downward trend, with a differential of one percentage point between 2015-2020. In the same period (Q1) 2021 and 2022, the percentage of women with part-time contracts was much higher than that of men. In 2021, women reached 22.7% (2,004,200 people) and men 6.7% (691,900 people). In 2022, the same percentage was maintained for women (2,112,000 people) and men reached 6.5% (697,300 people).

For the EU-27, the figure for 2020 is also lower when compared with 2015; the European decrease (0.3) is in this case lower than the reduction in Spain. In Spain, 2020 ends with a part-time employment rate of 10.4, which rises to 13.9 if the European rate is considered.

If we analyse the levels of part-time employment of women, based on total female employment, we can see that the percentages of part-time employment are always higher in the EU-27. On average, the value of this percentage in Europe is 30.71 while Spain reports an average percentage of 24.01. Europe and Spain show a decreasing evolution throughout the series to conclude in 2020, with 22.8% in the case of Spain and 30.3% for the EU-27.

1.1.3. Temporary employment.

The percentage of employees with a temporary contract as a proportion of total employment in 2020 was 11.8 for men and 12.3 for women. The starting percentages (2015), however, were lower for women (12.1 compared to 13.1 for men). If the analysis is limited to the value of temporariness - with respect to the employment of persons of the same sex - women have higher rates throughout the series and there is resistance to their reduction. In fact, men show a reduction in the rate over the period equivalent to 2.5 % while women show a growth rate of 0.5 %.

Analysing the same period (Q2) of 2021 and 2022, we find a higher number of female employees with temporary contracts. Thus, in 2021 there were 2.2 million women compared to 1.9 million men and, in 2022, there was a reduction of 2 million women to 1.8 million men.

With regard to the share of female workers with temporary contracts in the total number of employees and in the comparison with Europe, it can be inferred that the Spanish rate seems almost immobile throughout the series. The growth is 0.4 %, reaching a value of 25.6 in 2020. In the EU-27, the downward trend is more pronounced (1.7 % from 15.9 to 14.2 in 2020).

1.1.4. Unemployment rate.

Regarding the unemployment rate, the constant in the period is that the rate decreases for men and women in any of the age groups. Unemployment rates are always higher for women: in all years and in all age groups of reference. In the female population, the age group with the highest unemployment rate is 16-24 years old (a similar situation exists in the male age group). Regarding the gender gap (women-men), it increases throughout the entire 2015-2020 period, affecting all age groups. The most significant evolution of the gap is represented by the 16-24 age group, which started in 2015 at - 0.7 and reached 2.6 in 2020. In absolute values, the highest gap is observed in the 25+ age group.

Taking as a reference the same period (Q1) in 2021 and 2022, we find a significant decrease in the unemployment rate. In 2021, men went from 38.18% to 30.28%. While in 2022, women went from 41.18% to 30.07%

(slightly lower than men). The age group most affected by unemployment was the 16-19 age group: the percentages for women in this age group are 61.5% (2021) and 49.24% (2022). The age group reporting the least female unemployment was 55 and over: 13.95% (2021) and 13.85% (2022).

1.1.5. Inactivity.

The inactive population of women is always higher than that of men, the percentage of inactivity in 2021 reached 57.33% compared to 58.63% in 2015⁵⁹. If we look at the main type of inactivity among women, 87.92% of the inactive women are receiving a pension other than a retirement pension and 87.01% are engaged in housework.

1.2. Wages and incomes

In Spain, the average annual earnings per working person, expressed in euros, show a net variation in the 2015-2020 period of 2,059.21 euros⁶⁰. This "average annual earnings" value is always higher for men than for women in all sectors. Table 1 shows the differences represented by the following amounts expressed in euros:

TABLE 1. AVERAGE ANNUAL PROFIT (2015-2020) (EUROS)

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
5,175	5,252	5,726	5,783	5,793	5,941
AVERAGE DIFFERENCE FOR THE PERIOD = 5,611 euros					

Source: Annual Wage Structure Survey.

The Annual Wage Structure Survey (2015-2020) published by the National Statistics Institute also analyses the situation of working people in terms of their earnings compared to the Minimum Interprofessional Salary. For 2020, women present a higher percentage in the group indicating lower earnings (27.49%). Men reach 11.90%. In the second lowest earning step by 2020, women account for 43.80% and men for 49.27%. The first three levels (0-1 to 2-3 Minimum Interprofessional Salary) accumulate percentages of women to 88.87% of the total and men to 82.59%.

If we consider the percentage of working people in terms of their earnings in relation to the minimum wage and in relation to the earnings range, we observe a clear segregation by sex. For example, if we select the last year of the series (2020), the +8 Minimum Interprofessional Salary group has a male percentage of 80.73% and a female percentage of 19.27%; however, in the 0-1 Minimum Interprofessional Salary group, the male percentage is 32.05% and the female percentage is 69.95%. The group in which the female income disadvantage is most pronounced is 3-4 Minimum Interprofessional Salary.

On the other hand, if we look at the average annual earnings, these were 27,642.52 euros for men and 22,467.48 euros for women in 2020, which represents an increase of 2.6% and 3.6%, respectively, compared to 2019. However, average annual earnings for women were 81.3% of those for men. This difference is reduced if similar jobs are considered (same occupation, type of contract, type of working day, among others)⁶¹.

59 EPA. Table updated as of 28 January 2022

60 Annual Wage Structure Survey. Last in the series published in June 2022 with data for 2020.

61 Annual Wage Structure Survey (2020). National Statistics Institute. Available [here](#).

1.3. Pensions

The logical consequence of the situation of disadvantage suffered by women in the labour market is that there is a similar situation in the area of pensions (tables 2 and 3). This conclusion is reached after analysing average and minimum pensions by gender (the last three-year cycle is taken as a reference).

TABLE 2: AVERAGE PENSION IN SPAIN (JUNE 2020-2022) (EUROS)

AVERAGE PENSION IN SPAIN (euros/month)		WOMEN	MEN
June 2022	Retirement Pension	974.51	1,441.56
	Widow's or widower's pension	799.69	548.18
	Permanent Disability Pension	944.31	1,089.41
June 2021	Retirement Pension	914.10	1,367.86
	Widow's or widower's pension	758.80	523.65
	Permanent Disability Pension	902.59	1,047.20
June 2020	Retirement Pension	884.10	1,338.81
	Widow's or widower's pension	743.73	516.17
	Permanent Disability Pension	892.39	1,039.29

Source: ESTADISS-Statistics of the INSS. Pension Statistics.

TABLE 3: MINIMUM PENSION IN SPAIN (JUNE 2020-2022) (EUROS)

MINIMUM PENSION IN SPAIN (% of total)		WOMEN(%)	MEN (%)
June 2022	Pensions of the General Social Security Scheme	26.83	13.65
	Pensions for the self-employed	40.01	25.79
	Pensions of all schemes	28.17	15.66
June 2021	Pensions of the General Social Security Scheme	27.71	14.33
	Pensions for the self-employed	41.09	26.98
	Pensions of all schemes	28.98	16.40
June 2020	Pensions of the General Social Security Scheme	28.60	14.98
	Pensions for the Self-Employed	41.98	28.07
	Pensions of all schemes	41.98	28.07

Source: ESTADISS-Statistics of the National Social Security. Pension Statistics.

As can be inferred from the tables, women's average pension levels are always lower than men's if pensions deriving from their previous contributions are taken into account. Widows' pensions are higher for women because they derive from contributions made by their (overwhelmingly male) spouses. The percentage difference in the number of women receiving minimum pensions is also significant; this percentage is always higher - and very markedly so - than the percentage of men in this situation.

In the European context, it may be interesting to analyse the relative income of the elderly in the period 2015-2019 (no data are available for 2020)⁶² which is calculated from the average annual net income per household type in Spain and in Europe.

In the period 2015 to 2020, the relative income of the elderly for men is higher in Spain than in the EU, except in 2018, when both incomes coincided. In the case of women, income is once again higher in the case of Spanish women, with no exception for years. The difference by sex lies in its evolution, with male income decreasing (from 1.06 to 1.04) while female income in Spain shows a progressive increase (from 0.97 to 0.99). The analysis of the gap (absolute difference between the value of the relative income of men and the value for women) in the case of Europe only offers data up to 2019, its value being constant throughout the series and standing at 0.10. For the Spanish case, the data offered reaches 2020, going from 0.09 to 0.05, that is, presenting a reduction in the value of the gap of 0.04.

1.4. Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Living Conditions Survey shows that the at-risk-of-poverty rate (considering a value below 60% of equivalent income) after social transfers would be as follows:

TABLE 4: AT-RISK-OF-POVERTY RATE (2015-2020) (PERCENTAGE)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TOTAL	22.1	22.3	21.6	21.5	20.7	21
MEN	22.5	22.6	21.0	20.9	20.2	20.2
WOMEN	21.8	22.1	22.2	22.2	21.1	21.7

Source: Eurostat: Eurostat.

The rate to 2020 has been reduced in all three groups (Totals-Men-Women) but it is striking that the intensity of the reduction in the male group is 2.3 % (comparison 2015-2020) and that only 0.1 % is deducted in women as a whole; thus, the gap in this period has widened from -0.7 in 2015 to 1.5 in 2020.

1.5. Training activity in STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics)

In the report prepared and published by the Equality Unit of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training entitled "X-Ray of the gender gap in STEM education. A detailed study of the educational trajectory of girls and women in Spain" (2022), provides (page 45) an illustrative figure of the presence of young women in the scientific-technological modality of the Baccalaureate in a series that goes from 2008 to 2020. In the historical series of interest here (2015-2020), we observe a majority presence of male students with values ranging from 54.03% to 52.53%, i.e., with a slight reduction in the presence of males in favour of females which, in any case, does not even reach 2 % of improvement.

Particularly surprising in Vocational Training is the decline in the number of female students in recent years in vocational families such as Computer Science and Communications, where they make up only 10 % of the total student body. The problem worsens when we compare the evolution of enrolments over time and we see that their presence is decreasing year after year: they made up 23.5 % in Intermediate Vocational Training in the 2003/04 academic year, while they make up 7.03 % in 2019/20, and in Higher Education they have gone from 24.44 % in 2003/04 to 10.18 % in the last academic year analysed. As is also the case at university, we are witnessing a gradual decline in the total number and proportion of women who choose to train in the field of digital and technological literacy.

The university student body enrolled according to branch of education shows (table 5) a typical bias of the educational model (reflected in the production model), which is horizontal segregation (by sectors or

62 The data is published by the National Statistics Institute based on the European Survey of Income and Living Conditions. Eurostat.

areas of activity). It is very significant that in the 2015/2016 academic year, female university students in the branch of "Engineering and Architecture" only represented 25.65% of the total and that, although the figure improves for the 2020/2021 academic year, it does so without substantive changes to reach a percentage of 26.30%. In the 2020/2021 academic year, it can also be seen that in the "Sciences" branch the situation is more balanced and that there is a notable increase in the traditionally feminised courses (the areas of "Health Sciences", "Arts and Humanities" and "Social and Legal") where the female presence is constantly above 60% of the total number of students enrolled. Moreover, if we proceed to a greater disaggregation and focus our interest on masculinised courses, we see that the data point to a reality that has not overcome the gender bias.

TABLE 5: MALE AND FEMALE STUDENT BODY BY BRANCH OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

	YEAR 2022 (Provisional data)		YEAR 2015	
	MAN	WOMAN	MAN	WOMAN
Physics	8,735	3,346	7,030	2,441
Mathematics	9,698	5,441	5,950	3,707
Computing	48,809	8,587	39,893	5,537
Eng./Ind/Constr.	112,875	49,011	140,017	55,566

Source: Women's Institute⁶³

1.6. Management in the public sector

With regard to the senior positions and senior bodies of the General State Administration, for the 2015-2021 analysis period, female empowerment values are included for all the analysis groups ("Presidency of the Government", "State Secretariats", "Under-Secretariats and General Secretariats" and, finally, "General Directorates")⁶⁴. For women, the total values increased over the period from 29.44% to 43.73%. However, female representation above 50% only exists in the group of the Presidency of the Government, Vice-Presidencies and Ministries.

1.7. Management in the private sector

For the 2015-2021 series, the total presence of women on boards of directors has risen from 18 to 30.7%; a very significant figure given the scale of the transition (almost doubling the figure for the base year)⁶⁵. However, in the breakdown of the average, it can be seen that the growth in the number of female directors (from 18.7 to 32.69) is a determining factor in the average percentage, because the number of chairpersons has decreased -significantly- from 8.8% to 5.9%.

From the data provided by OECD.Stat, which considers the proportion of female managers per country, we can see the evolution in this area (up to 2021). Even though it remains below the OECD average (except in 2015 and 2020), progression in Spain is favourable and significant, as shown in Table 6:

63 The data are collected from the Women's Institute (Women in Figures), which refers to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training as the original source. Universities (University Statistics).

64 Data provided by the European Institute for Gender Equality EIGE (table updated on 14 December 2021).

65 Data provided by the European Institute for Gender Equality EIGE; they correspond to data from the second half of each year.

TABLE 6. PROPORTION OF FEMALE MANAGERS (PERCENTAGE)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
SPAIN	31.4	31.2	30.6	32.1	33.2	35	33.3
OECD AVERAGE	31.3	32.1	32.3	33	34	34.2	33.7

Source: OECD.Stat.

1.8. Activities in political representation

At the local level, the number of mayorships held by women increased from 19.09% in 2015 to 22.26% in 2022. If we consider the number of councillorships held by women, there is also a clear increase, which places us at 40.87% in 2022, compared to 35.57% in 2015.

In the autonomous community parliaments, female representation reaches 47.18%. The highest levels of female representation are in Galicia, Navarre and the Basque Country. The lowest levels are in Castile-La Mancha, Cantabria and Extremadura.

In the Congress of Deputies (after the elections of 10 November 2020), 152 women (44% of the total number of the Chamber) became deputies. If the results between the 9th Legislature (39.71% female representation) and the XIV Legislature (in its 2021 composition) are analysed, we see an increase in the percentage of women's presence, which stands at 43%. In the Senate, female representation is globally lower than in the Congress, although in the 2015-2021 period it shows a growing trend of almost 3 points⁶⁶.

Finally, at the European level, the presence of women in the EU-27 Parliament stands at 32.7%. Spain is the country with the third highest representation of women, with 43.3%, behind only Sweden (47%) and Finland (46%)⁶⁷.

2. Explanatory indicators of the gender gap

2.1. The impact on women's work/professional activity for reasons related to care tasks (care responsibilities for dependents)

In the inactive female population, the reasons for not seeking employment are mostly: "caring for children or sick, disabled or elderly adults" or "attending to other family or personal obligations". On average, this represents 93.60% and 91.46% for the period 2015-2021 respectively. Men refer to "being retired" as the first reason for not looking for a job, "unclassifiable reasons" as the second reason, and "following education or training courses" as the third reason.

If we look at the amount of parental leave (excluding childcare leave) we obtain a figure as follows:

TABLE 7: FAMILY CARE LEAVES (2020)

	TOTAL	WOMEN	MEN		
TOTAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE	54,723	47,706	87.18 %	7,017	12.82 %
FAMILY CARE LEAVE	11,497	9,239	80.36 %	2,258	19.64 %

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Economy Statistics. PNM-4.⁶⁸

As can be seen, care tasks in the family environment, without considering childcare, which accounts for 80.36% of the leaves of absence for care, shows the intensity of women's participation in this activity to the detriment of continuity in the employment relationship (and even its survival).

66 Data provided by the Women's Institute (Women in Figures).

67 Data from the European Institute for Gender Equality.

68 Data updated to 2020.

2.2. The impact on women's work/professional activity for reasons related to care tasks (childcare responsibilities).

The employment rate among 25–49-year-olds - if the dependent variable is taken as the existence (or not) of children under 12 years of age - shows that, throughout the entire 2015-2020 series, men have higher employment rates on average than women (reaching a differential value of 4.9 %).

The employment rates of women without children are always higher than those of women with children (this is a constant over the whole period of the series). On average, the difference between female employment rates by comparison with the presence (or not) of children under 12 years of age is 5.9 %.

Furthermore, the number of children also appears as a clear determinant of women's employability; the highest employment rates within the group of women with children are in the group of women with one child; it decreases in the group of women with two children and from the third child or more onwards, a clear decline in the employability rate is observed. In 2020, the employment rate for women was 68.9 if they only had one child and fell by almost 20 points - to 49.4 - when there were three or more children. In any case, the employment rate in the period is increasing regardless of the number of children for the 3 groups of analysis and for all the years of the series. *

The behaviour of men's employability in relation to their paternity shows some substantial differences. Employment is higher for men with two children than for those with only one child. There is a certain decrease in the employment rate for the group with three or more children, but, for example, by the year 2020, the difference between those with one child and those with three or more children is only 6.1 %; the gap between women and men is therefore 13.4 %.

If we compare ourselves with the Europe of the 28⁶⁹, we can see that the phenomenon is similar. For men in the Union, the percentage difference "with children/without children" is 8.6 for 2019 -the latest data in the series-. In Spain, this comparison stands at 9.1. In European women, the comparison yields a differential of (-8) which in Spain ends up offering a result of (-7.6).

If we leave aside the employability rates with respect to the maternity/paternity variable and consider the variable "leave requested for childcare" as an element of impact on employment, it becomes clear that -according to the updated data (2020) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy (Statistics. PNM-4)- the number of leaves of absence for childcare, disaggregating the data by sex, would be as follows:

TABLE 8: CHILDCARE LEAVE (2020)

	TOTAL	WOMEN		MEN	
TOTAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE	54,723	47,706	87.18 %	7,017	12.82 %
CHILDCARE LEAVE	43,226	38,467	88.99 %	4,759	11.01 %

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Economy Statistics. PNM-4.⁷⁰

The data warn of a glaring reality: childcare leave is only taken by 11.01% of men, a task which, as the figures overwhelmingly show, continues to fall within the sphere of women's responsibility. It remains to be seen what impact the reforms to extend paternity leave may have on this reality.

2.3. Feminisation of the double working day (working time)

Another of the reasons for the overall situation of women and their rates of inequality compared to men is the so-called "female double working day". Women's double working day, women's double working day or double presence implies the sum of burdens linked to employment, family and home, in other words,

69 European Labour Force Survey. Eurostat.

70 Data updated to 2020.

the sum, due to a lack of co-responsibility, of paid work in the working sphere with unpaid work in the domestic sphere.

The indicator for the analysis of this aspect shows paid and unpaid working hours by type of working day:

TABLE 9: HOURS WORKED/REMUNERATED ACCORDING TO TYPE OF WORKING DAY

	TYPE OF ACTIVITY (hours per week)	TOTAL	PART-TIME WORKING HOURS	FULL-TIME WORKING HOURS
WOMEN	Main job	33.9	21.6	39.3
	Other employment	0.3	0.4	0.2
	Unpaid work	26.5	29.6	25.2
	Travelling	2.9	2.8	2.9
MEN	Main job	39.7	22.7	42.4
	Other employment	0.2	0.5	0.2
	Unpaid work	14	13.9	13.9
	Travelling	2.8	2.4	2.8

Source: Working Conditions Survey (2015).

As can be seen, unpaid work for women (which includes child or grandchild care and education, cooking and housework, caring for elderly or disabled relatives, taking a course or training, sports, cultural or leisure activities, political or trade union activities, voluntary or charitable activities) is - after the main job - the main focus of occupation for both sexes, but in a significantly higher proportion for women (26.5 for women compared to 14 for men).

Men usually spend the same number of hours on unpaid work (13.9 hours per week) regardless of whether they work part-time or full-time. Women increase the time spent on unpaid work (29.6 hours per week) when they work part-time.

2.4. Single parenthood

Single parenthood in Spanish households is a female-dominated phenomenon; as can be seen in table 10; the base period 2015-2020 shows a minimally increasing evolution:

TABLE 10. FEMALE LONE PARENTHOOD DATA (2015-2020)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Single parent Female (Households)	81.35	81.09	81.88	83.04	80.98	81.25

Source: Continuous Household Survey. NATIONAL STATISTICS INSTITUTE.

By marital status, widows and divorced women are at the head of these households. The most frequent age group for single parents is over 65 years of age, followed closely by the 45-54 age group. In terms of the number of children with whom they live, the largest group is that of the parent who lives with one child and the smallest group is that of households where the parent lives with 3 or more children. Over the period of the series (2015-2020) these trends are constant.

When analysing the percentage of people at risk of poverty in households with dependent children, it can be seen that single-parent households in Spain have seen their at-risk-of-poverty rate rise from 37.5

in 2015 to 37.9 in 2020. However, with respect to the years 2016-2019 the rate would have been reduced by 2.8 % on average. The group of “single-parent households” shows the worst results in the whole series with the exception of the group of “households of 2 adults with 3 or more children”. Households of 2 adults with 1 or 2 children and households of 3 or more adults with dependent children show better rates.

In the context of the Europe of 28⁷¹, the group of single-parent households is the one with the worst rates, surpassing even households of 2 adults with 3 or more children. Data are only reported up to 2019; for this year the percentage improved by 0.8 tenths from 2015 from 33.9 to 33.1. The relative at-risk-of-poverty rate in Spain is always higher than the European rate throughout the series and for all categories.

3. GENDER-BASED CRIME

3.1. Sexual violence at the hands of non-partners of the victim

Indicator 5.2.2 developed by the National Statistics Institute in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, which relates to “the proportion of women or girls aged 16 and over who have experienced sexual violence at the hands of non-partners in the last 12 months”, gives an overall result of 6,859 victims. The places where these manifestations of sexual violence have taken place are broken down into different indicators: in open spaces (774), in establishments (2015), in facilities (618), in transport (246), in common premises or annexes to the home (284), in enclosures (95), in communication routes (1418) and, finally, in dwellings (2315)⁷². For its part, the Ministry of Equality provides data in terms of proportion with respect to the same indicator, indicating a percentage of 0.60 in 2014, which is reduced to 0.50 in 2019.

3.2. Sexual, physical or psychological violence by persons who are or have been partners of victims

Based on data from the Ministry of Interior for 2018 and under heading 5.2.5 of the SDGs provided by the National Statistics Institute, the proportion (%) of women and girls aged 16 and over who have suffered physical, sexual or psychological violence at the hands of their current or former partner in the last 12 months is analysed. The data are disaggregated according to the type of violence inflicted on the basis of different sub-indicators. The data are as follows: physical or sexual violence (0.35), sexual violence (0), physical violence (0.34), controlling psychological violence (0.02), economic violence (0.01).

The data provided by the Ministry of Equality allows the analysis of the evolution of the series 2014-2019. All indicators show a favourable evolution with the exception of sexual violence, which has a slight increase from 1 to 1.1. In physical violence the reduction is 0.4, in psychological violence 2.4, in emotional psychological violence 1.7 and, finally, 0.30 in economic violence. Psychological violence of control and emotional violence appears as the most frequent, and in a very significant way, in the group of violence suffered by the girl/woman.

In any case, for a more updated analysis of the figures in this area, we can refer to the *Balance of Criminality* published by the Ministry of the Interior with data up to the second quarter of 2022, which in one of its main sections points out that there has been an increase in crimes against sexual freedom and indemnity, “from 7,885 between January and June 2021 to 9,389 in the first six months of 2022, an increase of 19.1 percent. If we extend this to the last 12 months, there have been a total of 18,520 crimes of this criminal typology, 8.8 percent more than in the whole of 2021 (17,016). This increase should be seen in relation to the active social awareness policies that have led to a greater willingness of victims to report these crimes and to put their cases in the hands of the police, thus reducing the levels of under-reporting that may exist in these types of criminal offences”⁷³.

71 European Survey of Income and Living Conditions. Eurostat.

72 These data have been provided by the Ministry of the Interior and correspond to the year 2018.

73 Document available [here](#).

3.3. Fatal victims of gender violence

The official data in this area can be summarised in Table 11, highlighting that the total number of victims in the 2015-2021 study period shows a clear reduction from 60 to 47, compatible with the increase in the number of guarantee measures available to women.

TABLE 11: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FATALITIES (2015-2021)

Fatalities (women)		Fatalities (minors)		No. Complaints		No. Orders Protection	
2015	60	2015	7	2015	129.193	2015	36.292
2016	44	2016	1	2016	143.535	2016	37.958
2017	51	2017	8	2017	166.260	2017	38.501
2018	53	2018	7	2018	166.961	2018	39.176
2019	55	2019	3	2019	168.168	2019	40.720
2020	48	2020	3	2020	150.804	2020	35.948
2021	47	2021	7	2021	162.848	2021	43.736

Source: General Council of the Judiciary and the Statistics on Fatal Victims of Gender Violence of the Government Department against Gender Violence (Ministry of Equality).

The data offered for 2021 (updated to 9 June 2022) present a reality based on socio-demographic criteria that can be summarised in the following terms: according to territoriality, the highest number of murdered women was located in Andalusia (19.1%) and Catalonia with the same percentage, followed by the Valencian Community and the Community of Madrid, both with 14.9%.

Female fatal victims of gender violence are grouped in an age range between 21 and 60 years old; 87.2% of the crimes occurred in this age group. The age group with the highest accumulation is 31-40 years (with a percentage of 31.9) and 41-50.1 with a proportion of 23.4.

Regarding their distribution by nationality, those born in Spain accounted for 53.2% and those born in another country for the remaining 46.8%. Of all of them, 53.2% were in a current relationship with their aggressor, the rest were breaking up or had ended the relationship (46.8%). 80.9% of the victims had not filed a previous complaint against their aggressor.

As of 28 September 2022, the number of female fatalities due to gender-based violence was 33⁷⁴.

3.4. Hate crimes

Hate crimes are considered to be conduct based on prejudice towards the victim because of their connection, relationship, affiliation, support or membership, real or supposed, of a group based on "race", national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or other factors included in our legislation.

The total number of hate crimes and incidents recorded by law enforcement agencies in Spain in 2020 amounted to a total of 1,401 incidents, a decrease of 17.9% compared to 2019 (Table 12).

TABLE 12: EVOLUTION OF HATE CRIME (2015-2021)

HATE CRIMES	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
	1.401	1.706	1.598	1.419	1.272	1.328

Source: Report on the evolution of hate crimes in Spain 2020. Ministry of the Interior.⁷⁵

Despite an overall decrease in hate incidents (from 2017 to 2020), a significant number of areas have increased: "people with disabilities", "discrimination on grounds of illness", "anti-Gypsyism", "sex/gender discrimination" and "generational discrimination". In the other areas there has been a decrease in the number of cases. Of the four areas with the highest number of incidents in 2020, "people with disabilities" showed the highest increase, with an increase of 69.2%.

Among the incidents related to "hate crimes", and following the order in quantitative terms, the following can be highlighted: threats, injuries, damages, insults, public promotion/incitement to hatred, hostility, discrimination, degrading treatment, others against the Constitution, non-criminal acts and coercion.

The highest victimisation occurs among males (59%), and the most victimised age group is between 26 and 40 years old (34.3%). Minors accounted for 2.9% of all victims in 2020, a lower figure than in 2019 (6.7%). From the analysis of the overall distribution of known incidents by area and gender, victims of both sexes have the highest percentage in "racism/xenophobia" (the same situation is observed in the female/male breakdown).

Threats and injuries are among the main offences committed. The distribution of victims by nationality shows that the most numerous victims are those of Spanish nationality (65.9%), with foreign victims accounting for 34.1%. Within the group of victims of foreign nationality, the ones with the highest values are those from Morocco (9.2%).

3.5. Perceived discrimination or harassment on grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law

According to the responses to a survey on perceptions of hate crime over the last five years (Table 13), more than half of the respondents feel that there has been a noticeable increase in the number of hate crimes. In the next group of responses, which accounts for almost 20% of respondents, the perception continues to be one of growth, although in this case more moderate. Regarding the question "do you think/fear that you could be a victim of hate crime", the answers were as follows: 40.25% answered "yes, relatively"; 49.43% answered "yes, a lot"; 8.24% answered "I am not very worried". Those who answered "not at all" accounted for a meagre 2.29%.

TABLE 13: PERCEPTION OF THE FREQUENCY OF HATE CRIME (2015-2021)

RESPONSE	NO. ANSWERS	FREQUENCY
They have increased significantly	261	57.73 %
They have increased slightly	84	19.22 %
They have not changed	38	8.70 %
Don't know	26	5.95 %
They have decreased slightly	14	3.20 %
They have decreased significantly	14	3.20 %
TOTAL	437	100 %

Source: Hate crime survey report. Home Office.⁷⁶

75 The data is collected from the Crime Statistical System.

76 The survey could be completed by anyone who felt they had been a victim of hate crime between 18 December 2020 and 31 March 2021.

4. Spain in the european context of gender equality

The **Gender Equality Index 2021** for Spain⁷⁷ presents progress in gender equality in Spain since 2010. The index uses a scale from 1 to 100, where 1 represents total inequality and 100 full equality. The scores are based on differences between women and men and levels of achievement in six main areas: work, monetary (money), knowledge, time, power and health (as well as their respective sub-areas).

Spain obtained a score of 73.7 points out of 100 in the Report for the year 2021, reaching sixth position in the European Gender Equality Index, one place higher than in 2020 when it obtained a score of 72 points. This puts us 5.7 points above the European average of 68 points, with a maximum of 83.9 for Sweden and a minimum of 52.5 for Greece. The study also shows that, according to the latest available data, compared to 2010, Spain has increased by 7.3 points, progressing towards gender equality at a faster rate than the European average. In the 2021 report, Spain obtains very high scores, above the European average, in the domains of Health, Knowledge and Power; while its position is more modest in the indicators measuring Work, Money and Time. Although Spain has the highest score in Health (90.03), it has experienced the greatest increases in Power (76.9), with 21.9 points more than the European average of 55 points. The score on this indicator represents an increase of 7.5 points in one year, placing Spain in third position.

Table 14 shows the statistical reflection of the most relevant indicators:

TABLE 14: PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY (2015-2021)

INDICATOR	SPAIN		EUROPA	
	2015	2019	2015	2019
Global Indicator	68.3	73.7	65.7	68.0
Work	72.4	73.7	70.6	71.6
Monetary (money)	75.9	78.4	80.1	82.4
Knowledge	65.3	67.9	62.4	62.7
Time (distribution)	64.0	64.0	64.9	64.9
Power	57.0	76.9	48.4	55.0
Health	89.6	90.3	87.1	87.8

Source: Own elaboration based on data provided by IEGE.

The 2021 report highlights the following aspects for the Spanish case:

Lack of evidence to assess violence against women: no score is assigned to Spain in the area of violence due to the lack of comparable data at EU level.

In the field of employment, two variables are considered: participation in the full-time equivalent employment rate and length of working life. With regard to participation in the employment rate, Spain continues to show lower overall rates than the EU, the difference between men (5%) and women (2%) being more significant. With regard to the duration of working life, the differences with the EU are barely significant (1 percentage point for men, full equivalence for women).

With regard to job segregation and job quality, it should be noted that employment prospects are higher in the EU than in Spain for both sexes (in both cases with percentage differences of up to 6 points). Horizontal (sector) segregation does not show differences in the male population (8 assessment points); in the case of women, segregation is greater in Europe, with better indicators in Spain (24 versus 30% in Europe). In terms of work flexibility (the possibility of using 1 or 2 hours off during the working day to attend to family/

⁷⁷ The index is produced by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). The most recent reporting period for the data used in the index is 2021. The EU aggregate data refers to the EU-28 and includes the United Kingdom as it was a Member State during the reporting period.

personal matters), Spain has an advantage over Europe for both men and women. Spanish women are in a privileged position compared to European women (with a difference of 11%). However, at national level, flexibility is higher for men.

The career prospect index expresses continuity in employment, defined in relation to the type of employment contract, job security (possibility of losing one's job in the next 6 months, the prospect of career advancement and job development/growth). For this indicator Spain presents worse data than Europe (for women and men) with percentage differences in both cases of 6 points.

Regarding the economic/financial situation, the indicator of monthly income from work (and even the indicator of equivalent net income) shows that the Spanish situation is worse than the European one.

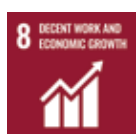
The analysis of poverty risk and income distribution between women and men shows that the risk of poverty is higher in Spain than in Europe and is very balanced in terms of gender distribution. With regard to the distribution of income, a better European situation is reiterated, which is identical for men and women.

The field of knowledge measures gender inequalities in educational attainment. Better data are observed in Spain than in the EU for the percentage of university graduates. Regarding formal/informal training, Spain and Europe show strictly matching indicators. For gender segregation in tertiary education (examination of training in traditionally feminised areas: education, health, welfare, humanities and arts), segregation rates are high in both Europe and Spain, with a greater difference in Spain for the female sector.

The time domain (distribution) measures gender inequalities in the allocation of time spent on care and domestic work and on social activities (sport, culture, leisure, volunteering and charity). For care activities, all indicators point to a more than notable feminisation. The European and Spanish data are only close for the reference to childcare by men, showing a large difference with respect to the rate of maternal care. With regard to social activities, volunteering is clearly higher (more than double) in Europe, while the rest of the social activities are in the majority in Spain and have a male bias.

The area of power measures gender equality in decision-making positions in the political, economic and social spheres. With regard to political power, the data continue to show a better position for men, although Spain presents a much-improved situation compared to Europe at all territorial levels of power (ministerial, and state and regional parliaments). In the economic sphere (boards of directors of listed companies and central banks), there is once again a clear male predominance, which is equalised between Europe and Spain in the case of boards of directors (in a ratio of 30 women/70 men). In the case of central banks, in Spain it is strictly parity (50/50), while Europe is clearly segregating in a ratio (25/75). As regards the dimension of social power, the measurement of which is inaugurated in this edition of the report, Spain presents better data for the female sector than Europe in all the indicators studied (research funding organisations, media and sport).

The data provided by the report on health are always better in the Spanish case regardless of the indicator of analysis (life expectancy, self-perceived health, years of healthy life - life expectancy without disability, health behaviour according to WHO recommendations: consumption of tobacco and alcohol, consumption of fruit and declaration of unmet medical and/or dental needs). In terms of gender analysis, women have a lower indicator of self-perceived health than men only. Indicators of healthy living are better for the female population (tobacco and alcohol consumption) but worse for indicators that can be connected to income levels (sporting activity and fruit and vegetable consumption). Regarding unmet medical/dental needs, the values for men and women (in Spain) are identical. A comparison with Europe shows a higher national dissatisfaction with regard to dental services.



ACCELERATING POLICY

3.

FREE AND EQUAL LIVES FOR ALL

Ensuring gender equality and a life free of violence and discrimination is undoubtedly one of the main challenges we face as a society to build a fairer, more prosperous and sustainable country. Despite significant progress, especially in the regulatory sphere and in the recognition of rights, inequalities based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual characteristics or ethnic origin continue to be a deeply rooted structural feature in the economic, productive, institutional and socio-cultural spheres. Faced with this, this policy to accelerate sustainable development undertakes to bring about a series of priorities for action aimed at removing the structural barriers that give rise to these discriminations and inequalities, incorporating into our legal system new regulations aimed at guaranteeing and deepening rights, and deploying a variety of plans and strategies in coherence with the mandate derived from Sustainable Development Goal 5, which urges countries to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and SDG 10, which urges governments to promote legislation and policies aimed at eliminating discriminatory practices in order to reduce inequalities. These priorities for action are also part of the guarantee of the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination and the principle of equal opportunities between men and women enshrined in articles 14 and 9.2 of our Constitution.

The **first block of action priorities is related to SDG 5 target 5.1** aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls. The first priority is the approval of the **Strategic Plan for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2022-2025 (PEIEMH)**, which derives from the mandate established in Article 17 of Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March for the effective equality of women and men. Thus, the PEIEMH is the Government's main instrument for guiding the institutional and social changes that need to be implemented in order to make progress in achieving equality between women and men, and is therefore a guiding document for the actions of the National Government as a whole as a framework plan and director of all efforts. Therefore, the priorities for action committed to in this policy to accelerate sustainable development are, in turn, included in the strategic axes and priorities of the PEIEMH.

The Plan is structured around four main areas of intervention: good governance, an economy for life and fair distribution of wealth, towards guaranteeing lives free of gender-based violence against women, and a country with effective rights for women. While the last three address the challenges of social change, the first one explains how the conditions will be created so that these challenges can be addressed from a model of government that promotes feminist and democratising practices both within and outside the National Government.

The strategic objective of the **Good Governance axis** is to advance towards a more inclusive and democratic model of government, capable of both listening to the needs of all citizens and involving them in the search for solutions, ensuring the presence and voice of women, and guaranteeing that public policies incorporate a gender perspective. This model of government management is linked to the development of three approaches. The first relates to gender mainstreaming as a fundamental dual strategy recognised in the Beijing Platform. A second approach is related to governance, understood as institutional coordination and collaboration. Finally, the third approach refers to citizen participation, understood as the capacity of citizens to influence the actions of the National Government. Developing this three-pronged strategy implies pro-

moting political, technical and cultural changes, which are specified in the promotion of transformations in procedures and ways of doing public policy, in the area of training and capacity-building of NSA staff so that they can adequately incorporate the gender perspective in their work procedures. It also involves institutional coordination and collaboration and the existence of spaces and mechanisms to enable the participation of women and the feminist movement in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

For its part, the axis of **economy for life and fair distribution of wealth** addresses the need to introduce deep economic transformations so that the productive economy becomes an economy for life, oriented towards guaranteeing the satisfaction of basic needs for all people, in conditions that make possible the reproduction of present and future life, taking into consideration the physical limits of the planet. This implies making visible all the work on which the current economic system is based, particularly domestic and care work, while promoting policies to eradicate the sexual division of labour, the origin of discrimination and the unequal access and participation of women in the labour market, as well as to reverse the absence of collective and public responsibility in the resolution of care and, in short, to put an end to women's unequal access to social and economic rights that prevent real or effective equality between women and men.

The axis **towards the guarantee of lives free of male violence for women** accompanies the development of the commitments adopted by Spain, intensifying efforts aimed at the eradication of violence against women in all its manifestations, while guiding the action of institutions so that women and other surviving victims, such as their daughters and sons, live lives free of the violence that is exercised against them, both within and outside our borders. In this sense, in addition to modifications, elaboration and development of new normative frameworks, it also seeks the implementation of more efficient and effective policies that put victim-survivors at the centre, as rights-holders, and redress the different impacts that violence has on their lives.

Finally, the strategic objective of the axis for a **country with effective rights for all women** is to ensure that all women can effectively exercise their rights, removing gender inequalities, in interaction with other vectors of discrimination, in all spheres of life. This means, in compliance with Article 14 of the Spanish Constitution, that it is necessary to ensure their rights in the different social spheres, as well as taking into account the principle of intersectionality and the different realities faced by women due to their ethnic-racial origin, their membership of the LGTBI collective or their diverse conditions and capacities.

In operational terms, the PEIEMH will articulate biennial programmes, the first of which has already been drawn up and is expected to be published soon. In order to make it possible to monitor compliance, an IT tool is being developed.

One of the commitments attached to the PEIEMH included in this accelerating policy is the **alignment of the Gender Impact Report that accompanies the General State Budgets with the strategic objectives of the Plan**, which has been reflected in the line of work BG.1.3.

In accordance with the above, work is being carried out to improve the methodology of the Report, not only in relation to the information contained therein, but also in its electronic presentation. Along these lines, a review has been carried out of both the linked computer applications and the graphic representation of the main results included on the Report's web page. Furthermore, in order to establish a clearer link with the PEIEMH measures, the budget sections will be indicated so that, in the event that the descriptive information of a budget programme constitutes a measure included in the Plan, the coding assigned in the Plan will be specified.

Added to this are the methodological improvements introduced in 2020, through the 3-R's methodology, which are specified in the analysis of the following variables. The first is the Reality variable, which offers an objective and quantified diagnosis of the situation of Spanish society in terms of gender. The second is the Representation variable, which shows a gender perspective in the public sector based on the relative presence of women and men. And finally, the variable Resources-Results, which is a gender analysis of all the budgetary programmes of the consolidated budget, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

With regard to the objective of **guaranteeing equal pay for women and men**, work has continued on the application of the instruments of pay transparency, regulated by **Royal Decree 902/2020**, of 13 October, and aimed at guaranteeing the principle of pay transparency, identifying discriminatory situations and establishing the criteria for considering work of equal value. The first of these is the **payment register**, a mechanism for publicising payment data in the company, which must include a breakdown by sex, professional classification and type of pay, the reference period, prior consultation with workers' legal representatives

and access through them if they exist. In the absence of legal representation, access by the worker is regulated, guaranteeing the protection of personal data. The second is the **pay audit**, for companies obliged to have an equality plan, which, in turn, implies two obligations. The first is the diagnosis of the pay situation in the company through job evaluation and, secondly, the establishment of an action plan for the correction of pay inequalities. Finally, the **job evaluation system** of the professional classification contained in the company and in the applicable collective agreement, which should respect the principle of equal pay for jobs of equal value. In compliance with the provisions of Royal Decree 902/2020 of 13 October, a remuneration register tool was presented in April 2021 and a Job Evaluation tool in April 2022.

From the **perspective of guaranteeing gender equality in terms of pay**, the implementation of Royal Decree 901/2020 of 13 October, which regulates gender equality plans and their registration and amends Royal Decree 713/2010 of 28 May, on the registration and deposit of collective bargaining agreements, establishes the minimum content of all equality plans, the procedure for their negotiation, as well as the requirements to be met by the diagnosis and the characteristics of their evaluation and monitoring.

In a similar vein, **Royal Decree-Law 3/2021, of 2 February, regulates the introduction of the economic supplement to contributory pensions to reduce the gender gap**, taking into account maternity as one of the factors explaining the existing differences in the number of pensions between men and women. The new benefit complies with the agreements reached in the framework of the social dialogue with the social partners and will be in force as long as the gender gap in pensions exceeds 5%.

Since its entry into force, the National Social Security Institute (INSS) has carried out different actions and has made the necessary adaptations for the proper management of this new supplement, which has enabled 223,217 women to benefit from this measure up to April 2022, representing 93.58% of all the supplements recognised, with an average amount of €63.04 for women and €42.42 for men. This represents a monthly amount of approximately €14.7 million, with an impact on reducing the gender gap, and an accumulated amount of approximately €58.4 million since its entry into force.

From the same perspective of moving towards equal rights, and through Law 21/2021, of 28 December, on guaranteeing the purchasing power of pensions and other measures to reinforce the financial and social sustainability of the public pension system, the **right to a widow's pension and temporary widow's benefit for unmarried couples has been put on an equal footing** with that of married couples.

Likewise, the 68 cross-cutting measures of the **3rd Plan for Gender Equality in the General State Administration (AGE)**, approved by Agreement of the Council of Ministers in December 2020, aimed at achieving gender equality in the AGE in real terms, serving as an example and reference for the development and implementation of other plans or framework instruments, not only in the public sphere but also in the private sector, have continued to be developed. The 68 Measures of the 3rd Plan are specific actions aimed at eradicating any form of direct or indirect discrimination based on sex within the National Government.

Among the actions to be highlighted are the following: the drafting and approval by the Government of a new protocol for action in the General State Administration in cases of sexual and gender-based harassment (Axis 1. Measure 4); the implementation of a basic curriculum on gender equality training for all NSA staff, which is currently underway (Axis 2. Measure 7); and the carrying out of an *analysis of the adjusted pay gap in the National Government and the development, if necessary, of an action plan to eliminate the gender pay gap*, which aims to better understand, through an analysis that includes all the available variables that determine the pay gap, in order to adopt, if necessary, the necessary actions to eliminate the gender pay gap (Axis 3. Measure 10). The aim, therefore, is to break the glass ceiling and facilitate professional promotion through, among other actions, the promotion of greater co-responsibility and work-life balance to enable the full professional development of all NSA staff.

With regard to the fight against sexist stereotypes in advertising, a collaboration protocol has been signed with the Spanish Association of Toy Manufacturers (AEFJ) and Autocontrol, which includes the **updating of the Code of Self-Regulation of Toys**, including, for the first time, the express prohibition of using the image of girls in a discriminatory or degrading way in advertisements aimed at minors. Its main objective is to promote and encourage a plural, egalitarian and stereotype-free image, prohibiting the characterisation of girls with sexual connotations. It also regulates that toys should not be presented with the express or tacit indication that they are for one sex or the other, through the association of colours or other mechanisms. In addition, advertisements must use inclusive language and present positive role models to encourage healthy, responsible and sustainable consumption.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the approval of **Act 15/2022, of 12 July, on equal treatment and non-discrimination**, which will contribute to reinforcing the right to equal treatment, including measures to combat

all forms of discrimination and intolerance, in the economic, political, cultural, social, employment, health, education, social services or the media, among others.

The Draft Law on Sport, currently in parliamentary procedure after its approval by the Council of Ministers on 17 December 2021, is framed in the same perspective and introduces tools to promote the professional development of women in sport, both in access to and practice of sport, as well as in the development of arbitration, management and management tasks. It also establishes measures for public and private entities to balance the presence of women in management bodies, as well as the obligation to have a prevention and action protocol for situations of discrimination, abuse and sexual or gender-based harassment, among others. It also promotes equality in the visibility of women's sporting events in the media, ensuring that the media representation of women athletes is free of sexual objectification and sexist stereotypes.

A second block of actions falls under **SDG 5 target 5.2**, which calls on governments to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other forms of exploitation.

In this area, the Sustainable Development Strategy included the commitment to approve a **State Strategy to combat gender-based violence 2022-2025**, with the aim of making progress in the eradication of gender-based violence and meeting the demands of our society and of women, as well as to improve compliance with some of the recommendations contained in the first evaluation report to Spain by the Group of Experts on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) of November 2020, through which our country is urged to improve the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul Convention, which Spain joined in 2014.

To this end, preparatory work began during the last quarter of 2021 and continued during the first quarter of 2022, focusing throughout this period on gathering contributions and proposals from both the public administrations involved in this area and civil society organisations, through the development of roundtables, meetings and focus groups on different issues related to gender-based violence. Mechanisms have also been established to gather the demands of the public as a whole. The Strategy is currently in the drafting phase, and is expected to be approved in the second half of 2022.

Along the same lines, the **"Spain protects you against male violence" Plan** has been promoted, which aims to extend and make comprehensive care services accessible to all potential victims of violence against women. This Plan, which is part of Component 22 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, has been allocated a total of 153.4 million euros to promote and guarantee 24-hour comprehensive assistance centres for victims of sexual violence in all provinces and autonomous cities, with face-to-face, telephone and IT assistance, and resources have been distributed to the autonomous communities to enable their creation, in accordance with the Agreement adopted in the framework of the Sector Conference on Equality and Gender Violence⁷⁸. Likewise, progress has been made in the work necessary to extend the telephone and IT assistance service (016 and ATENPRO services) by incorporating a new personalised service of socio-occupational guidance and accompaniment for victims of all forms of violence against women, including victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

For its part, with regard to the implementation of **Law 1/2021, of 24 March, on urgent measures for the protection of and assistance to victims of gender violence**, the exception to the application of the sixth rule of article 86 of the General Budgetary Law has been activated in relation to the remainders not committed at the end of each budgetary year, in order to enable the autonomous communities to execute the funds of the State Pact in the financial year immediately following the one in which they are transferred. This has allowed the development of actions worth 100 million euros.

In addition, a legislative reform has been promoted to eliminate the obstacles faced by orphans of gender violence in order to alleviate their situation of extreme vulnerability and reinforce their protection, through **Organic Law 2/2022, of 21 March, on improving the protection of orphans who are victims of gender violence**. Its provisions include making the right to the orphan's pension compatible with the increase provided for in regulations for cases of absolute orphanhood and, where appropriate, the orphan's benefit, in the case of adoption when the household does not exceed a certain established income limit. The right to the orphan's pension will also be recognised with the aforementioned increase or, where applicable, to the orphan's benefit, when the death due to violence against women has been caused by an aggressor other than the parent of the children, when the cohabitation unit in which the children are integrated does not ex-

78 Document accessible [here](#).

ceed the same income limit. In addition, a presumption of absolute orphanhood has been established when the surviving parent has abandoned family responsibility and foster care or guardianship has been granted in favour of third parties or relatives. Finally, it makes it possible for them to appear in the liquidation of the matrimonial property regime on behalf of the deceased mother.

Another of the key programmes for combating male violence is the **Comprehensive Monitoring System in cases of Gender Violence (VioGén System)**. During the analysis period, studies and analyses have been carried out on improvements to the Police Risk Assessment Protocol, its procedures and the VioGén System protocols, in relation to the optimal technical-scientific procedures for dealing with reported cases of gender-based violence. The evolution of the procedures for the assessment and comprehensive management of the risk of gender-based violence are addressed and developed within the framework of a multi-centre project, with continuous monitoring and improvement work. This work makes it possible to generate and implement new strategies aimed at working in the direction recommended by both international and national organisations, based on the best existing practices for dealing with both crimes and potential situations of vulnerability and risk for minors.

Specifically, progress has been made in updating the protocol of action of the Forensic Medical Council to incorporate the Forensic Risk Assessment adapted to the VioGén System into its professional practice, with the aim of being progressively incorporated into the different Institutes of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences (IMCF). Another example is Instruction 8/2021, which establishes measures to prevent gender violence caused by persistent aggressors, detailing protection measures for each level of risk, expanding and detailing the catalogue of measures aimed at preventing the circle of violence perpetrated by persistent aggressors or multi-victimisers, improving the strategies for monitoring and supervision of cases and updating the Personalised Safety Plan. The Instruction also incorporates changes in the VioGén System with technical-operational actions following risk assessments where these types of criminal profiles are detected.

Likewise, a study is being finalised to identify and better understand the characteristics of those victims with special needs, such as pluri- and multi-victimised women, subject to police protection and who are in particularly complex circumstances, in order to be able to provide a more appropriate response to both the victims and the minors in their care. Finally, in relation to the risk assessment of minors, by way of initial risk screening, improvements are being made to the existing criteria and protocols in order to improve the VioGén System's capacity to detect, classify and notify cases of minors in a situation of vulnerability or at risk of suffering serious or even lethal violence.

Another significant step forward in the fight against gender violence has been the implementation of the protocol for first police contact with victims of gender violence in a situation of lack of protection, known as Protocol Zero (or Form Zero). This initiative is aimed at channelling information in an appropriate manner to minimise the risk of victims in a situation of possible lack of protection and who express their desire not to report acts that may constitute a crime in the context of gender-based violence. To this end, it describes the operational and documentary police guidelines in the specific treatment of certain cases of gender-based violence, safety recommendations for those who intervene first, as well as specific training actions.

This initiative is part of the study and analysis work aimed at gaining in-depth knowledge and updating the evolution of the different expressions of gender violence, with the aim of improving operational procedures both in terms of approach and prevention. The first data on this initiative, which has recently come into force, indicate that its use is being registered in all those cases in which, for different reasons, knowledge of the event does not come directly from the victim (approximately 30% of cases). Improvements have also been observed in the quantity and quality of information that victims receive at the time of the incident from frontline officers. Although further development is required to draw conclusions, the trend indicates a certain decrease in the percentage of unreported indicators of police risk assessments, showing an improvement in the quality of the data. This new procedure has been the subject of numerous consultations, and specific training is planned for the law enforcement agencies involved in the VioGén system.

In addition to this, the **Civil Guard's Action Plan against Violence against Women** has a total of 20 measures, 70% of which have been implemented to date. These include the inclusion of violence against women as a strategic and priority area in the most important documents of the Corps and as a conceptual reference for a comprehensive response.

In the specific area of sexual violence, the approval of **Organic Law 10/2022, of 6 September, on the comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom (LOGILS)**, which represents a huge step forward in the comprehensive protection of women, in their right to sexual freedom and in the eradication of all sexual violence, stands out. This law focuses on the woman's consent as the fundamental aspect on which crimes against sexual freedom are based, thus complying with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention, in such a way that

any sexual conduct carried out without consent will be considered sexual aggression. This means that the crime of rape will no longer be reserved only for cases involving violence or intimidation. Given its comprehensive nature, the law regulates aspects ranging from investigation, education, training and prevention to victim care, the actions of the police, access to justice and the right to compensation.

Finally, with regard to the prevention and tackling of violence and harassment in the workplace, the ratification of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment stands out, which explicitly aims to eradicate it in the world of work, a broad term that covers situations and groups that go beyond the employment relationship.

Trafficking in human beings is a profound violation of human rights, dignity and freedom of the person and constitutes a serious crime that, on most occasions, involves criminal organisations that make significant profits from the use of people for various exploitative purposes. Moreover, human trafficking is a crime that is not gender-neutral, because it affects women disproportionately, not only because they make up the majority of victims, but also because the forms of exploitation to which they are subjected are often more severe, especially trafficking for sexual exploitation.

To tackle the phenomenon of human trafficking, work has begun on the drafting of the **Comprehensive Law against Trafficking in Human Beings** for all its purposes, which will enable comprehensive regulation of the phenomenon of trafficking, especially of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, strengthening the prosecution of this crime and improving the care, protection and reparation of its victims.

In parallel, progress has been made in other actions linked to the fight against trafficking, such as the **National Strategic Plan against trafficking and exploitation of human beings 2021-2023**, which establishes five priority objectives and sixteen lines of action that affect both public institutions and the third sector and whose objective is to enable a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to this serious and highly complex criminal phenomenon. Its purpose is twofold. On the one hand, it seeks to make the different measures already in place to prevent and prosecute human trafficking more effective and operational and, on the other, to promote new actions to cover those areas that have been addressed to a lesser extent or for which specific actions have not yet been defined or competencies attributed to the public authorities. The plan strengthens and articulates measures not only to improve the fight against this crime, but also to facilitate adequate assistance and protection for its victims, all through a mechanism of close cooperation between the different bodies of the General State Administration involved, as well as with specialised civil society organisations.

Regarding the establishment of **homogeneous official registers of victims of trafficking**, the Centre for Intelligence against Terrorism and Organised Crime (CITCO) is in the process of modernising its databases, including that of victims of trafficking formally identified by the State Security Forces and Corps (BDTRATA) to achieve greater interoperability that will allow for a simplified flow of information and improved data quality.

In addition, within the framework of the programme of humanitarian care for migrants, work is being carried out in areas such as training and the establishment of guidelines for the detection of possible victims of trafficking and their communication to the State Security Forces; the development of protocols within the framework of the procedure for referral to specific assistance resources, or the development of a Network of Professionals of reference in this area in each entity and centre. It should also be noted that both in the voluntary return programmes and in the programmes implemented within the framework of the call for subsidies for the development of actions of general interest in the area of immigration, aimed at the defence of the human rights of migrants, priority is given to the victims of trafficking. In addition, within the framework of these subsidies, awareness-raising projects against human trafficking and sexual exploitation continue to be promoted.

In the area of international and temporary protection reception, it should be noted that in August 2021 the Protocol for action in the face of violence against women in the International Protection Reception System came into force, and various measures were taken throughout the year to facilitate its implementation. Likewise, since April 2022, a procedure for the prevention, detection, care and referral of possible victims of human trafficking has been implemented in the reception, care and referral centres, created after the start of the emergency due to the arrival of Ukrainian people displaced by the armed conflict.

Finally, other actions in this area include the approval, in compliance with article 47 of Royal Decree-Law 6/2022 of 29 March, of the Agreement for the administrative accreditation of the status of victim of traffic-

king in human beings or sexual exploitation⁷⁹ and other actions regarding victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, adopted within the framework of the Sector Conference on Equality, or the preparation of a macro study to make progress in the availability of sufficient, coherent and comparable statistical data, which will enable more informed decision-making.

A third block of priorities for action in this policy to accelerate sustainable development is linked to target 5.4 of SDG 5, which promotes the recognition and valuing of care and unpaid domestic work, through public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, while promoting shared responsibility in the home and family.

In this area, one notable feature is the development of the **Co-Responsibility Plan**, aimed at guaranteeing the right to care for families with children up to 16 years of age, through the creation of a professional care exchange, at home or in authorised public spaces, the promotion of employment and the recognition of the experience of care in the informal economy as a means of transition to the formal economy.

Its budget allocation for the financial year 2022 amounts to 200 million euros, most of which has been transferred to the autonomous communities for the development and execution of the Plan, and whose actions will be publicised through a specific communication campaign. In addition, 7 million euros have been earmarked for awareness-raising actions on co-responsibility, which will include a campaign specifically aimed at men starting next October. Finally, 3 million euros will be earmarked for studies, research and technical work on co-responsibility, including the development of a **computer application** to record the time spent on domestic and care tasks within the family, which will be available during the first half of 2023.

In addition, a **Care Advisory Board** has been set up as a stable space for participation, of a consultative and non-formal nature, whose purpose is to advise the Ministry of Equality and the Women's Institute on the design, proposal and promotion of regulatory frameworks and public policies on care from a dual perspective: priority attention to situations of social urgency and the creation of political, social and institutional conditions that facilitate the configuration of the future State Care System.

Within this framework, the equality agenda for care is guided by the commitments adopted in the framework of the Strategic Plan for the Effective Equality of Women and Men 2022-2025. In particular, with its four objectives linked to the line of work *Towards the recognition of the right to care and the socially fair reorganisation of care and time*. That is, to make visible, recognise and give social value to care as an indispensable job for the sustainability of life; to reorganise, strengthen and extend the system of care services, prioritising their universality, quality, public nature and decent working conditions and adapted to the territory with special attention to their provision in rural areas; to professionalise precarious care; and, finally, to advance in the development of rights of co-responsible conciliation in employment.

The Bureau has held several plenary sessions and has set up two working groups, one to develop the concept and conceptualisation of care that could form the basis of a future document on the foundations for a State Care System, and the second to address priority actions and urgent policies in this field.

As regards the priority of action related to the **promotion of studies, surveys and reports to obtain more knowledge about the uses of time from a gender perspective**, as relevant information for public decision-making, one outstanding measure is the inclusion of statistical operation 8923 Time Use Survey in the National Statistical Plan 2021-2024, approved by Royal Decree 1110/2020, of 15 December. This statistical operation, whose latest available data corresponds to the year 2010, is a key factor for monitoring compliance with target 5.4 of the 2030 Agenda, and is scheduled to be carried out in the year 2024.

Lastly, the formal procedures for ratification of **ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers** have begun, once the agreement of the Spanish Parliament has been obtained, and of Recommendation 201 on domestic workers. This decision has already resulted in the approval of **Royal Decree-Law 16/2022, of 6 September, to improve the working and social security conditions of domestic workers**, a measure that is addressed in the development of sustainable development accelerator policy number 5 of this report.

The Free and Equal Lives for All accelerator policy also includes a number of **priorities for action that are framed around SDG 5 target 5.5** to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportuni-

79 Document accessible [here](#).

ties for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. This in turn links to target 5.a, which calls on governments to undertake reforms that give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other assets and services.

In this area, the first highlight is the development of the **Plan for Gender Equality in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector 2021-2027**, approved at the beginning of this year, which aims to serve as a strategy for the fisheries administrations and the different sector and social agents when defining their policies and actions to combat inequality in fisheries and aquaculture. The structure of the plan revolves around three priority lines of action, which are divided into 11 strategic objectives and 43 specific measures, through which issues such as the professional development of women, generational change, entrepreneurship, training, associationism and female leadership, and the improvement of working conditions are addressed.

In relation to the improvement of working conditions, the **Law Draft on Sustainable Fisheries and Fisheries Research** was approved, which grants greater protection for retirement to certain groups of women seafarers, whose professions are particularly arduous, recognising the reduction coefficient for the retirement age for net menders, *neskatillas* (female stevedores), and packers, and bringing the retirement age of shellfish gatherers into line with that of other groups.

Likewise, the commitments acquired to strengthen the role of women and young people in the sector continue to be deployed, placing special emphasis on visibility actions and on strengthening their entrepreneurship and leadership as a factor to enable their entry into the fishing and aquaculture activity and their professional development. A working group has recently been set up with the main associations of professional women from the sea to promote dialogue and coordination of the actions promoted by the Spanish Network of Women in the Fishing Sector (REMSP).

Finally, work has been carried out on the definition of indicators for monitoring gender equality in the implementation of the Operational Programme of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFF) 2021-2027, in order to ensure that women in the sector can benefit from its measures. This involves the inclusion of gender and age criteria in the grants, thus making it possible to boost the training and entrepreneurial capacity of women and young people. Gender indicators have also been defined to analyse the impact or contribution of this fund to equality between men and women.

Along the same lines, several activities have been developed within the framework of the commitments regarding the visibility and strengthening of the role of women in the agri-food sector and in the rural environment. These include the **integration of the gender perspective in the future Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027** with specific measures in favour of rural women. Likewise, the objectives of Law 35/2011 on shared ownership of farms have been consolidated through, among other actions, direct aid to jointly owned farms. In addition to this, there are other initiatives aimed at raising the profile of the role of women in rural areas and strengthening their organisational structures, including the recent update of the diagnosis on the state of gender equality in rural areas⁸⁰.

The following two initiatives are part of this same logic of making the role of women more visible and guaranteeing effective equality in masculinised sectors. On the one hand, Law 17/2022, of 5 September, which amends Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, which includes a series of **measures to reinforce effective equality in research centres, universities and innovation centres**, including the obligation to have and annually evaluate a Gender Equality Plan in Science, Technology and Innovation, as well as protocols against sexual harassment; the creation of a gender equality label in R&D&I; or the obligation to establish mechanisms to eliminate gender bias in personnel selection and evaluation processes, among other actions. On the other hand, initiatives to support and raise the profile of the role of women creators in the culture sector, through the development of exhibition projects dedicated to women artists, or approached from themes that recover and give presence to traditionally silenced actions, the analysis of museum collections from a gender perspective, or the updating of the contents in the scientific and exhibition discourses offered to the public.

Work is also being done in the field of culture to actively promote the visibility of the role of women through cultural activities and digital applications, as well as through the selection criteria applied in competitive grants.

80 Document accessible [here](#).

With regard to the promotion of equality in education, Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education, LOMLOE, **has furthered the gender equality approach through coeducation** and promotes learning about effective equality between women and men at all stages. It also commits to the development of initiatives to increase the presence of female students in studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, as well as in vocational training courses where there is less demand for women.

In order to focus on this objective, the inter-sector **alliance** includes notable actions promoted at national level to encourage **STEAM** vocations in girls and young women. Representatives of public administrations, companies, civil society organisations, educational centres and the media with STEAM projects or who wish to join this initiative participate in this alliance. Among its objectives is the promotion of initiatives in the field of education and training that eliminate gender stereotypes associated with certain vocations and professions, that promote female empowerment in STEAM disciplines from early stages of education and that contribute to eliminating the gender gap in access to these disciplines.

The **fifth and last block of priorities for action included in this accelerating policy for sustainable development is linked to the fulfilment of both SDG 5 and SDG 10**, insofar as they are linked to efforts to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics.

The first of these is the **Draft Law for the Real and Effective Equality of Transgender People and for the Guarantee of the Rights of LGBTI People**, approved by the Council of Ministers last June for subsequent parliamentary procedures. This law constitutes a historic process of remediation for the LGBTI collective and, specifically, for trans people, who are one of the groups whose rights have been most violated and most stigmatised. The aim of the law is to allow for changes of sex and name in the registry, respecting the right to self-definition, and to establish measures for the real and effective equality of transgender people in areas such as health, employment and education. It also aims to guarantee and promote the right to real and effective equality of LGBTI people, as well as their families, and to non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, sexual (gender) identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics.

The law has a comprehensive purpose, regulating the rights of LGBTI people in all social spheres: family, health, education, sport, culture, leisure, justice and security, media, social protection and employment. It also includes equal rights of parentage for sons and daughters of female couples, the prohibition of conversion therapies and purely cosmetic surgeries and medical practices for intersex babies, among others.

The approval of this regulation responds to the LGBTI movement's historical demand for a state-wide law that would establish a minimum level of uniform rights for the whole territory, in addition to regulating issues that constitute state-level competences, without detriment to existing or future regulations that may be adopted by the autonomous communities.

In addition, social participation has continued to be promoted through the **Council for the Participation of Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual and Intersex (LGTBI Council)**, created with the aim of institutionalising collaboration and strengthening permanent dialogue between the Public Administrations and civil society in matters related to equal treatment, non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression; and to reinforce the participation of LGBTI people and their families in all areas of society.

The Council has six working groups that deal with different sector policies, from which proposals are drawn up and relevant studies and reports are carried out to serve as a basis for the development of public policies on LGBTI issues. The working groups, which held a total of 22 meetings from when they were established to June 2022, deal with the following subjects: policies on the social and labour reality and the rights of LGBTI workers; health and social policies; policies in the educational, sporting and cultural fields; study and monitoring of LGBTI legislation and public policies; analysis of hate speech; and communication of the Council's actions.













With regard to **the application of the principle of equal treatment of persons regardless of their racial or ethnic origin**, linked to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 and the European Commission's Anti-Racism Plan 2020-2025, various actions have been developed, including the reinforcement of the personnel and material resources of the free service for assistance to victims of racial and ethnic discrimination, which depends on the Council for the Elimination of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination (CEDRE). Studies have also been promoted on the situation of the African and Afro-descendant population in Spain and on racial discrimination in the field of housing and informal settlements in order to make these situa-

















tions visible to public opinion. In the same line of social awareness-raising, two Anti-Racist Weeks have been organised, coinciding with the *International Day against Racial Discrimination* (21 March) and the *International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade* (25 March).




















A final noteworthy action in this area is the promotion of preliminary work for the **drafting of a preliminary draft Organic Law against racism, racial discrimination and other forms of intolerance**, which will make possible a legal framework for the prevention of discrimination, as well as for the protection of victims, improving the action and coordination of the public authorities with social agents, the media and civil society organisations.









The last priority for action that took place in this first year of the Sustainable Development Strategy is the **reform of the Organic Law 2/2010 on sexual and reproductive health and the voluntary interruption of pregnancy**, with a clear impact on the achievement of **target 5.6 of SDG 5**, which demands ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the final documents of its review conferences.

This reform aims to restore the rights of 16- and 17-year-old women, while extending protection against the reproductive exploitation of women, obstetric violence or the fight against harassment of women and professionals who undergo or perform a voluntary termination of pregnancy. This reform proposal is currently undergoing parliamentary procedures.

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
By 2030, end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, including those with a migrant background.	Strategic Plan for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2022-2025 (PEIEMH)	Strategic Plan for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2022-2025 (CM 8 March 2022).	 
By 2030, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking in women and girls, and sexual and other types of exploitation, continuing with the momentum of the State Pact against gender-based violence and following the recommendations of the GREVIO expert group's opinion, and to include mechanisms for sufficient funding and budgetary execution in all public administrations, as well as to promote specific measures to combat sexual violence, and for protection, prevention and reparation, in compliance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and the Warsaw Convention.	<p>National Strategy against Gender Violence.</p> <p>Law 1/2021 of 24 March on urgent measures for the protection of and assistance to victims of gender-based violence.</p> <p>Spain Protects You Plan against male violence, which promotes the creation of Crisis Centres for 24-hour comprehensive care for victims of sexual violence.</p> <p>Comprehensive Law against Trafficking in Human Beings for all its purposes.</p> <p>Strategic Plan against trafficking in human beings, as part of the National Strategy against organised crime and serious crime.</p> <p>Strengthening of the Comprehensive Monitoring System in cases of Gender Violence (VioGén System) to reinforce protection mechanisms for women victims of gender violence.</p> <p>Implementation of Form Zero.</p> <p>Police risk assessment system for violence against women.</p> <p>Action Plan of the Civil Guard against violence against women.</p> <p>Protocol on Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment in the internal environment of the State Security Forces and Corps, with the aim of eradicating any form of violence against female public employees.</p>	<p>In the pipeline.</p> <p>Law 1/2021 of 24 March on urgent measures for the protection of and assistance to victims of gender violence.</p> <p>Development of the Plan "Spain protects you (III) - creation of 24-hour comprehensive care services for victims of sexual violence". (CM 6 April 2021)</p> <p>In the pipeline.</p> <p>National Strategic Plan against Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings 2021-2023 presented on 12 January 2022.</p> <p>Resolution of 15 March 2022 of the Secretary of State for Equality and against Gender Violence, which calls for public subsidies for projects aimed at women and girls who are victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and their minor children or children with disabilities for the year 2022.</p> <p>Instruction 8/2021, of the Secretary of State for Security, establishing measures to prevent gender violence caused by persistent aggressors.</p> <p>Instruction 5/2021 of 27 July 2021 establishing the protocol for first police contact with victims of gender-based violence in a situation of lack of protection (Protocol Zero).</p> <p>Instruction 7/2016 establishing a new protocol for police assessment of the risk of violence against women.</p> <p>Development of the Civil Guard's Action Plan against Violence against Women (presented on 21 November 2020)</p> <p>Resolution of 6 July 2021, of the Director General, approving the protocol for action in situations of violence against women that affect personnel of the Civil Guard.</p>	  
By 2030, adopt regulatory frameworks that provide a comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom and develop their provisions as part of compliance with the Istanbul Convention.	Comprehensive Organic Law on the Guarantee of Sexual Freedom (LOGILS), which aims to address the fight against sexual violence.	Approval of Organic Law 10/2022 of 6 September on the comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom.	  
Until 2030, promote regulatory reforms and the reconfiguration of a State Care System, through quality public services, inclusive and with a universal vocation, that dignify their provision and reception as consolidated rights, as well as improve the working conditions of those who professionally provide care.	<p>Promotion of studies, surveys and reports that will serve to obtain a deeper understanding of the uses of time from a gender perspective.</p> <p>Creation of an Advisory Board for Care, composed of experts, civil society actors, representatives of different ministries.</p>	<p>Royal Decree 410/2016, of 31 October, approving the National Statistical Plan 2021-2024, approved by Royal Decree 1110/2020, of 15 December.</p> <p>The Advisory Board for Care was set up on 20 September 2021 with the aim of advising the Ministry of Equality and the Women's Institute on the design, proposal and promotion of regulatory frameworks and public policies on care.</p>	   

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
<p>Until 2023, consolidate the Co-Responsibility Plan, as a public policy aimed at guaranteeing the right to care for families with children up to 14 years of age through the creation of a professional care exchange.</p>	<p>Co-Responsibility Plan, to guarantee the right to care for families with children up to the age of 14.</p>	<p>Law 22/2021, of 28 December, on the General State Budget for 2022: establishes a global allocation of 200 million euros for the Co-Responsibility Plan.</p> <p>Agreement authorising the proposal for the territorial distribution between the Autonomous Communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, for submission to the Sector Conference on Equality, of the budget appropriation earmarked in 2022 for the development of the Co-Responsibility Plan for an amount of 190,000,000 euros, (CM of 15 February 2022).</p>	   
<p>Until 2030, continue to promote regulatory reforms and actions to address the pay and employment gap that affects women in the form of inactivity, unemployment, seasonality, part-time work, precariousness, undervaluation of their work and segregation, eliminating the barriers and obstacles that hinder women's professional development in all sectors.</p>	<p>Development of Royal Decree-Law 3/2021, of 2 February, adopting measures to reduce the gender gap and other matters in the fields of social security and the economy.</p> <p>Implementation of Royal Decree 902/2020, of 13 October, on equal pay for women and men.</p> <p>Development of Royal Decree 901/2020, of 13 October, which regulates gender equality plans and their registration and amends Royal Decree 713/2010, of 28 May, on the registration and deposit of collective bargaining agreements and collective labour agreements.</p>	<p>Implementation of Royal Decree-Law 3/2021, of 2 February, adopting measures to reduce the gender gap and other matters in the social security and economic spheres.</p> <p>Development of Royal Decree 902/2020, of 13 October, on equal pay for women and men, aims to facilitate the identification of pay differentials between women and men by defining jobs of equal value.</p> <p>Companies with more than 50 employees are obliged to draw up and register equality plans that guarantee equal pay, establishing their content, the procedure for negotiation and the requirements to be met by the diagnosis and the characteristics of their evaluation and monitoring.</p>	  
<p>By 2030, promote the approval and development of a regulatory package that promotes real and effective equality for transgender people and guarantees the protection of the rights of LGTBI people, by fighting against any discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics.</p>	<p>Draft law for the real and effective equality of trans people and for the guarantee of the rights of LGTBI people.</p> <p>Promoting social participation through the Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual, Bisexual and Intersex (LGTBI) Participation Council, created in 2020, and the Council for the Elimination of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination.</p>	<p>Draft law for the real and effective equality of trans persons and for the guarantee of the rights of LGTBI persons (CM of 27 June 2022).</p> <p>Order IGD/577/2020 of 24 June creating the Council for the Participation of Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual and Intersex (LGTBI) People and regulating its functioning, and modified by Order IGD/506/2021 of 20 May.</p>	  
<p>ABy 2030, ratify ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers and ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace.</p>	<p>Ratification of ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers, in order to promote the equalisation of domestic workers in unemployment benefits and to reverse their precarious employment situation.</p> <p>Ratification of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment at work, which establishes the basis for a work environment free of violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment.</p>	<p>Formal procedures for ratification of ILO Convention 189 initiated, following authorisation by the Spanish Parliament.</p> <p>On 25 May 2022, the Minister of Labour deposited the ratification of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment at the ILO in Geneva.</p>	    
<p>By 2030, guarantee the inclusion of the principle of inter-sectionality in all public policies and in all government action in order to take into account the specific and multiple discriminations suffered by women due to their sex, ethnic origin, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion or beliefs, age, family model, illness or disability.</p>	<p>Comprehensive Equal Treatment and Anti-Discrimination Act aimed at strengthening the right to equal treatment.</p> <p>Promote the revision of Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin.</p>	<p>Law 15/2022, of 12 July, on equal treatment and non-discrimination.</p> <p>In the pipeline.</p>	 

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
By 2030, improve the availability of statistical sources and indicators that enable a comprehensive understanding of discrimination on grounds of gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, among others.	Gender mainstreaming in statistics and studies.	Qualitative study on perceptions of eating practices and healthy lifestyle habits in the adolescent population. Study of obesity and poverty in the Spanish child population. Update of the Diagnosis on gender equality in rural areas, prepared by MAPA (2021).	 
By 2030, implement Strategic Equal Opportunities Plans as a specific and integrated instrument of public policies for the eradication of discrimination and violence affecting women.	3rd Plan for Gender Equality in the General State Administration and in the Public Bodies linked to or dependent on it.	3rd Plan for gender equality in the General State Administration and in the Public Bodies linked to or dependent on it (CM of 9 December 2020). Royal Decree 309/2021, of 4 May, approving the Regulations on entry and promotion in the Armed Forces. Equality Plan for the Administration of Justice in the Autonomous Communities with powers under the Ministry of Justice (Balearic Islands, Murcia, Extremadura, C-LM and C-LM), in addition to the two autonomous cities.	   
Until 2030, continue to promote policies and measures aimed at achieving a balanced presence of women and men in all areas of public life, as well as support for women's participation in decision-making and management bodies.	<p>Actions of the Observatory for Gender Equality in the field of Culture, which aim to promote the presence of women and equal opportunities in all cultural manifestations.</p> <p>Development of the actions contained in the Organic Law on Education (LOMLOE), aimed at advancing gender equality in education.</p> <p>STEAM Alliance, which will promote concrete initiatives to shape an education and training system that eliminates gender stereotypes associated with certain vocations and professions and contributes to eliminating the gender gap in access to STEAM disciplines.</p>	<p>Consolidation of Order CUL/3520/2008, of 1 December, approving the Code of Good Practice of the National Institute of Performing Arts and Music (updated in June 2018).</p> <p>Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education, LOMLOE, which has adopted a gender equality approach through coeducation and promotes the learning of effective equality of women and men at all stages.</p> <p>Cross-sector partnership as a framework for state action to foster STEAM vocations in girls and young women of 11 February 2021.</p> <p>Actions of the 1st Circular Economy Action Plan aimed at fostering skills, supporting job creation and favouring access to employment for women.</p> <p>Inclusion of criteria for the contribution to gender equality and the balanced distribution of direct employment created, between men and women, in subsidies for R&D projects in the field of energy storage (PRTR).</p> <p>Measures to promote and boost talent and employment with a gender perspective in the Roadmap for the Sustainable Management of Mineral Raw Materials.</p>	    
Until 2030, guarantee the exercise of Sexual and Reproductive Rights by women through, among others, the reform of the Organic Law 2/2010 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and the voluntary interruption of pregnancy, recovering the rights of 16- and 17-year-old women.	Reform of the Organic Law 2/2010 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy, to recover the rights of 16- and 17-year-old women.	In the pipeline.	  
By 2030, develop specific measures to effectively address the gender digital divide, so that all women and girls belonging to vulnerable groups and at risk of social exclusion are not limited in their right to access digital media essential for both personal and professional development.	Development of specific measures to effectively address the gender digital divide to ensure women's and girls' right to access digital media.	In the pipeline.	    

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
<p>Up to 2030, promote comprehensive support plans for rural women, through the promotion of the work of associations as a key element for the stimulation of the social, economic and cultural spheres, and other specific support programmes.</p>	<p>Plan for Gender Equality in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector 2021-2027 Plan, aimed at promoting equal opportunities between women and men in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.</p> <p>Actions in favour of rural women, which includes specific measures to support women in the agri-food sector and in rural areas.</p>	<p>Plan for Gender Equality in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector 2021-2026 presented on 7 March 2022.</p> <p>Inclusion of the gender perspective as a specific objective of the CAP 2023-2027, translated into measures in favour of rural women in Spain's Strategic Plan for the CAP 2023-2027.</p> <p>Royal Decree 819/2021 of 28 September establishing the regulatory bases for the direct granting of subsidies to jointly owned agricultural holdings and approving the call for applications for the financial year 2021 (payment of social security contributions).</p> <p>Subsidies for innovative projects of territorial transformation, which favour the social and economic reactivation of areas with depopulation problems, with special attention to those promoted by young people and women.</p> <p>Support for environmental, social and digital infrastructure projects in areas affected by the energy transition, which generate employment for women and reduce the digital divide between women and men.</p> <p>Subsidies to rural women's organisations at national level.</p> <p>Excellence in innovation awards for rural women.</p> <p>National cycle of cinema and rural women.</p> <p>Update of the Diagnosis of Gender Equality in Rural Areas.</p> <p>Project "Women as Financially Independent Rural Actors" (WAFIRA)</p>	   
<p>Until 2030, continue with the annual publication of the Gender Impact Report that accompanies the General State Budget Bill, as a mechanism to monitor progress on inequality and to encourage the design of more effective policies.</p>	<p>Alignment of the Gender Impact Report of the General State Budget with the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Effective Equality between Women and Men (PEIEMH).</p> <p>Development of a gender-sensitive fiscal policy, based on an analysis of the taxation system with this approach to promote the necessary reforms to avoid possible gender biases and to promote super-reduced tax rates on essential products related to women's health.</p>	<p>Incorporation of a Gender Impact Report in the documentation accompanying the General State Budget Bill, as established in article 37.2 of the General Budgetary Law 47/2003.</p>	 
<p>By 2030, address sexism in children's toy advertising, through the development of policy and communication measures.</p>	<p>Updating the code of self-regulation of the content of advertising of games and toys aimed at children and adolescents so that sexist messages and stereotyped images are eliminated.</p>	<p>On 27 April 2022, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the Spanish Association of Toy Manufacturers (AEFJ) and Autocontrol signed a collaboration protocol that includes the updating of the Code of Self-Regulation of Toys.</p> <p>Measures to raise awareness of the harm to children caused by sexist stereotypes associated with toys and games:</p> <p>Presentation and publication of the study "Women and Advertising. Sexism in commercial campaigns" (8 October 2021).</p> <p>Organisation of seminar on gender stereotypes in toy and game advertising (1 December 2021)</p> <p>Communication campaign Toy Strike (9-12 December 2021).</p> <p>Publication of the Guide for choosing toys without gender stereotypes (17 December 2021).</p>	 

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Programme for women graduates to improve their employability and entrepreneurship.
- Protocol for institutional response to sexist homicides.
- Andalusian Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation 2021-2024.
- Creation of the One-Stop-Shop for assistance to victims of gender-based violence.
- Comprehensive plan for awareness-raising and prevention of gender-based violence 2021-2025.
- Support programme for victims of gender-based violence and other particularly vulnerable people.
- Strategy for equal treatment and non-discrimination of LGTBI people and their families, subsidies to guarantee rights, and creation of the Andalusian LGTBI Council.
- 1st Work-Life Balance Strategy in Andalusia 2021-2025.
- Law on the Statute of Rural and Marine Women of Andalusia (*).
- 2nd Plan for Equal Opportunities between women and men in agriculture, fishing and environmental activity in Andalusia-Horizon 2027.

(*) Measure in progress

The Andalusian Government has focused its actions in the accelerator policy by using three axes: improving the employability and entrepreneurship of women, combating male violence and strengthening institutional coordination with the aim of contributing to the prevention, care and eradication of violence against women.

In the first priority line of action, the programme for university women to improve their employability and entrepreneurship is worth highlighting. The third programme for employability of women graduates, called Univergem, began in February 2022. The Andalusian Women's Institute has focused its attention on the employability of women graduates, as a reference group on which to focus to achieve the professional development of all women. The target group are women graduates, especially in technical and experimental careers, who will work in male-dominated environments. The programme offers an itinerary of job placement that includes labour guidance from a gender perspective, analysis of the labour market, complementary training in new technologies, languages, training in management skills and internships in Andalusian and European Union companies.

In this line of action, it is worth highlighting the approval in May 2022 of the 1st Work-Life Balance Strategy in Andalusia 2021-2025, which implements the mandates set out in both the Statute of Autonomy of Andalusia (articles 63 and 168) and Law 12/2007, of 26 November, for the promotion of gender equality in Andalusia, which establishes the measures to promote gender equality in public policies in different spheres of action, indicating in Article 36 that the Andalusian public administrations shall adopt measures to guarantee a balance of work, family and personal life for men and women.

A second priority area of action is the eradication of male violence. In this area, it is worth highlighting the Protocol for institutional response to sexist homicide. The response of the Regional Government of Andalusia to male violence is divided into three different but complementary blocks, where the protocols are located:

1. Protocols to improve care from an intersectional approach (Roma women, women with disabilities and elderly women who are victims of gender violence).
2. Protocols to improve assistance through specialised care in order to guarantee the non-victimisation of women and efficiency in the provision of services, such as the one designed to avoid secondary victimisation of women and children of victims of gender violence.
3. The protocols to improve inter-institutional coordination within the different departments of the Andalusian Government Administration, through specific action protocols and cooperation networks with public administrations and institutions with competences in this area, with the aim of contributing to the prevention, care and eradication of violence against women, as well as facilitating victims' access to the different aids and resources .

Along with the design of action protocols, the creation of the One-Stop-Shop for the care of victims of gender violence stands out in this same axis of eradication of male violence. Regulated by Decree 96/2021 of 23 February, the One-Stop Shop came into operation in June 2021 and is hosted on the IAM website, which is the body responsible for coordination with all the departments of the Andalusian Government to guarantee its effectiveness, as well as the administration, monitoring and evaluation of the functioning of this system, the control of resources and new incorporations.

It is also worth highlighting the approval in November 2021 of the Andalusian Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Women and Girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation 2021-2024, which aims to provide the Andalusian Government with an instrument that includes the axes and lays the foundations for action to raise awareness, prevent, eradicate and minimise the consequences of this type of violence suffered by women and girls.

Finally, the Andalusian Government's commitment to the fight against all male violence is reflected in the promotion of the Strategy for equal treatment and non-discrimination of LGTBI people and their families, which promotes aid to guarantee their rights, and the creation of the Andalusian LGTBI Council.

ARAGON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Push for concrete measures to end the pay gap and the glass ceiling.
- Shock plans against Gender Violence.
- Facilitate access to nurseries for families with one parent, at risk of exclusion and/or victims of gender violence.
- Law on equal opportunities between women and men.
- Aragonese strategy to balance work, family and education.
- Actions for co-responsibility in work-life balance.
- Law 4/2018, of 19 April, on Gender Identity and Expression and Social Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Autonomous Community of Aragon.
- Law 18/2018, of 20 December, on equality and comprehensive protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity in the Autonomous Community of Aragon (*).



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of Aragon approved the 2nd Strategic Plan for Equality between Women and Men in Aragon 2021-2024. This plan establishes mainstreaming as a methodology for addressing equal opportunities and making progress in 5 areas of action: Institutional Coordination, Participation and Social Transformation, Education System, Culture, Science and Knowledge Society, Welfare State with a Gender Perspective, and Economy and Employment.

The Interdepartmental Commission for Equality has been set up in this period to coordinate actions within the objectives set by the Equal Opportunities Act of 2018, for equal opportunities between women and men in Aragon. Among the actions carried out are the following examples: the launch of the reinforcement programme in the courts with jurisdiction over gender violence, comprehensive management of services related to violence against women, priority processing of cases of violence against women and training of forensic and psychosocial teams. Aid has also been promoted for local entities to train local police officers in the area of violence against women.

In 2021, for the first time, and again in 2022, the Equality Service of the Government of Aragon has called for grants for projects to promote equal treatment, non-discrimination and affective-sexual diversity for a total annual amount of 161,619€, and aimed at non-profit social entities for the development of programmes to promote equal treatment and non-discrimination and to support LGBTBI people and their families.

As part of the Equality and Non-discrimination Care Area, the Government of Aragon has set up services to guarantee the full, real and effective equality of the rights of people, especially the LGBTBI collective and their families, such as Psychological Guidance and Support, Guidance and Legal Assistance in matters of equal treatment, non-discrimination and hate crimes, Mediation and Community Intervention, Pre-employment Training for the Labour Insertion of trans women in highly vulnerable situations, and Comprehensive LGBTBI Care.

In 2022, the Government of Aragon promoted the establishment of two new bodies: the Consultative Committee against discrimination based on gender identity or expression ("Trans Committee") and the Aragonese Observatory against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity (LGTBI Observatory).

The "Trans Committee" develops Article 8 of Law 4/2018 on Gender Identity and Expression and Social Equality and Non-Discrimination, known as the "Trans Law", based on the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and gender expression. It is a collective body where associations and entities working in the field of gender identity, the departments of Education, Health and Citizenship and Social Rights of the Government of Aragon are represented, as well as other institutions and organisations necessary to carry out policies and actions in favour of diversity in all spheres of life. The final objective, the promotion, evaluation and monitoring of the "Trans Law".

The "LGTBI Observatory" was created as a development of Article 5 of Law 18/2018 on Equality and comprehensive protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity, known as the "LGTBI Law". This observatory is a body for participation and consultation on the rights of LGBTBI groups and their families, in which the most representative LGBTBI entities, their parents' associations based in Aragon, the Aragonese public administrations with competences related to equality and non-discrimination of LGBTBI groups, the most representative social agents, professional associations, professional associations and social entities that operate within the scope of application of this law, as well as the University of Zaragoza are also present. Its main purpose is to guarantee the participation and consultation on the rights of LGBTBI groups, the most representative entities and their parents' associations, as well as the rest of the entities and institutions included in the scope of application of Law 18/2018.

CANARY ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategy for gender equality 2021-2024.
- Continuous improvement and updating of the Canarian System of Comprehensive Intervention against Violence against Women.
- Canary Islands System of Integral Intervention against Sexual Violence against Women.
- Strategic Care Plan.
- Strategic plan for the implementation of 0–3-year-old pre-school education.



The Canarian Government is in the process of drawing up the Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2022-2024, with a deadline of December 2022, an instrument stipulated in Article 7 of Law 1/2010, of 26 February, on equality between women and men, which must be approved by the Canarian Government.

While public policy is being designed, the efforts of the Canarian Government have focused on supporting women victims of gender-based violence. Thus, the Social System for the Prevention and Comprehensive Protection of victims of gender violence in the autonomous community is managed through collaboration and co-financing agreements signed by the Canary Islands Institute for Equality (ICI) with the Island Councils. In 2019, a multi-year agreement was signed (2019-2022), with the aim of guaranteeing and giving continuity to the resources that make up the Network of Centres and Services against gender violence. After a 35% increase in the funding allocated to this network in 2019, this allocation was increased again by almost 5% in 2021. Thanks to the improved funding, it is possible to improve the conditions of the staff that make up the network, as well as for the creation of new resources and services.

In addition, through the Canarian System of Integral Intervention against Sexual Violence against women, 24-hour Crisis Centres have been set up with Next Generation funds. The working group set up with the Island Councils has agreed on the creation of a specific centre to deal with sexual violence on 5 islands (Gran Canaria, and in Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Lanzarote and La Palma), while in El Hierro and La Gomera it was agreed to have a reference professional in this area who will coordinate with the centres in the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. It was also agreed to establish a specific room for dealing with sexual violence in the 112-coordination centre to make use of the awareness and implementation of this telephone number in the Canary Islands Autonomous Community.

In 2021 and 2022, work was carried out on the design of the Strategic Plan for the First Cycle of Infant Education in the Canary Islands (0 to 3 years) to promote the schooling of children aged 0 to 3 years in the archipelago with the creation of accessible, affordable, inclusive and high-quality places in the public system. Since the beginning of the legislature, aid to promote early schooling has doubled, while public places have increased by 27% and the number of municipal nursery schools has risen by 24%. This is a measure to compensate for the effects of inequalities of origin of the pupils, which is a real driving force for equity, as well as favouring the detection of learning difficulties and early attention, which translates into better results in their academic future and contributes to balancing work and family. The objective is to create at least 3,879 new public places for the next three school years (2022 to 2025) (in Municipal Nursery Schools and in centres managed by the Regional Ministry), which would mean a total of 9,369 public places in the 2024-25 school year (in August 2021 there were 5,490 authorised public places).

CANTABRIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Equality plans in companies in Cantabria.
- State Pact on Gender Violence (*).
- Implementation of co-responsibility measures with an intersectional perspective with funding from the European Fund for Recovery and Resilience (EU Next Generation).
- 2nd Equality Strategy 2019-2023 of the Government of Cantabria.
- Law 8/2020 on the Guarantee of Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Transgender, Bisexual and Intersex Persons and Non-Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
- Gender mainstreaming in the General Budgets of Cantabria.
- Law 2/2019 for effective equality between women and men.
- Incorporation in the Statistical Plan of Cantabria of operation 08.03 Men and Women from a gender perspective, and publication of the Gender Equality Index for Cantabria.

(*) Measure in progress

Within the framework of the accelerating policy 3, the Government of Cantabria has promoted the measures included in the State Pact for Gender Violence and as a result, during 2021, a total of 1046 people were attended to in the Information and Integral Attention Centres of the Government of Cantabria, of which 84.3% correspond to women (882 women) and 15.7% to minors (164 minors). With regard to the total population of women attended (882 women), 74.5% (657 women) will start care in 2021 and 25.5% started care in previous years (225 women). A 24-hour crisis centre is being created as part of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan

A second line of action of the Government of Cantabria is related to the promotion of the preparation of equality plans in companies, in compliance with national regulations. In this sense, companies are supported in complying with the legislation, so that the integration of equality becomes a reality in all companies in Cantabria. To this end, it offers subsidies to SMEs (from 8/3/2022 only to small companies) for the implementation of these plans. In the period between June 2021 and June 2022, a total of 32 grants were awarded to as many companies, for a total of 159,200 euros, for the development and implementation of equality plans that will benefit a total of 1,395 people.

Priority has also been given to the articulation of strategic plans for the promotion of equality in the territory through Order UIC/5/2022, of 14 February. The Order promotes the granting of subsidies to municipalities and associations of municipalities of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria, in order to promote the diagnosis and development of strategic plans in 2022. In 2021, subsidies were granted to 9 town councils in the Autonomous Community of Cantabria, and for 2022, the same process is currently underway. Along the same lines of regional development of equality, the Co-Responsibility Plan has been implemented in municipalities of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria, with the aim of promoting co-responsibility and initiating the path towards guaranteeing care as a right in Spain from the perspective of equality between women and men. In 2021, 85 local entities in Cantabria participated, representing 83.33% of the local entities in the Autonomous Community and 95.23% of children up to 14 years of age benefited.

CASTILE - LA MANCHA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Castile-La Mancha Agenda 2030 Strategy.
- 2nd Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Castile-La Mancha 2019-2024.
- Law for a society free of gender violence in Castile-La Mancha.
- Law on the Statute of Rural Women of Castile-La Mancha.
- 2nd Equal Opportunities Plan for public employees of the Regional Administration. Approved by agreement of the general negotiating table of 4 October 2021.
- Draft amendment to the Castile-La Mancha law on equality between women and men (*).
- Co-Responsibility Plan.
- Law 5/2022, on sexual diversity and LGTBI rights in Castile-La Mancha on LGTBI equality in Castile-La Mancha.
- Strategic Plan for LGTBI Public Policies for the coordination and attention to sexual diversity in Castile-La Mancha (*).



(*). Measure in progress

The priorities for action of the Government of Castile-La Mancha have been marked by progress in legislative matters and in the initiatives carried out in the strategic planning instrument such as the 2nd Plan for equal opportunities between women and men in Castile-La Mancha.

A glance at the regulatory perspective in the framework of the Law for a society free of gender violence shows that the 84 women's centres with more than 300 professionals have been maintained. Last year, 24,258 women were attended to in 124,743 consultations. A new shelter resource has been implemented, which makes a total of 15 centres with 132 professionals, 91 places for women and 190 for minors. In the last year, 321 women and 276 minors were attended to.

The Law includes the development of different types of aid, including the autonomy of women living in shelters, a programme of psychological assistance for minors, a programme of assistance in the event of sexual aggression, grants for university studies for women victims of violence and their children, social and solidarity aid for women, aid for emancipation and housing, and orphan's aid for minors who are victims of gender-based violence.

For its part, the actions within the framework of the 2nd Strategic Plan for equal opportunities between women and men are focused on the promotion of public management from a gender perspective, which indicates the process of consolidation of the equality structures of the Regional Government. Evaluations show that there is a high degree of implementation of the 199 measures committed to by the Regional Government Departments and Autonomous Bodies of the Regional Administration, which represent 91% of the actions foreseen at the beginning of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. It is also worth highlighting the large number of measures not initially committed to and which have been developed by the Regional Ministries and Autonomous Bodies, accounting for almost 54% of all the actions developed, which indicate the consolidation and commitment that has been acquired by the equality structures of the Regional Government, and specifically by the Gender Equality Units (UIGs). The Gender Impact Report that accompanies the Regional Budget Law is another of the advances in the region.

A priority area for the regional government is linked to the development of the Co-Responsibilities Plan to design comprehensive care systems from a gender, intersectional and human rights perspective that promote co-responsibility between women and men. This Plan has been endowed with 16 million euros, which has been financed through the hiring of professionals and the implementation of collective services (toy libraries, camps, morning classes, etc.) and individual services for home care. 612 municipalities have adhered to this Plan, all those with more than 5,000 inhabitants and 94% of those with between 1,000 and 5,000. 16,461 families have benefited and more than 24,000 children (24,118). 1,526 jobs have been created, most of them for women: 87% of the contracts were for women (1,329) compared to 13% for men (197). In

addition, quality employment has been created in many rural areas where there were no public reconciliation policies before, giving work opportunities to many women.

With regard to the strengthening of actions in the area of equality between women and men in rural areas, it is worth highlighting the Rural Women's Statute Law, which establishes mechanisms to correct the multiple discrimination to which rural women are subject, encouraging the presence of women in rural areas and facilitating their participation in decision-making in the economic, social and cultural spheres of this environment.

Finally, the Law on Sexual Diversity and LGTBI Rights in Castile-La Mancha contains a clear reference to the visibility of women's rights within the LGTBI collective under the inclusion of the guiding principle of gender equality and training in LGTBI matters within the Public Administrations of our region; It develops educational, health, social, cultural and sporting measures and refers to the prohibition of conversion therapies and genital mutilation in intersex babies, the depathologisation of trans-sexuality, equal access to resources in rural areas and the improvement of the employability of transsexual people.

In addition, the Law provides for the implementation of the LGTBI Participation Council, the LGTBI Comprehensive Care Service and the Government of Castile-La Mancha's involvement as a public prosecutor in cases of manslaughter, murder or when the circumstances make it advisable.

CASTILE AND LEON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Recruitment of equal opportunities officers.
- Strengthening gender equality policies.
- Development of the comprehensive care model for victims of gender-based violence ("Zero Violence Objective").
- Programmes for the integration into the labour market of women in situations of special vulnerability in collaboration with social organisations.
- Adoption of measures to support work-life balance and co-responsibility (subsidies for leave of absence, reduction of working hours and care for children from 0 to 3 years of age in children's centres).
- Law to guarantee the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (*).
- Rural Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy in the agricultural and agri-food fields.
- Introduction of gender equality clauses in public procurement contracts.

(*) Measure in progress

The actions of the Government of Castile and Leon in the field of gender equality have been related to the promotion of both regulations and the development of public policies with the promotion of different strategic and action plans. Among the latter, a notable feature is Agreement 5/2022 of 5 January, which approved the Strategic Plan for Gender Equality 2022-2025, and which establishes the itinerary to be followed by the Government of Castile and Leon to achieve real equality between men and women. It includes 214 measures and actions to promote institutional participation, employment support measures, professional promotion of women and co-responsibility. Among the results obtained in 2021, there were 1,353 consultations attended to, 314 participating entities (town councils, companies, cooperatives, associations, foundations, trade union sections, etc), 787 people trained in gender equality, 282 entities requested information and 102 entities requested personalised advice.

Within this framework, programmes have been carried out for the labour integration of women in a situation of special vulnerability in collaboration with social organisations, such as the aid to companies and entities of the third sector of Castile and Leon for the recruitment of women victims of gender violence (11 women hired in 2021). It should also be noted that in the Women's Employment Programme (PEMCYL) in

which 305 women participated in 2021, of which 128 (41.97%) are victims of gender-based violence, 147 women have been placed in the labour market, 58 (39.45%) of whom are victims of gender-based violence.

In order to promote equal opportunities, the Government of Castile and Leon has promoted the recruitment of equal opportunities agents through the granting of direct subsidies to the most representative trade unions in Castile and Leon for the recruitment of 32 Equality Agents. In addition, measures have been adopted to support work-life balance and co-responsibility (subsidies for leave of absence, reduction of working hours and care for children from 0 to 3 years of age in children's centres). The aim is to offset the reduction in income of workers in Castile and Leon who exercise their right to reduce their working hours to care for children and family members who are recognised as dependent and to take leave of absence to care for children.

With regard to the eradication of gender violence, the Government of Castile and Leon has developed the "Zero Violence Objective" model of comprehensive care for victims of gender violence, which has 600 case coordinators, promoting a single information system shared by case coordinators, specialised teams and women's sections, in the framework of which 1,377 reports on the assessment of gender violence have been drawn up. In addition, the annual detection of needs and the design and implementation of ad hoc training for professionals has been promoted, reaching 5,921 professionals (case coordinators, psychologists, lawyers, judges, health professionals, third sector entities, journalists).

With regard to the Rural Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy in the agricultural and agri-food fields, of the 30 measures defined in the Rural Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy, 18 measures have been or are in the process of being implemented. Of these, the following stand out: The creation of the Rural Women's Equality Network, the Professional Development Programme for agricultural entrepreneurs and professionals in Castile and Leon for women who have started up in the rural environment of Castile and Leon through their agricultural and/or agri-food businesses, aid aimed at hiring for the temporary replacement of a worker in agricultural and agri-food activities, through LEADER and advice for women entrepreneurs through the PAME Network (employment guidance, training, support for entrepreneurial projects already implemented and to make women's work in the rural environment more visible.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Law 19/2020 on equal treatment and non-discrimination.
- Deployment of the Strategic Plan for Gender Equality Policies 2019-2022.
- Strengthening the network of resources for comprehensive care and recovery for women in situations of gender-based violence.
- Development of the Crime Victim Support Service in court.
- Development of a coeducation programme and gender perspective in the curriculum in early childhood, primary and secondary education.
- Publication of a guide to gender mainstreaming in participatory processes.



In May 2021, the Department of Equality and Feminisms was created, the functional scope of which is the policies of equality and effective equality in the workplace, as well as those of guarantees of rights and non-discrimination, policies for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, women's policies, the promotion and defence of human, political and civil rights, immigration policy, refuge and support for Catalan migration, and time policies.

On 20 April 2021, the Government approved the allocation of 4,457,889 euros to guarantee the functioning of the Network for the comprehensive care and recovery of women in situations of male violence. This is a coordinated set of free public resources and services for the care, assistance, protection, recovery and reparation of women who have suffered or are suffering from male violence and their children.

In October 2021, the creation of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Promotion and Monitoring of the National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Rights was approved, with the aim of implementing in

a coordinated, cross-cutting and comprehensive manner the necessary mechanisms to guarantee these rights to the entire population, with special attention to women, girls and transgender people. Participants include the Departments of Equality and Feminism, Presidency, Health, Business and Employment, Education, Research and Universities, Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda, Social Rights and Justice.

In February 2022, the National Pact for the Eradication of Gender Violence met for the first time, as a space of co-responsibility between institutions and political and social agents of the country, and which responds to a triple objective: to strengthen social consensus to advance towards guaranteeing the right of women to live free from gender violence, to consolidate and deepen the Catalan model of a comprehensive approach to gender violence, and to guarantee the resources, instruments and political and technical structures to address this violence at the different territorial levels.

In March 2022, the Agency for the Protection and Promotion of Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination was launched as the body responsible for the implementation of Law 19/2020 on equal treatment and non-discrimination. The Agency deploys the Service for complaints and assistance to victims of discrimination. It is also responsible for the development of actions to promote the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination, the elaboration of the Plan for equal treatment and non-discrimination and the development of the Training Plan of Law 19/2020.

In May 2022, the first phase of the Menstrual Equity Plan was launched, within the framework of the National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, with the project "My period, my periods". This action consists of the distribution of menstrual and environmentally sustainable products to more than 1,200 students in the third year of ESO in 24 educational centres.

In June 2022 the Government approved the Report on the reinforcement of the Network of LGBTI+ Comprehensive Care Services (SAI), which points out the improvements of the new Framework Agreement on coordination and funding for the deployment of these services in collaboration with the local world. The Framework Agreement provides 13 million euros for the recruitment of staff for the Comprehensive Care Services throughout Catalonia during the period 2022-2025, multiplying by more than five times the investment in the 2018-2021 stage (2,519,490 euros) and will allow the recruitment of at least 113 professionals with full dedication to the care of LGBTI+ people and the deployment of LGBTI+ public policies at the local and county level.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Creation of the Chair of Digital Gender Gap of the University of Valencia with the Regional Ministry of Innovation, Universities, Science and Digital Society.
- Implementation of the STEAM Movement Transport tickets for women victims of gender-based violence.
- Action protocol in cases of sexual harassment or aggression in Metrovalencia and TRAM de Alacant.
- "Fem Cooperatives".
- Gender mainstreaming in urban planning.
- Guide to gender perspective in urban actions.
- Valencian Community Rail Company's Equality Plan.

The Chair of Digital Gender Gap, hosted by the University of Valencia, started activities in October 2020 as a result of the agreement with the Valencian Government, in order to address the digital divide between men and women in the Valencian Community.

During this period, the agreement has continued, with the publication of reports, workshops, courses and conferences on the subject.

In order to improve the participation, continuation and completion of studies of girls and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEAM) studies and careers as a first step to reducing gender disparities in these professions, STEAM-related activities have continued to be carried out in collaboration with DG Universities.

On the other hand, the Valencian Government in this period of analysis has developed policies for the incorporation of the gender perspective in urban planning through Law 1/2019, of 5 February, on Town and Country Planning and the Landscape of the Valencian Community (LOTUP) which includes the gender perspective in art. 13, which should be included in the design, definition and execution of urban planning, as well as complying with a series of criteria included in the law. In this same line of action, the Guide to the gender perspective in urban actions stands out as an aid document for the urban planning work of professionals and public administrations, which can be used to design spaces that respond to the needs of all citizens.

A second priority of action by the Valencian Government has been marked by support for women victims of gender violence in transport. Order 9/2021, of 16 November, of the Regional Ministry of Territorial Policy, Public Works and Mobility, a transport ticket was created for victims of violence against women, the *Abono Violeta*, which allows victims of violence against women to travel free of charge on public transport in Metrovalencia, Metrobús, TRAM in Alicante, the TAM system as well as on the TRAM in Castellón. Subsequently, by Resolution of 25 January 2022, it was integrated as a "SUMA Violeta" fare option in the new integrated fares of the Valencia Metropolitan Transport Authority (ATMV), which includes Metrovalencia, Metrobus, EMT and Renfe Cercanías in the Valencia Area, and since April in the TRAM d'Alacant. Since its launch, more than 60,000 journeys have been made using this fare option.

Also noteworthy is the Protocol for action in cases of sexual harassment or aggression in Metrovalencia and the Alacant TRAM. The majority of users are women (around 65%). In 2021 and 2022 there have been 9 cases of sexual threats, 7 of sexual aggression and 38 of gender violence (it should be borne in mind that in 2021 there were 52 million journeys on public transport).

A third line of action of the Valencian Government is of actions through the Digital Gender Gap Chair, carried out with the University of Valencia and which promotes a series of activities to reduce the differences in access, training and employment in terms of the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) between men and women. Within the framework of this general objective, during the period under analysis, the agreement and the main activities have continued, including conferences in which the situation of the Digital Gender Gap in the Valencian Community has been made visible and the challenges to close this gap have been analysed, or the campaign "Let's close the digital gender gap", which aims to make women's role models visible in order to demonstrate that it is possible to break the digital gender gap.

Finally, the 2nd Biennial Plan for the Support and Promotion of Cooperativism "Fem Cooperatives 2021-2022" has been developed, which has promoted the following actions:

1. Subsidies for investments in Social Economy entities, with €3.25 M (DOGV 27/01/2022).
2. Subsidies for the incorporation of unemployed people as worker-members in cooperatives and worker-owned companies, with €4.85 M (DOGV 27/01/2022).
3. Subsidies for the constitution of new cooperatives, with 145,000 euros (DOGV 27/01/2022).
4. Subsidies to associations and federations of social economy entities, with 645,000 euros (DOGV 27/01/2022).

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Law on Equality between women and men (*).
- Draft Comprehensive Law on Equality in Diversity and Combating Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation.
- Bill to amend Law 14/2012 on non-discrimination on grounds of gender identity and recognition of transgender people.
- Basque strategy against violence against children and adolescents 2022-2025. (**)
- Plan for Equality of Men and Women (2018-2021).
- 4th Interagency Plan to Support Families 2018-2022.
- 2nd Coeducation Plan for the Basque education system, on the road to equality and good treatment 2019-2023.

(*) Approved in March 2022

(**) Approved in April 2022.

In relation to equality, special attention has been paid during the pandemic to tackling gender-based violence. Resources and services for victims have been reinforced and the hotline service has been strengthened. In addition, the project for a social and citizens' pact against male violence was presented, an initiative within the framework of the international project "Generation Equality" of UN Women. All these reinforcements and measures will be strengthened with the Law on equality and against male violence that has been approved in the Basque Parliament in March 2022.

The 7th Plan for the equality of women and men is configured as a guiding document for the actions of the Basque public authorities in the field of equality of women and men.

Taking as a reference the concept of equality set out in Law 4/2005 for the Equality of Men and Women and the consideration of the general principles which, according to this law, should govern the actions of the Basque public authorities in matters of equality (equal treatment, equal opportunities, respect for diversity and difference, integration of the gender perspective, positive action, elimination of roles and stereotypes based on sex, balanced representation and coordination and collaboration), the work agenda set out in the 7th Plan for Equality of Men and Women in the Basque Autonomous Community goes into greater depth and makes greater efforts to achieve gender equality, positive action, elimination of roles and stereotypes based on sex, balanced representation and coordination and collaboration), the work agenda included in the 7th Plan for the Equality of Men and Women in the Basque Autonomous Community goes deeper and emphasises some of them, due to their strategic nature in the orientation of the proposed action, and incorporates others: feminist paradigm, gender approach, intersectionality, women's empowerment and sustainable human development.

In addition to these principles, which underpin the action proposed in the 7th Plan, the following guarantees are established to ensure that the actions included are operational and have the expected impact:

1. Real political commitment to equality between men and women.
2. Provision of the necessary budgetary, human and technical resources for public equality policies.
3. A policy of transparency and accountability to citizens on how public money is used to contribute to equality.
4. Participation and dialogue with women's movements and citizens, as well as with economic and social agents in the development of policies, based on a more democratic model of participation, where their contributions are given legitimacy and have a real impact.
5. Co-responsibility and collaboration of all institutions and, within these, of the departments or areas that comprise them, for the achievement of equality between men and women.

EXTREMADURA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy.
- The Strategy for Employment and Business Competitiveness for the period 2020-2025 (axes: equal opportunities and co-responsibility and reconciliation of work and family life).
- Harm reduction programmes for women in a situation of consumption and possible victims of gender-based violence with/without children and possible prostitution.
- Development of projects associated with the State Pact against Gender Violence.
- Promotion of programmes and resources aimed at migrant women, victims of trafficking through socio-sanitary programmes and residential resources.
- Promotion and development of shared ownership of agricultural holdings.
- Mandatory parity in all public bodies.



The Government of Extremadura has focused its actions within the framework of the accelerating policy 3 on promoting care for women victims of gender-based violence in the region. The Programme for the Comprehensive Recovery of Women Victims of Gender Violence in Extremadura (PRIMEX), financed by the European Social Fund, aims at the personal and social recovery of women who have been victims of gender violence through the participation in comprehensive training itineraries, psychological assistance and accompaniment to other resources in order to normalise their social and employment situation. The programme, through the coordination of resources and the implementation of Individualised Recovery Projects (IRP), is making it possible for many women to achieve autonomy away from the situations of violence they have experienced and to have this resource as a reference in their recovery process.

A second line of action is related to actions for equal access to the labour market, especially aimed at women in situations of greater social vulnerability. The "EMMA" project is aimed at women belonging to groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion, with specific needs associated with this multiple discrimination. The participating users have been integrated in training programmes that lead to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship. 35% of the participants in the programme have obtained an employed job after the intervention.

It is worth highlighting the development of the CONECTADAS EN EME Professional Network, within the framework of the Strategy for Women Entrepreneurs. This initiative began its journey in November 2018 and has become a reference for businesswomen, entrepreneurs and professionals in Extremadura. More than 1,500 women are part of this network. Its aim is to promote collaboration and business opportunities, offering interested women a multitude of resources and activities, a professional catalogue where they can visualise their work, as well as different communication spaces where they can keep up to date, give their opinions and share experiences.

GALICIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Galician Strategic Plan (2021-2030).
- Galician Work-Life Balance and Co-responsibility Plan 2018-2021.
- Galician Public Transport Plan: This Plan doubled the public road transport network in the region, paying special attention to the needs of people in vulnerable situations (women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly).
- 1st Plan for Equality Between Men and Women in The Galician Health Service (2019-2022)
- Guidelines for preventing age-related gender-based violence
- Project "Youth against gender violence", aimed at increasing awareness of gender violence, with a particular focus on young people.
- Sonexecutiva" Programme Training and coaching programme for the professional promotion of businesswomen, entrepreneurs and recent graduates.
- Galician Forum for Equality Education.

The actions of the Galician Government related to country challenge 3 are promoted by the Regional Ministry for the Promotion of Employment and Equality and the Regional Ministry for Social Policy and include the M+ C Unit for Women and Science in Galicia and the Commission of the Galician Women's Council on Women in ICT, the 3rd Women and Science Programme 2022-2025 approved by the Council of the Galician Government on 9 June 2022 and the M^a Josefa Wonenburger Planells Awards. The 8th Galician Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2022-2027 was also approved by the Council on 19/05/2022 and the monitoring report of the Galician Work-Life Balance and Co-responsibility Plan 2018-2021 is being drawn up in order to subsequently draw up the 2nd C+C Plan. In terms of indicators, the percentage of women out of the total number of participants in ICT courses is over 50%: 57% in 2017, 53% in 2018, 53% in 2019 and 66% in 2020. The proportion of people aged 16-74 who used a mobile phone in the last three months increased by 4% in line with the national average, with a value in 2020 of 98.5%. This percentage is slightly higher for women (98.8%) in 2020 than for men (98.1%).

It is worth highlighting the creation of the Galician Women's Council regulated by Decree 157/2012, of 5 July 2012, in development of the fifth additional provision of Law 11/2007, of 27 July, for the prevention and comprehensive treatment of gender violence, as a collective and institutional body of Galicia, of a consultative, participatory and advisory nature in matters of equality policies.

Continuing with the Galician government's action to provide itself with the strategic planning instruments needed to guarantee effective equality between women and men, it is worth mentioning the evaluation process of the Galician Work-Life Balance and Co-Responsibility Plan 2018-2021, which will be the basis for new planning in this area.

In this sense, it is worth noting that the percentage of seats occupied by women in parliament has increased by 30%, and the percentage of councillorships occupied by women has improved by 11%, as well as the percentage of mayorships occupied by women, which has increased by 50%. The percentage of women in government (presidents and councillors) has been close to 50% in recent years. The proportion of women in management positions is similar to the national average, with values exceeding 30%, as is the proportion of women in senior management, with a positive evolution of 15%.

Another priority for the Galician Government is the fight against discrimination, and in this regard, it is worth highlighting the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of the Roma population in Galicia, which carries out training and/or informative actions on effective-sexual education for young people and the comprehensive promotion of reproductive health among Roma women, based on respect for their cultural experience of health and sexuality. With this strategy, the fertility rate of adolescents aged 10 to 14 years per thousand women decreased by 60%, and for the 15 to 19 years age group per thousand women it decreased by 23% since 2015.

In the fight against inequality, training is important, and in this sense, Galicia shows a positive evolution of the parity index between women and men in the population between 15 and 64 years of age who have undertaken studies or training in the last four weeks, which increased by 7%.

BALEARIC ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Gender equality programme in labour market opportunities.
- Autonomous Plan for the fight against trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and tackling prostitution, 2019-2022.
- Awareness-raising actions for the prevention of violence and care for women victims and their children.
- Study and approach to prostitution and trafficking as a form of male violence in collaboration with the Balearic Women's Institute.
- Law on equality of women and men.
- Strategic Plan for LGBTI and sexual, family and gender diversity public policies, 2021-2024.
- Comprehensive protocol for the health care of transgender people.
- Coeducation plan.
- Conciliation and Co-responsibility Plan 2021-2024.
- Plan for equality in the workplace in the Balearic Islands 2022-2025.



Government action in the Balearic Islands has been related to the promotion of various strategic planning instruments that enable progress to be made in closing gender inequality and discrimination. In this line of development of strategic instruments, the implementation of the Coeducation Plan to promote equality and respect from education with 314 teachers who already perform the functions of coeducation agents; the Conciliation and Co-responsibility Plan which, with a budget of €147.7 M in four years, has allowed 25 local entities and 146 public centres to receive funding. As a result, 4,873 children have benefited from this measure.

With the aim of improving women's access to employment in conditions of equality and non-discrimination, various actions have been carried out, including the drafting of the 1st Equality Plan for the Primary Sector of the Balearic Islands, in which 1,000 farms are already owned by women; the Action Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Health at Work; recruitment has been boosted through the Balearic Islands Employment Service (SOIB) Women's Programme (with 647 contracts) and self-employment for women has been promoted with the Chambers of Commerce (452 projects underway).

A priority area of action is the eradication of all forms of sexist violence, for which the Police Protocol against LGBTI-phobic attacks and other offences based on ethnicity, religion, etc. has been drawn up; it has been made easier for trans people to make the transition in the administration and there are protocols for accompaniment in the health and educational fields, eliminating pathologizing diagnoses. (347 name changes have been made on health cards and 56 reassignment interventions).

In the same line of action, the 24-hour telephone helpline for victims of gender-based violence was set up in 2021, with 5,268 calls received, an increase of 18% over the previous year, and 441 accompaniments were provided (an increase of 58% over the previous year).

Finally, as a result of social dialogue, the 1st Plan for Equal Treatment and Opportunities for reasons of gender in the framework of Labour Relations and Labour Health in the Balearic Islands has been promoted, constituting a roadmap for the different administrations with the aim of making the principle of equal treatment and opportunities and non-discrimination for reasons of gender effective.

LA RIOJA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Collaboration with the main trade unions (CCOO, UGT) aimed at promoting equality policies in the workplace.
- Collaboration with the University of La Rioja for the promotion of equality in the university environment.
- Implementation of the Co-Responsibilities Plan.
- Balanced presence. #Ellascuentan, aimed at increasing and making visible the presence and participation of women experts in the public area.
- Promoting policies and measures aimed at achieving a balanced presence of women and men in all areas of public life, as well as supporting women's participation in decision-making and management bodies.
- Law on Effective Equality between women and men in La Rioja (*).

(*) Measure in progress

The actions of the Government of La Rioja in the field of equality are based on the Law on Effective Equality between the men and women of La Rioja. The Act aims to achieve real and effective equality through a set of specific measures in different areas of intervention, and by establishing and, where necessary, reinforcing specific mechanisms to ensure that the public authorities carry out policies and actions aimed at eradicating the phenomenon of inequality between men and women. To this end, this law aims to guarantee the exercise of regional competences in terms of gender. The Law was approved in February 2022 and is in the final phase of its administrative processing, pending the report of the Consultative Council of La Rioja.

On the other hand, the Government of La Rioja has strengthened equality policies in the labour sphere through various initiatives. The first of these aims to promote dialogue and agreement with the main trade unions (CCOO and UGT) to give shape to equality in the world of work through the incorporation of the figure of equality agents. This professional profile is a tool for change and a driver of the objectives pursued in terms of equality in the workplace, who inform and advise the parties involved in the processes of implementing equality plans and measures, promote their establishment, ensure compliance with the provisions contained in the equality law and help to integrate the principle of equality in collective bargaining.

In the same line of action, Axis 4 of the Training and Employment Plan 2021-2023 includes actions aimed at promoting equality between men and women in access to, permanence and promotion in employment, as well as balance of personal, family and working life. In this way, work-life balance is one of the priorities for action by the Government of La Rioja through the implementation of the Co-Responsibilities Plan, with the aim of initiating the path towards guaranteeing care as a right in Spain from the perspective of equality between men and women. Within the framework of the Plan, aid has been promoted for municipalities and associations of municipalities, with 53 projects being carried out in 35 town councils; A census process has been carried out to identify possible people likely to benefit from the accreditation process that would enable access to the professional care exchanges within the framework of the Co-Responsibility Plan and the appropriate use of same, having identified 389 people interested in participating in the carers' exchange and 356 in receiving training related to the professional profiles of the Plan; and thirdly, 4 training actions have been organised related to the Competence Unit "UCo272_2: Assist as first responder in case of accidents or emergency situation" in which 45 people have been trained.

With the aim of mainstreaming the gender perspective, a collaboration agreement was signed with the University of La Rioja for the promotion of equality in the university environment. Through the agreement, initiatives have been carried out to train professionals in gender perspective in the field of research, in the implementation of effective measures for equality through the expansion of knowledge on the development of equality plans, in co-educational matters and in the prevention of and attention to gender violence.

Finally, one of the priorities of the Government of La Rioja is the balanced presence of men and women in the public sphere and, especially, in initiatives organised by the government itself. The main conclusions obtained from the examination of the data provided during 2021 in relation to the "Where are they" initia-

tive show that nearly 48% of the people participating as speakers in public events of the Government of La Rioja have been women. According to the annual balance of 2021, of the 59 public events organised by the Government of La Rioja, with a total of 269 participants, 130 were women and 139 were men.

NAFARROA - COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Regional Law against violence against women.
- Regional Law of Equality between Men and Women.
- Equality policies, promotion of the Navarre Equality Council, and consolidation of the Navarre Institute for Equality.
- Strategic Plan for Equality.
- Regional Law for the social equality of LGBTBI+ people.



The Government of Navarre has a long history of developing public policies that actively contribute to equality between women and men. As evidence of this commitment to incorporating the gender approach and to adapt all its actions to the legislation in force in this area, the Strategic Plan of Navarre 2022-2027 was drawn up throughout 2021 and 2022 in compliance with the Regional Law 17/2019 on Equality between Men and Women of Navarre. It was recently approved by the Government of Navarre and is currently in the process of being passed to Parliament.

This plan will be the planning tool that will guide the intervention in equality of the public administrations of the Autonomous Community of Navarre over the next six years, through transversal and specific objectives and actions. In this way, it will have an impact on the policies and actions of all the departments of the Government of Navarre, exercising responsibility in the execution of the actions.

A relevant action included in Regional Law 17/2019 and in the Strategic Plan is the Equality Units, administrative units that work to incorporate and integrate equality between men and women in all the actions of the Regional Administration and the Government of Navarre. Thus, in 2021, 8 equality technicians have been incorporated into the Departments, providing greater transversality of the gender perspective to the entire Regional Administration, as can be seen in the increase in the number of Observation Reports and in the gender impact reports on preliminary drafts, regulatory provisions and plans.

Likewise, as a development of Regional Law 17/2019, various plans are being implemented, such as the Equality Programme, the Action Plan for the Development of the Regional Law to act against violence against women and the Strategy for the social and political participation of women. These global issues have been made more concrete by identifying vulnerable groups and the gaps, allowing programmes to be adapted to older women, migrants, social participation, etc. For this reason, INAI/NABI has set up the Pact for Care, the Forum of Women Politicians in Local Bodies, the Nosotras-Emakume-ON Programme, agreements with women's associations, agreements with the Public University of Navarre.

In the impacts obtained in the application of Regional Law 14/2015 to act against violence against women in the period 2021-2022, we can highlight the consolidation of residential shelter resources for victims of trafficking and women in contexts of prostitution; the increase in the number of women attended to in the Shelter Resources and in the Comprehensive Care Teams for Victims of Violence; the implementation of the project for the creation of a crisis centre: resource or specialised centre (open 24hr/7days/365days), for prevention and comprehensive and interdisciplinary care in the framework of sexual violence and the renewal of the Collaboration Agreements with entities to contribute to eradicating violence against women.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategy against the pay gap, through dialogue with social partners.
- Action protocol against harassment at work and sexual harassment in companies.
- Reinforcement of the Women's Advice Centres and the Network of Shelters, and revision of the Interdepartmental Protocol for comprehensive care for women victims of gender-based violence.
- Protocols and adaptation of the gender-based violence courts for the care of women victims.
- Strategic Plan for Equality of the Principality of Asturias.
- Local programmes to open educational centres outside school hours to facilitate the reconciliation of work and family life, healthy eating and educational leisure for children in situations of social vulnerability.
- Support programme for carers: training, counselling, psychological help and respite in situations of overload.
- Creation of an Observatory against LGBTBI phobia.

The Strategic Plan for Equality between Men and Women of the Principality of Asturias 2020-2023 is organised into four lines of intervention: training in equality, equality in the model of the Government of the Principality, equality for social and economic development, and gender-based violence. In addition, its strategic objectives include training in equality or gender violence for social and economic agents and professionals, the adaptation of regional regulations to European legislation, promoting the value of equality for social and economic innovation, eliminating the gender pay gap and improving the living conditions of rural women. It is also proposed to extend social rejection to all forms and manifestations of gender violence and to broaden and improve the institutional response to the different forms and manifestations of gender violence.

Reducing the pay gap is a fundamental objective of the regional government. Thus, an agreement has been reached with the trade unions and the Asturian Federation of Employers (FADE) for the creation of equality agents in companies, an innovative and pioneering initiative in Spain that will supervise and promote compliance with effective equality in companies, and an official register of equality plans has been created, as well as a study of the collective agreements applicable in Asturias and their wage tables.

For violence against women, Asturias has created a Crisis Centre for victims of sexual aggression to intervene not only at the moment of the aggression, but also in the face of the difficulties suffered by the victims. Likewise, an agreement has been promoted with the Oviedo Bar Association and the Gijón Bar Association to offer specialised legal assistance to victims of sexual aggression that addresses the necessary specialisation in legal defence, ensuring the highest level of quality and professional competence. Another fundamental agreement is the one signed with the media and the associations of information professionals operating in the geographical area of the Principality of Asturias to improve the informative treatment of rape and sexual assault cases in order to avoid the dissemination of any information or images that facilitate the identification of the victims.

Finally, and with the aim of eradicating all forms of sexist violence, the Asturian Observatory against LGBTBI phobia has been created as a forum for consultation and participation to defend the rights of lesbian, gay, transsexual, bisexual and intersex people and to tackle acts of intolerance that affect them because of their sexual identity.

REGION OF MURCIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Creation of the Chair of Sustainable Development. 2030 Agenda in collaboration with the University of Murcia.
- Tackle the employment gap affecting women working in care centres for the elderly and people with functional diversity by means of employment stability clauses in agreements.
- Aid for the return to the labour market of mothers with children up to 4 years of age.
- Equality label for companies.
- Aid for indefinite-term contracts specifically for women victims of gender-based violence.
- Awareness-raising courses for companies participating in the Group of Companies for a Society Free of Gender Violence.
- Promote adapted resources for women with functional diversity who have suffered sexual violence.
- Murcian Institute of Biosanitary Research (IMIB) Equality Plan.
- Equality Observatory.



In application of the principles of coordination and alliances with civil society, the private sector and academia, we highlight the creation by the Region of Murcia through the instrument of a framework collaboration agreement with the University of Murcia (UMU), the Chair of Sustainable Development. 2030 Agenda, aimed at creating a space dedicated entirely to research, training and dissemination in terms of achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Government of the Region of Murcia has prioritised actions in two areas: those aimed at strengthening equality in access to and permanence in the labour market and those aimed at eradicating male violence in Murcian society.

In the first area of action, the aid for indefinite-term contracts specifically for women victims of gender-based violence stands out. Through the Protocol to improve the socio-occupational integration of women victims of gender-based violence in the Region of Murcia, a total of 466 women with problems of gender-based violence have been assisted in 2021 by the Specialised Guidance Services on Gender-Based Violence of the SEF Employment Offices. Of these, 134 (29 %) have been hired, although only 11 of them were permanent contracts (8 %).

The Government of the Region has promoted the Equality Label (DIERM) for companies that rewards the implementation of policies of equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men in working conditions, in organisational models and in other areas, such as services, products and advertising of the company. In 2021, the DIERM was awarded to 5 companies out of a total of 25 applicants.

Awareness-raising courses have also been promoted for companies participating in the Group of Companies for a Society free of Gender Violence. To date, 172 companies in the Region of Murcia have joined the initiative (129 in the Employment Insertion + Awareness-raising modality, and 43 in the Awareness-raising only modality). Throughout 2021, workshops and training sessions were held, both in person and online, for various companies and business groups, adhering to the initiative Companies for a society free of gender-based violence.

On the other hand, the Order of 4 November 2021, of the Regional Ministry of Women, Equality, LGTBI, Families, Social Policy and Transparency approves the regulatory bases for granting subsidies to companies in the Region of Murcia for the implementation of equality plans, 80% co-financed by the European Social Fund; and Order of 30 December 2021, of the Regional Ministry of Women, Equality, LGTBI, Families, Social Policy and Transparency regarding the call for grants to companies in the Region of Murcia for the implementation of equality plans, 80% of which are co-financed by the European Social Fund. A total of 130 applications have been submitted and will be resolved in July 2022.

With regard to the Equality Plans in the City Councils of the Region of Murcia, a grant was awarded to the municipalities through Decree n. ° 314/2019 of 26 December, approving the special regulatory rules for the direct award of grants to the City Councils of the Region of Murcia to implement and/or update municipal equality plans or programmes to prevent gender-based violence. At present, 45 local councils in the Region of Murcia have municipal equality plans.

In the second area of priority action, the initiatives carried out by the Centre for Comprehensive Care for Victims of Aggression and/or Sexual Abuse (CAVAX) stand out. This is a resource aimed at avoiding or reducing situations of vulnerability and insecurity for women who find themselves in these situations, attending to their emotional state, assessing the risk they face, respecting their time, guaranteeing and respecting their informed decision and ensuring their psychological care, legal advice, shelter, education and accompaniment. The general objective of this service is to provide comprehensive and continuous attention to the problem of sexual violence from different professional approaches: educational, social, psychological and legal.

Since 2008, the Murcian Institute of Social Action (IMAS) has been processing the aid provided for in article 27 of Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December, on Comprehensive Protection Measures against Gender Violence, aimed at women victims of gender violence with incomes below 75% of the minimum wage and special difficulties for employment. 58 applications were registered in 2021, of which 36 were granted, with total expenditure amounting to €203,499.



AUTONOMOUS CITY OF MELILLA

The Autonomous City of Melilla has strengthened its actions within the framework of the State Pact against gender-based violence, developing a catalogue of services for women affected by gender-based violence with a budget allocation in 2021 of €952,323.

Among the actions carried out, the Women's Care Centre stands out, providing support and services to the most vulnerable women, most of whom are migrants and where intersectional discrimination places them in a situation of greater risk of social exclusion. 191 women were assisted in 2022.

It is also worth highlighting the development of the Integral Plan for women in Districts 4 and 5 of Melilla, within the framework of which training and support activities are carried out for women in these neighbourhoods, which are the most disadvantaged in Melilla. 185 women participated during the period under analysis.

CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL ENTITIES

In the field of **local initiatives in relation to the State Pact against Gender Violence** in areas such as prevention, care or the development of safety plans for victims in collaboration with supra-municipal entities, we find various actions, including those relating to the intervention of social workers, the creation of violet points, the development of action plans or the development of publicity campaigns to raise awareness, including talks or recreational activities to represent the issue.

In this line we find local entities that have developed different protocols of action to prevent cases of gender violence, in addition to providing psychological care and legal advice.

As far as local gender equality plans are concerned, the vast majority of initiatives mention the development or future implementation of an Equality Plan by municipal entities.

For their part, the **socio-occupational insertion programmes and the development of policies that guarantee equality** develop actions that focus on job training projects and insertion programmes, as well as actions related to equal pay and comprehensive support in the search for employment, together with digital transformation projects.

With regard to **care services for dependent persons**, to reduce the overload of care assumed by women, various initiatives have been carried out, such as the creation of children's canteens, the promotion of summer schools, the announcement of grants for domestic workers or the setting up of different types of care centres, such as socio-cultural centres, early care centres or occupational centres.

The **municipal plans to combat discrimination based on** sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual characteristics, race, ethnicity or any other form of discrimination have given rise to initiatives that have led to the development of awareness-raising plans, the promotion of coordination with educational centres to carry out activities related to gender violence and the fight against violence towards the LGTBIO+ collective, as well as other recreational activities, such as the establishment of a purple bookshelf in the municipal library. Precisely, in relation to the LGTBIO+ collective, different lines of study are being carried out to promote and implement action plans that allow progress to be made in the integration of these groups.

With regard to discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race or religion, we find that the local councils have allocated various grants and subsidies aimed at inclusion and the fight against discrimination against the Roma population living in their municipalities.

Finally, in relation to **specialised care for minors who are victims or residents in homes with a situation of gender violence**, municipal actions are mainly focused on specific services for minors, psychological care services, as well as support for different associations in the reception of children and women through intervention programmes.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 4.

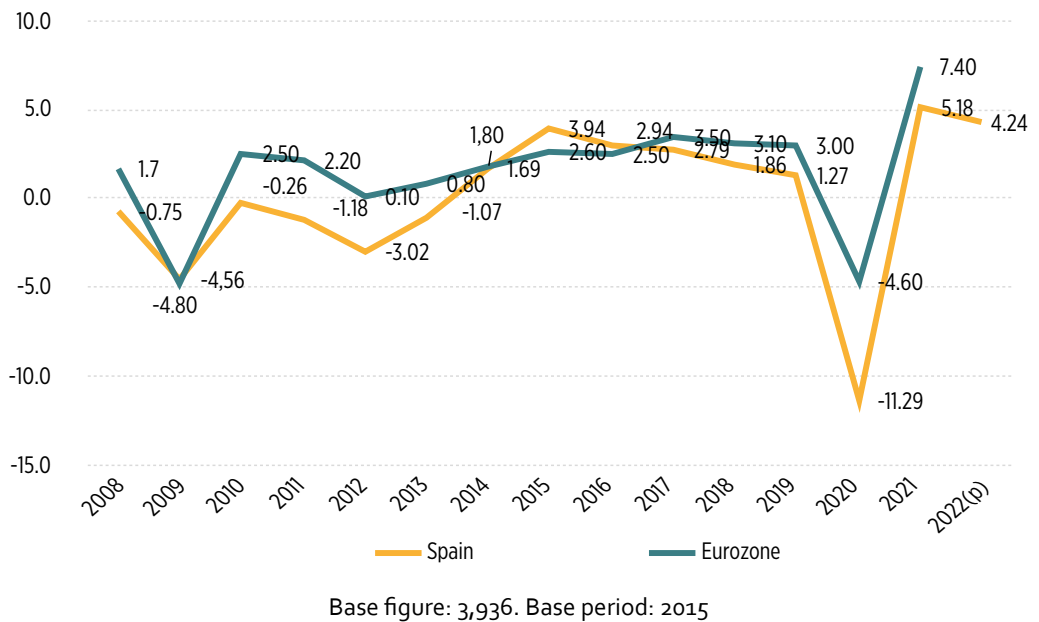
OVERCOMING THE INEFFICIENCIES OF
AN OVER-CONCENTRATED AND OVER-
DEPENDENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

The recent economic crises have highlighted the vulnerability of the Spanish production model, characterised by its excessive concentration and dependence on certain production sectors and a lower weight of the industrial sector compared to other neighbouring countries. While the financial crisis, which began in 2008, initially affected Spain to a similar extent to that of neighbouring countries, in 2009 the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita fell by 4.56% (Figure 1), the COVID-19 pandemic, which required restrictions on mobility, put the brakes on tourism, leading to a much greater fall in our country's GDP than in other European countries: in 2020 GDP per capita fell by 11.29%, compared to 6.5% in the Eurozone countries⁸¹. In 2021, GDP per capita growth was 5.18% and the government's estimate for 2022 is for growth of 4.3⁸² %.

Currently, the war in Ukraine has economic consequences arising from energy dependence on the outside world and the design of electricity markets, as well as problems in the supply of certain raw materials and other goods. Rising energy prices may also lead to a loss of competitiveness in certain energy-intensive production processes.

FIGURE 1. ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF REAL GDP PER CAPITA (IN %)



Source: National Statistics Institute (National Statistics Institute), Spanish Annual National Accounts and Eurostat.

81 Accessible [here](#).

82 Accessible [here](#).

1. Towards the diversification of Spain's production structure

Spain is diversifying its economic system to achieve sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth per capita (SDG 8). The evolution of the contribution of the different production sectors to GDP since 2015 shows an increase in the weight of agriculture, livestock and fisheries in 2020, which, in 2021, according to advance data, will contract again. The weight of the ICT sector; high value-added service sectors such as financial, professional and scientific services; and public health, education and social services (table 1) are gaining weight in the Spanish economy. The weight of lower value-added services such as commerce and hotels and restaurants is decreasing, although they still account for 20% of GDP. After the boom of 2008 and its subsequent adjustment, construction has maintained a more balanced contribution to GDP of around 5% in recent years.

TABLE 1. CONTRIBUTION TO GDP OF PRODUCTION SECTORS (IN %)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (P)	2021 (A)
Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.6
Industry	14.8	14.7	14.7	14.5	14.4	14.6	15.3
of which manufacturing	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.0	10.9	11.0	11.5
Construction	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.0
Services	68.0	67.9	67.8	67.9	68.2	68.2	67.4
Trade, transport and hospitality	21.3	21.5	21.6	21.5	21.5	18.2	19.9
Information and communications	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.6
Financial and insurance	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	4.1	3.8
Real estate	10.9	10.7	10.5	10.5	10.5	11.7	10.8
Professional, scientific, technical and other activities	7.8	7.8	7.8	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.2
Public administration, education and health	16.8	16.7	16.4	16.4	16.5	18.5	17.4
Arts, recreation and other services	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	3.9	3.7

Source: National Statistics Institute, Annual National Accounts of Spain.

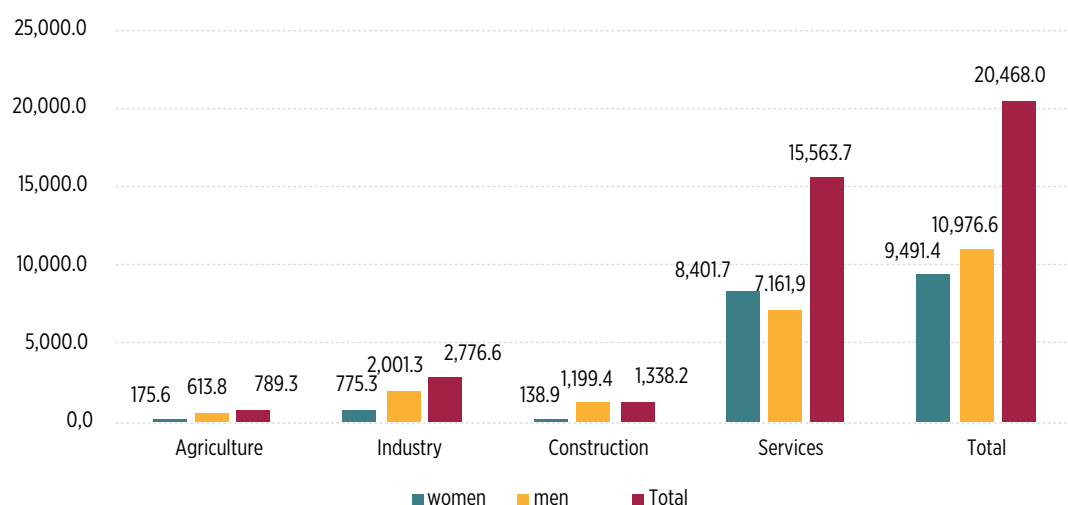
The generation of employment stands out, which, after the crisis of the 2020 pandemic, shows year-on-year growth of over 4% in 2021 and in the second quarter of 2022, with an increase in employment in agriculture of 7.4% in 2021 (table 2). Even so, it is the services sector that employs the most people in our country with 15,563,700 employed in the second quarter of 2022, of which 53.98% are women (Figure 2).

TABLE 2. YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF CHANGE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS (IN %)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 T2
Agriculture	6.97	4.75	0.49	0.60	-3.84	-1.49	7.42	-2.69
Industry	1.01	4.70	5.13	-0.11	2.05	-2.54	2.66	4.18
Construction	2.73	1.97	5.97	11.91	0.31	-0.29	0.45	1.01
Services	3.15	1.74	2.07	2.99	2.54	-3.55	4.84	4.66
Total sectors	2.99	2.29	2.65	2.98	2.06	-3.12	4.35	4.05

Source: National Statistics Institute, Labour Force Survey.

FIGURE 2. EMPLOYED IN SECOND QUARTER 2022 (THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE)



Source: National Statistics Institute, Labour Force Survey.

Within the services sector, there has been a slight shift in recent years towards service sectors with high added value (ICT, financial and insurance activities, etc.), and less growth in services with lower added value (commerce, hotels and restaurants, etc.), which also suffered significant job losses as a result of the pandemic (table 3). Data from the National Statistics Institute's Wage Structure Survey show that it is these sectors of activity that offer the highest average remuneration to workers, and with the highest wage increases between 2015 and 2020 (Table 4). With regard to the gender pay gap, in this period there is an improvement in all sectors of economic activity, as shown by the ratio between the average annual salary of women and that of men, which tends to be close to 100.

TABLE 3. ANNUAL CHANGE IN FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS (%)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Agriculture, livestock and fisheries	4.11	2.98	-0.70	-3.39	-4.49
Electricity, gas, and water	2.69	-0.47	1.25	1.32	0.21
Manufacturing	3.47	3.05	2.00	1.11	-7.70
Construction	2.22	5.81	5.97	7.77	-7.15
Trade, transport and hospitality	2.84	2.71	2.24	3.02	-14.81
Information and communications	4.55	8.73	2.93	4.79	0.66
Financial and insurance	1.10	-0.62	-0.89	0.24	1.61
Real estate	7.80	7.91	7.86	6.51	-10.12
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2.49	4.91	2.18	6.03	-4.41
Public administrations, defence, education and health care	2.09	0.78	2.06	1.38	-0.10
Arts and entertainment activities	3.22	3.10	1.15	-0.89	-14.47
Total sectors	2.79	2.90	2.20	2.59	-7.56

Source: National Statistics Institute, Annual National Accounts of Spain.

TABLE 4. AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE BY SECTOR (IN € AND %)

	Women		Men		Ratio of women to men	
	2015	2020	2015	2020	2015	2020
Financial and insurance	36,455.8	40,159.8	47,533.7	52,920.8	76.7	75.9
Information and communications	28,935.7	32,227.7	35,417.9	37,580.5	81.7	85.8
Health and social work activities	23,889.5	25,957.4	32,830.9	36,248.3	72.8	71.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	21,980.6	24,433.2	31,586.3	34,161.9	69.6	71.5
Public administration and defence; SS	27,305.8	31,268.6	29,828.0	33,931.8	91.5	92.2
Manufacturing	22,001.0	23,765.8	28,129.9	29,383.7	78.2	80.9
Education	20,981.6	26,349.6	23,143.3	28,469.5	90.7	92.6
Transport and storage	22,039.8	24,083.0	24,497.5	25,336.1	90.0	95.1
Trade	16,481.3	18,243.6	22,903.7	24,411.9	72.0	74.7
Construction	20,060.5	21,188.0	23,113.9	23,402.3	86.8	90.5
Other services	13,772.9	15,319.6	20,781.9	21,780.5	66.3	70.3
Arts and entertainment activities	14,741.5	16,822.4	19,571.4	19,934.5	75.3	84.4
Catering	12,563.1	12,874.1	15,751.3	15,768.0	79.8	81.6
Water supply, sanitation, waste and depollution	22,616.2	25,020.3	27,340.6	28,548.1	82.7	87.6
Real estate activities	17,330.1	20,142.4	25,763.3	28,191.0	67.3	71.4
Administrative and auxiliary activities	13,085.1	14,835.7	19,823.5	21,522.8	66.0	68.9
All sections	20,051.6	22,467.5	25,992.8	27,642.5	77.1	81.3

Source: National Statistics Institute, Wage Structure Surveys.

There are still territorial differences in the production structure, which highlight the need to strengthen territorial cohesion in order to reduce the inequalities inherent in the different production models in the different Autonomous Regions (indicator 4.7 in the Annex). In Madrid and Catalonia, the contribution to GDP of ICT activities and financial, professional and scientific services is higher than the national average; while in the Canary Islands, Balearic Islands, Murcia, Valencia and Catalonia, the low value-added services sectors - commerce, transport and hotels and restaurants, account for more than 18% of their GDP, which is above the national average. Manufacturing, a production sector that incorporates more innovation and generates higher-skilled, more stable and better-paid employment, has a greater weight in Navarre, La Rioja, the Basque Country, Aragon, Cantabria, Catalonia and Castile and Leon, where it contributes more than 14% of GDP. Finally, the agriculture sector accounts for more than 7% of GDP in Castile-La Mancha, Extremadura and Andalusia.

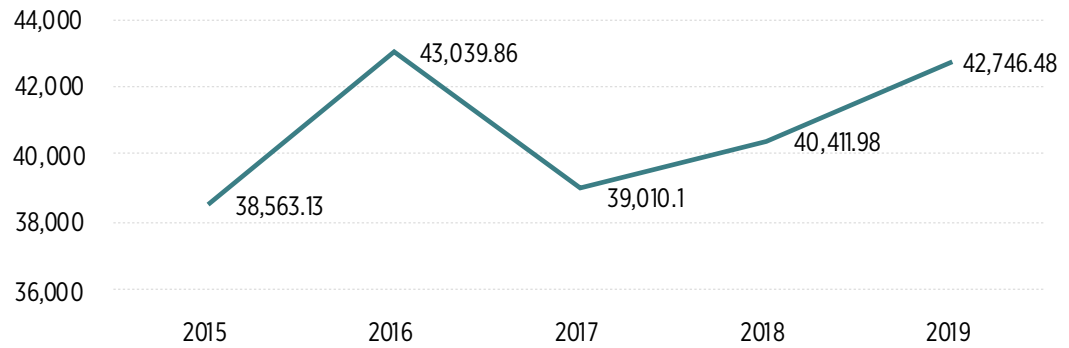
In short, Spain is managing to diversify its production model, as can be seen in indicator 4.2 of the evolution of the contribution to GDP of production sectors since 2015, mainly due to the increase in industry and high value-added services. The following economic sectors require special reference due to their contribution to sustainable development.

1.1. Sustainable agriculture and livestock farming

Agriculture, livestock and fisheries expanded during the pandemic crisis and now contribute almost 3% of national GDP, their highest share in 15 years (indicator 4.2). It is an important economic driver in our country, as well as an activity that provides the backbone of the territory and was key to securing food supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

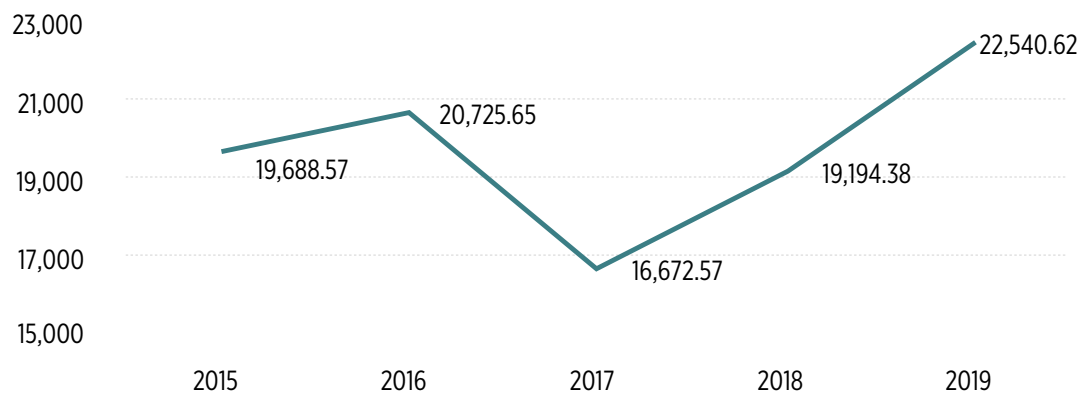
Since 2015 there has been an increase in the agricultural, livestock and fisheries production of small farms in Spain, which according to the United Nations is in line with the SDG2 that seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Between 2015 and 2019, the output per unit of work of small farms (agriculture/livestock/forestry) has increased by 10.84% (Figure 3) and the income of small-scale food producers has grown by 14.5% (Figure 4).

FIGURE 3. OUTPUT PER LABOUR UNIT OF SMALL FARMS (AGRICULTURE/LIVESTOCK/ FORESTRY) (IN CONSTANT 2015 DOLLARS)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

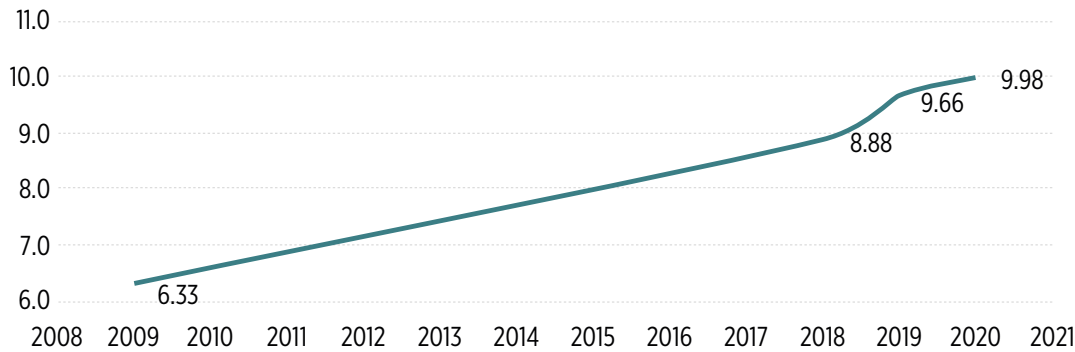
FIGURE 4. AVERAGE SMALL FARM INCOME (IN CONSTANT 2015 DOLLARS)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The proportion of the agricultural area in Spain in which organic farming is practised has also increased, and now represents more than 9.6% of the total agricultural area (Figure 5), with a significant growth in recent years as awareness of better nutrition and responsible consumption has increased.

FIGURE 5. SHARE OF AGRICULTURAL SURFACE AREA UNDER ORGANIC FARMING (%)



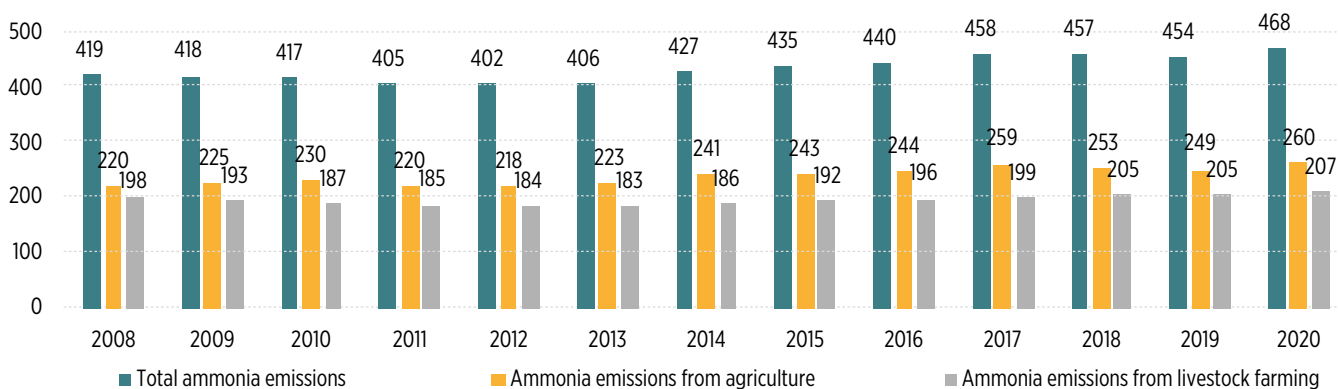
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Eurostat⁸³.

In relation to the progress of the agricultural and livestock sector in its capacity to adapt to climate change and improve the quality of sustainable land and soil, according to the National Inventory of Atmospheric Pollutants of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture accounted for 13.4% of total national emissions in 2021, compared to 14% of total emissions in 2020. In 2021, GHG emissions from agriculture increased by 0.4 % compared to the previous year, but total emissions increased by 6.1 % according to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge’s published advance data. As livestock herds have grown, there is a 3.1 % increase in emissions from the manure management sector, and a 0.4 % increase in emissions from enteric fermentation, compared to 2020. In 2020, GHG emissions from agriculture increased by 2.2 % compared to 2019, mainly due to emissions from crops which increased by 3.4 %, mainly caused by increases in nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural soil management (+3 %) Emissions from livestock, responsible for 65% of emissions in this sector, increased slightly (+1.6%), mainly due to emissions from manure management (+3.8%) and, to a lesser extent, from enteric fermentation (+0.5%).

Meanwhile, ammonia emissions from agriculture and livestock have increased by 7.5% since 2015, in line with the increased weight of the primary sector in our economy; moving us further away from meeting the targets (Figure 6).

Directive (EU) 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants sets for Spain a reduction in ammonia emissions of 3% per year between 2020 and 2029 compared to 2005, and 16% per year from 2030 onwards.

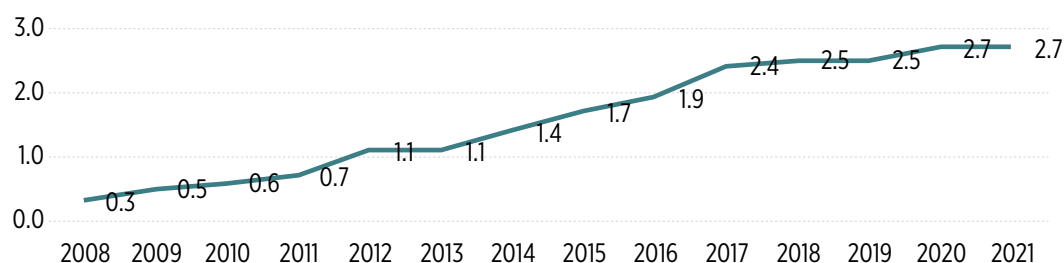
FIGURE 6. AMMONIA EMISSIONS (IN KILOTONNES)



Source: Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, National Inventory of Atmospheric Pollutants.

The security of the sustainability of food production systems and the maintenance of ecosystems is increasingly at risk. In Spain, however, the proportion of local varieties of plant genetic resources considered to be at risk of extinction that are entered in the Register of Commercial Varieties is steadily increasing, reaching 2.7% of the total number of registered varieties in 2021 (Figure 7). This development reflects the growing awareness of the need to regulate the use of these varieties and to guarantee their safeguarding through production and marketing, in the face of the risk of abandoning their cultivation and consequent disappearance.

FIGURE 7. PROPORTION OF LANDRACES CONSIDERED AT RISK OF EXTINCTION (IN %)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

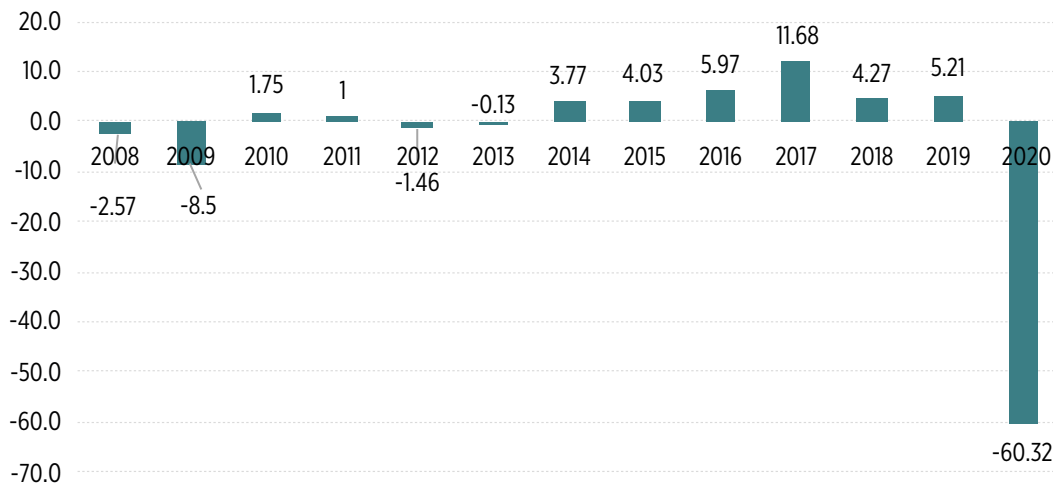
Finally, related to the circular economy, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Panel for the Quantification of Food Waste in Extradomestic Consumption, better overall management of food that is thrown away translates into a 0.9% reduction in the waste rate (Volume wasted/Volume purchased) in spring and summer 2021 compared to spring and summer 2020; with the volume of food wasted outside the home representing only 0.7% of the total volume. We manage waste outside the home better, as the 2020 waste rate of total food inside the home was 4.3%, compared to a 0.9% waste rate outside the home in 2020.

In short, Spain is making significant efforts towards a circular production and consumption model that optimises the use of resources and generates less pressure on the environment, minimising waste generation and transforming intensive agriculture and livestock farming systems to more sustainable models.

1.2. Towards sustainable tourism

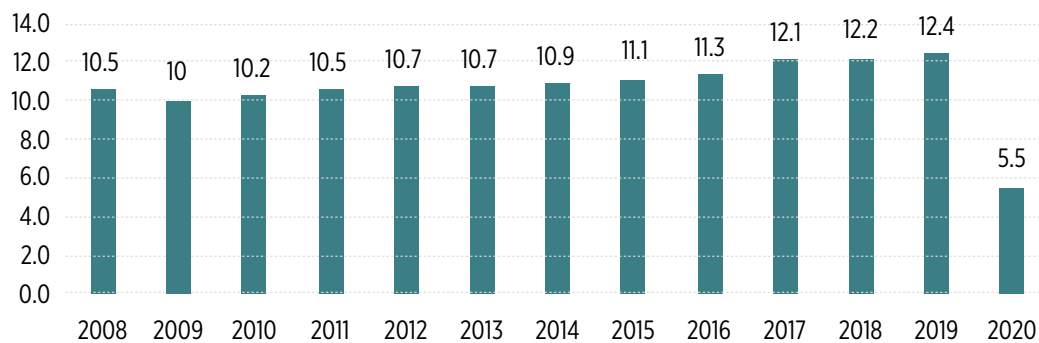
With the mobility restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the GDP generated by tourism suffered a 60% drop in that year (Figure 8), much higher than the 10.8% drop in the GDP of the Spanish economy. However, in 2021, with the Spanish economy growing by 5.5%, according to the National Statistics Institute's Annual National Accounts for Spain, and 2022, estimated to grow by 4% according to the European Commission, the trend of growth in the tourism sector is recovering, both in terms of GDP (in 2020 it represented 5.5% of total GDP) and employment (representing 11.8% of total employment in 2020, that is, 2.23 million jobs thanks to activating the Temporary Redundancy Regulation).

FIGURE 8. GROWTH RATE OF GDP GENERATED BY TOURISM



Source: National Statistics Institute, Satellite account of tourism in Spain.

FIGURE 9. GDP DIRECTLY GENERATED BY TOURISM AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL GDP (IN %)



Source: National Statistics Institute, Satellite account of tourism in Spain.

Tourism contributed 12.4% to the GDP of the Spanish economy in 2019 (Figure 9), and after the abrupt fall in activity in this sector due to the pandemic, in 2021 and 2022 it will once again be one of the most important economic activities and sources of employment in our country. According to the National Statistics Institute, 31.1 million tourists visited Spain in 2021, an increase of 64.4% compared to the 18.9 million of the previous year. According to data from July 2022 Spain has already recovered 92% of the international tourists arriving in the same month of 2019, having recovered in terms of expenditure 99% of the spending made by international tourists visiting Spain, compared to the same month of 2019⁸⁴.

This sector is a priority in some Autonomous Communities, especially the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands, where tourism generates around 40% of employment and around 35% of GDP. Hence the importance of the challenge of promoting sustainable tourism from the economic, social and environmental points of view, by improving working conditions, the average wage in the hotel and catering sector is the lowest of all sectors, €15,768.0 per year for men and €12,563.1 for women in 2020, indicator 4.6, and respecting the country's coastline and natural resources. Spain is the European leader in terms of protected natural areas adhering to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism⁸⁵ and the fourth country in the world in terms of UNESCO-protected World Heritage Sites⁸⁶. This is helping to transform the traditional model of tourism

84 Document accessible [here](#).

85 Document accessible [here](#).

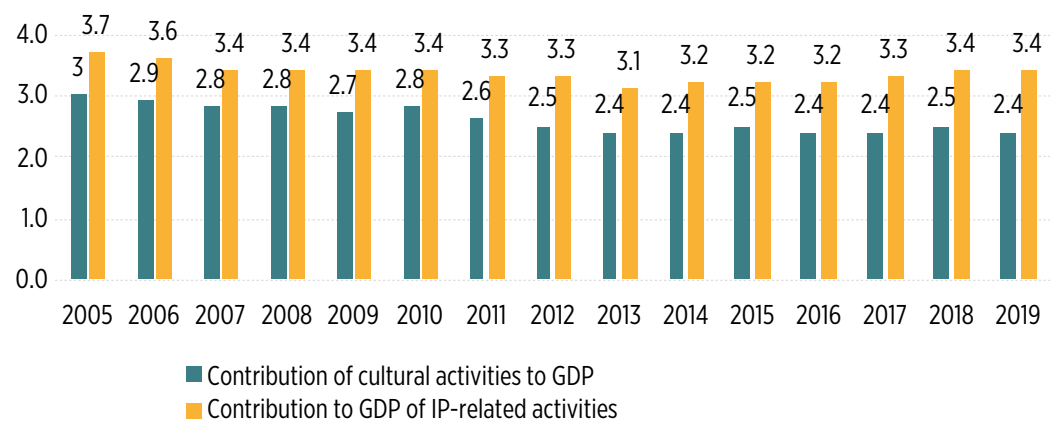
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towards a more sustainable model, focusing on the deseasonalisation and diversification of what is offered, facilitating the incorporation of other modalities such as cultural tourism or rural tourism.

1.3. Cultural sector

Cultural activities are a fundamental part of a sustainable economic growth model, with important implications for sustainable tourism development. In 2019, the contribution to GDP from cultural activities was 2.4%, and 3.4% if intellectual property is included (Figure 10). With the pandemic, in 2020, GDP generated by arts, recreation and entertainment activities plummeted by 27.4%, although employment fell by 14.47% thanks to the Temporary Redundancy Regulations (tables 1 and 3 in section 1 of this chapter).

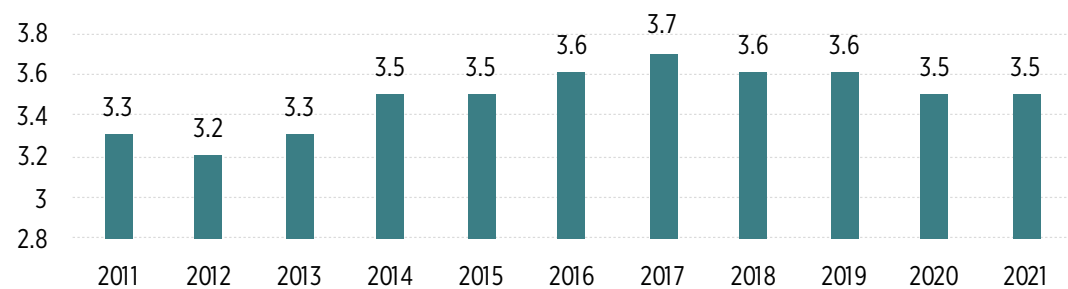
FIGURE 10. CONTRIBUTION TO GDP OF CULTURE (IN %)



Source: Ministry of Culture and Sport, Satellite account of culture in Spain.

The cultural sector is a driving force for the transformation of the economic model towards an economy based on knowledge, innovation and creativity. It is a key vector for achieving social and territorial cohesion. It also has a great potential for job creation, contributing 3.5% of total employment (Figure 11).

FIGURE 11. CULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (IN %)



Source: Ministry of Culture and Sport, Satellite account of culture in Spain.

The average wage in arts and entertainment in 2020 was €16,822.4 per year for women and €19,934.5 per year for men (table 4 in section 1 of this chapter); it is the second worst paid sector, second only to the hotel and catering industry. Hence the importance of ensuring decent working conditions for cultural workers so as to achieve a sustainable economy from an economic, social and environmental perspective.

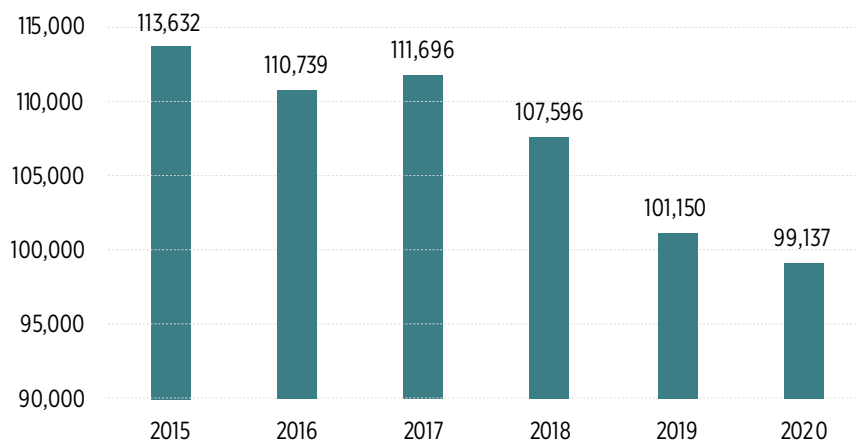
2. Changing the production model: Green and digital transition

The pandemic accelerated the digital transition in Spain and the *Next Generation EU* funds given shape in the case of Spain in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR), offer an opportunity to boost the development of a green and digital economy.

2.1. A more sustainable and circular economy

Spain is progressively improving the efficient production and consumption of natural resources, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. Year after year, the energy intensity of our economy is being reduced, which in 2020 represented 99.137 toe per million euros of GDP generated, compared to a primary energy consumption of 113.632 toe per million euros of GDP in 2015 (Figure 12).

FIGURE 12. ENERGY INTENSITY AS MEASURED BY THE RATIO OF GROSS INLAND ENERGY CONSUMPTION (EUROPE 2020-2030) TO GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) (TOE/M€)



Source: National Statistics Institute and Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Annual energy balances for Spain.⁸⁷

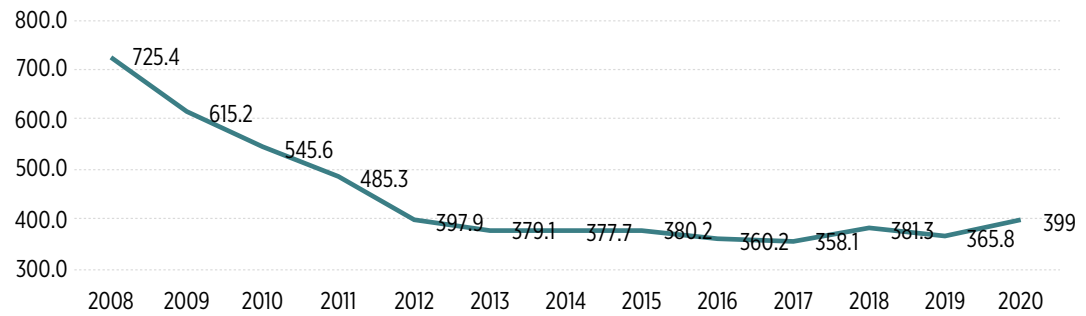
The energy efficiency targets committed to by Spain in the European Union are established by the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, both in primary energy and final energy, minus non-energy uses. By 2020, the percentage reduction in primary energy reached 35.4%, comfortably exceeding Spain's target commitment of 20%, mainly due to the lower economic activity resulting from the pandemic. Primary energy consumption in Spain in 2020 was 110,847 ktoe, a reduction of 12.0% compared to 2019; whereas in 2015, 122,506.163 ktoe were consumed, representing an increase of 3.86% in domestic energy consumption compared to 2014. Final energy consumption, meanwhile, saw a 13.4% decrease in 2020 compared to 2019, to a total of 79,436 ktoe⁸⁸.

Natural resource management in our country gained in efficiency and sustainability between 2008 and 2013, possibly influenced by the context of the economic crisis that started in 2008. From 2013 onwards, domestic material consumption has remained more or less stable, both in terms of GDP and per capita (graphs 13 and 14).

⁸⁷ Documents available [here](#).

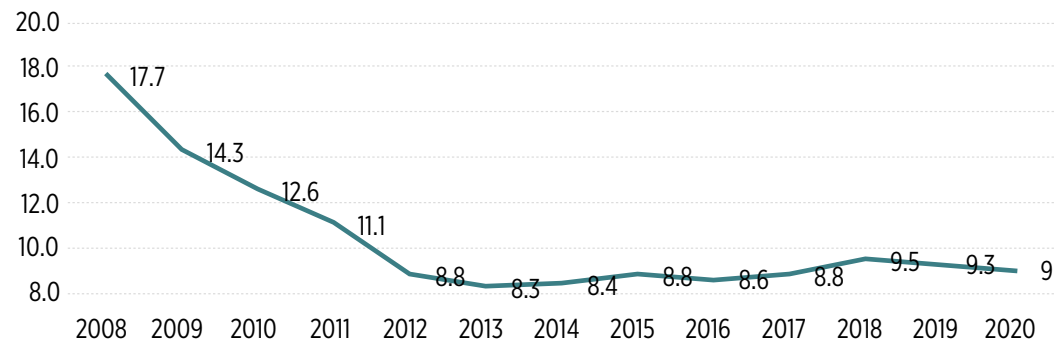
⁸⁸ According to information presented to EUROSTAT on 7 December 2021 by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD) on the renewables target and the transport target, both established in the Renewables Directive. Annual energy balances for Spain. Documents available [here](#).

FIGURE 13. DOMESTIC MATERIAL CONSUMPTION PER GDP (IN TONS PER MILLION EUROS)



Source: National Statistics Institute

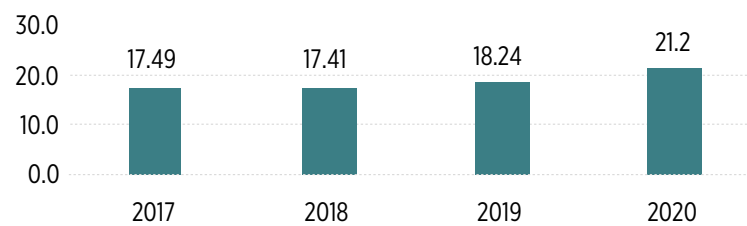
FIGURE 14. DOMESTIC MATERIAL CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA (TONS PER INHABITANT)



Source: National Statistics Institute

In the midst of the energy crisis, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, Spain is less vulnerable to sanctions and counter-sanctions imposed by the EU and Russia on gas supplies, and can better ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, thanks to the commitment and investment made over the years in renewable energies. The share of renewable energy in all energy sources has been increasing in Spain in recent years, reaching 21.2% of total final energy consumption in 2020 (Figure 15), exceeding the 20% target set for Spain in the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC.

FIGURE 15. SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES IN GROSS FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (IN %)



Source: Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

Table 5 below summarises the sectoral renewable energy and energy efficiency values achieved in 2020, together with the European targets committed to in each case:

TABLE 5. SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES IN GROSS FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (IN %)

2020		
OBJECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT 20/20	Objective	Actual values
Energy efficiency		
Primary energy by reducing non-energy uses	20%	35.40%
Renewable energies		
RES (%) final renewable consumption	20%	21.22%
RES-T (%) transport consumption	10%	9.54%
RES-E (%) electric generation		42.94%
RES-H&C heating and cooling production		17.97%

Source: Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

The share of renewable electricity has increased from 37.13% to 42.94% in 2020. Factors contributing to this increase include the notable 10.1% growth in renewable generation compared to the previous year, combined with a 4.81% decrease in gross demand. These results consolidate the decarbonisation of the electricity generation sector, which for the second consecutive year has broken records in emissions reductions. The share of renewables in final energy consumption in transport increased from 7.61% to 9.54%. This growth was contributed to by the fall in demand, as well as by the policy of promoting biofuels in road transport, which has boosted the increase in this target in recent years. The share of renewables in heat and cooling production has increased from 17.20% to 17.97%, mainly due to the reduction in demand.

Spain has one of the most diversified energy mixes in Europe, with a higher percentage of renewable energies. The generation park with renewable energy sources in Spain at the end of 2021 amounted to 64,182 MW, accounting for 46.7% of total generation, both of which are record highs (Figure 16).

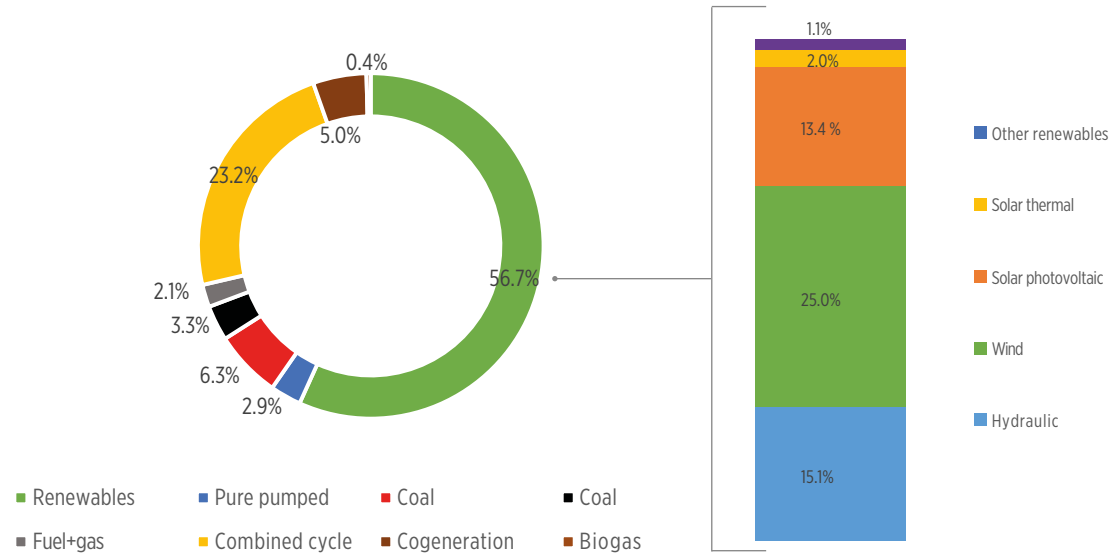
FIGURE 16. EVOLUTION OF RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE GENERATION



Source: Spanish Electricity Grid.

This increase in renewable energy production has been mainly due to the increase in solar photovoltaic production in the last year, which has contributed 80.4% of the new capacity. Wind has contributed an additional 839 MW to the new renewable capacity and remains the leading technology in the national generation fleet (Figure 17).

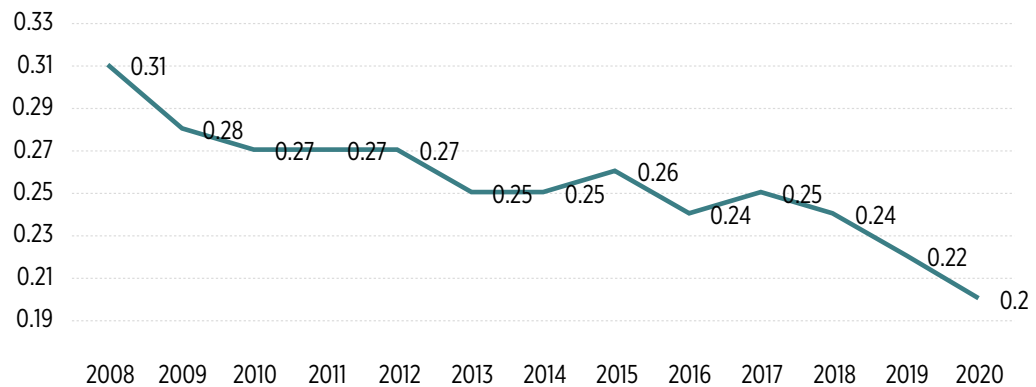
FIGURE 17. INSTALLED CAPACITY STRUCTURE AT 31.12.2021 (IN %)



Source: Spanish Electricity Grid.

Industry is undergoing a process of decarbonisation through the modernisation of its facilities, using resources more efficiently and promoting the adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes. Both the CO₂ emissions of the economy as a whole (Figure 18) and of the manufacturing industry (Figure 19) have been falling in recent years, reaching 0.2 kg CO₂ equivalent/Euros of GDP in the Spanish economy in 2020 and 0.57 kg CO₂ equivalent/Euros per unit of value added in the manufacturing industry. In fact, greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 have been reduced by 16.81% in relation to what was polluted in 2015 compared to 1990 (Figure 20).

FIGURE 18. CO₂ EMISSIONS OF RESIDENT UNITS (KG CO₂ EQUIVALENT/ EURO) BY GDP



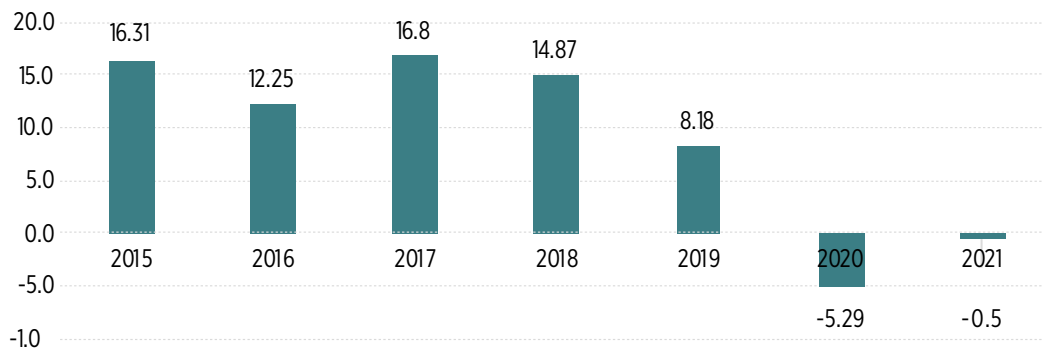
Source: National Statistics Institute, SDG Indicators.

FIGURE 19. CO₂ EMISSIONS OF RESIDENT UNITS PER UNIT OF VALUE ADDED. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY (KG CO₂ EQUIVALENT/EURO)



Source: National Statistics Institute, SDG Indicators.

FIGURE 20. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COMPARED TO 1990 (INDEX 1990=100) (%)



Source: National Statistics Institute, SDG Indicators, and Advance Report of Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2021 of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge⁸⁹.

The COVID-19 health crisis and the current energy crisis have accelerated the transformation of our production model towards a more sustainable one. The progress of the circular economy has allowed the percentage of recycled waste out of total waste treated in Spain to increase from 1.28 kg/inhabitant/day in 2015 to 1.33 in 2019 (source: National Statistics Institute).

The environmentally rational management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle and the significant reduction of their release to air, water and soil to minimise their adverse effects on human health and the environment is evidenced by progress on the following indicators (table 6):

TABLE 6. PROGRESS ON INDICATORS IN HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

	2015	2019
Total hazardous waste generated in the economy per capita (Kilograms/inhabitant)	72.8	70.2
By type of treatment as a percentage:		
Proportion of hazardous waste recycled	67.8	69.8
Proportion of hazardous waste incinerated	7.3	7.4
Proportion of hazardous waste landfilled	24.9	22.8

Source: National Statistics Institute, SDG Indicators.

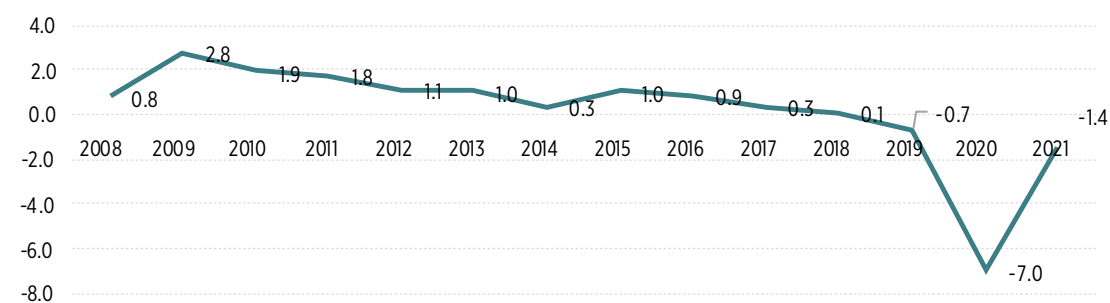
Regarding the improvement of sustainable water and sanitation management in Spain, the percentage of total pollutant load corresponding to populations larger than 2000 equivalent inhabitants that adequately treat urban wastewater in accordance with Art.4 of the Urban Wastewater Directive 91/271/EEC, has decreased from 84.90 in 2015 to 81.25% in 2016 (source: National Statistics Institute). And the total volume of wastewater in Spain has decreased by 8.7% in 2 years, from 27,815.50 hm³ in 2015 to 25,387.94hm³ in 2017 (source: National Statistics Institute).

This is reflected in the number of companies adopting sustainable practices and publishing sustainability reports. In 2021, according to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, there are 289 companies with a European Ecolabel licence and 973 organisations with a Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), the third country with the highest number of EMAS-registered organisations, behind only Germany and Italy⁹⁰.

2.2. An economy based on knowledge, research and innovation

European *Next Generation EU* funds, which in Spain are provided in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR), can help Spain to improve its economic productivity through diversification, technological modernisation and innovation, focusing on high value-added and labour-intensive sectors (Figure 21). Productivity fell sharply due to the health crisis by 7% in 2020, while already in 2021 there is a turnaround with an annual decline of only 1.414%. But we are still far behind the European average in real productivity, both per person and per hour worked, occupying almost the worst position within the EU (99.2 compared to the EU average of 105 in 2021), only ahead of Greece, as shown in the Figure in Annex 2.

FIGURE 21. ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF REAL GDP PER PERSON EMPLOYED (IN %)



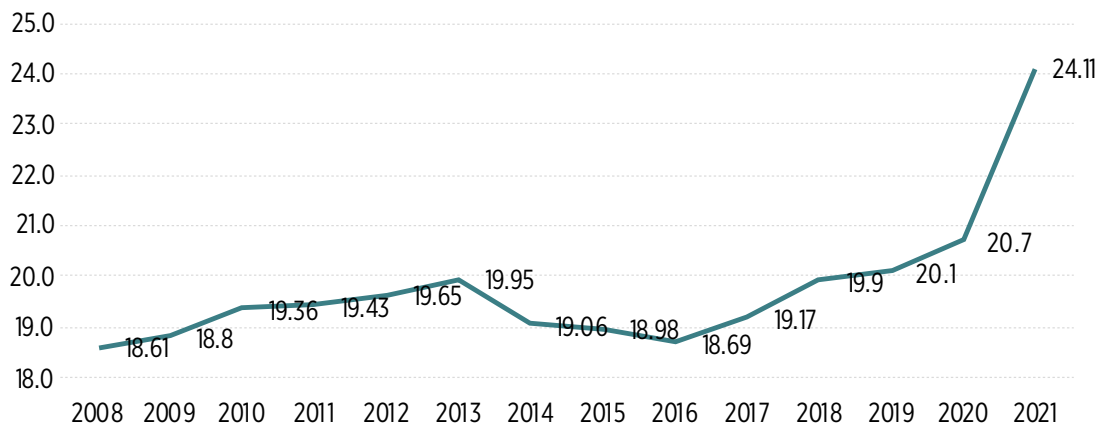
Source: National Statistics Institute, Spanish National Accounts.

The productivity of our economy depends on intangible assets such as human capital formation, research and innovation. In this sense, Spain is improving in the training of its population, in 2021, 24.11% of the adult population was in training and 76.97% of young people, by ensuring equal access for all men and women to quality technical, vocational and higher education, including university education (Figure 22), and especially

⁹⁰ Documentation available [here](#).

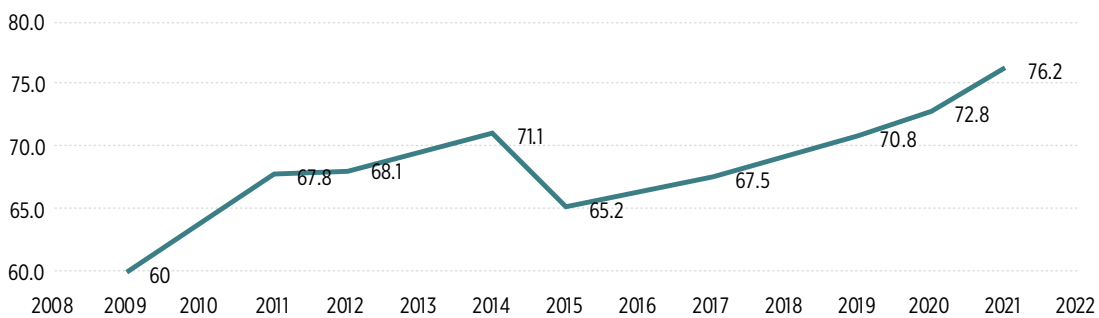
in information and communications technology (ICT) skills, which in 2021 were already possessed by 76.2% of the population and 96% of young people (Figure 23).

FIGURE 22. PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER STUDYING EDUCATION OR TRAINING IN THE LAST FOUR WEEKS (IN %)



Source: National Statistics Institute.

FIGURE 23. PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS WITH ICT SKILLS (%)



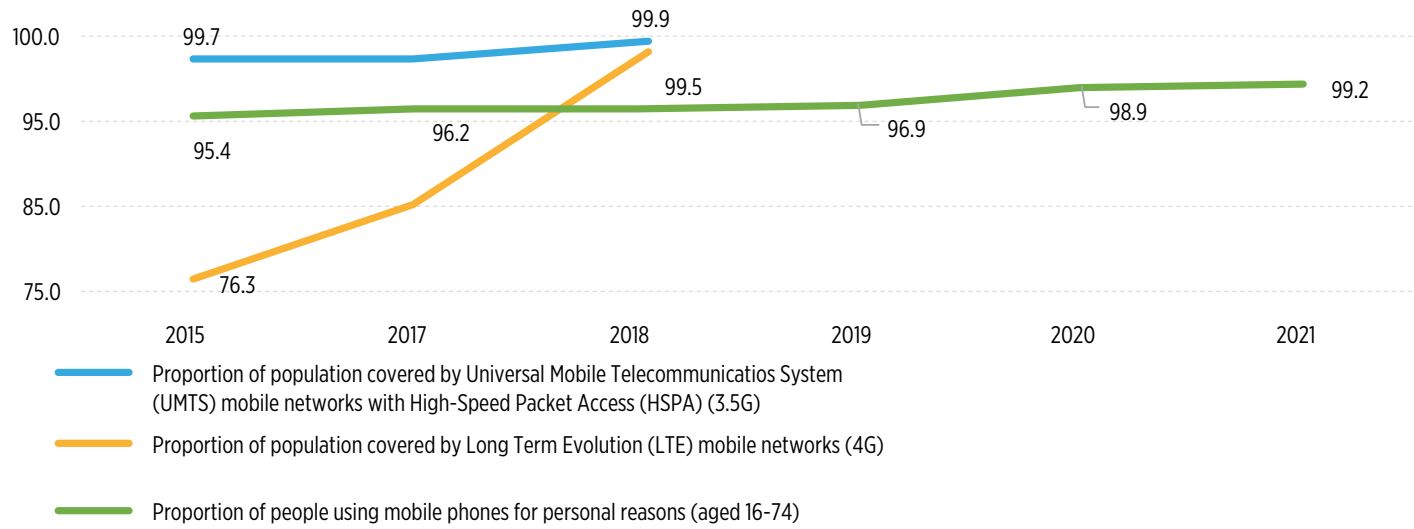
Source: National Statistics Institute.

Other indicators of the progress of the information society in Spain show improvements in the use of and access to information and communications technology tools (Figures 23 and 24). In 2018 in Spain, 99.9% of the population had mobile network coverage and in 2021, 99.2% of the population owns a mobile phone (Figure 24). Regarding internet access, in 2021 in Spain, 93.9% of the population aged 16 to 74 years have used the internet in the last three months, 15.2 points more than in 2015. This represents a total of 33.1 million users. Internet users have risen in recent years and the value of the gender gap has gone from 3.2 points in 2015 to 0.0 points from 2019 to the present (Figure 25).

In terms of municipalities with 4G mobile coverage with coverage ranges below 50%, the existing figure was reduced from 7,066 in 2015 to 183 in 2020 and 115 in 2021⁹¹ representing a population of 9,304 inhabitants.

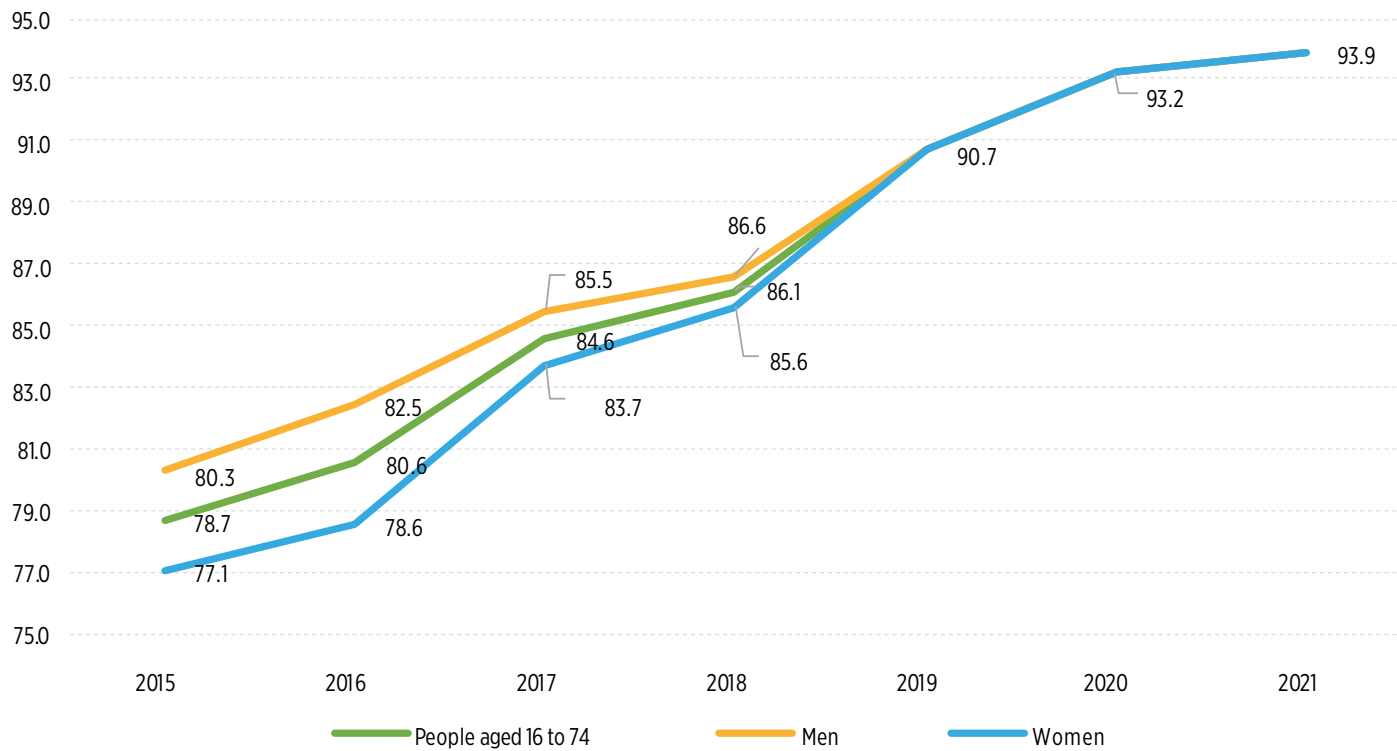
91 Documentation available [here](#).

FIGURE 24. MOBILE NETWORK COVERAGE BY TECHNOLOGY AND MOBILE PHONE USAGE (%)



Source: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation.

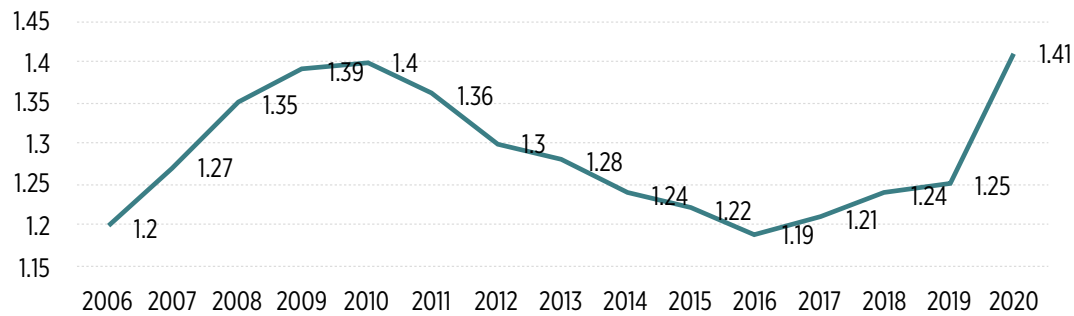
FIGURE 25. PEOPLE (AGED 16-74) WHO HAVE USED THE INTERNET IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS (%)



Source: INE, Encuesta sobre equipamiento y uso de tecnologías de información y comunicación en los hogares.

With respect to scientific research and the technological capacity of industrial sectors, Spain shows progress in fostering innovation, with increases in R&D expenditure (public and private) as a proportion of GDP, from 2016 for all years, to reach 1.41% of GDP in 2020 (Figure 26). However, we are at the tail end of European countries with respect to R&D expenditure as a proportion of our GDP, where the EU average in the same year was 2.36% (Figure in Annex 3). The recent law reforming Law 14/2021, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, approved by the Congress of Deputies on 23 June 2022, guarantees for the first time stable and growing public funding for research, in order to converge with Europe and reach 1.25% of GDP by 2030. In this way, together with private investment, the European target of 3% of GDP would be reached.

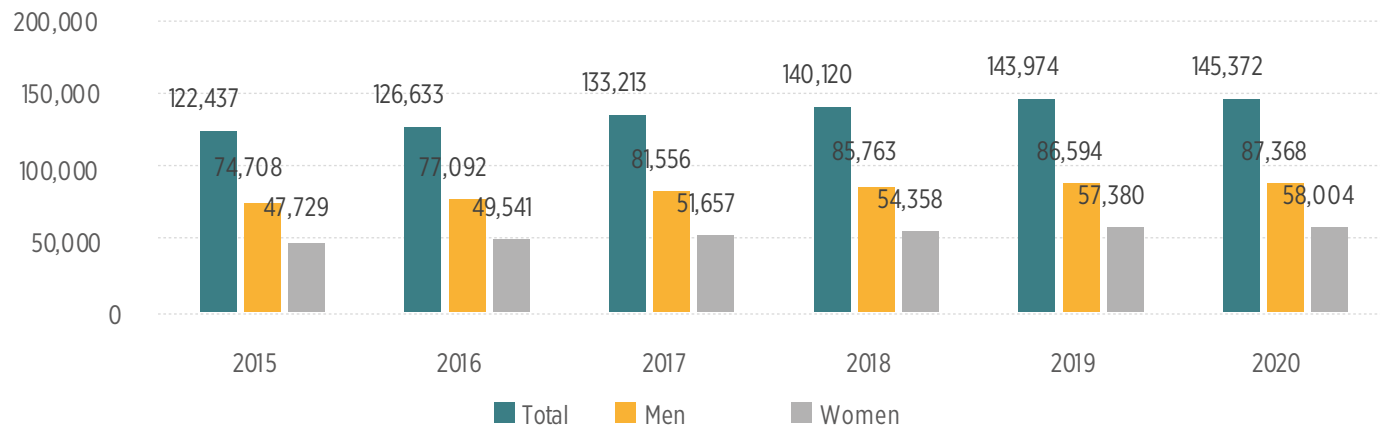
FIGURE 26. R&D EXPENDITURE AS A SHARE OF GDP (%)



Source: National Statistics Institute

The number of people working in research and development in Spain shows an upward trend, with an annual increase of 1% in 2020 to 145,372 researchers per million inhabitants (Figure 27). There is still a gender gap in this area, which is even widening, as in 2015 the gap between men and women was 26,980 researchers per million inhabitants, rising to 29,364 in 2020.

FIGURE 27. NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT) PER MILLION INHABITANTS



Source: National Statistics Institute.

Spain faces the challenge of strengthening the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System and reinforcing public-private collaboration mechanisms to further knowledge and its application to all production sectors. By doing so it will be able to increase the productivity of the economy and generate high value-added and high-paying employment, contributing to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

3. Economic governance and equity

The business sector must be a key driver of sustainable development, committed to society by improving its impact on different stakeholders. Corporate social responsibility means that in addition to seeking to maximize shareholder value, companies should pursue social, labor, environmental, and human rights objectives. The portal that the Ministry of Labor and Social Economy has enabled for the submission of Social Responsibility Reports registered reports from a total of 167 companies until July 2022.

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In order to make progress in this area, corporate governance has to move towards greater democratisation in companies, so that the different stakeholders, and fundamentally the workers, as is the case in our neighbouring countries, participate in company decision-making. This leads to improvements in innovation, productivity and the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the economic model. In Spain, the social economy entities, characterised by their social objective, which is specified in the co-management of the company, in the equitable distribution of profits and in the reinvestment of part of them, are experiencing growth, except in the last year 2021, when they fell by 1.44% (table 7). All this took place within the framework of the Spanish Strategy for the Promotion of the Social Economy 2021-2027, for the consolidation of the business model and values of Social Economy entities and for the promotion of a model of sustainable and solidarity-based economic growth.

TABLE 7. EVOLUTION OF COOPERATIVES IN SPAIN

	Total	Cooperatives	Annual change (%)
2016	3,236,582	20,571	
2017	3,282,346	20,656	0.41
2018	3,337,646	20,707	0.25
2019	3,363,197	20,830	0.59
2020	3,404,428	21,111	1.35
2021	3,366,570	20,808	-1.44

Source: National Statistics Institute, Central Companies Directory.

In Spain on 30 June 2020, after the COVID-19 health crisis, there were 25,836 cooperatives and worker-owned companies registered in the Social Security System, generating direct employment for 338,521 workers (table 8). Social economy enterprises show that they have a great capacity to create and protect employment in times of economic crisis, thanks to their organisational model. In 2021, 1,606 new cooperatives with 5,710 members and 1,242 worker cooperatives with 3,352 new members were set up (table 9). Most of them are service cooperatives, although those in industry are on the increase.

TABLE 8. COOPERATIVES AND WORKER-OWNED COMPANIES REGISTERED WITH SOCIAL SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

	dic-16		dic-17		dic-18		dic-19		jun-20	
	Nº	Employment	Nº	Employment	Nº	Employment	Nº	Employment	Nº	Employment
Total	30,579	379,051	30,192	383,263	28,679	385,055	26,795	374,398	25,836	338,521
Cooperatives	20,792	315,116	20,958	319,792	19,954	322,880	18,635	314,119	18,035	283,567
Worker-owned companies	9,787	63,935	9,234	63,471	8,725	62,175	8,160	60,279	7,801	54,954
- Listed	1,046	15,251	980	14,111	908	13,982	835	13,416	7,024	12,038
- Limited	8,741	48,684	8,254	49,360	7,817	48,193	7,325	46,863	777	42,916

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Economy.

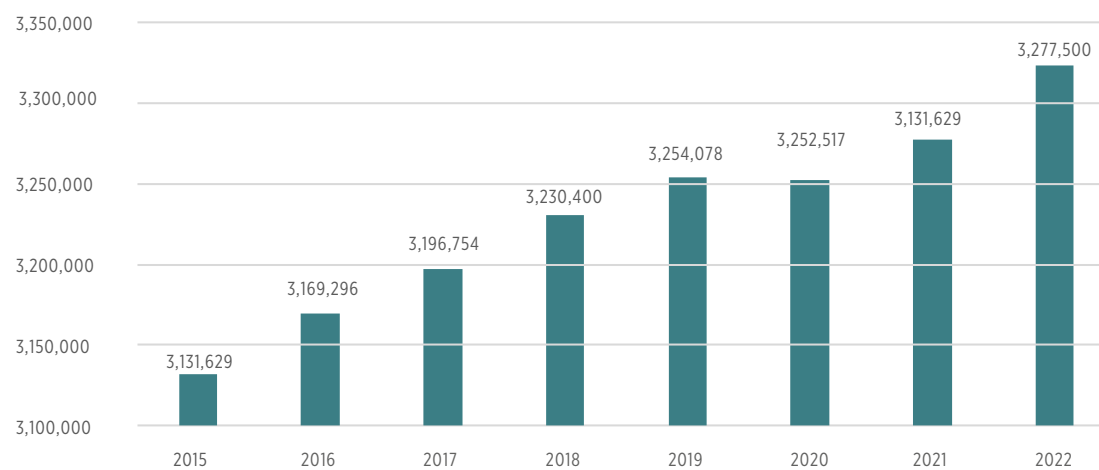
TABLE 9. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES FORMED AND INITIAL MEMBERS IN 2021

SECTORES	COOP. OVERALL		ASOC. COOP.	
	Coop. No.	Coop. No.	Coop. No.	Asoc. No.
TOTAL	1,606	5,710	1,242	3,352
AGRICULTURE	85	360	45	123
INDUSTRY	112	492	96	355
CONSTRUCTION	350	1,614	130	327
SERVICES	1,059	3,244	971	2,547

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Economy.

In the transition to the new economic model, the self-employed and small and medium-sized enterprises have an essential role to play. In March 2022, the number of self-employed workers was 3,323,536, 1.40% more than in the same month of 2021 (Figure 28). According to the Central Business Directory (Central Companies Directory), on 1 January 2021, there were 3,366,570 companies in Spain, of which 3,361,898 (99.9%) were SMEs (between 0 and 249 employees) (tables 10 and 11).

FIGURE 28. EVOLUTION OF SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS IN MARCH



Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Economy.

TABLE 10. BUSINESS SECTOR STRUCTURE 1 JANUARY 2021

Enterprises by size		%	Annual variation
SMES (0-249 employees)	3,361,898	99.9%	-1.1%
SME without employees (0 employees)	1,879,126	55.8%	-1.7%
SME with employees (1-249 employees)	1,482,772	44.0%	-0.3%
Micro-SMEs (1 to 9)	1,345,244	40.0%	0.5%
Small enterprises (10 to 49)	117,534	3.5%	-7.7%
Medium-sized enterprises (50-249)	19,994	0.6%	-7.2%
Big enterprises (250 or more)	4,672	0.1%	-3.2%
Overall enterprises	3,366,570	100.0%	-1.1%

Source: National Statistics Institute, Central Companies Directory.

From 2015 to 2021, SMEs without employees have grown above the average growth rate of companies (7.13% compared to 5.64%). However, it is the large companies that have grown the most in recent years.

TABLE 11. EVOLUTION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR

	1999	2009	2015	2019	2020	2021	2021/99 Variation	2021/15 Variation
Without employees	1,388,116	1,767,470	1,754,002	1,882,745	1,912,010	1,879,126	35.37 %	7.13 %
Micro-SMEs (1 to 9)	985,619	1,402,996	1,299,759	1,330,812	1,338,650	1,345,244	36.49 %	3.50 %
Small enterprises (10 to 49)	125,062	157,242	110,619	124,475	127,399	117,534	-6.02 %	6.25 %
From 50 to 199)	16,174	22,747	17,431	19,283	20,181	18,614	15.09 %	6.79 %
0 to 199 employees	2,514,971	3,350,455	3,181,811	3,357,315	3,398,240	3,360,518	33.62 %	5.62 %
From 200 to 999	3,403	4,586	4,277	4,872	5,136	5,014	47.34 %	17.23 %
From 1000 to 4999	362	678	683	842	880	867	139.50 %	26.94 %
5000 or more employees	65	111	107	168	172	171	163.08 %	59.81 %
OVERALL ENTERPRISES	2,518,801	3,355,830	3,186,878	3,363,197	3,404,428	3,366,570	33.66 %	5.64 %

Source: National Statistics Institute, Central Companies Directory.

It is the SMEs that contribute most to generating employment and to business gross value added. According to data from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism of June 2022, SMEs contributed 10,897,975 jobs, 64.62% of the total (Table 12).

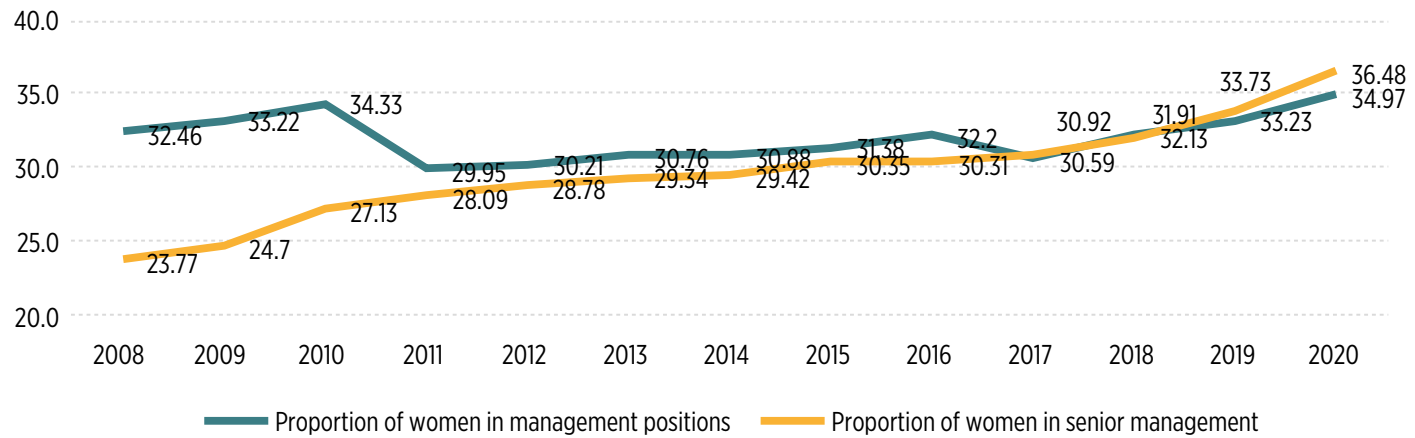
TABLE 12. EMPLOYMENT BY FIRM SIZE (JUNE 2022)

Enterprises by size	Employment	Variation rate		Average	
		monthly	Annual	Current monthl	A year ago
SMES (0-249 employees)	10,897,975	-0.19	4.14	3.7	3.6
SME without employees (0 employees)	1,612,736	0.00	-0.13	1.0	1.0
SME with employees (1-249 employees)	9,285,239	-0.22	4.92	7.0	6.8
Micro-SMEs (1 to 9)	3,438,142	-0.19	1.44	3.0	3.0
Small enterprises (10 to 49)	3,223,294	0.29	6.93	19.6	19.5
Medium-sized enterprises (50-249)	2,623,803	-0.87	7.25	98.5	97.4
Big enterprises (250 or more)	5,966,529	-1.45	5.93	1,169.7	1,178.6
Overall enterprises	16,864,504	-0.64	4.77	5.7	5.5

Source: Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, SME Figures.

Finally, Spain is improving in terms of gender diversity in corporate governance. The percentage of women entrepreneurs is increasing annually and has risen from 36.8% in 2015 to 37.7% in 2019, according to the National Statistics Institute. The percentage of women in managerial positions in companies is also increasing (Figure 29), and this full and effective participation of women at all decision-making levels in companies contributes to a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable economy.

FIGURE 29. WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT POSITIONS IN COMPANIES (%)



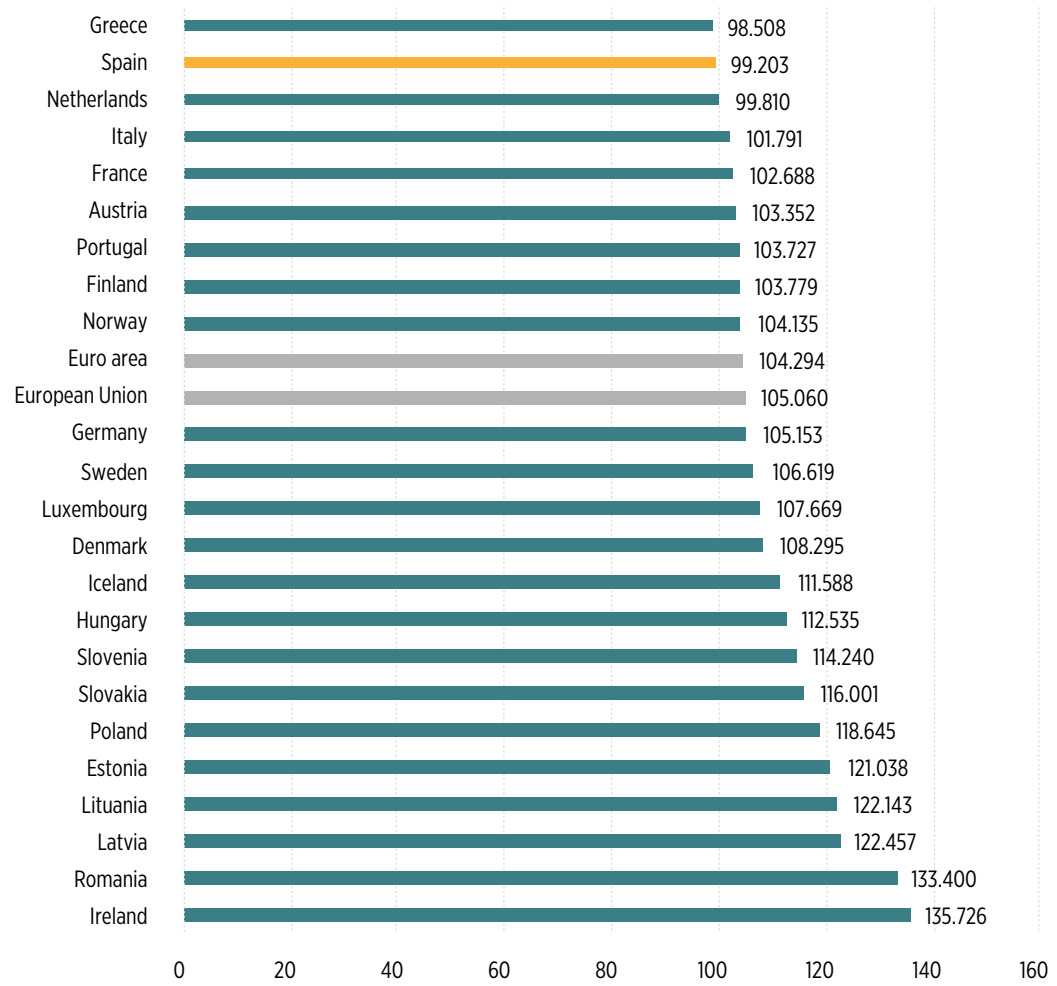
Source: National Statistics Institute.

ANNEX 1. CONTRIBUTION TO GDP OF PRODUCTION SECTORS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS IN 2020 (IN %)

	TOTAL	Andalusia	Aragon	Asturias	Balearic Islands	Canary Islands	Cantabria	Castile and Leon	Castile-La Mancha	Catalonia	Valencian Community	Extremadura	Galicia	Madrid	Murcia	Navarre	Basque Country	La Rioja	Ceuta	Melilla
Agriculture, livestock and fisheries	3.1	7.1	6.9	1.7	0.7	2.1	1.4	5.3	9.4	1.3	2.3	8.8	5.7	0.1	6.1	3.9	0.7	6.8	0.1	0.1
Electricity, gas, and water	14.7	10.4	19.8	17.2	5.9	6.2	19.0	18.0	17.3	17.6	17.5	12.3	16.2	9.9	16.5	26.5	21.0	22.6	5.0	4.0
Manufacturing	11.0	6.6	16.1	11.5	2.7	2.8	15.5	14.2	13.2	14.8	13.8	6.0	12.2	5.7	12.5	23.1	18.2	19.8	1.3	0.8
Construction	5.7	6.3	5.6	6.4	8.1	6.0	6.4	6.0	6.1	5.1	6.3	6.7	6.4	4.6	5.7	5.2	6.4	5.4	4.5	5.2
Trade, transport and hospitality	18.0	17.5	15.9	17.2	22.8	23.7	16.1	15.4	15.1	19.0	19.5	13.9	18.3	17.9	19.9	14.9	16.1	14.8	15.4	14.7
Information and communications	3.5	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.3	3.4	1.9	1.3	2.1	9.0	1.4	1.5	2.6	1.3	0.9	0.7
Financial and insurance	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.4	6.1	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6	2.3	2.3
Real estate	11.7	12.8	10.5	13.2	17.2	13.8	13.7	10.9	10.4	12.4	12.8	10.6	10.4	10.0	10.4	8.9	11.5	10.1	9.9	10.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	7.9	5.8	5.0	5.6	8.9	7.1	5.5	4.9	3.7	9.0	6.3	4.2	6.0	13.2	5.6	6.0	7.1	4.7	3.4	4.1
Public administrations, defence, education and health care	18.7	22.0	18.8	20.2	17.6	22.4	20.1	22.2	21.1	16.3	17.2	26.2	19.2	16.2	19.0	17.7	18.4	18.8	46.6	46.6
Arts and entertainment activities	3.8	3.8	3.1	3.7	4.3	4.6	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.4	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.1	3.2	3.4
Total gross value added	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3	91.3
Net taxes on products	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
GDP at market prices	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

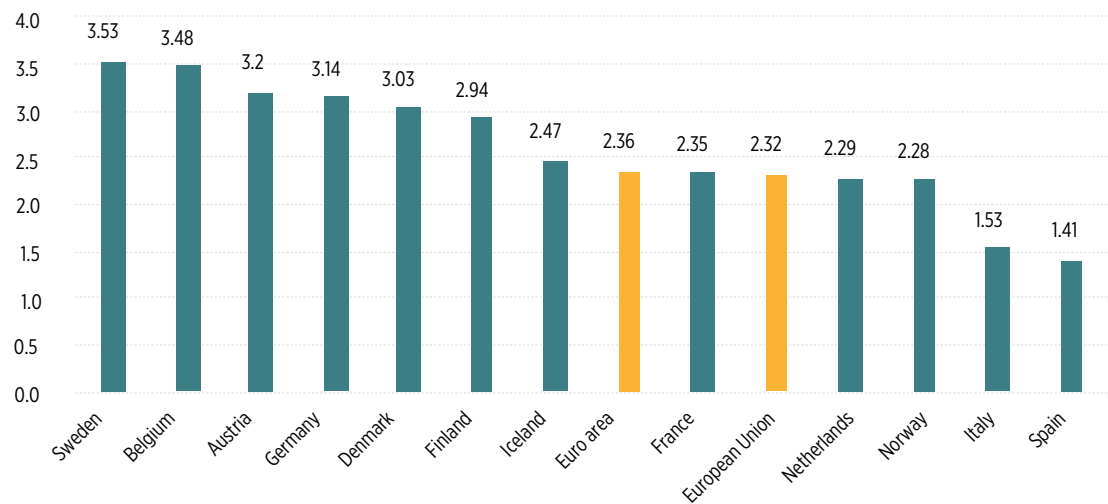
Source: National Statistics Institute, Spanish Regional Accounts.

ANNEX 2. REAL LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY PER HOUR WORKED (INDEX, 2005=100) 2021



Source: Eurostat: Eurostat.

ANNEX 3. R&D EXPENDITURE OVER GDP (IN%) 2020



Source: Eurostat: Eurostat.

ACCELERATING POLICY

4.

A NEW GREEN, DIGITAL AND FAIR ECONOMIC AND PRODUCTION MODEL

The main objective of the Sustainable Development Accelerating Policy *A new green, digital and fair economic and production model* is to transform our production model to achieve sustainable growth while respecting environmental limits and committing to the promotion, strengthening and digital transformation of our economic agents to guarantee their capacities through the development of strategic production sectors that enable the transformation of the Spanish production matrix through diversification and efficiency. In this sense, this Accelerating Policy is based on the promotion of renewable energies, energy efficiency and the circular economy, thus favouring the transformation of the production model towards climate neutrality, which is also a great opportunity to modernise, facilitate innovation and improve the competitiveness of the Spanish economy while generating quality employment. In turn, this policy is also related to the technological transformation of production processes, which is essential for developing innovative solutions that provide greater added value.

Therefore, the cornerstones around which all the advances of the priorities for action of this country 4 challenge are articulated are, on the one hand, the **ecological transition**, the **digital transition**, acting as real vectors of economic transformation that allow full alignment of the productive fabric of Spain with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and everything related to the **social transition**, in which the social economy, social responsibility and fair transition become fundamental tools to complete the objective of this accelerating policy to achieve a green, digital and just economy.

In this sense, first of all, we will include the advances related to the priorities for action that have to do with the ecological, digital and social transition of the economy as a whole, subsequently focusing on the advances in terms of their impact on SMEs, given their strategic nature for Spanish economic activity due to their high percentage in the national business fabric. Next, progress will be analysed from the perspective of the different production sectors of the economy.

One of the priorities for action in the 2030 Strategy is related to the **Long-Term Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Spanish Economy in 2050**, whose objectives are: (a) the reduction, no later than 2050, of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 90% compared to 1990, which in 2020 were 5.3%, compared to 1990, with a continued reduction in recent years and a decoupling with respect to GDP; (b) the reduction of energy dependency rates to 13% in 2050, having fallen to 70.2% in 2020 and continuing the downward trend; (c) basing the energy system on renewable energies by up to 97% in 2050, representing in 2020 a percentage of 21.22%.

The implementation of this Long-Term Strategy aims to reduce primary energy consumption by 40% thanks to energy efficiency policies, changes in habits and the circular economy, resulting in a reduction of more than 30% in final energy consumption. During 2021, primary energy consumption increased by 6% compared to 2020, due to the drastic decrease in economic activity caused by the effects of COVID-19. However, it decreased by 6.8% compared to 2019 values.



For the energy system, the objective is to support it with renewable energies by up to 97% of final consumption. In 2021, renewable energies accounted for 20.65% of final consumption, in accordance with the calculation rules established by the Renewable Energy Directive, exceeding the target of 20% for 2020. In terms of external energy dependence, the strategy aims to reduce energy imports from 73% of energy consumption in 2018 to only 13% in 2050. In 2021, energy dependence is on a downward trend since 2018, standing at 70.2%.

In relation to the electricity sector, the objective is to reach 100% renewable energy by the middle of the century, while the contribution of renewable energies to transport and mobility will reach 79%, and 97% in the heating and cooling sector. Specifically, in the electricity sector, in 2021, the renewable presence was 45.44%, compared to 42.94% in 2020. In transport and mobility in 2021, the renewable presence was 9.60%, compared to 9.53% in 2020. And in the heating and cooling sector in 2021, the renewable presence was 17.10%, compared to 17.97% in 2020. This decrease is explained by the decrease in activity and final consumption in 2020 due to the COVID-19 effect, which increased the percentage above the trend of the series.

Likewise, another priority action for country challenge 4 is the change from a linear model based on “use-consume-discard” patterns, associated with rapid consumption, towards a circular economy model. Thus, the **Spanish Circular Economy Strategy, Spain Circular 2030**, is the reference framework for this change of model. The Strategy establishes as objectives applicable to the production system for 2030 an effort to reduce by 30% the national consumption of materials in relation to GDP in 2030, taking 2010 as a reference year. It also includes a 15% reduction in the total generation of waste compared to that generated in 2010, a 50% reduction in the case of the food chain and a 20% reduction in production and supply chains from 2020 onwards, among other objectives.

This strategy is expressed through the **Circular Economy Action Plan (PAEC) 2021-2023**, approved in 2021 and whose first report includes the measures developed by the National Government, which will be completed during the month of December, including an overall assessment and monitoring of the Strategy's indicators. Of the 116 measures included, 87 are currently being implemented or have already been completed, representing three quarters of the total.

With regard to the promotion of the **digital transition**, it is worth highlighting, as a fundamental strategic guide for the economy as a whole, the **Spain Digital Agenda 2026**, also included as a priority for action in this policy to accelerate sustainable development. Among the actions carried out, it is worth highlighting the guarantee of digital connectivity, the deployment of 5G technology and the digitisation of public administrations and companies, particularly SMEs. In this area, it is worth highlighting the legislative progress made with Law 11/2022 of 28 June, General Telecommunications Law, which includes the objective of 10 Mbps within the universal broadband internet service and the universalisation of internet access at a minimum speed of 100 Mbit per second within one year, in line with the objectives of promoting social and territorial cohesion.

Also noteworthy is the **Plan for connectivity and digital infrastructures**, which will continue to expand high-speed broadband coverage. Within the framework of the Plan, the **UNICO-Broadband Programme** has been developed to grant aid and investment to extend broadband throughout Spain, to which should be added the granting of 360 million euros to the Autonomous Communities in aid in the areas of industry and business (100 million euros), public services (150 million euros), buildings (80 million euros) and social connectivity vouchers for vulnerable groups (30 million euros).

Another of the priorities for action in this line is the **Strategy to promote the development of 5G technology**, which enables hyperconnectivity in which 65% of the 5G spectrum has been assigned according to the DESI 2021. Furthermore, eight new 5G pilot projects have been launched to identify use cases and applications of 5G technology in thirteen different sectors (security, education, agriculture and tourism, among others), and **Royal Decree-Law 7/2022, of 29 March, on 5G Cybersecurity**, was approved and came into force on 31 March 2022, and Royal Decree 1040/2021 on the direct granting of subsidies to Spanish public research centres and foundations and public universities for innovative projects in the deployment of advanced 5G and 6G technologies, amounting to 95.2 million euros.

In line with the above, it is also worth highlighting the **National Artificial Intelligence Strategy**, another of the action priorities of this sustainable development accelerator policy, aimed at integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the value chains of the productive fabric and generating an environment of confidence regarding the development of an inclusive, sustainable AI that puts citizens at the centre. Among the calls launched by this Strategy, the **AI R&D Missions** stand out, with 50 million euros to finance R&D+i projects

with technological maturity; **Quantum Spain**, which finances the development of a quantum supercomputer with a budget of 22 million euros; the AI and Artificial Intelligence Chair, which finances the development of a quantum supercomputer with a budget of 22 million euros; the **Chair in AI and Democracy**, with a budget of 1.4 million euros, for the generation of a body of knowledge that nurtures better policies and allows us to understand the impacts of AI on the democratic model; **AI in value chains** with a call for proposals for 105 million euros that finances projects at maturity levels 6 and 8 in order to promote their development and use for their adoption in value chains. More than 1,200 proposals received are currently being evaluated under this call.

Finally, and given that the effective functioning of the economic system requires an adaptation of the skills and knowledge of the population that forms part of the productive fabric, it is essential to mention the priority of action on the **National Digital Skills Plan**, in which 140 million euros have been transferred to the Autonomous Communities to achieve the digital training of citizens and fight against the digital gender gap through training actions. Likewise, a further 87 million euros have been allocated to the Autonomous Communities for the development of qualification and professional retraining actions in digital areas for the active population.

In line with the digital skills that focus on the digital transformation of education, royal decrees have been published that **incorporate digital skills** in the curricula of all educational stages and develop investments for the digitalisation of the education system and the improvement of teachers' digital skills. In this regard, it should be noted that the investment planned for the period 2021-2023 amounts to 1,285 million euros, as well as 1,215.4 million euros for the development of the Plan for the Modernisation of Vocational Training. In addition, grants of more than 100 million euros have been awarded to public universities for the modernisation and digitalisation of the Spanish university system.

In terms of **social transition**, outstanding developments include those related to the Social Economy and issues linked to social responsibility actions in a broader sense carried out by the Spanish business sector as a whole.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy identifies social economy organisations as one of the key agents in the change of production model, due to their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. In this sense, the measures to support the Social Economy that have been implemented through the Spanish Strategy for the Promotion of the Social Economy 2017-2020, which is currently extended, and investment 6 of component 23 of the PRTR, consisting of the implementation of a Comprehensive Plan to Promote the Social Economy for the generation of an inclusive and sustainable economic fabric, which has had its first budget allocation in 2022, are relevant in this regard.

In relation to this issue and at the international level, it is worth highlighting the high-level event at the United Nations, organised by the Spanish Government, to promote the first resolution of the UN General Assembly on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Sustainable Development.

Significant progress has also been made in strategic and policy actions on corporate social responsibility. In this respect, several advances deserve to be highlighted. Firstly, economic resources have been dedicated to the dissemination and promotion of corporate social responsibility at the national level, through the annual call for aid included in the Spanish Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy 2014-2020, which is currently extended.

Secondly, the application of Law 11/2018 of 28 December on non-financial information and diversity which obliges companies that prepare consolidated accounts, and which meet certain requirements relating to their size, to prepare a report on non-financial information and sustainability in order to understand the evolution, results, situation of the group and the impact of its activity with respect to, at least, environmental and social issues, respect for human rights and the fight against corruption and bribery, as well as concerning personnel, including the measures, if any, adopted to promote the principle of equal treatment and opportunities between women and men, non-discrimination and inclusion of persons with disabilities and universal accessibility. In early 2021, this Spanish law began to apply not only to companies with more than 500 employees, but also to those with more than 250 employees at the end of the financial year and which are considered to be of public interest; or which, meeting the requirement of total employees, the total of their assets exceeds 20 million euros, or the net amount of their annual turnover exceeds 40 million euros.

Listed companies are also required to include in the annual corporate governance report a description of the diversity policy applied in relation to the board of directors, management and any specialised committees

set up within the board, with regard to issues such as age, gender, disability or the professional training and experience of its members; including their objectives, the measures taken, the manner in which they have been implemented, in particular the procedures for seeking to include on the board a number of women that achieves a balanced presence of women and men, and the results in the reporting period, as well as the measures, if any, agreed by the nomination committee in respect of these issues.

Thirdly, decisive progress has been made in **promoting sustainable finance**. In this respect, the Treasury has put in place all the necessary elements for the launch of a green sovereign bond programme as a structural component of its long-term financing strategy. Thus, in line with its 2021 funding strategy, the Treasury issued its first green sovereign bond in September 2021 on the basis of the Green Bond Framework published in July 2021. To date, more than €7.2 billion have been issued under the programme, generating significant financial savings and contributing to the diversification of the Treasury's investor base.

Finally, compliance with the **OECD Council Recommendation on Common Approaches to Officially Supported Export Credits and Environmental and Social Due Diligence**, which includes social and environmental requirements for projects with medium and long-term official financial support to ensure common practices consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. All hedging operations under the CESCE (Spanish credit and insurance group) government account or financing under the Fund for Company Internationalisation (FIEM) that fall within the scope of application of the recommendation are subject to due diligence, where if they are not passed, officially supported financing is not offered.

Next, and before continuing with the analysis of the priorities for action relating to SMEs and the production sectors, the **Spain as an Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy**, presented in February 2021, stands out as a key element for the economic and social transformation of the country and the backbone of the Government's commitment to position Spain as a benchmark country in entrepreneurship and innovation over a ten-year time horizon. Its 50 measures are aimed at four goals: developing, attracting and retaining talent; accelerating the maturation process of investment in Spain; boosting the scalability of companies; and fostering an entrepreneurial public sector. Furthermore, it is conceived from the application of policies that reduce gender, territorial, socio-economic and generational gaps so that economic development is inclusive. Spain as an Entrepreneurial Nation is, in turn, the guiding strategy for the actions contemplated in component 13 of the PRTR aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and SMEs.

The most noteworthy advances of this Strategy, whose measures are currently being implemented, are the creation of the brand Spain as an Entrepreneurial Nation, aimed at protecting all initiatives related to innovative entrepreneurship, positioning Spain internationally as an attractive country to live, invest and do business in; the "Scaleup Spain" programme, aimed at increasing the competitiveness of companies with high growth potential; the public purchase of innovation; and the creation of the Next Tech Fund. Likewise, the Law for the Promotion of the Emerging Companies Ecosystem, known as the "Start-ups Law", which provides a regulatory environment for start-ups in Spain and favours the attraction of foreign talent and investment to our country, the international programme to attract female talent "The Break" and the ENISA Digital Entrepreneurs line of financing, endowed with 51 million euros, which will promote female digital entrepreneurship, have also been promoted. Finally, from a perspective of institutional governance, the presentation of the *Alliance for Spain as an Entrepreneurial Nation* in September 2022, whose members exceed 230 public and private entities, stands out among other actions.

Also noteworthy is the approval of the new **Law for the Creation and Growth of Companies**, which will not only facilitate the procedures for the creation of new companies, but will also improve aspects related to the financing of business activity (including greater efficiency of the instruments for combating commercial default) and the reinforcement of market unity.

Having analysed the progress of the three axes in their most general sense, it is worth focusing on the progress made with regard to **SMEs**. Indeed, one of the essential characteristics of the structure of the Spanish business sector is the predominance of small and medium-sized enterprises, since 99.85% of active companies in Spain have fewer than 250 employees, a figure which is added to the fact that 82.81% of the business fabric in our country has fewer than two employees, and are thus defined as micro-enterprises. Furthermore, SMEs generate 70% of employment in the country as a whole, so that the design and implementation of measures aimed at this type of company is essential to generate an impact on the economic system as a whole. In this respect, progress may be analysed in four main areas.

Firstly, from the point of view of ecological transition, it is worth highlighting the **aid programme for energy efficiency actions in SMEs and large companies in the industrial sector (INDUSTRIA III)**, which pro-

vides aid to promote actions in the industrial sector that reduce carbon dioxide emissions and final energy consumption by improving energy efficiency. It is also worth highlighting the development of the **ECOFIEM LINE** to promote business investment in projects that accelerate the ecological transition, which has been increased to 200 million euros. Between April 2021 and 2022, more than 23 million euros for five operations worth 26.8 million euros have been financed under the FIEM line.

Secondly, in the digital transition, the **SME Digitalisation Plan 2021-2025** stands out, aimed as it is at promoting basic digitalisation for SMEs, business and management training in digital skills. The Digital Kit Programme has been launched, with an investment of 3,067 million euros and whose main measure aims to facilitate the adoption of digital technologies by small companies (10 to 49 employees), micro-companies (1 to 9 employees) and self-employed workers in any sector of economic activity, thereby raising their level of digital maturity. This programme partially subsidises the costs of adopting basic digital solution packages, such as Internet presence, e-sales, cloud office, digital workplace, digitisation of basic processes, customer management, digital marketing or cybersecurity, among others. Each digitisation package is allocated a fixed subsidy amount that is determined in each call for proposals according to the size of the company and the sector of activity. On the other hand, an investment of 356 million euros is expected to be invested in digital skills training for SME managers and employees.

In addition, the **Digitalízate Plus** training platform has been developed, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, aimed at the professional and personal development of workers and SMEs, as well as the **Technological Fund for aid to SMEs in the retail trade sector** for their adaptation to new consumer habits and new technologies. This is a line of aid aimed at the digitalisation and sustainability of commercial SMEs and their associations. This line of aid has been territorialised in favour of the autonomous communities, which will publish their regulatory bases and calls for applications based on the Sector Conference Agreement.

Thirdly, as regards competitiveness and internationalisation, the development of the **Strategic Framework for SME Policy 2030 (MEPP 2030)** stands out as a national strategy that encompasses the set of national and European policies and instruments that promote the development and competitiveness of Spanish small and medium-sized enterprises. The MEPP is structured around 7 strategic axes: (1) Entrepreneurship; (2) Business management and talent; (3) Regulatory framework; (4) Financing; (5) Innovation and digitalisation; (6) Sustainability; (7) Internationalisation.

Lastly, the main line of action in entrepreneurship has the **CESCE (credit and insurance group) line of guarantees and working capital for SMEs and unlisted companies**, which includes coverage in the forms of Guarantees, Issuer Insurance, Exporter Bonds and Working Capital Loans, and is associated with international contracts for SMEs and unlisted companies. In March 2022 and cumulatively, CESCE has studied a total of 293 operations. A total of 164 policies have been signed (139 for guarantees and 25 for working capital) for a risk amount of 332.2 million euros (232.2 million euros for guarantees and 100 million euros for working capital). Of the total number of formalised policies, 107 have expired (219.2 million euros) and 53 policies are still in force (110.6 million euros). In addition, there are 10 offers in force, of which 8 correspond to guarantee operations and two to working capital operations, for a total amount of 17.6 million euros.

Having addressed the actions in support of the production sector in general, the following section describes the progress made in the priorities for action of this policy to accelerate sustainable development, addressing them for each of the production sectors. The first area refers to actions aimed at the primary sector, which are designed to promote its transition towards a more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural and livestock model in line with the mandate of the 2030 Agenda.

In the period covered by this report, the first highlight is the formal approval of the **Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy Post 2020 (PEPAC)**, which, in the period covered by this report, has had as an advance the preparation of the **Strategic Plan for the CAP (PEPAC) for Spain 2023-2027**⁹² by the European Commission through the Implementing Decision dated 31 August 2022. This formal approval makes it possible for the PEPAC to begin its implementation and monitoring phase on 1 January 2023.

Also noteworthy is the approval by the Council of Ministers and its referral to the Spanish Parliament in June 2022 of the **Draft Law regulating the management system of the Common Agricultural Policy and other related matters**, which seeks to incorporate into the state regulatory framework the Community provisions

on aspects relating to the management and control systems of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to enable a homogeneous application throughout the territory. The EU's CAP will undergo a major reform in 2023 with the aim of being a greener, fairer policy, more focused on achieving objectives and obtaining tangible results, with a less prescriptive approach than in previous reforms. It is a reform that provides a fairer, more social and more environmental CAP, with a better redistribution of support to boost family and professional farming. This new CAP gives greater subsidiarity to the Member States, which, under a common Community regulatory framework and on the basis of their specific situation and needs, have had to design their own interventions to achieve the goals defined in the framework of the Strategic Plan for the CAP 2023-2027.

This change of orientation makes it necessary to have the appropriate tools to allow for a harmonised application of all measures in the national territory. For this reason, the Spanish Government is coordinating the implementation of effective management and control systems, ensuring that their application is homogeneous throughout the national territory, and avoiding any discriminatory situation for beneficiaries, all the while guaranteeing compliance with European Union regulations within the framework of the CAP. The greater subsidiarity of the Member States has meant that certain aspects that were previously regulated in Community regulations must now be developed through national rules, such as the application of penalties and sanctions if beneficiaries do not comply with the conditions and obligations established for access to each future intervention of the National Strategic Plan.

A noteworthy aspect of this text is the need to guarantee the protection of the European Union's financial interests, which is why it is necessary to establish a national framework for action in cases where any undue payment to beneficiaries could occur in order to achieve homogeneous application in the national territory, and at the same time facilitate the action of the competent administrations in the fight against fraud. Progress is also incorporated in the corresponding legislative framework so that the whole process can be closed.

Within the framework of the actions to adapt the regulations to some of the reforms introduced in the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets (OCMA) Regulation and to comply with the objectives of the CAP, such as the conservation of biodiversity, or the objectives established in the European strategy "From farm to fork" for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system, the system of penalties in other agricultural matters related to the CAP is regulated. In particular, with regard to the marketing of olive oil and the olive oil market information system, compulsory declarations and contracting, producer organisations and producer associations in the milk and dairy products sector, the conservation of genetic resources, animal welfare legislation and the sustainable nutrition of agricultural soils. As a very relevant element, new social cross-compliance requirements are introduced, in addition to the existing environmentally enhanced cross-compliance requirements. These mechanisms directly link the granting of aid to compliance with environmental preservation criteria and respect for human and labour rights.

In this sector, the **Roadmap for organic production** and the Plan for the improvement of efficiency and sustainability in irrigation are notable as elements for increasing sustainability in the primary sector.

Likewise, the **aid programme for energy efficiency measures on farms** has been promoted through the Autonomous Communities, with the aim of encouraging energy savings, improving the competitiveness of the sector and contributing to the global objectives of reducing emissions. **Royal Decree 149/2021, of 9 March**, has been approved, which regulates the aid programme for the implementation of energy efficiency measures on agricultural holdings and agrees the direct granting of aid under this programme to the Autonomous Communities. This programme will be in force until 31 December 2023.

In the digital area, the **Digitalisation Strategy for the agri-food and forestry sector and the rural environment**, adopted by the Spanish Government in the Council of Ministers on 29 March 2019, stands out. It is a benchmark at European level and is aligned with similar documents at international level. It is deployed through action plans. The **2nd Action Plan 2021-2023**, currently in force, includes 21 measures and a budget of 64 million euros, with the aim of executing and financing actions that favour the digital transformation of the agri-food sector and allow all the agents that form part of the value chain of this sector to participate in this transition process. In 2022, the measures and actions included in this 2nd Action Plan have continued to be deployed, with the support of European funds and the General State Administration.

In addition to the ecological and digital transition, another of the priorities for action affecting the primary sector is linked to transparency in price formation and the protection of the food chain. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the recently published **Law 16/2021, of 14 December, which amends Law 12/2013, of 2 August, on measures to improve the functioning of the food supply chain**. This Law is aimed at improving the functioning and structuring of the food supply chain, to increase the efficiency and competitiveness

of the Spanish agri-food sector, reducing the imbalance in commercial relations between the different operators in the value chain and within the framework of fair competition that benefits not only the sector but also consumers. In this respect, one of the most important measures introduced is the prohibition of the destruction of value in the food chain contained in the new article 12b of the regulation. In this way, each agent in the food chain must pay the operator immediately upstream a price equal to or higher than the production cost it has incurred or assumed, prohibiting practices of selling at a loss to the final consumer.

As far as the Spanish **fisheries sector is concerned**, it is worth noting that it is the leading industrial producer in the European Union in terms of both volume (900,000 tonnes of catches in 2021) and turnover (4.5 billion euros in 2021), with a significant increase compared to previous years. In addition, the Spanish fleet is the largest in terms of capacity in the European Union and is the third largest in terms of number of blocks. It is, therefore, a key sector both in economic and territorial structuring terms, and is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which is why the commitment to the sustainable use of fishing resources must be one of its essential priorities.

In this area, one notable feature is the drafting of regulations for the promotion of sustainable fishing, which is expressed in the **Draft Law on Sustainable Fishing and Fishing Research**⁹³, currently undergoing parliamentary procedure. This legislation has sustainability as a cross-cutting theme, from a threefold perspective: conservation of fishing resources, economic activity and employment, and social cohesion in coastal areas. In addition, in January 2022, the **National Plan for the reduction of accidental catches in fishing activity** was published⁹⁴, in addition to the approval in June 2022 of a royal decree regulating fishing in the national peninsular fishing grounds, with the aim of unifying the regulations in this area, which until now had been dispersed in different regulations.

In line with these actions, there is a clear commitment to **Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest** as examples of protected areas under the Fisheries Act. The adaptive management that has been carried out in these areas since 1986 is a proven example of success due to its integrated approach: combining the commitment to the maintenance of fishery resources, but also to the habitat in which they develop. The Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest in external waters are part of the Natura 2000 Network and are Good Environmental Status sites. Furthermore, the line of scientific monitoring established as one of the pillars of management, and their good degree of conservation, mean that they have become areas with a degree of resilience to certain impacts, while allowing them to be sentinels of global change, with historical series of variables such as temperature and other physical and chemical parameters of the water column, or monitoring of invasive species, among other aspects, as well as allowing the recovery of seriously endangered specimens such as fan mussels.

At present there is a network of 12 Marine Reserves, whose development has made it possible to protect areas of importance for local fishing resources, allowing controlled activity and with strict monitoring to guarantee their sustainable use, with management based on three pillars: control and surveillance, scientific monitoring and dissemination. They represent a guarantee for the future, especially for traditional fishing, and allow for the development of the coastal areas in which they are located. With an investment of more than 4 million euros per year to maintain the management line, it is committed to its strengthening, through the study of new areas, and resources have been allocated within the framework of the PRTR to carry out studies to assess the feasibility of these new proposals. In addition, in October 2022 a new support vessel will enter service to strengthen the tasks of surveillance, control and scientific monitoring, with the provision of a second vessel planned, as well as the implementation of initiatives in the field of digitisation. All of these initiatives are aimed at strengthening the management and monitoring of this important network.

It is also worth highlighting the promotion of **sustainability, research, innovation and digitalisation of the fishing sector**. Among the actions included in this field of action, it is worth highlighting the monitoring device for the small-scale fleet and communications that develops an application for reporting catches, landing declarations and geolocation of the small-scale fishing fleet; the line of aid for the purchase of a device for sending catches and positioning, through this application, for the fleet of vessels less than 12 metres in length. Aid for the purchase of devices is provided through the Spanish Federation of Fishermen's Associations and an agreement with this entity is currently being processed. Also noteworthy is the aid for

93 Document accessible [here](#).

94 Document accessible [here](#).

the installation of the Remote Monitoring System, monitoring their catches for control and follow-up. Thirty-one applications have been received and a maximum of 15,000 euros per application is granted.

In addition, **actions in support of fisheries and aquaculture research**, which will also include training, reinforce scientific advice as a basis for sustainable fisheries management. Within the framework of component 3 of the PRTR, actions in the field of fisheries research and training have been increased through the adoption of various collaboration agreements with research institutes (CSIC-IEO, AZTI Foundation, and the universities of Las Palmas and Leon), which respond to the need to consolidate and recognise the best scientific knowledge available as the first pillar for decision-making in fisheries management. This has made it possible to develop projects that respond to the management priorities established at both European and national level, combining the three pillars of sustainability: biological, social and economic, thus developing important areas such as the Mediterranean, cetaceans, electronic observers, advances in the assessment of data-poor stocks, red coral and vulnerable marine ecosystems. In addition, the capacity of fishing and oceanographic research vessels has been improved by renewing the probes used in acoustic campaigns, and the collection of basic information through on-board observers targeting cetaceans and deep-sea species is being promoted.

Finally, in the **field of livestock farming**, this policy to accelerate sustainable development includes as one of its priorities for action the development and updating of regulations on the management of livestock farms to ensure their sustainability based on the harmonious and orderly development of the sector. In this regard, the publication of Royal Decree 637/2021, of 27 July, establishing the basic rules for the management of poultry farms, stands out. As regards cattle farms, the **draft royal decree that will establish the basic regulations on the management of cattle farms**, which introduces basic infrastructure, management, biosecurity and environmental requirements to contribute to the European Union's global efforts in terms of climate action and the protection of biodiversity.

Among the advances that have been made with respect to the priorities for action of this policy to accelerate sustainable development 4 in the **industrial sector**, the challenges related to increasing its weight in the national economy, boosting R&D+i and innovative activity, as well as adapting the sector to the digital and ecological transition with a more intensive use of new technologies, and increasing energy efficiency in industrial processes, stand out.

Firstly, the programme to support the digital transformation of industry, **Connected Industry 4.0**, aimed at articulating measures to enable the Spanish industrial fabric to benefit from the intensive use of information and communications technologies and advisory measures for business restructuring processes for the incorporation of R&D+i policies or 4.0 technologies and artificial intelligence. The programme finances projects that promote the digital transformation of industrial companies and the improvement of their environmental sustainability as a result of their digitalisation. In particular, this action aims to support the incorporation of knowledge, technologies and innovations aimed at the digitisation of processes and the creation of technologically advanced products and services with greater added value in industrial companies. Within this framework, during the period analysed, 33 projects have been financed for a total amount of almost ten million euros, of which 18 correspond to the Activa-SMEs line and 15 to the Activa - Large Implementations line.

Secondly, the **Productive Industrial Investment Support Fund (FAIP)**, which finances private commercial companies and cooperatives that carry out or will carry out productive industrial activity and industrial services, regardless of their size, supporting the creation and relocation of establishments, as well as improvements and/or modifications to production lines and processes. It expressly includes the productive implementation of "Connected Industry 4.0" technologies and actions oriented towards environmental sustainability. This Fund, active since July 2021, has received 168 applications for funding until April 2022, of which 12 have been approved until the first four months of 2022. The 12 projects supported will receive a total funding of 159,160,000 euros to mobilise investments worth 250,374,805 euros and generate 764 direct jobs. By company size, large companies, with a mobilised investment of 224,507,863.61 euros, will receive 150,659,000.00 euros in funding and will create 701 jobs. The main sectors that will be supported through the Fund are the aluminium production sector (National Classification of Economic Activities code 2442) with 59.4 million euros in financing and the flat glass handling and transformation sector (National Classification of Economic Activities code 2312) with 47.6 million euros granted.

Thirdly, the **Programme of financial support for R&D+i in the manufacturing industry** through technological development and innovation projects in the industrial manufacturing sector. The programme grants funding to industrial companies in the implementation of industrial research projects, technological devel-

opment, process and organisational innovation, as well as investments focused on sustainability through the improvement of energy efficiency and environmental protection beyond EU standards. All projects are implemented in the value chain of the manufacturing industry and fall within one of the following thematic priorities: circular economy and eco-innovation, decarbonisation, energy efficiency, new renewable energy sources and reduction of polluting emissions, advanced materials and products, innovation in quality and safety processes, or innovations in the production process derived from the priority of advanced materials and products.

In the 2021 call, with a budget of 94 million euros, 30 projects were supported for an amount of 57,413,530.18 euros, of which 47.379 million euros were granted in the form of a loan and 10.034 million euros in the form of a grant.

Fourthly, the **Indirect Cost Compensation Programme under the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)** as a compensation mechanism for indirect costs attributable to GHG emissions passed on in electricity prices to avoid industrial relocation processes. During 2021, the ordinary call was made for costs incurred by companies in 2020, the last year in which the current guidelines were in force, through an early call in November 2020, which was subsequently modified by two orders published between May and June 2021. These modifications adjusted the deadline for submitting applications and the final amount allocated to this aid, which amounted to 178,999,998.53 euros.

Fifth, the **Spanish Reserve Fund for guarantees for electricity-intensive entities (FERGEI)**, which is a state-owned fund without a legal status, under the provisions of article 2.2 of Law 47/2003, of 26 November, General Budgetary Law, to which hedging operations and the issuing of guarantees for insolvency risks, de facto or de jure, which are assumed on behalf of the State, are to be attributed.

Finally, the **Plan for the Promotion of the audiovisual sector (Spain Audiovisual Hub)**, which aims to improve Spain's attractiveness to become an international benchmark for attracting production, business and investment in the audiovisual sector. Among the various actions carried out within the framework of this plan, firstly, the approval of the new **General Audiovisual Communication Law 13/2022 of 7 July** stands out. Secondly, in the year 2022, a call for aid has been launched for the **R&D Projects Programme for audiovisual and video game technologies for an amount of 30 million euros**. Thirdly, the ICO financing plan, which has channelled 675 million euros for the sector in 4,000 operations, and the ENISA financing plan, which has granted participative loans to the audiovisual sector in the amount of 6.9 million euros. Other developments in this area include the creation of the **Spain Audiovisual Hub** web platform⁹⁵, as a centralised information point, and the granting of direct subsidies to the Spain Film Commission and RTVE for the implementation of the Haz Project, which will train 40,800 people in the audiovisual sector. Finally, a specific scheme has been created to promote the international mobility of workers in this sector through Order PCM/1238/2021 of 12 November.

As far as the **services sector** is concerned, the main actions have focused on the tourism sector due to its strategic nature in terms of economic impact and employment in the Spanish economy as a whole. In this area, the **Plan for the Modernisation and Competitiveness of the tourism sector (PMCT)** stands out as a priority for action, with five strategic areas of action: sustainability, product development and the modernisation of the tourism ecosystem, the promotion of digitalisation and tourism intelligence, tourism resilience strategies for non-mainland territories and the promotion of deseasonalisation.

The PMCT is in full swing and its budget execution exceeds 916 million euros, 26.9% of the total plan, which has been allocated 3.4 billion euros. Within its framework, the **Tourism Sustainability Plans for Destinations 2021** are being developed, which constitute the backbone of the PMCT, as they are endowed with 1,858 million euros, 54.6% of the plan as a whole, in compliance with the established timetable. In the 2021 edition, 660 million euros were transferred to the autonomous communities, while the 2022 plans have already been announced and are in the evaluation phase with a budget of 720 million euros.

In addition, other **actions** have been developed **in the area of competitiveness**, amounting to 173 million euros. Competitiveness is also aimed at improving sustainability and deseasonalisation, such as the **Tourism Experiences in Spain Strategy**, which calls for aid to projects for networks of stakeholders that develop sustainable, digital and inclusive tourism experiences throughout the country or in at least three autonomous communities, with a budget of 100 million euros; and the **Smart Tourism Destinations (DTI)** call for

proposals aimed at promoting the digital transition and the ecological transition in the tourism sector, with a budget of 6 million euros. As part of this digital and ecological transition approach, a call for research centres is also being carried out, endowed with one million euros, aimed at proposing solutions to economic, environmental and technological problems through R&D. Likewise, support has been given to the Tourism Resilience Strategies for non-peninsular territories, and 114 million euros have been granted for the rehabilitation of historical heritage for tourism use.

Another of the priorities for action relates to the **Spain 2030 Sustainable Tourism Strategy**, which aims to lay the foundations for the transformation of Spanish tourism towards a model of sustained and sustainable growth that will enable Spain to maintain its position as a world leader. Thus, it aims to guide the evolution of the Spanish tourism system over the next decade and should be the framework for intervention by all public and private stakeholders in the sector over the coming years. In this area, the Spanish Tourism Council (CONESTUR) has approved the methodological process by which the Strategy 2030 will be drawn up as a strategic approach for continuity after the deployment of the Tourism Sector Modernisation and Competitiveness Plan.

However, after addressing all the advances made in the framework of the Spanish economy and in its different production sectors, it is important to review the progress made in those priorities for action focused on two areas conceived as key tools and catalysts in achieving a new green, digital and fair economic and productive model, namely **science, technology and innovation**, and **education and culture**.

With regard to **science, technology and innovation**, the essential objective of country challenge 4 is to increase public investment in both science and innovation with the aim of bringing it up to the European Union average. In this way, the **Pact for Science and Innovation** is a key initiative, presented to the Congress of Deputies on 4 March 2021, which has already been signed by nearly 90 signatory entities. The Pact includes, as its main objective, the progressive increase of public investment in science and innovation, detailed in the following commitments: that public funding in R&D+i, excluding financial items, should increase regularly so that it reaches 1.25% of GDP in 2030, which will mean reaching 0.75% by 2024; that public policies for knowledge transfer and business innovation should be reinforced in the same proportion, with special attention to SMEs; that, in the event of a reduction in public spending, R&D+i funding should not be reduced in absolute terms. It should also be noted that on 31 March 2021 the Congress of Deputies approved the Report of the Subcommittee on the Pact for Science and Innovation, which includes a series of recommendations for its achievement that have been incorporated in the parliamentary processing of the amendment of the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation, approved in August 2022. The Pact has also been incorporated as one of the levers of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.

In line with the provisions of the Pact, there has been an **increase in the general state budget** for 2021 and 2022, making it the budget with the greatest investment in **science and innovation** in history. In 2021, the consolidated non-financial budget reached 3,764.66 million euros, a figure that in 2022 reaches 4,544.70 million euros. Moreover, taking into account the consolidated budget, the general state budget of 2022 represented an increase of 21.04% compared to 2021 (790 million more), 8.68% if the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan is not taken into account. With the 2022 increase, the target of reaching 0.75% of GDP in 2024 would be met, 2 years ahead of schedule.

Within this framework, new knowledge transfer and innovation policies have been implemented, including the **Transfer Dynamisation Programme (DINA Programme)**, the **Cervera Network R&D Projects** financed by the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), and the commitment of 120 million euros from the CDTI to three venture capital fund managers specialising in Technology Transfer within the framework of the **Invierte Programme**.

The Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy 2021-2027 was approved in September 2020 with the aim of encouraging private investment in R&D in order to double the sum of public and private investment in R&D+i to 2.12% of GDP by 2027. This aim is set out in its first line of action, which, in addition to the budget increase, envisages incentives for private investment through subsidies and the establishment of appropriate lines to facilitate the use of European funds.

In order to fulfil the established objectives, the **State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation (PEICTI) 2021-2023** is divided into four programmes, which in turn are broken down into sub-programmes related to the specific objectives. The **State Programme to promote scientific-technical research and its Transfer**, and specifically the sub-programmes of Knowledge Transfer, Institutional Strengthening and Scientific-Technical Infrastructure and Equipment, are related to the achievement of this priority for

action. Most of the lines of action of these sub-programmes are already in place and foreseen in the 2022 Annual Action Programme: proof of concept projects with an initial budget of 40 million euros, public-private collaboration projects for 200 million euros, Cervera Transfer R&D projects with 43 million euros, and the Programme to catalyse innovation with an overall budget of 1,126.6 million euros.

In addition, within the framework of both actions, the Pact for Science and Innovation and the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation, the CDTI has deployed a series of aids that contribute to promoting innovation and knowledge transfer, including the Science and Innovation Missions, the Cervera Programme for Technology Centres, the Neotec+ and Neotec Women Grants, the Innovation Line and temporary programmes such as the Aeronautics Technology Programme (PTA) and the Sustainable Automotive Technology Programme (PTAS).

Law 17/2022 of 5 September has been approved, **amending Law 14/2011 of 1 June on Science, Technology and Innovation**, aimed at strengthening the regulatory framework of the science, technology and innovation sector, in order to improve the governance and coordination of the sector, achieve an attractive scientific career, and improve the transfer of knowledge from the field of research to that of application to products and services for the benefit of society. This reform is aimed at strengthening the capacities of the **Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System** to improve its efficiency, coordination, governance and knowledge transfer. In the short term, the objective is to tackle the country's economic and social recovery through science and innovation. In the medium and long term, the aim is to consolidate a solid system of knowledge generation and transfer to address major challenges, such as the ecological and just transition, digitalisation and the demographic challenge.

For its part, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, two strategic projects for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE) are being promoted: PERTE for Cutting-Edge Health and PERTE Aerospace⁹⁶. The former brings together public and private initiatives to drive the qualitative transformation of the health sector based on a collaborative model for transformation linked to scientific knowledge, cutting-edge health innovation and data. Its objectives and scope are extensively detailed in the chapter on Accelerating Policy6 for sustainable development.

PERTE Aerospace is a research and innovation initiative that will enable the Spanish aerospace industry to face the new challenges and opportunities that the sector is experiencing and will seek to position it at the global forefront. It is the first PERTE of international scope, combining recovery funds from Spain and Portugal and including cooperation projects through the European Space Agency (ESA). It is a transformational project for the country in a sector with great growth potential for the economy.

Finally, the so-called **Complementary Plans with the Autonomous Communities** have been launched, which is a new instrument aimed at establishing collaborations in R&D+i actions that have common objectives based on interests reflected in the State and Autonomous Community Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3). The aim is to create synergies, align the execution of funds and establish common priorities. To achieve this, 8 areas of scientific-technical interest have been selected within the EECTI lines: biotechnology applied to health, marine sciences, quantum communication, renewable energy and hydrogen, agri-food, astrophysics and high-energy physics, (7) advanced materials and (8) biodiversity.

With the aim of building territorial synergies, these Complementary Plans envisage the participation of several Autonomous Communities in a programme, with the possibility of participating in several of them. By doing so it is possible to take advantage of unique capacities and infrastructures, together with the possible participation of companies. The programmes will have a duration of 2 or 3 years, with co-financing commitments and co-governance mechanisms, boosting territorial economic transformation. In total, 444.8 million euros are expected to be mobilised until 2025, of which 285.3 million euros will be financed by the central government and the rest co-financed by the autonomous communities.

Next, the Accelerating Policy of Country Challenge 4 focuses on strengthening **vocational and continuing training** programmes as an essential instrument for workers, enabling not only their adaptation and effective participation in a changing labour market, but also as an element that guarantees an inclusive transition and individual and collective empowerment.







96 Documentation available [here](#).
















In this regard, it is worth highlighting the development of the **First Strategic Plan for Vocational Training 2019-2022 of the Education System**, the **Plan for the Modernisation of Vocational Training** and the adoption of **Organic Law 3/2022, of 31 March, on the organisation and integration of Vocational Training**, which aims at a global transformation of the vocational training system to turn it into a single system that is the gateway to quality employment for young people, and which responds to the expectations and aspirations of people throughout their lives for professional qualifications, as well as to the demand of the production sectors. This new Vocational Training system is accompanied by the revision of all existing training offers, as well as the creation of an estimated number of 80 new qualifications, which may vary depending on the requirements of the production sectors.


















In particular, 186 vocational training qualifications (grades D) and 584 certificates of professionalism (grades C) are being revised. Likewise, new specialisation courses are being created (grades E), and the creation of grades A and B is pending development. All these degrees, whether existing, under revision or newly created, contain transversal or specific training elements necessary to guarantee environmental sustainability in the profession offered by the degrees, as well as the elements of applied digitalisation that enable the skills to be achieved in the workplace.

















Finally, in the **cultural field**, the presentation on 23 December 2021 of the new **Plan for the Promotion of Reading 2021-2024**, which identifies 12 challenges, including the redefinition of the concept of reading, the promotion of bibliodiversity, the improvement of reading rates, the promotion of equality in access to reading, the visibility of reading as a driver of economic development and innovation, as well as the establishment of partnerships in both the public and private spheres.





In order to respond to these challenges, a series of programmes have been set up with allocations in the 2022 General Budget, including the following: **aid for literary creation, non-profit institutions, local entities and private companies** (bookshops) for the promotion of reading and the dissemination of Spanish literature, the **competition to promote reading among young people** and the **programme to encourage reading in rural areas**.
















Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
<p>By 2030, transform the industrial fabric, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, adapting it to the dual ecological and digital transition, and increasing their contribution to GDP to 20%.</p>	<p>Digitalisation strategy for the agri-food and forestry sector and the rural environment.</p>	<p>2nd Action Plan 2021-2023 (10 December 2021).</p> <p>It includes 21 measures to support the digital transformation of the sector.</p>	
	<p>Programme to support the digital transformation of industry (Connected Industry 4.0), aimed at articulating measures to enable the Spanish industrial fabric to benefit from the intensive use of information and communication technologies.</p>	<p>Order ICT/235/2022, of 23 March, which amends Order ICT/713/2021, of 29 June, which establishes the regulatory bases for the granting of aid for R&D+i projects in the field of connected industry 4.0 (Activa_Financing).</p> <p>Order ICT/819/2022, of 12 August, which establishes the regulatory bases for the granting of aid aimed at promoting the growth of SMEs through the "Activa Industry 4.0", "Activa Growth" and "Activa Cybersecurity" programmes, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Order ICT/1426/2021, of 14 December, which establishes the regulatory bases for the granting of aid aimed at promoting innovation through the "Activa Startups" initiative, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p>	
	<p>Programme of financial support for R&D+i in the manufacturing industry through technological development and innovation projects in the industrial manufacturing sector.</p>	<p>Order ICT/309/2022, of 31 March, which modifies Order ICT/789/2021, of 16 July, which establishes the regulatory bases for the granting of aid for innovation and sustainability plans in the manufacturing industry, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p>	
	<p>Indirect Cost Offsetting Scheme under the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).</p>	<p>Royal Decree 309/2022, of 3 May, which establishes the indirect cost compensation mechanism for industrial sectors and sub-sectors deemed to be exposed to a significant risk of carbon leakage during the period 2021-2030.</p>	
	<p>Spanish Reserve Fund for guarantees for electro-intensive entities (FERGEI) to support the electro-intensive industry in its transition to an emission-free model.</p>	<p>Development of actions of the FERGEI, a state-owned fund without legal personality, under the provisions of Article 2.2 of Law 47/2003, of 26 November, General Budgetary Law (CM 20 June 2020).</p>	
	<p>Long-term Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Spanish Economy in 2050, which shows the path towards decarbonisation.</p>	<p>Development of actions of the Long-Term Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Spanish Economy by 2050 (CM 3 November 2020)</p> <p>Order TED/1444/2021, of 22 December, which approves the regulatory bases for the granting of aid corresponding to the incentive programme for the renewable hydrogen innovation and knowledge value chain within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Order TED/1445/2021, of 22 December, which approves the regulatory bases for the granting of aid corresponding to the incentive programme for pioneering and unique renewable hydrogen projects within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p>	  
	<p>Development of the New Industrial Policy Guidelines 2030</p>	<p>Industrial Policy Spain 2030 included in Component 12 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (approved on 26 June 2021).</p>	
	<p>Aid for energy efficiency measures in SMEs and large companies in the industrial sector (Royal Decree-Law 1186/2020).</p>	<p>Resolution of 15 July 2021, on the Diversification and Energy Saving Institute, E.P.E., M.P., publishing the Resolution of 15 July 2021, of the Board of Directors, extending the budget of the aid programme for energy efficiency actions in SMEs and large companies in the industrial sector, regulated by Royal Decree 263/2019, of 12 April.</p>	
	<p>The Productive Industrial Investment Support Fund (FAIIP) is intended to provide financial support to promote industrial investments that contribute to industrial development, strengthen its competitiveness and maintain industrial capacities.</p>	<p>Fund to Support Productive Industrial Investment created by the fifty-seventh additional provision of Law 11/2020, of 30 December, on the General State Budget for 2021. Active as from 15 July 2021.</p>	
	<p>Promotion of Sustainable Finance, which has the dual mission of launching a sovereign green bond issuance programme and developing a national sustainable finance plan.</p>	<p>Development of actions of the Working Group for the Structuring of the Sovereign Green Bond Issues of the Kingdom of Spain and the Promotion of Sustainable Finance (Government Delegate Commission for Economic Affairs, 5 March 2021)</p>	
<p>Updating of Law 11/2018 on non-financial information and diversity, for the incorporation of reliable and comparable sustainability reports of companies, in accordance with the future European directive on the matter.</p>	<p>The Sustainability Directive amending Directive 2014/95 of 22 October is still under negotiation within the EU, so that no internal transposition has yet taken place to update Law 11/2018.</p>		
<p>Plan to boost the audiovisual sector (Spain Audiovisual Hub), which aims to improve Spain's attractiveness as a leading international platform for attracting production, business and investment in the audiovisual sector.</p>	<p>Plan to boost the audiovisual sector Spain, Audiovisual Hub of Europe (CM of 4 July 2022 in the framework of the Spain Digital Agenda 2026).</p> <p>Law 13/2022, of 7 July, General of Audiovisual Communication.</p>		
<p>CESCE's guarantee and working capital lines for SMEs and unlisted companies which include coverage for Guarantees, Issuer Insurance, Exporter Bonds and Working Capital Loans and are associated with international contracts for SMEs and unlisted companies.</p>	<p>Extension of CESCE's line of guarantees and working capital for SMEs and listed companies to 400 million euros in 2022 by the Government's Delegate Commission for Economic Affairs.</p>		
<p>Compliance with the OECD Council Recommendation on Common approaches for officially supported export credits and environmental and social due diligence, which establishes the need to carry out an analysis resulting in a classification of projects according to their environmental and/or social impact in financing operations.</p>	<p>Development of the Recommendation for obtaining financing with official support for hedging operations charged to the ECESB's State account or financing charged to the EMFF that fall within the scope of the Common Approaches.</p>		
<p>Spanish Strategy for the Promotion of the Social Economy 2021-2027, as a mechanism for articulating public support for this model.</p>	<p>Development of the Integral Plan to promote the Social Economy for the generation of an inclusive and sustainable economic fabric.</p>		

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
<p>By 2030, foster digital entrepreneurship and collaboration between agents related to digital entrepreneurship in Spain, as well as improve the application of existing rules for the internationalisation of Spanish start-ups and the attraction of foreign capital and talent.</p>	<p>Spain as an Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy, for economic and social recovery linked to the modernisation of the productive system and favouring the creation of quality employment.</p>	<p>Brand for Spain Entrepreneurial Nation.</p> <p>Law on the Promotion of the Start-up Ecosystem ("Start-up Law"). In the pipeline.</p> <p>Scaleup Spain, aimed at increasing the competitiveness of companies with high growth potential.</p> <p>International Women's Talent Attraction Programme (The Break).</p> <p>Institutionalisation through Order PCM/920/2021, of 1 September, which creates and regulates the Advisory Council for Spain as an Entrepreneurial Nation and the Alliance for Spain as an Entrepreneurial Nation.</p> <p>Programme to promote women's digital entrepreneurship.</p>	     
<p>By 2030, promote innovative models of sustainable and responsible consumption, including products and services, based on transparency of information on the characteristics of goods and services, their durability, reparability and energy efficiency, as well as consideration of their effects on biodiversity and impact on climate change, through measures such as the EU Ecolabel and the promotion of awareness-raising campaigns aimed at citizens.</p>	<p>The Spanish Circular Economy Strategy establishes as objectives applicable to the production system for 2030 an effort to reduce by 30% the national consumption of materials in relation to GDP by 2030, a 15% reduction in the total generation of waste, a 50% reduction in the case of the food chain and a 20% reduction in the production and supply chains from 2020, taking 2010 as a reference year.</p>	<p>Strategic Project for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE) of Circular Economy (CM of 8 March 2022).</p> <p>Development of actions of the Circular Economy Action Plan - PAEC 2021-2023 (MC of 25 May 2021).</p>	      
<p>By 2030, achieve a Science and Innovation Pact that ensures a progressive increase in public funding for R&D and innovation to 0.75% of GDP by 2024, and 1.25% by 2030, reinforcing, in the same proportion, public policies for knowledge transfer and business innovation, with special attention to SMEs, and also enabling the autonomy of public bodies so that their strategic direction and operation are based on scientific and innovative excellence.</p>	<p>Science and Innovation Pact to commit to a progressive increase in the necessary public investment in both science and innovation, with the aim of bringing it up to the EU average.</p> <p>Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy 2021-2027 aimed at encouraging private investment in R&D in order to double the sum of public and private investment in R&D+i to 2.12% of GDP by 2027.</p> <p>Reform of the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation that sets the objective that public R&D funding, in line with European standards, should increase regularly to reach 1.25% of GDP by 2030.</p> <p>Science and Innovation Shock Plan, which commits to three axes: research and innovation in health, the transformation of the science system and the attraction of talent, and the promotion of business R&D and innovation and the science industry.</p>	<p>Incorporation of the Pact in the levers of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR), specifically Policy Lever VI "Pact for Science and Innovation. Strengthening the capacities of the National Health System".</p> <p>State Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research Plan 2021-2023 (CM 15 June 2021).</p> <p>Law 17/2022, of 5 September, amending Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation.</p> <p>Spanish Strategy for Personalised Medicine in the pipeline.</p> <p>COVID Fund call with €24M in extraordinary resources.</p>	   

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
By 2030, consolidate a stable and secure scientific career, improving incentives for the recruitment of equivalent research and technical staff, enabling the attraction and retention of scientific talent through recruitment modalities such as the tenure track.	Reform of the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation that sets the objective by which public R&D funding, in line with European standards, should increase regularly to reach 1.25% of GDP by 2030.	Royal Decree-Law 29/2021, of 21 December, which adopts urgent measures in the field of energy to promote electric mobility, self-consumption and the deployment of renewable energies, which introduces a partial modification of the Law on Science". Royal Decree-Law 8/2022, of 5 April, which adopts urgent measures in the field of employment contracts in the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System.	 
By 2030, promote an Open Science Strategy that promotes open access to knowledge as a roadmap in different areas.	Open Science Strategy to foster open access to knowledge and international cooperation	In the pipeline.	 
By 2030, to promote a sustainable tourism model for local destinations, encouraging an equitable distribution of the wealth and impacts generated by tourism activity, through the approval and development of Tourism Sustainability Plans and the full application of the Sector Plan for Nature Tourism and Biodiversity, promoting the system for recognising the sustainability of nature tourism in the Natura 2000 Network.	Plan for the Modernisation and Competitiveness of the tourism sector , which deploys five strategic areas of action: sustainability, product development and modernisation of the tourism ecosystem, the promotion of digitalisation and tourism intelligence, tourism resilience strategies for non-mainland territories and the promotion of deseasonalisation. Spain's Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2030.	Plan for the modernisation and competitiveness of the tourism sector (PMCT) is component 14, of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (CM of 16 June 2021). In the pipeline.	  
By 2030, to promote a sustainable tourism model for local destinations, encouraging an equitable distribution of the wealth and impacts generated by tourism activity, through the approval and development of Tourism Sustainability Plans and the full application of the Sector Plan for Nature Tourism and Biodiversity, promoting the system for recognising the sustainability of nature tourism in the Natura 2000 Network.	Smart Destinations Network , aimed at promoting the digital transition and the ecological transition in the tourism sector. Tourism Sustainability Plans in Destinations as an instrument for intervention by the Spanish tourism administration in the process of transforming the sector.	Order ICT/414/2022, of 9 May (BOE 11/05/2022), which amends Order ICT/1527/2021, of 30 December, which approves the regulatory bases for the Aid Programme for the digital transformation and modernisation of local entities that form part of the Network of Smart Tourist Destinations. Agreement of the Sector Conference on Tourism of 29 March 2022: extraordinary edition of the Tourism Sector Plans. Tourism Sustainability in Destinations.	 
By 2030, to promote a sustainable tourism model for local destinations, encouraging an equitable distribution of the wealth and impacts generated by tourism activity, through the approval and development of Tourism Sustainability Plans and the full application of the Sector Plan for Nature Tourism and Biodiversity, promoting the system for recognising the sustainability of nature tourism in the Natura 2000 Network.	Plan for the Defence of Historical Heritage to prevent, investigate and prosecute heritage-related crimes.	Development of actions provided for in Service Order 4/2012 with the aim of unifying in a single planning instrument the instructions, tasks and coordination measures for all Services and Units of the Civil Guard Corps. The Order establishing the regulatory bases for the Programme for the improvement of competitiveness and revitalisation of the historical heritage for tourist use within the framework of the PRTR (C14.14.3) is being processed.	 
By 2023, 12,000 companies accredited by the tourism sector quality system and 30,000 people in the sector trained in innovation, quality, accessibility, governance and sustainability skills in tourism destinations.	Smart Destinations Network , aimed at promoting the digital and green transition in the tourism sector.	Order ICT/1527/2021, of 30 December, approving the regulatory bases for the Aid Programme for the digital transformation and modernisation of local entities that form part of the Network of Smart Tourist Destinations.	     

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
<p>By 2022, reduce the incidence of planned obsolescence through the promotion of product reparability</p>	<p>The Spanish Circular Economy Strategy establishes as objectives applicable to the production system for 2030 an effort to reduce by 30% the national consumption of materials in relation to GDP by 2030, a 15% reduction in the total generation of waste, a 50% reduction in the case of the food chain and a 20% reduction in the production and supply chains from 2020, taking 2010 as a reference year.</p>	<p>Law 7/2022 of 8 April on waste and contaminated soils for a circular economy.</p> <p>Strategic Project for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE) of the Circular Economy, approved in CM of 8 March 2022.</p> <p>Development of actions of the Circular Economy Action Plan - PAEC 2021-2023 (MC of 25 May 2021).</p>	     
<p>By 2027, meet the climate and environmental objectives of the new Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027, as a contribution to the EU's overall climate action and biodiversity protection efforts.</p>	<p>Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy Post 2020 (PESPAC), which will contain the instruments to promote an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural sector.</p> <p>Development and updating of the regulations on the management of livestock farms, prioritising those livestock sectors that do not yet have this basis, with the aim of promoting a harmonious and orderly development of livestock farming that guarantees its sustainability from an economic, social and environmental point of view.</p> <p>State Strategy for the Management and Promotion of Extensive Livestock Farming, which establishes the conditions that should guide the use of an extensive model for the use of the territory's pasture resources.</p> <p>Aid programme for the implementation of energy efficiency measures on agricultural holdings through the Autonomous Communities.</p>	<p>Development of the CAP Strategic Plan (PEPAC) for Spain 2023/2027 (18 R.D and 1 Law).</p> <p>Royal Decree 637/2021, of 27 July, which establishes the basic rules for the management of poultry farms.</p> <p>Draft Royal Decree which establishes the basic regulations on the management of cattle farms in the pipeline.</p> <p>Royal Decree 149/2021, of 9 March, which regulates the aid programme for the implementation of energy efficiency measures in agricultural holdings and agrees the direct granting of aid under this programme to the Autonomous Communities.</p> <p>Royal Decree 948/2021, of 2 November, which establishes the regulatory bases for the granting of State aid for the implementation of investment projects under the Plan to boost the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture and livestock farming (III).</p>	     
<p>By 2030, improve the management of water resources, encouraging sustainable irrigation, as a key element to contribute to environmental sustainability and the future of agriculture in Spain.</p>	<p>Sustainable irrigation policy through modernisation to enable more efficient management of water resources and energy consumption, as well as the protection of traditional rural livelihoods and best practices.</p>	<p>Plan to improve efficiency and sustainability in irrigation, with the aim of reducing and optimising water and energy consumption in these production systems. Signing of the MAPA-SEIASA agreements, Phase I and Phase II.</p>	   

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
<p>By 2030, reduce food waste generation along the entire food chain, reducing food waste by 50% per capita at household and retail level, and by 20% in the production and supply chains.</p>	<p>Food chain law to promote transparency in price formation and to protect the weakest links in the chain.</p> <p>Law 7/2022 on waste and contaminated land for a circular economy.</p>	<p>Law 16/2021 of 14 December amending Law 12/2013 of 2 August on measures to improve the functioning of the food supply chain.</p> <p>Law 7/2022 of 8 April on waste and contaminated land for a circular economy, which expressly includes food waste reduction targets.</p> <p>Draft Law on Prevention of Food Losses and Food Waste in the pipeline.</p>	
<p>By 2030, generate a significant increase in agricultural land devoted to organic farming, as well as organic aquaculture production, as a contribution to European organic farming targets.</p>	<p>Development of the Roadmap for organic production</p>	<p>Development of the Roadmap for organic production.</p> <p>Development of publicity campaigns to publicise organic production in Spain and promote its consumption.</p> <p>Participation in the High-Level Group set up by the COM "EU Green Ambassadors".</p>	
<p>Until 2030, strengthen mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, the management of marine reserves of fisheries interest and action against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.</p>	<p>Commitment to Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest, as examples of protected areas under the Fisheries Act.</p> <p>Actions in support of fisheries and aquaculture research, which will also include a training dimension, reinforcing scientific advice as a basis for sustainable fisheries management.</p>	<p>Management of marine reserves of fishing interest, spaces created for the regeneration of the fishing resource and the maintenance of the environment.</p> <p>Sustainable Fisheries and Fisheries Research Bill in the pipeline.</p>	
<p>By 2025, digitise 1.5 million SMEs and achieve at least 25% of their turnover from e-commerce</p>	<p>SME Digitalisation Plan 2021-2025 aimed at promoting basic digitalisation for SMEs, business and management training in digital skills.</p> <p>Strategic Framework in SME Policy 2030, as a mechanism for articulating the policies of the General State Administration, the Autonomous Communities and Local Bodies in support of SMEs.</p> <p>Technology Fund to help SMEs in the retail trade sector to adapt to new consumer habits and new technologies</p>	<p>The Digital Kit programme, the Plan's main measure, has been launched with an investment of 3,067 million euros.</p> <p>Second monitoring report of the MEPP 2030, approved by the State SME Council.</p> <p>Sectoral Conference agreement concluded on regulatory bases and calls for proposals for 2022.</p>	

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	SDG
By 2025, strengthen the digital skills of workers and citizens as a whole so that 80% of the population has basic digital skills.	National Digital Skills Plan , which responds to the need to develop the digital skills and abilities of both workers and citizens as a whole.	National Digital Skills Plan (CM of 26 January 2021, within the framework of the Digital Agenda for Spain).	   
By 2030, increase by 25% the number of companies per territory and the number of agreements between companies and public administrations, with special attention to the promotion of green entrepreneurship and the use of employment opportunities generated by the ecological transition.	ECOFIEM LINE to encourage business investment in projects that accelerate the ecological transition.	Budgetary extension of the ECOFIEM Facility in 2022 to EUR 200 million.	   
By 2025, guarantee the connectivity of the business fabric by making it possible for 100% of industrial estates to have a scalable gigabit connection. By 2025 ensure 100% 100 Mbps coverage of the population.	Plan for connectivity and digital infrastructure that will continue to expand high-speed broadband coverage, so as to reach a speed of 100 megabits per second for 100% of the population by 2025.	Law 11/2022 General Law on Telecommunications. Component 15 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (CM of 16 June 2021).	 
By 2025, 75% of Spain's population with uninterrupted 5G coverage on major roads and railways of the country and 100% of the spectrum available for 5G.	Strategy to boost the development of 5G technology , which enables hyper-connectivity.	Law 11/2022 General Law on Telecommunications. Component 15 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (MC of 16 June 2021). New National Frequency Allocation Table (Nafta) approved on 27 December 2021.	 
By 2025, 20,000 new specialists in areas such as artificial intelligence or cyber security	1st Strategic Plan for Vocational Training 2019-2022 of the Education System , Plan for the modernisation of Vocational Training and adoption of a new Vocational Training and Employment Act, in order to promote and enhance the right to lifelong learning. National Artificial Intelligence Strategy , aimed at integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the value chains of the productive fabric.	Organic Law 3/2022, of 31 March, on the organisation and integration of Vocational Training. National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (CM of 4 July 2022, in the framework of the Agenda España Digital 2026).	  

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Actions to promote entrepreneurial culture and new models of services for entrepreneurs.
- Strategic programme for the modelling of business projects, and support for business and job creation through the introduction of new methodologies with specialised high-performance teams.
- Platform for the simplification of procedures aimed at small businesses and crafts.
- Plan for the Improvement of Economic Regulation, and Industry Growth Plan.
- Smart Specialisation Strategy for the Sustainability of Andalusia 2021-2027, S4 Andalusia.
- Andalusia Smart City Programme.
- 6th Integral Plan for the Promotion of Domestic Trade in Andalusia 2019/2022.
- General Plan for Sustainable Tourism META 2027.
- The actions of the Andalusian Government in the framework of accelerator 4 policy 4 are related to the strengthening of the production sectors in the digital transformation and in the sustainability of the productive model.



In the sustainability axis, the development of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for the Sustainability of Andalusia 2021-2027, S4 Andalusia, approved in January 2021, should be highlighted. This is an agenda for the economic transformation of the region with the aim of contributing to the most important challenges by generating a change in the productive model, contributing to the creation of employment, more and larger, increasingly competitive and innovative companies capable of joining the markets and the European and international global value chains.

Continuing with the actions to promote sustainability, it is worth highlighting the Andalusia Smart City Programme, within the framework of which a total of thirty projects have been launched for the smart transformation of Andalusian cities and territories, with a total budget of 12,209,774.21 euros, in areas such as energy efficiency, electric vehicle charging systems, data management platforms and control panels, energy efficiency in lighting and public buildings, smart waste collection systems and sustainable mobility solutions, among others, which will be developed and deployed in 2022-2023.

The promotion of the General Plan for Sustainable Tourism META 2027, approved in September 2021, which constitutes the basic and essential instrument in the planning of Andalusia's tourism resources for the co-

ming years, should also be highlighted. The aim of the Plan is to improve tourism management within a framework of social, economic and environmentally sustainable development, with a commitment to a competitive, entrepreneurial, quality, intelligent, egalitarian and inclusive model, based on its human resources and the identity value of Andalusia as a destination.

From the perspective of strengthening Andalusia's production sectors to favour the region's economic reactivation, the development of the Plan for the Improvement of Economic Regulation approved in November 2021 stands out. In addition, in July 2021, the Industry Growth 2021-2022 Action Plan for a new industrial policy in Andalusia was launched, which provides for various measures to strengthen R&D+i and collaborative research and equipment of the Andalusian Knowledge System Agents, the promotion of digital transformation and Industry 5.0, the promotion of efficiency and regional sourcing for the supply of raw materials, the integration of Andalusian industrial value chains in European ecosystems and global markets, the promotion of the circularity of industrial value chains, access to the efficient use of clean, affordable and local energy, the development of infrastructures for the improvement of logistics and transport, the promotion of entrepreneurship for the development of a more innovative industry, as well as training for better access, adaptation and quality of industrial employment, responsible finance and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in industry, among others.

As regards the reinforcement of the Andalusian production sectors, it is worth highlighting the government's support within the framework of actions to promote entrepreneurial culture and new models of services for entrepreneurs. In June 2021, the General Entrepreneurship Plan 2021-2027 was approved, which constitutes the comprehensive effort of the Andalusian Government and the agents that make up the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the region to reinforce, in a coordinated and synergic way, the programmes, resources and services offered to entrepreneurs and, in this way, favour the creation of companies, competitiveness, growth and the boosting of the Andalusian economy.

ARAGON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Support for strategic sectors through diversification, especially in high-tech activities.
- Digitalisation plan for Aragon.
- Aid for investment projects for the modernisation and digitisation of businesses.
- Continuity of Aragon Logistics Platform (APL).
- Promote the social economy and cooperativism.
- Positive discrimination for SMEs and the self-employed established in rural areas, on all financial and economic aid envisaged.
- The Aragonese Economic Development Strategy 2030 focuses on four cross-cutting axes - Territorial Recovery, Public Policies, Productive Economy and Employment - and establishes 18 challenges and 10 main objectives with a total of 155 measures to be developed in eleven different fields of action, all with the general aim of contributing to achieving a more social, green and digital Aragon. Between 2021 and 2023 alone, the Government of Aragon estimates that it will allocate more than 1,931 million euros to policies that will enable progress along the path set out by this strategy in areas such as support for strategic sectors, green and digital transformation, support for SMEs and the self-employed, the promotion of internationalisation and the social economy, training, entrepreneurship and the promotion of employment, as well as innovation and modernisation of the administration, and the structuring and fight against depopulation.

The challenges for 2030 include the management of possible new risks; the protection of employment through training; maintaining and strengthening the economic fabric of Aragon, recomposing it and increasing the size of companies; maximising efficiency in the use of resources; decarbonising the economy;

supporting economic sectors; increasing the resilience of our territory and guaranteeing the supply chain. In addition, the focus is placed on other challenges such as the promotion of digitalisation and innovation, the enhancement of the rural environment, or the need to create new opportunities for entrepreneurship and job creation, as well as working to eradicate the black economy, administrative simplification and regulatory reduction, and strengthening the proximity of the administration and public services to citizens. It is also considered necessary to guarantee greater health protection and manage the change towards a sustainable socio-economic model in an environment of continuous risks.

It is important to highlight the role of the Next Generation EU Funds in this area. Since September 2020, the Government of Aragon has maintained a constant dialogue with companies, with local entities, as well as with other private and third sector entities. Since April 2021, the Government of Aragon has been particularly recognised by stakeholders as it has held up to 12 high-level meetings between the Government and socio-economic stakeholders.

Aragon has also approved the draft law on cloud technologies to accelerate digital transformation and promote an innovative business ecosystem. The future law will be a pioneer in Europe and will serve as a lever to accelerate digital transformation in the region and promote sectors based on these technologies, which are highly transformative and more sustainable. It contains measures that will apply to the Administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon and its public sector, with a new plan to adapt IT infrastructures to accelerate the digital transformation of public services.

The Government of Aragon recently approved the Strategy for Qualification and Employment through Vocational Training, which aims to qualify 200,000 people for quality employment aligned with the strategic sectors of the Autonomous Community and invest 220 million until 2024. Likewise, the training of up to 1,000 teachers in 2022 in digitalisation applied to each production sector and for the promotion of applied innovation is also foreseen.

CANARY ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Circular Economy and Blue Economy Strategies.
- From S₃ to S₄ Canary Islands 2021-2027. Towards smart specialisation for sustainability.
- Digital Canary Islands.
- Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy.
- Canary Islands Industrial Development Strategy (EDIC 2021-2025) and Strategic Line for the promotion of Industry 4.0 in the Canary Islands.
- Strategy for the technological and digital modernisation of the Canary Islands Public Health System.



Both the Canary Islands Circular Economy Strategy and the Canary Islands Blue Economy Strategy were approved by agreement of the Canary Islands Council of Government in July 2021 (BOC no. 152 of 26/07/2021). Both are based on the premise of promoting more sustainable economic and social development, with a clear focus on environmental sustainability but also on the competitiveness of the productive fabric, with special attention to the potential positive effects they can have on the labour market, the generation of new sources of employment and economic activity.

The Circular Economy Strategy envisages the development and elaboration of all regional and island planning for the circular economy in order to ensure the use of natural resources (raw materials and energy) and the reduction and recovery of waste, offering an opportunity to reinvent the economy, making it not only more sustainable, but also more competitive.

The Canary Islands Blue Economy Strategy sets the general objective of making the Canary Islands an international benchmark for innovative territorial governance for the creation of value, sustainability and productivity in the blue economy. Between 2021 and 2022, the 2022-2023 Work Plan has been drawn up, a

technical office has been set up and the governance structure has been designed. At the same time, a boost has been given to training in specific competences and skills in this sector, projects have been carried out as pilot experiences for the promotion of the Blue Economy through training measures with alternation in employment.

With a view to boosting R&D+i in the Canary Islands, over the last year work has been carried out on the Canary Islands Progress 2030 Plan, a document that has benefited from the collaboration of the entire Canarian R&D+i ecosystem, and which at the same time promotes four fundamental pillars for developing the knowledge economy in the Islands: a new Canarian Science Act, a new Canarian Smart Specialisation Strategy (S4), a new R&D+i Plan and a Science Agreement, the first of its kind in the Islands.

Canary Islands Progress 2030 lays the foundations for smart growth in the Canary Islands and represents “a historic milestone” that takes place at a vital moment for the Islands, marked by the arrival of the European recovery funds; and to carry it out, collaboration and the greatest consensus of the entire R+D+i ecosystem is essential. At the same time, and as a clear example of the drive for sustainable digitalisation in the Canary Islands, the Canary Islands Digital Entrepreneurial Territory plan has been approved. This document establishes the guidelines to promote sustainable development and competitiveness through the digital transformation of the Canary Islands.

For its part, and in view of the new reality facing the tourism sector, the new strategic framework designed for the coming years is based on three main strategic objectives:

1. To contribute to improving the resilience of the Canary Islands tourism model.
2. To promote an increased commitment to the climate neutrality of the Canary Islands tourism industry.
3. To strengthen the capacity of Canary Islands tourism to generate value for the economy and citizens of the Canary Islands.

The Canary Islands industrial sector also has a new strategy: the Canary Islands Industrial Development Strategy (EDIC) for the period 2022-2027, which was approved by agreement of the Governing Council in March 2022. This strategic framework is articulated around 5 axes (innovation and digital transformation; dual industrial training; sustainability; institutional collaboration; and business consolidation and growth), 21 measures and 45 actions whose scope of application extends over the next 5 years. Among the general objectives, the action plan aims to increase the sector's participation in the Canarian economy by 25%, expand the manufacturing business fabric by 10%, and promote the average size of companies.

Within the framework of the Strategy for the technological and digital modernisation of the Public Health System of the Canary Islands, the Canary Islands Health Service has launched the “Health Strategy Zero Net Emissions 2030” with the aim of reducing the emissions generated, both directly and indirectly, within its entire value chain and achieving a neutral system in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

CANTABRIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Design of tailor-made vocational training in strategic sectors, and the “Talent and Employment” Programme.
- Cantabria’s Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Strategy 2030 (*).
- Science, Research and Knowledge Transfer Act (*) and lines of aid.
- New Waste Plan (*).
- Allowances in the autonomous region’s personal income tax bracket, to boost investment in newly created companies.
- Support for creation and cultural expression as an instrument of transformation, development and inclusion, as well as a substantial element for the fixation of the population in the territory and the Artist’s Statute.
- Support to sport federations, sport technification and clubs for sport competitions.
- Identification of new approaches to industrial transition.



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of Cantabria’s priority during this period has been the transformation of the production model towards sustainability, for which it has promoted the development of the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Strategy with the creation of a working group in the Climate Change and Environment Advisory Council. In addition, the new Waste Plan for the region will be drawn up once the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy Strategy has been approved as one of the development tools, although the installation of the organic waste container has begun in 11 municipalities in Cantabria in order to advance towards the objective of selective collection of domestic bio-waste by the end of 2023.

In the same line of action, the Governing Council approved the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation in Cantabria, which provides the basis for changing the production model towards a knowledge-based economy based on four basic pillars: financing, governance and strategic planning, attracting and retaining talent, and the SDGs and gender equality.

A second line of action has been the reinforcement of vocational and continuous training programmes that enable workers to adapt to a constantly changing labour market. In this sense, it is worth highlighting the development of the ‘Talent and Employment’ programme, the aim of which is to facilitate the retraining and professional retraining of workers. Appropriate training is offered to workers employed in companies in strategic sectors for our Autonomous Community, such as the automotive, chemical and agri-food industries. The first call was aimed at the automotive auxiliary industry and automotive components. In 2021, 6 grants amounting to 456,894.40 euros were awarded for the implementation of training plans that have benefited 783 people, including 170 women and 613 men, who have participated in 68 training actions.

In line with the priority established in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, to give culture a singular relevance due to its capacity for social transformation, the Government of Cantabria has continued the implementation of the call COMISARIADO 2022 whose main objective is the creation of a line of support for professionals in the sector for the development of projects in cultural facilities in Cantabria. A maximum of 8 exhibition projects will be selected for the organisation and programming of the corresponding exhibitions during the year 2022.

Finally, the regional government has supported sport through support to Sports Federations: nominative subsidies have been granted to collaborate with the organisation and running costs of the regional federations in 2021 and 2022 and awarded in both years to 47 Cantabrian regional federations for a total amount of 1,340,300 and 1,704,300, respectively. In addition, support was given to sports technification through subsidies to 7 Cantabrian regional federations (sailing, hockey, badminton, surfing, boxing, swimming and rowing) in 2021 and to 10 Cantabrian regional federations (sailing, hockey, badminton, surfing, boxing, swimming, karate, volleyball, winter sports and rowing) in 2022.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Castile-La Mancha Agenda 2030 Strategy.
- Strategy for the promotion of organic production 2019-2023.
- Castile-La Mancha Circular Economy Strategy 2030.
- Strategic tourism plan 2020-2030.
- Agro-food industries plan.
- Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020.
- Law 4/2020 on the promotion and coordination of the research, development and innovation system.
- Law on the Statute of Consumers.
- Regional Responsible Consumption Strategy 2022-2024.
- Castile-La Mancha Digital Agenda.
- Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-2027.
- Regional Plan for Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation 2021-2024 (PRINCET).
- The actions of the Government of Castile-La Mancha have been aimed at transforming the region's production model for its sustainability and ecological transition and at strengthening innovation and digitalisation in the region.

In the first axis, the development of the Circular Economy Strategy of Castile-La Mancha 2030 stands out, within the framework of which a pilot project has been carried out to promote the conversion of an industrial estate in Castile-La Mancha into a circular estate. To this end, a diagnosis of consumption (energy, raw materials, water) and of waste and wastewater produced by the companies installed in the industrial estate has been carried out, in order to establish synergies and alliances in the business fabric of the estate. From the tourism sector, studies have been carried out in each of the provinces in order to implement circularity in these businesses and promote a more sustainable circular tourism model.

In this same line of action, it is worth highlighting the promotion of the Strategy for the promotion of organic production 2019-2023, within the framework of which the analysis is being carried out for the preparation of the 2nd Plan with the challenges set out in the European strategy From Farm to Fork. In the First Plan, 15% of investment was devoted to promoting organic production and, in relation to industry, action was taken in 380 companies through 453 operations.

Continuing with measures to support the transformation of the productive model, the Government of Castile-La Mancha has prioritised action towards the creation of responsible consumption patterns. The legal framework is provided by Law 3/19, of 22 March, on the Statute of Consumers in Castile-La Mancha, within the framework of which a series of regulations are being produced to develop the Law. The strategic instrument is the Responsible Consumption Plan 2022-2024, which was approved in March 2022 and is currently in the phase of dissemination and definition of the measures and actions to be developed in 2022. For the first time, the Plan incorporates new consumer rights in relation to the sustainability and inclusiveness of the consumption model. And it aims to integrate consumer information and defence policies, and proposals for the renewal of consumption habits proposed by sustainable consumption.

The second priority area of action is related to innovation and the digitalisation of the production sectors. Within this framework, the development of the Castile-La Mancha Digital Strategy stands out, with a budget allocation of more than 210 M€, with an increase of 68% in the last year. The objectives of the Strategy are to achieve a more efficient public administration adapted to the needs and demands of 21st century society; to reduce the digital divide and promote digital literacy; and to create an ecosystem that allows information technologies to be a fundamental element of knowledge, investment and innovation in Castile-La Mancha, as well as an indispensable instrument for retaining talent.

The Strategy is complemented by the development in 2021 of the Regional Centre for Digital Innovation (CRID) in Talavera de la Reina, signing collaboration protocols with eight leading technology multinationals. The CRID has implemented use cases that respond to the real needs of the Regional Administration, and which are aligned

ned with the purpose of the European funds for economic recovery, specifically in the areas of Cloud Computing, Cyber-Security and Data Intelligence.

It also highlights the implementation of the regional digital connectivity strategy Conéctate, with which the regional government will continue to promote the latest generation of connections through technological innovation to continue advancing in the digital transformation of the region.

Finally, the Smart Specialisation Strategy has defined the new challenges that the region will try to meet in terms of R&D+i and technological specialisation.

CASTILE AND LEON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Rural Development Programme.
- Incentives for organic farming.
- Control actions for environmental health protection and water control.
- Regional Strategy for the Circular Economy 2020-2030.
- Aid for the incorporation of practices linked to sustainability in tourism companies.
- Development of a sustainable CAP.



The actions of the Government of Castile and Leon within the framework of the Accelerating Policy have focused on the development of sector initiatives. In the field of agriculture, Castile and Leon is implementing the Rural Development Programme, which includes measures that are developing agri-environmental actions to make agricultural production systems sustainable. The implementation of agri-environmental measures is 84%. Likewise, two organic farming measures are being developed to encourage the incorporation of this system of production, with 70% of the planned implementation up to 2024. Within the framework of the same programme, proximity markets are promoted through Measure 16.4 Support for horizontal and vertical cooperation between supply chain agents for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, which is 60% implemented.

The Castile and Leon Rural Development Programme has promoted various incentives related to sustainability, environmental improvement, the fight against climate change and the promotion of the circular economy, through various types of forestry activities. Specifically, an aid order has been published for Forestry with €6,000,000 (Order of 12 March 2022, of the Regional Ministry of Development and Environment), Fire Prevention with €30,000,000 over 5 years (Order of 30 November 2021), Forestry and pastureland development with €20,000,000 over 5 years (Order of 15 December 2021) and Forestry Planning with €3,000,000 (Order of 17 August 2021).

The Circular Economy Strategy of Castile and Leon was approved by Agreement 115/2021 of 14 October of the Government of Castile and Leon. The first three-year action plan will be drawn up in a year's time. In the framework of this Strategy, two regional Circular Economy laboratories have been implemented, focusing on repair and reuse and the collaborative economy, such as product repair with 3D printing, textile repair, food waste prevention with a community workshop, and textile workshop, both in urban and rural areas, and a market-place has been created for the dissemination of circular economy products and services in the Iberian northwest, with a database of good practices that can be inspiring to accelerate the transition to the circular economy.

Finally, from the cultural sector, Order CYT/390/2022, of 28 April, of the Regional Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport, resolved the call for subsidies to finance actions aimed at promoting the quality of the tourism sector of Castile and Leon, carried out by Order of 11 November 2021, financing 107 projects with 1,495,836.83 €, representing a total investment of 3,327,459.99 €. The subsidised actions include the implementation or adaptation of facilities for the environmental improvement of tourist establishments and/or security, such as the implementation of energy and water saving systems, waste treatment or recycling systems, systems for the reduction of noise or light pollution and security or fire prevention systems. Of the total number of applications granted, 19 have been assessed for the actions described, with a total investment of €491,702.25 and a subsidy of 219,432.37 €.

CATALUNYA - CATALONIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Implementation of Law 16/2017 on climate change.
- Global energy strategy for Catalonia (PROENCAT 2050).
- Roadmap for the Circular Economy in Catalonia (*).
- Bioeconomy Strategy 2021-2030 (EBC2030).
- Establishment of maritime co-management committees.
- Catalonia forestry agenda 2020-2025.
- Catalan Rural Agenda.
- Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2030.
- Development of the National Agreement for the Knowledge Society.
- Strategic Tourism Plan for Catalonia 2018-2022.

(*): Measure in progress

On 4 February 2022, the Government approved the PROENCAT 2050 energy goals for Catalonia, which sets out the long-term vision for the future of the energy system. Based on energy and environmental objectives, it defines 20 strategies aimed at managing demand, transforming the electricity system and introducing new energy vectors that will enable the energy system to contribute to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

The Catalan Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change 2021-2030 was approved by the Interdepartmental Commission on Climate Change in July 2022 and is expected to be approved by the Government by the end of 2022.

A participatory process for the definition of the Circular Economy Roadmap has been carried out in the reporting period of the progress report. The Bioeconomy Strategy 201-2030 was approved on 14 September 2021. It is a roadmap whose main objective is to promote the growth and sustainable development of the Catalan economy by promoting the production of renewable biological resources of proximity, giving a second life to products from the forestry, agri-food and maritime sectors and ensuring the sustainable provision of ecosystem services to move towards a circular bioeconomy, in accordance with the urgent needs of adaptation and mitigation in the face of the climate emergency.

The Rural Agenda of Catalonia was approved on 24 May 2022 and will be deployed through an action plan to be approved in the coming months. It identifies the needs and challenges of rural areas in order to guarantee living conditions and development. It was drafted by a commission formed by the Association of Rural Initiatives of Catalonia (ARCA), the Catalan Association of Municipalities (ACM), the Association of Microvillages of Catalonia and the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (CADS), and was piloted by a Steering Committee made up of more than 35 organisations representing the territory. The participatory process promoted to draw up the Rural Agenda made it possible to gather the opinions of more than 1,200 people and draw up a document with 892 actions (of which 277 are priorities and 59 are strategic), organised around 7 major challenges: people, wellbeing and the demographic challenge; ecological transition; connected territory; agri-food system; forest management; innovation; forest management; innovation and social and economic stimulation, and governance.

In relation to Law 8/2020 on coastal protection and planning, and the Coastal Protection and Planning Plan for the integrated management of the terrestrial and marine environment, two prior participatory processes were initiated in June 2022. One is for the design of the Coastal Protection and Planning Plan (PPOL), which Law 8/2020 considers to be the basic instrument for the integrated planning and management of the land and marine environment of the Catalan coastline, and the other for the definition of the Coastal Conservatory.

With regard to the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2030, one notable feature is the creation of the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Observatory (OPNB), the reference body responsible for improving the organisation, integration, processing, dissemination and accessibility of information on natural heritage and biodiversity in Catalonia. This information is key to understanding the country's natural wealth,

assessing the state of conservation of species, habitats and natural spaces, and appropriately orienting and prioritising management efforts and policies to guarantee their conservation. The Observatory also aims to inform and raise awareness among the public so that it can become a participatory and critical agent, with criteria and a relevant role in collective and individual decision-making on nature conservation in Catalonia.

In July 2021, the Government approved the Decree of the Catalan Maritime Co-management Council. This body should enable the participation of stakeholders in the definition, development and implementation of maritime policies in a system of co-responsibility between the public administration and the sectors involved, scientists and civil society. It will act as a mechanism to guarantee a good environmental state of the sea, favour socio-economic development in the maritime area, and guarantee the maintenance of ecosystem services that are basic for the future of this development, such as fishing, aquaculture, nautical-recreational activities and tourism, among others.

This Council is one of the key instruments of the Catalan Maritime Agenda, which will act as the governance body of the EMC2030 Maritime Strategy for Catalonia, responsible for adaptive management and co-management through an open and continuous process of review and adaptive readjustment of the objectives and its strategic lines of action.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategic Plan for Entrepreneurship in the Valencian Community 2019-2023.
- Sustainable Economy Plan.
- Digital Divide Observatory.
- Chair on the gender digital divide and the launch of the STEAM Movement. INNOVA ProC-CV (grants for process innovation projects), and INNOVA-CV (grants for SME innovation projects).

The Valencian Government has continued to strengthen entrepreneurship in the region through the Strategic Plan for Entrepreneurship 2019-2023, in which all the actions planned were completed in 2021. It consists of collaboration agreements to promote scientific entrepreneurship, to foster business consolidation, promote digital entrepreneurship, develop the Social Transformation and SDG Laboratory, promote the LLAMP Programme, as well as general collaborations on entrepreneurship with the Valencian Association of Start-Ups and the Association of Young Entrepreneurs of the Valencian Community. In 2021, the Generalitat Valenciana earmarked more than 106 million euros to promote the creation, growth and consolidation of these business initiatives.

At the same time, the Valencian Government is aware of the importance of SMEs in its territory, as well as the incorporation of innovation processes for the sake of greater competitiveness. For this reason, a line of subsidies has been established to finance Product Innovation, Process Innovation and ICT Innovation actions.

With the aim of strengthening the digital transformation of the region's production sectors, the Valencian Government is promoting the Digital Gap Observatory to improve knowledge of the digital gap and prevent and mitigate the possible effects of the digital transformation. It highlights the promotion of the analysis and diagnosis of the causes, consequences and corrective measures to reduce and/or avoid the digital gap in terms of access, acquisition of digital skills and responsible use of information and communication technologies; the improvement of the digital skills of Valencian citizens, with special attention to those groups of the population at risk of social exclusion: 33.4% have low digital skills and another 33.1% have zero computer skills; and, finally, with the development of the Digital Training Centre through which a free online training offer has continued to be made available, increasing the number of knowledge pills.



In this line, the Valencian Government has promoted the Digital Gap Chairs Network with the aim of reducing the digital gap in the region by creating a total of five Chairs in each Valencian public university.

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Rural Development Act (*), Common Agricultural Policy Rural Development Plan (**), and Gaztenet Plan for young farmers (**).
- Basque Gastronomy and Food Plan, for the promotion of innovation in the food industry linked to rural development.
- Entrepreneurship strategy in the food value chain and Food BIND 4.0 (**).
- Sector Territorial Plan for Agroforestry and Coastal Protection and Management.
- Operational Plan for the European Maritime Fisheries Fund for the Basque Country (FEMP 2021-2027).
- Strategic Plan for Industrial Development and Internationalisation.
- Science, Technology and Innovation Euskadi 2030 Plan.
- Strategic Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation - PCTI Euskadi 2030.
- Inter-institutional Entrepreneurship Plan.

(*): Approved in June 2022

(**): In preparation

In line with the commitment to people and preferential attention to social policies, in 2021 the Government laid the foundations for economic recovery and the reactivation of employment. Some of the foundations on which the Basque Country's economic recovery has been based are as follows:

The *Berpiztu* Plan, launched at the beginning of the legislature, is of fundamental importance for economic reactivation and employment. The policies developed led to the creation of 53,500 jobs in 2020-2021. The forecast for next year, 2022, is that the new investment made will be around €3,210 million and the incentives for employment will create jobs for close to 35,000 people. In addition, the *Berpiztu* Governing Board, held in March, decided to approve an extraordinary fund of €180 million for the revitalisation of the Preferential Action Areas (or Disadvantaged Areas).

Together with the *Berpiztu* Programme, which reflects the government's regional budgetary efforts, there are expectations placed on the European funds of the Euskadi Next Programme. The government approved the update of the Euskadi Next programme, which envisages investments of around €18 billion. In 2021, the Basque Country received €692 million from the Spanish government as a management assignment for the execution of different programmes through different government departments.

In addition to investment, the Basque Country's economic renaissance is based on a firm commitment to innovation. The new Science, Technology and Innovation Plan 2030 has been approved, with an estimated public-private investment of close to €20,000 million. Our public commitment is reflected in the budget growth allocated to R&D within the Government. In 2021 this growth was close to 10%, and the commitment for the rest of the legislature is to increase it by 12%.

The understanding is that innovation is the driving force behind a solid and competitive industrial base. The Government has set a Country Objective to ensure that industry and advanced services account for 40% of our GDP. To this end, together with the PCTI 2030, we have approved the Strategic Plan for Industry and Business Internationalisation and the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of the Basque Country 2025. Likewise, the Basque Cybersecurity Centre has been consolidated and a comprehensive plan has been launched to support small and medium-sized enterprises with €430 million. The Inter-institutional Entrepreneurship Plan has also been approved with a budget of 250 M and the BAIC Association, Basque Artificial In-

telligence Centre has been launched, in which the Government participates with around twenty companies and technological agents linked to artificial intelligence.

EXTREMADURA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Subsidies for transformation and adaptation to Industry 4.0.
- Modification of the Integrated Waste Plan of Extremadura.
- EFES Project Cross-border Ecosystem for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Social Economy.
- Support for business start-ups by young farmers and for the promotion of the circular economy on farms.
- Extremadura Sustainable Tourism Strategy 2030. (In preparation).
- List of products with traditional characteristics of Extremadura.
- SME Connect 4.0 cross-border project.
- Extremadura Prototyping and Digital Manufacturing Network.
- Development of a real "Smart Region".
- Plan for Extremadura's Competitive Enterprise.
- Grants for e-commerce and ICT projects.
- Grants for the implementation of teleworking solutions and digital entrepreneurship.

(*) Measure in progress

The priorities of action of the Government of Extremadura in the field of the Accelerating Policy have been aimed at strengthening the development of the region's production sectors with a focus on sustainability and digital transformation. In this way, various initiatives and programmes have been promoted, including the Trans-frontier ecosystem to boost entrepreneurship and the social economy (EFES) project, which aims to promote entrepreneurship and the social economy with an impact on the region, through collaborative and cooperative environments for the creation and consolidation of business models that generate social impact and quality employment. During the analysis period, 12 actions have been carried out in which 425 people have participated.

In this same line of action, the SME Connect project has developed different actions with the aim of improving business competitiveness, incorporating knowledge and technologies to digitalise processes that multiply the added value of companies. A total of 601 people took part in the project meetings, workshops and forums.

Continuing with the actions that reinforce the digitalisation of Extremadura's production sectors, subsidies have been promoted for the transformation and adaptation to Industry 4.0, aimed at productive industrial companies that are going to implement projects that promote digital transformation and bring about the effective introduction of digital, communications, data processing, intelligence, analysis and management technologies in their systems. During the 2021 call for proposals, 29 projects were presented with funding of €258,093.94.

The Extremadura Government's commitment to promoting measures in the accelerator 4 policy is contrasted with the development of new initiatives, including the LOCALCIR project, whose objective is to promote initiatives and actions aimed at developing a sustainable economic sector that uses endogenous resources and creates products with high added value. The LOCALCIR project is developed for the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation in circular economy companies, through the INTERREG V A Spain Portugal (POCTEP) programme, and aims to create a support service to promote entrepreneurship and encourage the consolidation of new business ideas in the green economy and circular economy sector.



GALIZA-GALICIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Galicia Strategic Plan 2021-2030.
- RIS3 2021-2027 Specialisation Strategy for Galicia and the Galician Research and Innovation Plan (Instrumental Framework of the Strategy).
- StartinGalicia Innovation Accelerators, to support innovative entrepreneurs.
- Funds for financing and Venture Capital, to strengthen innovative companies.
- Galician Network of Digital Innovation Hubs to support the digital transformation of companies.
- Public Procurement of Innovation.
- Master Plan for the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago 2015-2021.
- Wind energy sector plan for the development of Galicia's energy policy.

The achievements made in meeting this challenge in Galicia can be seen in the results of certain indicators, such as the Proportion of renewable energies in electricity production, which increased its value since 2015 by 47%, reaching an absolute value of 75.57% in 2020.

In Galicia, the average income per hour worked improved by 7%. By gender, this indicator shows that the average income per hour worked by men is higher than that of women, although the latter shows a more favourable evolution. The average hourly earnings of people with disabilities increased by 6% and the average hourly earnings of people without disabilities increased by 8%.

Galicia has shown a decrease in the unemployment rate of 38% since 2015. The analysis by gender allows us to conclude that the rate is better for men (-42% compared to -33%) than for women (-34% compared to -26%). The analysis by age shows an improvement of 39% in the unemployment rate for people between 16 and 64 in Galicia. This improvement is more evident for the unemployment rate of people between 16 and 64 years old without disability, which has improved by 40%, than for people between 16 and 64 years old with disability, which has improved by 19%.

The proportion of young men and women aged 15-24 who are not in education, employment or training has decreased by 28% since 2015.

The data for Galicia for CO₂ emissions of resident units per unit of GDP and per unit of value added per sector show a positive evolution, marked by a decrease in GHG emissions in Galicia in 2020 when compared to 1990.

On the other hand, Galicia aims to improve scientific research and technological capacity (with an impact on environmental issues), increasing the number of people and economic resources in R&D+i. In this sense, R&D expenditure as a proportion of GDP has increased by 10%, as has the indicator of the number of researchers per million inhabitants, which has increased by 26% since 2015.

One of the priorities of the Galician Circular Economy Strategy 2020-2030, is to prioritise circularity in waste management, promoting quality separate collection for composting and recycling of waste as raw materials with high added value, also coinciding with the objective of reducing waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse activities. In this regard, the proportion of recycled municipal waste in relation to total waste generated and treated improved considerably in 2019 compared to 2018, and increased by 12% since 2015.

ILLES BALEARS-BALEARIC ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Balearic Carbon Footprint Register, created by article 28 of Law 10/2019, of 22 February, on climate change and energy transition.
- Plan to promote trade and consumption of local products.
- Sustainable Mobility Plan, endowed with 37,346,378 euros.
- Research Excellence Plan, 2020-2023, endowed with 14,535,389 euros.
- Creation of the Institute of Cultural Industries of the Balearic Islands.
- 4th Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2020-2023.
- Balearic Islands Industry Plan 2018-2025.
- Master Plan for the Social Economy.
- Comprehensive Tourism Plan 2015-2025.
- Law 7/2022, of 5 August on science, technology and innovation in the Balearic Islands.
- Law 3/2022, of 15 June on urgent measures for the sustainability and circularity of tourism in the Balearic Islands.



The actions of the Government of the Balearic Islands have focused on promoting the transformation of the production model towards sustainability. In this sense, it has increased the budget by 51% and in August 2022 the regional government approved the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation of the Balearic Islands, with the aim of promoting economic diversification and transformation of the production model through knowledge. This law provides for a gradual increase in public investment in R&D+i to 2% of the overall budget. This law also provides for the creation of the Balearic Islands Research Institute (IRIB) aimed at attracting international research talent and retaining local talent, with a clear vision of equality between men and women.

The application of the measures provided for in Law 10/2019 on climate change and energy transition has continued through Decree 48/2021, 13 December, regulating the Balearic Carbon Footprint Register, which will serve to assess the effectiveness of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the island.

Finally, in relation to the Sustainable Mobility Plan, the number of train and metro users has progressively increased. Compared to previous years, at present (May 2022) the increase has been 13.93%.

Finally, this year, 2022, the Law on urgent measures for the sustainability and circularity of tourism in the Balearic Islands has been approved, the aim of which is to move towards a regenerative impact of tourist activity on the Balearic Islands territory and society.

LA RIOJA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Inclusion of social and environmental clauses in public procurement, and encouraging the participation of SMEs in public tenders.
- Working groups with public administrations to speed up the processing of self-consumption applications.
- Promotion of renewable energy generation, with the authorisation last year of photovoltaic installations.
- Promotion of renewable energy generation in isolated municipalities and rural areas.
- Promoting energy efficiency in public lighting.
- Support public and private initiative in R&D+i in order to overcome barriers (economic, administrative, etc.) that may hinder its development.
- La Rioja Circular Economy Strategy 2030.

The actions of the Government of La Rioja in the framework of Accelerating Policy⁴ is characterised by the promotion of the Circular Economy Strategy of La Rioja 2030. The draft was presented in March 2022 to the Environmental Advisory Council and is being developed using a methodology of dialogue and social participation to involve all stakeholders. The Strategy will establish the regional framework to facilitate and promote the transition towards a resource-efficient economy model by all agents involved, especially public administrations, producers and consumers of goods and services.

The efforts of the regional government to strengthen the generation of renewable energies stand out in this regard, meeting deadlines for processing the renewable energy facilities admitted for processing in December 2020 (6 wind farms and 20 photovoltaic farms) and promoting self-consumption, the applications of which have increased by six in recent years, with 550 registered facilities and 11MW installed. In addition, in 2021, 3 agreements have been signed with local councils for the creation of 4 energy communities in isolated rural areas and feasibility studies are being carried out in 5 more areas in 2022.

Finally, the inclusion of social and environmental clauses in public procurement has been promoted, as well as encouraging the participation of SMEs in public tenders through multiple actions such as the inclusion of labour, social, tax and environmental protection obligations in the Particular Administrative Clauses.

NAFARROA - COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- S3 Smart Specialisation Strategy for Navarra, which also covers the following plans:
- Entrepreneurship Plan;
- Internationalisation Plan;
- Autonomous Work Plan;
- Social Economy Plan;
- Tourism Plan;
- Retail Trade Plan;
- Energy Plan of Navarre.



In Navarre this Country Challenge has an essential tool in the form of the Smart and Sustainable Specialisation Strategy of Navarre. In this period, the transition has taken place between the S3 strategy and the new S4 strategy, which was approved in December 2021, which involves a deepening of the impact of the ecological and digital transitions on the most important production systems in Navarre, establishing lines of innovation and competitiveness, prosperity and social cohesion in the ecological and digital transition, for inclusive, sustainable and smart growth, setting targets for 2025 and 2030 in indicators such as GDP per capita and the reduction of the risk of poverty, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and industrial waste or improvements in digital skills.

The Strategy proposes economic growth compatible with reducing the risk of poverty from the current 7.7% to 6% in 2025 and 5% in 2030. It also proposes reducing greenhouse gas emissions over 2005 figures, and improving advanced digital skills to 95% of people by 2030 from the current 28.7%. This strategy provides support for various sector plans, which include the following:

- Entrepreneurship Plan. The third plan was approved in May 2022. Its objectives include the rate of entrepreneurial activity, set at 5.6% for 2024 and starting from 5.3% in 2021. In terms of the total number of active companies in Navarre, this plan aims to consolidate and strengthen the business fabric of Navarre, prioritising an increase in their size due to their effect on competitiveness and job creation, setting a target of 35,870 active companies in 2024, starting from 35,337 at the end of 2021.
- Internationalisation Plan. This Plan has been drawn up in 2021 with a participatory methodology. Its objective is to increase the base of regular exporting companies in Navarre. In 2021, a total of 3,790 companies exported a total of 9.4 billion euros, leaving a positive trade balance of 167%, but with a high concentration of companies (the top 25 account for 60% of the total).
- Integral Social Economy Plan. The results of the implementation of this plan during the period June 2021-June 2022 have been positive, it can be said that the main objectives of business creation and quality employment have been achieved and even exceeded.
- Self-Employment Plan. The following actions have been carried out:
 1. A Business Relay Exchange has been set up.
 2. Two grants have been awarded for generational replacement.
 3. A business valuation service has been offered to companies registered in the Business Relay Exchange.
 4. A mobile application called "Self-employment in Navarre" has been developed and
 5. An update of the methodology for the promotion of corporate social responsibility in the self-employed has been published.

Tourism Plan. In the last year, various actions have been implemented aimed at promoting international alliances for sustainable development, such as joining the Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories or joining the NecsTour network (European Regions for Sustainable and Competitive Tourism). In addition, a model of co-governance and participation with the territory has been implemented by setting up the Management Units for Tourist Spaces where different actions have been worked on (6 Tourism Sustainability Plans in Destinations). Also noteworthy is the Digital Transformation Laboratory, which is now in its fourth year with the participation of more than 20 companies. "The Other Footprint" campaign has been launched, which sets the challenge of travelling around the region leaving the smallest carbon footprint and the aim is to position Navarre as one of the most sustainable destinations in Europe.

Trade Plan. Considerable progress has been made in boosting training and advisory programmes on digital innovation, and in promoting the necessary investments. In this regard, in October the project "Promotion Centre for the digital transformation of commerce and crafts was presented. A specific project for rural commerce has also been launched. Also focusing on the professionalisation of support structures to achieve better results in Navarre as a whole, a theoretical and practical training plan for "technical staff specialising in rural commerce" was implemented in 2021, with training from the Navarre Centre of Business and Innovation (CEIN) and practical agreements with Local Action Groups. In 2022, the continuation of this form of work is being further developed.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Social partnership agreements. Asturias Industrial Strategy 2030 and Law on Projects of Regional Strategic Interest.
- Environmental Quality Act and Circular Economy Strategy.
- Just Transition Agreements and Contracts to boost economic recovery.
- Specific regional plans adjusted to the reality of each council in order to reorient active employment policies and job training within the framework of the promotion of fair ecological transition processes.
- New financing instruments to facilitate growth and internationalisation. Support for the self-employed through training and business modernisation plans.
- Promotion of the social economy and its different organisations and enterprises.
- Plan for the digital transformation of industry and commerce.
- Programme of support for innovative companies linked to industry and extension of the network of Technology Parks.
- Tourism Strategy of the Principality of Asturias 2020-2030.

The Government of the Principality of Asturias is promoting the creation of a competitive, sustainable, resilient and technologically advanced industrial sector model to respond to the dual challenge of technological and ecological transition. To this end, the fundamental axes are sustainability, digitalisation, competitiveness and social and territorial inclusion. A similar action is the Strategic Industrial Projects Act currently being processed, which aims to boost economic and social recovery through industry, promote and consolidate business initiatives that generate wealth and stable, quality employment, promote the development of a green, digital, sustainable and competitive territory and streamline and simplify the administrative processing of strategic industrial projects of particular relevance due to their vocation as a driving force, their innovative nature and their capacity to generate employment.

The Environmental Quality Act is currently being processed and aims to make environmental protection compatible with the simplification of administrative procedures to speed up the start-up of economic activities by assessing the possible effects of projects and activities with an environmental impact and establishing preventive and corrective measures to minimise the impact on the environment. It also includes measures to promote good practices in eco-innovation and circular economy, through tools such as green

public procurement and environmental taxation or support for research and environmental education. In the circular economy, aid is being provided for initiatives linked to the areas of waste management, agri-food, packaging and electronics, and the Circular Economy Strategy is being drawn up.

A priority area for the Asturian Government is cooperation with local entities in the region, for which aid has been granted for the design, management and financing of employment plans within the framework of integrated activation itineraries at local level, so that they can be adjusted to the needs of the territory. The allocation of the Institute for Just Transition (94M€) has been earmarked to promote the economic re-activation and environmental recovery of municipalities affected by the closure of coal-fired power stations and mining operations, with these funds being used for the environmental restoration of areas degraded by mining activity, infrastructure improvement projects and municipal projects.

Several financial instruments have been established through the Principality's Institute for Economic Development (Idepa), including the Cheques Programme, aimed at improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized firms by contracting technological and consultancy services offered by centres or companies specialising in the fields of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3), subsidising technological advice, company digitalisation and consultancy for certification and design as well as the management of the family protocol, professionalisation in management, growth and business monitoring.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the development of the Tourism Strategy of the Principality of Asturias 2020-2030, which is based on sustainability as a structuring principle of tourism, authenticity, regional identity and the quality of resources and services. It establishes a framework for the planning and optimisation of the positioning of Asturias as a destination, as well as for the improvement of competitiveness in tourism with a sustainable approach, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030.

REGION OF MURCIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Annual subsidies to federations and associations of traders and other associative entities to improve productivity and competitiveness.
- Energy efficiency programme for SMEs and large companies.
- Support for the creation of social economy enterprises in rural and uninhabited areas.
- Support for collective entrepreneurship and self-employment among young people in less densely populated areas.
- Support for organic farming.
- Strategy and Action Plan for Tourism in the Region of Murcia 2021.
- ICT Cheque and digital transformation aid programmes.
- Murcian Institute of Biosanitary Research (IMIB) Strategic Plan 2019-2023 which includes objectives related to innovation and collaboration with companies.
- Research and Innovation Investment Programme.



The Government of the Region of Murcia has strengthened actions in the field of the transition towards a sustainable and ecological production model. In this sense, the measures for the strengthening of the different production sectors of the region stand out, such as the annual aid programme for Federations, Associations and Entities that integrate several retail traders' associations. The actions have consisted of measures related to projects to modernise the management of the association through the incorporation of new technologies, actions related to the modernisation of trade and services, and adaptation to competitiveness and quality criteria. These actions have contributed to improving its competitiveness and recovering the level of economic activity after the crisis suffered with the pandemic.

On the other hand, the preparation of the 5th Agreement for the Social Economy of the Region of Murcia (2021-2024) has been promoted, which is an essential tool in the joint roadmap that the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, together with the main organisations representing the economic and social

interests of Social Economy companies, must follow in order to advance in the established goals and achieve the objectives of increasing employability, improving working conditions and sustainable, innovative and inclusive growth.

In this line of transformation of the productive model we find the Energy Efficiency Programme of the Development Institute, of which 58 SMEs and large companies are beneficiaries. It saves 31.5 million in oil annually and avoids the emission of 26,000 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere. The call for these subsidies includes 12 million in non-refundable funds. The subsidies can in no case exceed 3 million euros, and take as a reference for calculating the percentage of aid the size of the company, among other criteria.

On the other hand, sustainability is another strategic line of action of the Government of the Region of Murcia. Two sectors stand out in this area of priority:

- **Tourism.** The Strategic Plan for Tourism in the Region of Murcia (2022-2032) has been designed. This plan has been conceived as an open and flexible roadmap. With the aim of involving the territorial administrations, associations and agents in the sector, the Strategic Plan seeks to join forces to pool strategies to tackle the main challenges facing regional tourist destinations. This Plan will mobilise 210 million euros over the next ten years to transform the tourism model, help the companies that are struggling the most and consolidate our position in international markets, as well as to attract visitors all year round and throughout the Region.
- **Support for the agricultural sector in its ecological transition.** During this period, 1,297 producers have converted their conventional farming system to organic systems, which means a total area of 26,006 ha. In addition to these, there are 3,758 producers who maintain this production system on more than 63,522 ha. Consequently, almost 85,000 ha of the region are dedicated to organic production, 19.3% of the total UAA, almost 10 points above the national average. However, in crops such as almonds, this percentage rises to 40%. The commitment to organic farming has resulted in 50 million in aid for this sector. It is worth highlighting the improvement of Energy Efficiency on farms. A 28.6 million aid line has been announced to modernise the agricultural sector. It includes eight lines of Next Generation funds that will benefit agricultural and livestock farms and waste treatment companies.

Finally, within the framework of the new European Union Research and Innovation Investment Programme (2021-2027, Horizon Europe) and the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2027, approved by the Spanish State, the approval of the Research and Innovation Strategy for the Smart Specialisation of the Region of Murcia (RIS₃Mur) is being promoted, which is configured as an integrated agenda for the economic transformation of a territory, which aims to concentrate policies and investments in research and innovation on priorities, from the perspective of economic development based on knowledge.

AUTONOMOUS CITY OF MELILLA



1. Actions to enhance human resources in the field of new information and communication technologies. Investment made in 2021: €279,200. Action carried out in the framework of the 2014-2020 ESF OP for Melilla.
2. Actions to enhance human resources in the digital economy, cybersecurity, digital entrepreneurship. Investment in 2021: €1,249,185. 476 participants have benefited. Action carried out in the framework of the Melilla ERDF OP 2014-2020.

CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL ENTITIES

The most relevant actions with regard to local initiatives to support economic activities that enable a fair transition towards a **decarbonised and circular economy** are focused, in particular, on the creation of plans for the modernisation of municipal markets, the adaptation of urban gardens and the creation of school gardens, the promotion of separate waste collection and the promotion of extensive livestock farming, among others.

Along the same lines, local bodies are carrying out studies on the viability of the regulatory modifications required for ecological agriculture, while at the same time promoting the use of water from public supply wells, the burning of agricultural waste by applying for subsidies and the use of pollution and environmental quality sensors.

In order to raise awareness among specific groups (schools, colleges, neighbourhood associations, shopkeepers' associations), some of the most relevant activities being carried out are the organisation of talks on consumption and groups related to consumption, as well as the dissemination of campaigns to raise public awareness on the reduction of resources or the rational use of energy in the home, among others. In addition, sustainable mobility conferences have been organised and workshops and seminars have been held on energy efficiency, electricity bills and self-consumption, while spaces have been created to promote responsible consumption habits for adults.

With regard to education and the institutions involved, one notable feature is the actions in play centres to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the creation of environmental education classrooms and workshops to promote local consumption. These actions have been reinforced by the different campaigns launched in schools, institutes and associations linked to this subject.

Other initiatives for the generation of economic opportunities and the promotion of the social economy and locally based entrepreneurship include the organisation of events of various kinds to promote life in the locality, the call for grants for social economy and entrepreneurship projects, training for these entrepreneurs through the Local Development Agents, the promotion of digitalisation and e-commerce, the provision of various services focused on guidance and advice, the promotion of online sales platforms for local businesses, the creation of municipal business incubators, the creation of a municipal business incubator, and the creation of a new business incubator, the promotion of digitalisation and e-commerce, the provision of different services focused on guidance and advice, the promotion of online sales platforms for local businesses, the creation of municipal business incubators or the reinforcement of the co-financing of projects in defence of consumers.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 5.

ENDING JOB INSECURITY

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

To analyse this challenge, the presentation has been organised according to the classic distinction between situations that are not linked to the labour market (economically inactive and unemployed population) and those that refer to a current labour provision relationship in that market (occupied/employed population). On the basis of this classification, quantitative and qualitative indicators linked to each position are analysed in order to configure different profiles with relevance for the challenge of the country under study. Among these indicators, special reference should be made to those that contribute to drawing up the wage situation in Spain. Finally, the incidence of the employment situation with respect to the population at risk of relative poverty will be analysed.

From a substantive point of view, we need to start from a labour reality that has been consolidating and that has resulted in a discriminatory labour market where atypical employment is proliferating, far from standard employment (collective bargaining, worker protection and stability), and which is characterised by temporary contracts, casual labour and partial working hours. It is a secondary labour market characterised by low-paid jobs, high levels of job instability and, obviously, poorer working conditions. It is in these more precarious scenarios that the reality of the “working poor” takes shape.

1. Analysis of situations of inactivity

The economically inactive population comprises all persons aged 16 and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed. The female inactivity rate in T1-2022 according to the LFS was 46.25%, representing 9,458,900 women while the male inactivity rate stood at 35.47%, equivalent to 7,043,300 inactive men in absolute terms. In aggregate terms, the inactivity rate has grown in the five-year period analysed (2015-2020) and this evolution is maintained in the first quarter of 2022. In disaggregated terms, inactivity in the period has increased for both men and women, except for women in the central age bracket between 35 and 49 years. In Q2-2020 there is a significant increase in the series, explained by the pandemic. If we analyse the evolution of the first quarter of 2021 with respect to the equivalent quarter of 2022, the variations are downward both jointly and in the separate analysis of men and women.

1.1. Percentage of inactive people according to the main reason for not looking for a job

In 2022-Q1, the highest rate of inactive persons corresponded to the group of retired or pre-retired persons (6,648,900). If we disaggregate by sex, we observe the prevalence of this justification in the group of men, but, for the female population, the main reason given was housework (3,008,600). If we look at these same reasons for inactivity, for the period 2015-2020, the numbers of inactive people decrease in both sexes.

If we compare 2021-Q1 and 2022-Q1, the main cause of being inactive was being retired. An increase is detected: from 6,550,900 (2021) to 6,648,900 (2022). However, in the case of women, a decrease is detected: 3,008,600 (2022) by 3,120,200 (2021).

In Europe (EU-27), with references only up to 2020, the reasons among men are similar, but among women the percentage of Europeans who cite retirement as a justification for inactivity is 7.5% higher than among Spanish women.

1.2. Inactive people who are not seeking employment because they are caring for dependants

In 2021 the percentage of women who appeared as inactive due to child or adult care (sick, disabled or elderly) amounted to 92.12%. There is a decrease of 1.21% compared to the previous year. In the 2015-2021 series, there is also a decrease from 58.69% to 57.33% (-1.36). If we compare 2021-Q1 and 2022-Q1, this percentage decreases. In the same period of 2021 it was 92.31% and in 2022 it was 90.96%.

2. Analysis of unemployment situations

2.1. The unemployment rate in Spain

The unemployed population is considered to be those of legal working age (16 years old) who are unemployed, willing to work and actively seeking employment. In Spain, the unemployment rate is structurally high and this weakness has historically influenced the behaviour of the labour market in the different economic cycles. If we compare it with European levels (for example, if we look at the unemployment rate in the EU-27 over the historical series 2015-2020), this fact is confirmed: the Spanish unemployment rate is double the European rate. It is noteworthy that throughout the cycle there is an appreciable reduction (for Spain the rate starts the period with a percentage of 22.2% and closes it with 15.6%; in Europe, the rate is 10.2 in 2015 and closes with 7.2% in 2020).

In 2022-Q1 the national rate was 13.65%. Men represent 12.04% and women 15.44%. If we compare 2022-Q1 with 2021-Q1 there is a decrease in the total unemployment rate: 15.98% (2021) to 13.65% (2022). The same is true for men: 14.07% (2021) to 12.04% (2022); while women go from 18.13% (2021) to 15.44% (2022).

The unemployment rate is fairly territorialised in Spain. The Autonomous Communities with the highest scores are Andalusia, the Canary Islands, Extremadura, Ceuta and Melilla, while the lowest percentages are in the Basque Country, the Autonomous Community of Navarre, La Rioja and Aragon. In 2022-Q1, the lowest unemployment rate is found in the Basque Country (8.69%) and the highest in the Canary Islands (20.3%)⁹⁷.

Unemployment rates have been associated with a set of individual characteristics: gender, age, educational level and nationality. Considering gender as a study variable leads to the conclusion that the female unemployment rate is always higher than the male rate. Both female and male unemployment rates decrease in the initial study period (2015-2020). However, the gap seems to widen from 2.8% to 3.5%.

In 2022-Q1 the unemployment rate for men is 12.04% and for women 15.44%. Compared to the same period in 2021 in both cases there is a decrease: men (14.07%); women (18.13%).

The analysis of unemployment by age group shows that the most affected group is 16–24-year-olds, with decreasing rates from 2015 to 2019 and a rebound in 2020, breaking the trend. Nevertheless, the series ends in 2020 with a more than remarkable reduction of 10 percentage points. The age group least affected by the unemployment rate is the 65 and over age group, which, however, shows a growth trend (of 1.2%) in the period 2015-2020.

In 2021-Q1, the unemployment rate by age group shows that the most affected group was 16- to 19-year-olds: 58.23%. This is followed by the 20-24 age group: 36.52%; the 25-54 age group: 14.90% and the 55 and over age group: 12.70%. The same situation can be seen in the same period in 2022, although the figures are lower: 16 to 19 years old with 46.43%, followed by 20 to 24 years old with 26.75%, then 25 to 54 years old with 12.55% and 55 years old and over with 12.26%.

The level of education has an inverse effect on unemployment rates. The higher the level of education, the lower the unemployment rates, and this is a constant. It is worth noting the improvement in the rates in all the groups of analysis. In the series, level 0-2 (up to lower secondary education) shows an improvement of 9.3 points; the reduction in level 3-4 (upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary) is 5.1 and, finally,

97 The National Statistics Institute clarifies that the highest values are found in Ceuta and Melilla, but this information should be taken with caution because it may contain sampling errors.

the unemployment rate in level 5-8 (higher education and doctorate) is reduced by 3 points in the period 2015-2020.

In 2021-Q1 the unemployment rate by level of education showed the following results: illiterate (36.74%); incomplete primary education (29.45%); lower secondary education (21.54%); upper secondary education with vocational training (17.51%); upper secondary education with general training (17.91%). The lowest was higher education with 10.17%. In the year 2022 the situation was practically similar, although with lower figures: the lowest was also higher education with 7.75%. The highest was illiterate with 30.55%. In decreasing order, it is followed by: primary education (27.84%); incomplete primary studies (26.48%); first stage secondary education (18.95%); second stage secondary education with vocational training (15.30%) and second stage secondary education with general training (15.20%).

Early drop-out from education and/or training⁹⁸, appears in Spain as one of the explanatory causes of the high values reached in unemployment rates. The analysis of the data is conclusive: early dropout rates in Spain are significantly higher than in the EU-27 in all values of the series, both for men and women. With regard to the former, 2015 begins with a dropout rate of 24% in the case of Spanish males and 9.4% in the case of Europeans. In 2020, these figures are reduced to 20.2% if we refer to the national dropout rate or 11.8% if the reference is European.

Regarding women, the Spanish value for 2015 stands at 15.8%, the European value for this year is 9.4%. At the end of 2020, the number of Spanish women who had dropped out of education was 11.6%, while the percentage of Europeans was only 8%.

In the same way, it can be seen that the dropout rate is connected to a greater extent with men, with gaps ranging from 7.3% in 2017 to 8.6% at the end of the series in 2020.

In 2021 (latest published data), the early dropout rate from education and training in Spain will be 13.3%, a decrease of 2.7% compared to the previous year. There is still a very significant difference between the figure for men (16.7%) and for women (9.7%).

Foreign nationals from outside the EU have the highest unemployment rates, followed by foreign nationals from the EU. Spanish nationality determines a better unemployment performance. All figures improve in the period 2015-2020, although as with other variables - level of education, sex, age - the year 2020 shows a certain increase in the data (period of pandemic lockdown).

In 2021-Q1 the unemployment rate by nationality was highest for non-EU foreigners (28.77%), followed by EU foreigners (20.53%) and Spaniards (14.40%). In the same period of 2022, a rather similar situation is observed, although with lower values: non-EU foreigners reach 22.77%. They are followed by EU foreigners with 18.18% and Spaniards with 12.45%.

If we look at the degree of urbanisation (contextual/individual factor), the highest unemployment rates are associated with sparsely populated areas (years 2015 and 2016 of the series) or intermediate population levels (2017-2020). At all levels there is an improvement (reduction in rates), with the increase in 2020 also being seen here, which in no case detracts from the overall improvement.

Finally, the Spanish labour market was not unaffected by the economic paralysis produced by the health crisis, as evidenced by the large destruction of employment in the first period of lockdown (table 1). **The use of Temporary Redundancy Regulations has proved, in the light of the data, to be an optimal internal flexibility mechanism to avoid job destruction⁹⁹.**

98 From Women and Men in Spain 2021 (updated 21 July 2021)

99 See the Business Confidence Indicators. Module on the impact of COVID-19.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN SPAIN IN THE COVID-19 PERIOD

T1-2020	T2-2020	T3-2020	T4-2020	T1-2021	T2-2021	T3-2021	T4-2021	T1-2022
14.41 %	15.33 %	16.26 %	16.13 %	15.98 %	15.26 %	14.57 %	13.33 %	13.65 %

Source: EPA.

During the state of emergency, 38.9% of businesses requested a Temporary Redundancy Regulation (total or partial). Throughout the second half of the year, workers were being rescued from the Temporary Redundancy Regulation (table 2) at different rates depending on the sector of activity.

TABLE 2. % OF WORKERS RECOVERED FROM TEMPORARY REDUNDANCY REGULATION (2Q-2020)

100% of the workers in Temporary Redundancy Regulation	23.1
More than 50% of workers in Temporary Redundancy Regulation	8.5
Between 25% and 50% of workers in Temporary Redundancy Regulation	2.6
Less than 25% of workers in Temporary Redundancy Regulation	2.1
No Temporary Redundancy Regulation workers recovered	2.6
It did not have workers in Temporary Redundancy Regulation	61.1

Source: EPA.

According to data from the Social Security, there were 3,108,554 participants in Temporary Redundancy Regulations (linked to COVID-19) on 31 March 2020. One year later, on 31 March 2021, 674,366 were still registered and the figure for 31 October 2021 (the latest available in the series) shows a figure of 164,868 members and a clear improvement in the situation due to the return to ordinary work¹⁰⁰.

2.2. Long-term unemployment

The long-term unemployed are all those who have been looking for a job for at least 12 months and have not worked during that period. This indicator is usually presented by reference as a percentage/rate of the labour force or as a percentage of total unemployment.

From a descriptive point of view, the situation of long-term unemployment in Spain obeys the following parameters¹⁰¹.

In absolute terms, the number of long-term unemployed has decreased in Spain for both men and women. In 2015, the percentage of women stood at 12.4%, falling to 6.1% in 2020. The male population started the series with a percentage of 10.5% and ends it with a figure of 4.1%. The conclusion that emerges from these results is clear: the rate is significantly reduced (slightly more than half).

Taking into consideration the time looking for a job (from 1 to < 2 years and 2 years or more), the decrease continued to be seen in the years 2021 and 2022. In 2021-Q1, the number reached 1,668,600. In 2022-Q1 the total number reached 1,504,200. Both references confirm the decrease in the number of long-term unemployed.

100 The labour reform has made it possible to consolidate this instrument with two new modalities (cyclical and sector) of internal flexibilisation as opposed to direct job destruction.

101 The sources used are the Women and Men in Spain Report (updated to 28 May 2021) and the Labour Force Survey, INE (updated with data for 2021 and 1Q-2022).

Long-term unemployment has also been associated (like the overall unemployment rate) with a set of individual characteristics: gender, age, educational level and nationality.

Long-term unemployment is always more pronounced in the case of women throughout the whole series and the differences in the rate mark a difference of 2 to 2.4%. The rate decreases in absolute terms but the difference remains constant (2% in 2015 which is identical in 2020).

Comparison of the data for the first quarters of 2021 and 2022 shows that the number of women in long-term unemployment in 2021 was 945,800 (43.3%) compared to 722,800 (56.7%) for men. In 2022 there is a notable decrease: women reach a figure of 847,600 (43.6%) and men 656,500 (53.6%).

With regard to the age variable, the group with the highest incidence is the population aged 16-24 years, followed by the population aged 50-64 years (this is a constant in the series except in 2018, when the positions are reversed). In any case, the rate has decreased in all age groups with greater intensity in the group with the highest incidence.

Taking the first quarters as a reference, in 2021 the age group of long-term unemployed with the highest numbers (in thousands) was the 25-29-year-olds with 501,400 and the lowest was the 70+ age group, followed by the 65-69 age group with 11,700. In 2022, the numbers in most age groups decrease; however, some age groups show an increase. Thus, the group with the highest number of people in this situation was the 50-54 age group with 400,900 and the lowest continued to be the 70+ age group and the 65-59 age group with 20,700. The 60-64 age group also rose to 214,700. So, in absolute terms, the numbers of long-term unemployed are decreasing; but there are changes in the numbers contributed by each age group, with the three older age groups increasing by 1,600 and 20,700 respectively. One conclusion may be drawn: workers who lose their jobs late in their career development are finding it more difficult to re-enter the labour market. This phenomenon is also observed in the younger age group, so it could be established that the extremes of working life are where the greatest difficulties in re-entering the labour market are observed.

The level of education also plays a role in explaining the phenomenon of long-term unemployment; lower levels of education (up to lower secondary school) are associated with higher unemployment rates (7.9% in 2020), higher education and doctorate levels are the most favoured in the series (2.9% in 2020). In absolute terms all educational levels improve their benchmarks in the 2015-2020 time series.

Still using the values of the first quarters, we observe that for 2021 the highest number of long-term unemployed (in thousands) corresponded to the group of first stage of secondary education and similar with 1,215,200; followed by the group of higher education with 926,500. The year 2022 repeats this situation with lower values: 1,080,900 and 702,600, respectively. It can be observed that, in general, the figures decrease: in both years, the group with less long-term unemployed were the illiterate with 18,800 (2021) and 27,400 (2022) although for the contrast period (Q1-2021-T1-2022) some specific group increases its values (illiterate).

The nationality variable shows that non-EU nationals present worse rates that even rebound slightly from 2019 to 2020, breaking the trend of clear reduction. Spanish nationals (with the best data in the whole series) and EU foreigners show a very notable improvement: the rate decreases steadily and significantly throughout the period).

In the year 2021 (last published data on unemployment by nationality), out of a total of 3,653,900, Spaniards accounted for 2,851,200 (78.02%) and foreigners 802,800 (21.98%). The data disaggregated by EU and non-EU nationality is not available.

Another factor that is also conditioning the duration of the unemployment situation is the degree of urbanisation. The rate remains at its lowest levels throughout the 2015-2000 series if we take the sparsely populated areas as a reference (remember that when we consider the overall unemployment rate, the lowest levels were observed in densely populated areas from 2015 to 2019 and in sparsely populated areas only in 2020). For all three variables (densely populated, intermediate populated and sparsely populated areas) there is a notable decrease, which is especially significant for the intermediate populated areas (from 12% in 2015 to 4.9% in 2020).

Spain's situation with respect to the EU-27 is clearly one of a disadvantage; although in the period 2015-2020 the respective long-term unemployment rates have fallen by half (from 11.4% to 5% in Spain and from 5% to 2.5% in Europe), a ratio of approximately double/half in the figures is maintained throughout the series.

3. Analysis of employment/employment situations

3.1. Employment rate in Spain

The employment rate, with insignificant variations, is also quite territorialised throughout the 2015-2020 series. Among the Autonomous Communities with the highest employment rate, the Balearic Islands (which loses position in 2020), La Rioja, the Community of Madrid and Catalonia are repeated. Among the Autonomous Communities with a lower rate Melilla, Ceuta, Andalusia and Extremadura.

The comparison of Spain with the EU-27 (European Labour Force Survey) shows a positive evolution (growth) throughout the series with a differential of two percentage points in the employment rate in the case of Spain, which is 1.7% in the case of the EU-27.

In 2021, the highest employment rate was in the Community of Madrid (56.06%), followed by Catalonia (54.19%) and the Balearic Islands (53.87%). The lowest are Ceuta (40.98%), Asturias (44.33%) and Extremadura (44.41%). In 2022-Q1, the situation remains practically the same: the Community of Madrid has the highest employment rate (56.33%), followed by Catalonia (54.38%) and La Rioja (53.27%). The lowest are again Ceuta (43.27%), Asturias (43.89%) and Extremadura (44.53%).

If the sex variable is considered, the rate is always better by reference to men. The rate shows a constant difference of more than 11% and a differential increase (11.5-11.7-11.5) in 2017-2019 which is reduced in 2020 to the levels of 2016 (11.1%).

Taking as a reference the same periods (Q1) of 2021 and 2022, the same difference is reproduced: for men, the rate is 53.91% and 55.88%, while for women it is 43.32% and 45.44% respectively.

With regard to age, the highest employment rate in the 35-49 age group is a constant, followed by the 25-34 age group. If we analyse the progress over the years of the series, two data stand out: the population group aged 50-64 years shows an increase of 6.8%; however, the population group aged 16-24 years shows the lowest increase in the series, which only reaches 0.7%.

In 2021, the highest employment rate is also found in the 25-54 age group (75.37%), followed by the 20-24 age group (36.44%) and the 55 and over age group (25.01%). The lowest rate is among 16-19-year-olds (6.5%).

In 2022-Q1, employment grows in the 16-24, 30-34, 45-49 and 55 and over age groups. The largest increase is in the 20-24 age group with 21,200 more employed. On the other hand, employment fell in the 25-29 age group (2,500 less), in the 35-39 age group (78,000 less), in the 40-44 age group (60,700 less) and in the 50-54 age group (27,700 less).

The table on employed persons by income decile clearly shows that the employment rate increases as we move towards the higher deciles. For the period 2015-2020, the number of employed persons has increased in deciles 3 to 6, remains constant in the seventh decile and decreases in all other deciles (1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th and 10th). The most significant downward variation is precisely in the first decile.

Also, in the year 2021 (latest published data), the income decile of the employed increases as the income decile per unit of consumption increases. The lowest decile is the 1st with 6.3% and the highest is the 10th with 12.9%.

The analysis of the employment rate with respect to the level of education maintains a positive correlation. Levels 3 to 8 (secondary, upper secondary -level 3 and 4, higher education -level 5 to 8-) are above average throughout the series. However, only the grouping of levels 0-2 shows an increase in the rate over the period from 30.7% to 32%. The most significant decrease occurs in levels 3-4 (reduction of 1.5%) while the grouping of levels 5-8 suffers a minimal decline (-0.1%).

Taking the first quarters of 2021 and 2022 as a reference, the link between employment and level of education projects a similar situation: the level of Higher Education is the one that reports the highest number of employed persons (8,946,500 and 9,311,800, respectively); while the group of **illiterate persons** has the lowest figures (36,300 and 64,800, respectively). In both periods, the group with the second highest number

of employed persons is lower secondary education and similar. While the second group with the second lowest number of employed persons are those with incomplete primary education.

For the period 2015-2020, nationality shows a trend that breaks the constant observed so far for the analysis of inactivity and unemployment. In this case, the best employment rates are for the foreign population from the EU, followed by the foreign population from the rest of the world, with the Spanish population occupying the worst rates. The comparison from 2015 to 2020 shows a sustained increase in the employment rate between 2015-2019 that is reversed in 2020. Despite the decline in the data for 2020, only the foreign population from the rest of the world shows a negative closing of the cycle.

The first quarters of 2021 and 2022 behave similarly. In both, EU foreigners have the highest employment rate: 56.33% (2021) and 57.93% (2022). On the other hand, non-EU foreigners in 2021 reach an employment rate of 47.63% and in 2022 it rises to 53.5%.

The degree of urbanisation determines lower employment rates throughout the series with respect to sparsely populated areas. All groups show a positive evolution of growth which is significantly more relevant for the sparsely populated areas (2.9% increase) while the intermediate populated areas show a rise of 1.3% and the densely populated areas reach the lowest figure (1.1%).

On the last day of December 2021, the total number of employed workers registered with Social Security was 19,703,812 (men: 10,449,826 and women: 9,253,949), with a year-on-year variation of 4.23%¹⁰².

In the month of March 2022, the number of Social Security affiliates reached 19,954,479. Looking at the seasonally adjusted data between February 2020 and March 2021, there was a reduction in affiliation of 446,676; but from March 2021 to March 2022, the increase is 919,291 affiliates. Overall, the March figures suggest that the pre-pandemic level of employment (as well as employment measured in hours worked) has been exceeded. In the second quarter of 2022, the number of employed persons increased by 383,300, an increase of 1.91% over the previous quarter, to 20,468,000. Employment has grown by 4.05% in the last 12 months, affecting 796,400 people¹⁰³.

These good data, which have been collected in recent years, coexist with a labour market that has historically presented two structural deficits: high rates of temporary employment and involuntary partial employment. We now proceed to analyse these two realities in the period (2015- Q1-2022) and the impact observed since the labour reform brought about by *Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market*.

3.2. Fixed-term employment (temporary work)

Temporary work in Spain has high levels compared with those of the European reference environment. Thus, in the 2015-2020 cycle, Spain's temporary employment rate was at least 10% higher than that of the EU-27.

A total of 19,384,359 contracts were signed in 2021, of which 17,271,018 were temporary (89.10%), with an increase of 19.96% higher than the figure for 2020. The number of permanent contracts was 2,113,341, which represents an annual rate of stability in hiring of 10.90%, and an increase of 36.73% compared to the accumulated figure in 2020. Following the entry into force of RDL 32/2021, the number of registered contracts has been significantly reduced and their composition has changed. The number of permanent contracts so far has reached 5,250,437, increasing by 260% the number of permanent contracts in the same period of the previous year. This extraordinary increase in permanent contracts to date represents a 37% stability rate in the number of permanent contracts before the end of the year.

With respect to the territoriality of temporary work, it can be seen that Andalusia, Extremadura and the Region of Murcia have the highest presence throughout the series. On the other hand, the lowest rates in the series correspond to the territories of Madrid, Ceuta and Catalonia.

102 Labour Market Information Referent.

103 Labour Force Survey Second Quarter 2022

Taking as a reference the percentages of temporary contracts in Q1 of 2021 and 2022, the three Autonomous Regions with the most temporary contracts were also Andalusia (33.7%), Extremadura (30.9%) and Murcia (29.2%). On the other hand, the lowest were in Ceuta (16%), Catalonia (19.3%) and Madrid (18.8%).

The sex variable shows a clear feminisation of the phenomenon, even though, throughout the 2015-2020 series, an increasing evolution of the ranges can be observed. Thus, in 2015, the temporary employment rate only showed a difference of 0.2%; this value rises to 3.1% by 2020 (mainly due to a reduction in the male population).

Analysing the same periods of 2021 and 2022 (Q1) we see the same trend: the highest figures are for women: 2,007,400 and 1,824,700. Men reach 1,908,100 and 1,824,700.

As far as age groups are concerned, the highest temporariness is observed for the group of 16–24-year-olds and the lowest in the 65 and over age group. It is very noticeable that the behaviour of this variable is increasing as we go down the age groups (in other words, the older age groups show less temporariness and it rises as we consider younger groups).

In Q1 of 2021 and 2022, the age group with the highest number of temporary employees is the 30-39 age group with 1,024,200 and 1,027,300, followed by the 40-49 age group with 943,600 and 984,400 and the 25-29 age group with 654,800 and 670,700. On the other hand, the lowest is the 16-19 age group with 59,900 and 107,400, precisely because it is the age group with the lowest employment and the highest unemployment. It is significant to evaluate within this group, the duration of the contract: for example, in the year 2022 the highest number of young people of this age group were hired for 1-3 months (17,600); while 300 were hired for 2 to less than 3 years and only 900 had contracts of 3 years or more.

The level of education/training has a clear impact on temporariness, with more educated population groups showing lower rates of temporariness (and vice versa). However, the groups at levels 0-2 (infant, primary and lower secondary education) and 3-4 (upper secondary and post-secondary) show a decrease in their rates over the period, while the higher education and doctorate group (levels 5-8) have a higher incidence rate at the end of the cycle.

By nationality, the foreign population from the rest of the world is clearly disadvantaged and the national population is clearly favoured. On average, the temporary employment rate fell by one point in the period.

Finally, the degree of urbanisation also shows a constant behaviour: compared to the national average, higher seasonality rates are found in areas with intermediate and low population density. Densely populated areas always show lower rates than the average. Again, in global terms, there is a reduction of one point in the temporality rate (from 25.1 at the beginning of the series to 24.1 in 2020).

Temporary employment in Spain has been explained by the concurrence of two factors: the existence of a strong presence of seasonal activities and the use (often abusive) of temporary contracts, which usually generates the consolidation of a more precarious employment model. To mitigate or reverse these trends, the labour reform brought about by Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market, assumes that employment contracts are concluded for an indefinite period, establishes limitations on temporary contracts and promotes the fixed-term discontinuous contract (as an alternative to the temporary contract) in seasonal or seasonal activities. The still incipient effects of this reform are analysed below and can be summarised in two main vectors: the reform creates employment and creates better quality employment.

According to data from September by the State Public Employment Service, nine months after the entry into force of Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, the number of permanent contracts increased to levels never before seen in the history of the country. Thus, 47.2% of the contracts signed in September were of indefinite, five times more than the average of the last 37 years. In absolute figures, more than 5 million permanent contracts were signed from January to September 2022. Therefore, compared to September 2021, the increase in permanent contracts is more than five times higher than last year's figures. Specifically, in December 2021, permanent contracts represented 10% in January, the first month of the reform, rising to 15% in February, 22% in March, 30% in April, 48% in May, 44.5% in June, 44.3% in July, 41.4% in July, 39.5% in August and 46.7% in September. This represents a structural change in the pattern of recruitment in Spain.

In short, temporary contracts continue to be the rule in our labour relations system, but their weight as the main type of contract is beginning to diminish. The conversion of temporary contracts to permanent contracts shows a notable process of multiplication. **The labour reform seems to have initiated an inflection**

in the labour contracting model in our country characterised by the activation of general and stable contracting, in particular.

3.3. “Involuntary” part-time work

Involuntary part-time work is considered a form of underemployment. The year 2020 ended with the percentage of involuntary part-time work (as a % of total part-time work) at 51.4%. The decrease in the series (2015-2020) is significant if we look at the annual averages at the national level: in 2015, 62.4% and in 2020, 51.4%. With respect to the European level, Spain starts the cycle with a 62.6 % rate and closes it with 51.3 %, while in the context of the EU-27, the cycle starts with a percentage of 30 % and ends with 23.2 %. **In short, there is a reduction of 11.3% in the Spanish case and 6.8% in the European reference.**

In the period 2015-2020, the share of part-time male workers in total male employment has decreased from 7.9% in 2015 to 6.7% in 2020, and the share of part-time female workers in total female employment has also decreased from 25.2% in 2015 to 22.8% in 2020. Looking at total employment of women and men, the share of part-time men in total employment has decreased from 4.3% in 2015 to 3.6% in 2020. The percentage of part-time women in total employment is 11.4% in 2015 and 10.4% in 2020. **In short, part-time employment is on a downward trend.**

The analysis by age also shows a reduction in the percentages: from 62.4% in 2015 to 51.4% in 2020. The age group with the highest rates of part-time employment is the 25-34 age group, followed by the 50-64 age group. The lowest rates relate to the 65 and over age group.

Involuntary bias is negatively correlated with the level of education/training, so the lowest rates of bias are linked to the higher education and doctorate group and the highest rates are linked to the 0-2 levels of education.

The rate of part-time employment by nationality shows a clear downward trend in the series (the percentage in 2015, 62.4% decreases to 51.4% in 2020). It is the foreign population from the rest of the world that presents the highest incidence of partiality and the Spanish population that presents the lowest levels. The EU foreign population shows a sharper decrease (the reduction is 15.1%, compared to 11.1% for the Spanish population and 7.6% for the foreign population from the rest of the world).

The degree of urbanisation determines that densely populated areas are above the average in all the years of the series, while intermediate and sparsely populated areas are below it. A clear downward progression can be seen for the three groups and in each year (if we consider the average, we can see that 2015 presents a rate of 62.4 %, which ends in 2020 with 51.4 %).

The specific National Statistics Institute’s data on involuntary bias are detailed for up to 2020. However, if we analyse the data (always from the first quarter) for 2021 and 2022, we find illustrative elements of this situation. It can be seen that part-time employment is mainly female: 2,004,200 and 2,112,00. By contrast, men report: 691,900 and 697,300. In the overall data for 2021 the percentage of part-time workers in relation to persons of the same sex is: for men 6.5% and for women 22.4%. This percentage of total employment is 3.5% for men and 10.4% for women. By age group, young people aged 16 to 19 have the highest percentage of partial contracts: 53.1% and 58.9%; the lowest are the group aged 55 to 59 with 10.9% and 10.3%. The reason given by most people for their part-time work is “not being able to find a full-time job” (i.e., what is doctrinally known as *pure involuntary part-time*) with 1,389,500 and 1,384,400. The next reason with the highest reference figures is caring for sick, disabled or elderly children or adults (331,100 and 362,00). The reason with the lowest figures is own illness or disability (39,800 and 48,200).

4. Salary situation analysis

The new ILO report (Global Wage Report 2020-2021), acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic caused monthly wages in the first half of 2020 in two-thirds of the countries for which official data were available to fall or grow more slowly; it also predicts that the crisis is likely to exert immense downward pressure on wages in the near future, with the risk of widespread “working poverty”.

In Spain, average annual earnings per worker were 25,165.51 euros in 2020, an increase of 3.2% over the previous year. Average earnings for men were 27,642.52 euros and for women 22,467.48 euros. The average annual wage for women was therefore 81.3% of the average annual wage for men.

The Wage Structure Survey (2015-2020) published by the National Statistics Institute also analyses the situation of workers (with respect to the total number of workers) in terms of their earnings with respect to the Minimum Interprofessional Salary. This analysis reveals that the majority of workers are in the 1-2 Minimum Interprofessional Salary group, and that the groups that represent higher earnings (2-3 Minimum Interprofessional Salary-More than 8 Minimum Interprofessional Salary) have been reduced if we compare the percentages at the beginning of the series in 2015 and those at the end of the series in 2020. An increase is observed in the two groups with the lowest gains (0-1 Minimum Interprofessional Salary and 1-2 Minimum Interprofessional Salary): the first group goes from a percentage of 12.62% to 19.36%; the second group goes from a percentage of 32.34% to 46.45%.

The survey also presents information on so-called "low earnings"¹⁰⁴ (table 3):

TABLE 3. EVOLUTION OF LOW-WAGE EARNERS (2015-2020)

PROPORTION (%) OF WORKERS WITH LOW EARNINGS					
2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
16.61 %	14.96 %	13.12 %	16.20 %	16.81 %	16.72 %
SHARE (%) OF WOMEN IN TOTAL NUMBER OF LOW-WAGE EARNERS					
2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
62.96 %	63.93 %	62.18 %	63.86 %	64.25 %	65.52 %

Source: National Statistics Institute.

In the overall data (not broken down by gender), the proportion shows a slight improvement in the 2015-2020 comparison. There is, however, a substantial improvement in the indicators referring to the group of women with low earnings, although this does not prevent us from highlighting the high number of women (approx. 63% by 2020) with low earnings in the universe of wage earners. On this point, we refer to section 1.2 (Wages and incomes) of the Challenge Report 3 (gender inequality and discrimination).

When we take income per person and income per consumption unit in relation to activity (16 years and over) as a parameter for analysis, the situation reflected in table 4:

TABLE 4. INCOME PER PERSON AND PER CONSUMPTION UNIT (2015-2021)

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
INCOME PER PERSON	12,865	12,932	12,214	11,892	11,606	11,223	10,919
INCOME PER UNIT OF CONSUMPTION	18,416	18,478	17,517	17,089	16,645	16,082	15,645

Source: Living Conditions Survey. National results.

If we consider the activity groups in relation to income, we can see that the group of employed and retired people have the best income levels. It is striking to note the capacity experienced by the retired group compared to the employed group, whose data are equal in terms of income per consumption unit, but end up

104 Low earnings" refers to the proportion of employees whose hourly earnings are less than 2/3 of the median hourly earnings. Source: National Statistics Institute "Women and Men in Spain".

surpassing the data for the employed group in terms of average income (for 2020, the retired group has an average income of 15,616 euros compared to 13,867 euros for the employed group). **In short, the productive workforce has less income than the passive groups.**

If we consider the Gini Index (income inequality) we can see an improvement (reduction of the index) in the period covered by the series as the values approach 0 (state of perfect equality) (table 5).

TABLE 5. EVOLUTION OF THE GINI INDEX (2015-2020)

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
33.50	33.8	34.30	33.90	34.30	34.30

5. Precarious profiles in the spanish labour market

From the analysis carried out so far, it is clear that a series of “precarious profiles” can be easily recognised in the Spanish labour market, which coincide with the group of women, in particular the group of women who head single-parent households, young people and immigrants (with a special incidence with regard to immigrants not originating from European Union countries, i.e., basically Africans, Latin Americans and Asians).

The women’s group has lower wage/earning levels because they are included in precarious employment formulas (largely part-time and horizontally/vertically segregated). As already highlighted in the Report on Challenge 3 (gender gap and discrimination), single parenthood, which in Spain has a predominantly female profile, reflects the difficulties of integrating women into the world of work and further determines their precariousness.

Young people also appear as a precarious group due to the high rate of structural unemployment in our country and due to the levels of temporary employment and high turnover in their jobs. The precariousness of young people’s employment appears as a constant in any historical series.

Immigrants show a persistent statistical behaviour in the analysis series. With respect to the national population, the immigrant population presents worse indices in general terms (except in the employment rate, in which the foreign population from the EU presents higher rates than the national population). If the analysis refers to the immigrant population, without comparing it with the autochthonous population, it must be stated that it does not present a homogeneous behaviour, being evident the duality observed between foreigners from the European Union and foreigners from outside the Union, (who suffer from a situation of greater difficulty and precariousness in the labour market).

6. Analysis of the employment situation and its impact on the population at risk of relative poverty

Lack of employment or precarious employment conditions are factors that have a great influence on the quality of life of citizens. Generally speaking, a series of highly interrelated economic, social and personal effects revolve around employment (as a cause), which condition very important parameters such as social inequality or the conditions of material or individual (subjective) well-being.

The Living Conditions Survey has included information on the population at “relative risk of poverty”, it measures inequality, not absolute poverty, through the “at-risk-of-poverty rate” and based on the consideration of the different employment statuses: employed, unemployed, retired or inactive (in a population universe ranging from 16 to 64 years of age). The population at “relative risk of poverty among people in

work” is considered to be the percentage of people who are in work and whose equivalent disposable income is below the poverty risk threshold (60% of the median equivalent disposable income). It is therefore a monetary reference that considers the level of income.

In 2020 in Spain, in population terms, the rate of employed, unemployed and retired men was higher than that of women in the same situation. The at-risk-of-poverty rate for men would have increased in 2020 with respect to 2019 in all employment situations (except for the employed). The data reflect an inverse situation in women, who improve in all employment situations with respect to 2019, with the exception of the group of retired women.

The risk (rate) of poverty and/or social exclusion (Europe 2020 Strategy) according to employment status corresponds, in this order, to situations of unemployment and inactivity for both women and men, although with higher rates for men (69.9% of the unemployed compared to 57.2% of unemployed women; and 47.4% of the inactive compared to 38.2% of the inactive women).

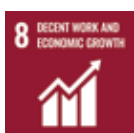
The new definition of the AROPE indicator not only considers income levels, but has also included other references among which - for the purposes of this report - the one referring to “households with very low employment intensity” stands out. The 29 June 2022 update of the Living Conditions Survey presents as a sub-indicator of the AROPE rate households with low employment intensity (understood as households whose members of working age -18 to 64 years old- worked less than 20% of their total working potential in the reference year); in this way the two indicators linking employment status and poverty would be as follows:

TABLE 6. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND POVERTY (2015-2020)

% OF POPULATION INCLUDED IN THE AT-RISK-OF-POVERTY INDICATOR (Survey year 2021; previous year's income)					
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
22.3	21.6	21.5	20.7	21.0	21.7
% OF POPULATION INCLUDED IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH LOW EMPLOYMENT INTENSITY (Survey year 2021)					
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
14.9	12.8	10.8	10.9	10.0	11.6

Source: Living Conditions Survey.

The interpretation of the table leads us to conclude that in the period 2015-2020, after a few years of reduction in both rates, there is an upturn in both the at-risk-of-poverty rate and the rate of households with low labour intensity, which brings us back to 2016 levels.



ACCELERATING POLICY

5.

QUALITY AND STABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT

The Accelerating Policy for Sustainable Development, *Quality and Stability in Employment* has the priority of tackling the structural imbalances that the Spanish labour market has been dragging along with it for decades, hindering productivity gains, increasing precariousness and deepening territorial, social and gender gaps. Its priorities for action are oriented towards two fundamental areas. On the one hand, generating quality employment, understood from a comprehensive logic that covers all aspects encompassed by the concept of decent work from the perspective of the 2030 Agenda and its SDG 8. That is, safe and healthy working conditions, fair pay, career advancement and strengthening social dialogue and collective bargaining. On the other hand, guaranteeing employment stability, overcoming the structural unemployment crisis, so that the population as a whole can develop stable and dignified life projects, by deploying a set of regulatory reforms and policies aimed at guaranteeing labour rights and improving the employability and access to the labour market of those who are unemployed, taking advantage of the job opportunities generated by the dual digital and ecological transition of the production system.

Within this framework, the actions promoted during the first year of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy are already generating a profound transformation of the labour market. Firstly, the approval of **Royal Decree-Law 32/2021**, of 28 December, **on urgent measures for labour reform, guaranteeing employment stability and transforming the labour market**, approved by the Council of Ministers at the end of 2021 and ratified by the Congress of Deputies on 3 February 2022. This reform is the result of negotiation and agreement with the social partners in the framework of social dialogue, aimed at reducing temporary employment and guaranteeing stability, providing continuity to the figure of Temporary Redundancy Regulations (ERTE) as a priority adjustment mechanism, as well as modernising contracting and subcontracting, and strengthening collective bargaining.

The first of the areas addressed by RD-Law 32/2021 is the **simplification and reorganisation of contract modalities through** the design of new types of contracts so that the permanent contract is the general rule and the temporary contract has an exclusively causal origin, avoiding an abusive use of this concept and excessive turnover of workers. Therefore, this new regulation of temporary contracts reinforces permanent contracts, promoting employment security, while establishing the necessary flexibility mechanisms so that companies can adequately meet their real needs for temporary contracts.

In short, this labour reform has led to a significant simplification of the contractual modalities, with the disappearance of the works contract, a modality that brought together the majority of temporary contracts, largely without cause, leaving temporary contracts limited to temporary contracts and replacement contracts, while at the same time establishing new rules limiting the concatenation of contracts.

In addition, the new regulation of permanent contracts puts an end to the artificial distinction in the legal regime between permanent regular and permanent discontinuous contracts, responding in fact to what already exists for social protection purposes, as there is an identity in the objective scope of coverage, and thus avoiding unjustified differences in treatment. The reform of the fixed-term contract has a special impact because, by clarifying its legal regime and establishing a framework of rights and obligations adapted to the current reality, it ensures that the seasonal needs of companies are covered by means of this type of permanent contract, and not by means of temporary contracts.

This new regulation also ensures the **stability, transparency and predictability of the contract** through improved information on working hours and periods of activity in the employment contract, giving a fundamental role to collective bargaining, in relation to the call-up regime or the training and improved employability of permanent employees during periods of inactivity.

The **new contracting model promoted by RD-Law 32/2021** is producing intense, rapid and profound effects on the structure of employment contracts in Spain, with an undeniably positive impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the strategic objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. For example, in December 2021, the month prior to the entry into force of the reform, permanent contracts accounted for only 10% of all contracts formalised, a percentage that, with few fluctuations, has remained unchanged for almost four decades, despite the numerous regulatory changes introduced during that period, which failed to alter the Spanish anomaly of the abusive use of temporary contracts. By contrast, the entry into force of the labour reform regulated by RD-Law 32/2021 has made it possible for one out of every two employment contracts signed to be permanent, with 1,609,256 more permanent contracts having been signed in the first five months of this year and 2,786,206 fewer temporary contracts than in the same period of 2019.

This impact is also reflected in **Social Security enrolment**. Eight months after the entry into force of the labour reform, and four months after the application of its main innovations in contractual matters, its positive effects on improving the quality of employment continue to be seen. In August 2022, the increase in the number of people affiliated with permanent contracts continued to accelerate. In this respect, 39.5% of the contracts signed in August were permanent, five times more than the average for the last 37 years. In absolute figures, almost 4.5 million permanent contracts were signed between January and August 2022.

The increase in employment stability can be seen in the proportion of those with permanent contracts: in August 2022, they reached 80.3%, 11 points higher than was usual before the outbreak of the global pandemic of COVID-19. Moreover, there are particularly positive effects among young people, a group with a normally high rate of temporary employment. Among people under 30 years of age, permanent contracts increased by an average of 337.4%, compared with the cumulative figure up to August 2021.

In the **area of contracting and subcontracting of works or services**, Royal Decree-Law 32/2021 amended article 42 of the Workers' Statute, with the aim of improving the working conditions and rights of people working in contractor and subcontractor companies. The aim is to promote the stability of workers by creating a business context of fair competition, which avoids basing its competitiveness on worse working conditions, thus promoting more stable workforces and ensuring that outsourcing must be justified for reasons other than the reduction of labour rights of people working in contractor companies.

It is therefore established that the applicable collective bargaining agreement will be the sector agreement corresponding to the activity carried out in the contract, so that the remuneration and other labour rights of the workers of the contractor companies will be closer to the remuneration and conditions of the workers of the contracting companies, which will bring the amount of labour costs closer together and reduce the risk of unfair competition between companies. In this way, the social responsibility of contractors and subcontractors is reinforced, given that they will be subject to the same rules as the other companies in the sector of activity, contributing to the improvement of working conditions in the sector as a whole.

This measure is not only an objective of elementary justice, but is also closely linked to the principle of non-discrimination in the case of jobs, professions or sectors with high female employment, such as chambermaids. The aim is to make it impossible for two persons performing work of equal value to have different working conditions, or even to lack a sector frame of reference, solely because of the corporate purpose or legal form of the contracting or subcontracting company to which they are linked.

In this way, the principle of non-discrimination and equal treatment is ensured by the guarantee of an applicable sector collective agreement, without prejudice to the rights of freedom of enterprise and collective bargaining.

For its part, the **strengthening of collective bargaining** is also a priority in RD-Law 32/2021, giving preference to the sector agreement over the company agreement in matters of remuneration, without this entailing a reduction in the company's capacity to adapt to production cycles and to respond to the needs of productivity. Preference is also maintained for the company agreement in non-remuneration matters, such as working hours or work-life balance measures. The aim is for companies to compete on the basis of factors such as productivity, efficiency and the level of education and training of their human resources, as well as the quality of their goods and services and their degree of innovation, as opposed to using collective bargaining to compete unfairly by reducing labour costs. This system therefore reinforces business management strategies based on job quality rather than labour cost reduction, which is a decisive element in ensuring workforce stability and securing decent employment.

A final key aspect of the labour reform promoted through RD-Law 32/2021 is the regulation of two adjustment mechanisms to **provide continuity to the concept of Temporary Redundancy Regulations (ERTE)**, facilitating their use as an alternative and priority formula to contractual terminations, when there are temporary economic, technical, organisational or production causes (ETOP), as well as those arising from temporary force majeure. This makes it possible for companies to temporarily reduce working hours or temporarily suspend employment contracts, protecting workers and companies.

In addition, it introduces a new mechanism (RED) for employment flexibility and stabilisation, designed to address exceptional needs of a cyclical or sector-based nature, consisting of suspensions or reductions in working hours, so that companies can have the necessary organisational flexibility during the critical situation to enable a more effective subsequent regeneration which, in turn, guarantees the maintenance and stability of employment. The mechanism includes public participation through a reduction in social security costs, provided that the company carries out job training activities during the crisis situation and maintains the level of employment.

The change in the response model to economic crises, initiated in the context of the global pandemic of COVID-19, is thus consolidated, opting for the application of mechanisms to maintain employment and instruments of internal flexibility such as the Temporary Redundancy Regulations, as opposed to the previous model that had employment as the adjustment variable, in the form of dismissals and job destruction.

In short, a labour reform, promoted with the agreement of employers and trade unions in the framework of social dialogue, which entails a profound structural change in our labour market to make it more robust, more solid and more stable, acting as a powerful factor of stability in the economy, and placing employment at the centre of economic recovery.

Another key element to end precarious work is to ensure **job quality, understood from the perspective of fair pay**. In this sense, improving labour incomes is an essential link to realising the SDG 8 aspiration of ensuring decent work for all, which in turn has a positive impact on addressing Country Challenge 1: *End poverty and inequality*, and on the achievement of SDG1 and SDG10.

The expansive income policy strategy is best expressed in the decision, adopted within the social dialogue, to raise the Minimum Interprofessional Salary (SMI), the amount of which has been increased by 36% since 2018, rising from 735.9 euros to 1,000 euros in 2022, and particularly benefiting young people, women, migrants and, in general, those population groups that work in sectors with little bargaining power.

The **objectives of this reform have been extended to other related policies, such as migration policy**. The reform of the Aliens Regulation, through Royal Decree 629/2022 of 26 July, has adapted different migratory figures based on a temporary contracting model to the new paradigm of employment stability advocated by RD-Law 32/2021. Firstly, it incorporates mechanisms for assessing the contracts presented in the work authorisation that are not based on the duration of the contract - which should be assumed to be indefinite - but rather on the adaptation to the Minimum Interprofessional Wage or

applicable collective agreement, and eliminates the concept of fixed-term contracts in residence and work authorisations.

Secondly, it creates a new circular migration model that provides the stability and predictability of permanent-discontinuous contracts, allowing for four-year work authorisations that enable the worker to work for up to nine months per year. The worker's commitment to return is rewarded with the possibility, after the end of these four years, of obtaining a two-year residence and work permit, no longer linked to a circular model, or the possibility of continuing to extend the stable circular migration model for four-year periods.

Thirdly, with the aim of bringing the underground economy to the surface and combating the situations of vulnerability that it generates for foreigners who may be working in these situations, a new form of authorisation is created through collaboration with the labour authority, which allows a residence and work permit to be obtained if it is accredited, either by the person concerned or by a third party, that there has been six months of work in an irregular situation, without requiring a previous continuous period of time in Spain in an irregular situation. Therefore, this type of situation affecting foreigners is facilitated by the elimination of these two years of continuity in an irregular situation, and the possibility that the administration may, *ex officio*, request the documentation of the persons affected by the irregular work situation.

Finally, this reform of the Aliens Regulation also modifies the determination of national employment status through the Catalogue of Difficult-to-Fill Occupations, seeking to ensure that it more clearly reflects the needs of the different productive sectors, and that foreigners who can and wish to work in these jobs can access them through regular, orderly and safe migration channels, with a contract from the point of origin and without going through periods of irregularity.

Guaranteeing decent work also implies regulating and **incorporating into labour law the new forms of employment arising as a result of the development of the digital economy** and the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) to labour relations. From this perspective, **Royal Decree-Law 9/2021** of 11 May, which amends the Workers' Statute to guarantee the labour rights of persons engaged in delivery services on digital platforms, represents another step forward in the quality of employment. This regulation, in force since 12 August 2021, aims to guarantee the right to fair and equal treatment in terms of working conditions for persons engaged in home delivery activities using digital platforms. To this end, it establishes a presumption of employment for the activities of delivery or distribution of any type of product or goods, when the company exercises its powers of organisation, direction and control, by means of algorithmic management of the service or working conditions, through a digital platform. By legally establishing the presumption of the employment nature of the relationship between the company and the delivery person, the full application of the Workers' Statute and all labour legislation as a whole is guaranteed.

Along the same lines is the **regulation of teleworking**, through **Royal Decree-Law 28/2020, of 22 September, on teleworking**. This regulatory framework favours the implementation of teleworking, while preserving business productivity and granting protection and flexibility to workers. The regulation is based on two fundamental principles: equal treatment and non-discrimination with respect to those who work in person, and the voluntary nature of teleworking, both for the worker and the employer, favouring mixed forms of remote and on-site work.

In short, the technological and digital revolution brought about by the growing application of ICTs in the economic and labour sphere is compatible, through the above regulatory frameworks, with the purpose of labour law in its function of rebalancing interests and protecting the weaker party, while maximising its potential for improving productivity and favouring the reconciliation of personal and working life.

In addition to this **transition towards an increasingly digital economy, there is the ecological transition that our production model has already begun** and which should be completed in the next decade to meet the climate and environmental objectives committed to within the framework of the European Union, which will in turn be fundamental for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. A double transition in which **the modernisation of Active Employment Policies** has a prominent role as a tool for the in-

tegration and adaptation of people to the labour market, as an element of productive transformation and as a mechanism to guarantee stable and quality employment.

Throughout the first year of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, various actions have been deployed in this area, such as the **Active Support Strategy for Employment 2021-2024**, approved through Royal Decree 1069/2021 of 4 December, which determines the conceptual and organisational framework to which all actions carried out within the National Employment System in the field of active policies and vocational training for employment in the workplace must refer. The **Youth Guarantee Plus 2021-2027 Plan for decent work for young people** has also been launched, which aims to improve the qualifications of young people so that they acquire the professional and technical skills necessary to access the labour market, and which has been defined in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, the Youth Institute (INJUVE) and the Youth Council and social dialogue.

In addition, initiatives have been developed especially aimed at promoting quality employment for women, providing personalised attention to women in rural and urban areas through individualised itineraries that combine different types of actions, such as employment guidance, advice, information, training, acquisition of transversal competencies and skills, in order to facilitate their integration into the labour market and encourage active accompaniment in the search for employment. Likewise, an initiative has been developed that includes training with a commitment to hiring and insertion for women victims of gender violence, trafficking or sexual exploitation. The integration of gender mainstreaming in the design, development and evaluation of the Public Employment Activation Policies has also been considered.

In addition, within the framework of social dialogue, the **new regulation of vocational training at work is being** addressed, which will involve the reform of Law 30/2015 that regulates the Vocational Training System for employment in the labour sphere. The reform, among other aspects, seeks to increase the flexibility required for the constant adaptation of this training to the strategies and needs of the labour market at all times, consolidating training as an individual right and strengthening the link between vocational training at work and social dialogue and collective bargaining, in order to substantially improve the detection of training needs.

Finally, on 21 June 2022, the Council of Ministers approved the **draft Employment Act**, which forms part of the structural reform of the labour market committed to in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. It constitutes a framework regulation to guarantee working people a common portfolio of services, regardless of where they live, including new and more effective tools to improve their employability, through itineraries and personalised support throughout their working lives. For the first time, this advice includes entrepreneurs and self-employed workers. Furthermore, the Law will give active employment policies a local dimension by establishing formulas for collaboration with local administrations, and a catalogue of services for companies for the management of job offers submitted to the public employment services, including advice on recruitment and the identification of training needs, as well as support in outplacement processes. Finally, it promotes the creation of the **Spanish Employment Agency** which, together with the public employment services of the Autonomous Communities, will make up the National Employment System.

A final key instrument in the modernisation of Active Employment Policies is the commitment to the **digitalisation of public employment services** and their various bodies and management mechanisms. In this line, a pilot project has been carried out to improve the organisation of citizen services, through a new multi-channel integrated management system for managing appointments and waiting times, which has been implemented in all provincial directorates of the State Public Employment Service (SEPE),

The fight against job insecurity in order to advance towards the objective of stable and quality employment is also reinforced through the **ratification and incorporation into our legal system of international and European legal instruments** that protect new rights and strengthen the guarantees of existing ones.

Along these lines, on 17 May 2022, Spain submitted the instrument of ratification of the Revised European Social Charter at the headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The **ratification of**

the Revised European Social Charter will make it possible to develop new measures to improve the application of social rights guaranteed in its framework, such as the right to dignity at work, promoting the prevention of harassment and violence in the workplace. It also reaffirms the right of workers to protection in the event of dismissal and the right of workers' representatives to effective protection by the company. It also includes the right to equal opportunities for workers, and strengthens the participation of trade union, business and social organisations. With its ratification, Spain will be able to complete the adoption of the set of mechanisms that make up the European Social Charter, which includes three Additional Protocols. The ratification of the Revised European Social Charter also entails the entry into force of the Protocol on Collective Complaints for Spain.

In line with reinforcing guarantees and prevention of harassment and violence in the workplace, Spain ratified in May 2022 the **International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 190 on violence and harassment at work (2019)**, broadening the legal definition of sexual harassment in the workplace and strengthening due protection. It explicitly aims to eradicate violence and harassment "in the world of work", a broad term that encompasses situations and groups beyond the employment relationship. This convention offers for the first time at the international level cross-cutting and gender-sensitive protection against violence and harassment in the world of work.

On the same date, **ILO Convention 177 on Home Work (1996)** was also ratified. A convention that materialises the equality between homeworkers and other wage earners, without the place of work being a discriminatory factor in the enjoyment of basic labour rights.

Prior to that, in April 2022, **ILO Convention 188 on Work in Fishing (2007)** was ratified, aimed at improving working conditions in the fishing sector on issues such as living and working conditions of workers on board fishing vessels, including minimum accommodation and food conditions, safety protection, occupational health and medical care, increased monitoring and investigation of the demands of workers in the sector, and the prevention of forced labour and human trafficking.

However, it should be noted that, prior to its ratification, Spain had already adopted most of the necessary measures to bring the legislation into line with the material part of this Convention, through the transposition of Council Directive (EU) 2017/159 of 19 December 2016, implementing the Agreement on the Application of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, concluded on 21 May 2012 between the General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union (Cogeca), the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) and the Association of National Organisations of Fishing Enterprises in the European Union (Europêche).

Finally, formal procedures have been initiated for the ratification by Spain of **ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers (2011)**, which implies a commitment to the equalisation of working conditions and social security for domestic workers, in areas where differences are not justified by the particularities of the work performed.

This commitment has resulted in the approval of **Royal Decree-Law 16/2022, of 6 September, for the improvement of working conditions and social security for domestic workers**, which establishes the relevant amendments to labour, social security and occupational risk prevention regulations in order to bring the working conditions of domestic workers fully into line with those of other workers, thus applying the provisions of ILO Convention 189. This Royal Decree-Law places Spain at the forefront of gender equality, correcting a historical discrimination against domestic workers and making progress in the correct valuation of the work of all people, men and women, initiated with Royal Decree 902/2020, of 13 October, on equal pay for men and women.

The ratification of these ILO conventions, after eleven years without ratifying any convention, is evidence of a renewed commitment to social justice and the dignity of working people, thus contributing to progress towards the achievement of SDG 8 of the 2030 Agenda.

Guaranteeing labour rights and decent working conditions also requires **reinforcing inspection activity** in order to combat labour fraud and undeclared work, guarantee equality and non-discrimination in working conditions, including gender-based discrimination, enable protection against excessive working hours, guarantee the right to health and safety and protect trade union freedom, among others.

The Strategic Plan for the Labour and Social Security Inspection (ITSS) 2021-2023, approved by the Council of Ministers in November 2021, aims to modernise this inspection service, providing it with new tools and resources to guarantee its adaptation to the new challenges in the labour sphere, such as the new forms and dimensions of labour and social security fraud, resulting from an increasingly globalised and interconnected world, as well as the new conditions and forms of work provision, including new health risks in the workplace. The proposal has been agreed with the autonomous communities, which are an essential part of the ITSS system, since the inspection function in labour matters and occupational risk prevention is the responsibility of the autonomous administrations.

Similarly, the achievement of SDG 8 entails ensuring safe and healthy working conditions. To this end, the extension of the **Strategy for Safety and Health at Work 2015-2020** has been approved to ensure continuous improvement of working conditions and to develop effective preventive policies. The Strategy is based on two fundamental principles: prevention and collaboration. Prevention is the most effective way to reduce accidents at work and occupational diseases, and collaboration between public entities, employers and workers promotes and drives the effective improvement of working conditions.

In addition, in July 2021, the European Commission unveiled the **EU Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027**. This document defines key priorities and actions to improve the safety and health of the working population, addressing rapid changes in the economy, demographics and work patterns. It aims to ensure safer working environments, based on three cross-cutting objectives: managing change arising from the ecological, digital and demographic transitions, as well as the evolution of the traditional working environment; improving the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases; and increasing preparedness for possible future crises. This strategic framework will be the basis on which the objectives and actions of the future **Spanish Strategy for Health and Safety at Work**, which will be agreed within the framework of social dialogue and is expected to be approved imminently, will be based.











For its part, in the specific field of **self-employment and the social economy**, there have also been important advances in this first year of implementation of the commitments of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. The first of these is the approval in June 2022 of the **National Strategy for the Promotion of Self-Employment 2021-2027 (ENDITA)**, conceived as a set of strategic lines framing public policies to promote self-employment in the medium and long term, aimed at improving the conditions in which self-employed workers carry out their activity. This objective is projected over the entire life cycle of their activity, from the creation of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, through the start of the self-employed activity, and the accompanying and improvement measures in the evolutionary development of the activity.
















Given the enormous heterogeneity and cross-cutting nature of this group, the Strategy also aims to promote coordinated action, aligning and providing coherence to the different actions, cross-cutting or sector-based, already existing or that may be promoted by public administrations in the coming years, within the framework of promoting a more flexible, resilient, modern economic model rooted in the territory. Its actions are specified through an action plan scheduled in two phases, covering the periods 2022 to 2024 and 2025 to 2027.















In the field of the Social Economy, the **Council for the Promotion of the Social Economy** has been reactivated, after 11 years, as an advisory and consultative body of the Government. This Council has played an important role in the design of the **Strategic Project for the Recovery and Economic Transformation (PERTE) of the Social and Care Economy**, approved by the Council of Ministers on 31 May, to which 808 million euros will be allocated until 2026, to promote lever policies that allow the expansion of the Social Economy, as well as the transformation of the Care Economy, enabling the creation of quality and stable employment, and contributing to tackle rural depopulation and promoting gender equality. The Council also participates in the drafting of the **new Spanish Social Economy Strate-**

gy, and in the design of legislative changes relating to cooperatives and work integration companies, among other initiatives.

Lastly, the commitment to promoting self-employment and the social economy has taken the form of an increase of more than 135% in the budget earmarked to support the initiatives of associations of self-employed workers, cooperatives, labour companies, insertion companies and other bodies representing the social economy at national level. This is in addition to the resources provided for in the framework of the Integral Plan to Boost the Social Economy, with more than 100 million euros, channelled on a competitive basis, and aimed at supporting initiatives in the field of business recovery, digitalisation and knowledge transfer.

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
By 2022, address the reform of the Workers' Statute aimed at simplifying and rearranging the modalities of employment contracts, adequately designing these new types of contracts so that the permanent contract is the general rule and the temporary contract has an exclusively causal origin; as well as establishing an adequate regulation of training contracts that provides an adequate framework for the incorporation of young people into the labour market.	<p>Guarantee employment stability by simplifying and reorganising employment contracts, through an appropriate design so that the permanent contract is the general rule and the temporary contract has an exclusively causal origin.</p> <p>Use of the permanent-discontinuous contract for cyclical and seasonal activities, reinforcing the control of part-time recruitment.</p> <p>Regulating transparent and predictable working conditions with the aim of increasing the information obligations of the employer to the worker and avoiding precarious situations with greater transparency and predictability.</p>	<p>Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market.</p> <p>Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market.</p> <p>Transposition of Directive D. (EU) 2019/1152 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union.</p>	  
By 2022, address the reform of Article 42 of the Workers' Statute aimed at modernising the regulation of subcontracting to ensure its appropriate use in those cases where it improves productive activity and discourage it in those cases where it is merely a cost-cutting tool, in order to achieve an adequate level of protection for subcontracted workers and to move towards equal conditions for subcontracted workers, as well as to reinforce the responsibility of contractor or subcontractor companies and prevent the outsourcing of services through subcontracting from being used as a mechanism to reduce the labour standards of people working for subcontractor companies.	<p>Address the regulation of contracting and subcontracting of business activities to bring the working conditions of subcontracted workers in line with those of the workers of the main company and strengthen the responsibility of contractors or subcontractors.</p>	<p>Royal Decree-Law 32/2021 of 28 December on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market, amending the Workers' Statute (amendment of Article 42).</p>	
By 2022, undertake the reform of the Workers' Statute to modernise the architecture of collective bargaining, addressing aspects such as the ultra-activity of agreements, the relationship between sector and company agreements and the mechanisms for consultation and negotiation in cases of substantial modification of working conditions, as well as addressing changes in the bargaining structure itself, strengthening the representative nature of the negotiating parties, enriching content and reinforcing legal certainty in application and its effects.	<p>Modernise the regulation of collective bargaining, to adapt it to the needs of companies and sectors and to structure a balanced industrial relations system.</p>	<p>Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, guaranteeing employment stability and the transformation of the labour market, amending the Workers' Statute.</p>	
Until 2024, reform active employment policies to contribute to the fight against unemployment, and as a fundamental element in the configuration of a sustainable labour market, with workers integrated in a life-cycle training system and with companies involved in employability, through the approval and development of the Spanish Active Employment Support Strategy 2021-2024, the Youth Guarantee 2021-2027 and the Employment Act in 2022.	<p>Modernisation of Active Employment Policies, as a tool for integrating people into the labour market and as an element of productive transformation through measures such as the Spanish Active Employment Support Strategy 2021-2024, the Employment Act and strategies aimed at specifically promoting youth employment such as the Youth Guarantee and a Youth Employment Shock Plan 2019-2021.</p> <p>Development of active policies aimed especially at promoting quality employment for women, with an emphasis on improving women's skills and closing the gender gap, in particular in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) professions.</p> <p>Modernisation and digitalisation of public employment services and of the various bodies and mechanisms for managing employment policies.</p> <p>New regulation of vocational training at work, which will involve the reform of Law 30/2015, in order to regulate the general framework of vocational training at work, from the prospecting and detection of training needs, to the planning and financing of training.</p> <p>To modernise and reinforce training for employment and the configuration of individualised employment guidance trajectories, establishing mechanisms for adequate coordination between companies and educational entities, configuring instruments to guarantee decent work for trainees, designing training for employment as an integral part of personalised training and employment itineraries and establishing tools for the adaptation of graduates in a changing labour market, within the framework of the new Vocational Training Act.</p>	<p>Employment Draft Law in parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>Royal Decree 1069/2021 of 4 December, approving the Spanish Active Employment Support Strategy 2021-2024.</p> <p>Resolution of 24 June 2021, of the Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, publishing the Agreement of the Council of Ministers of 8 June 2021, approving the Youth Guarantee Plus Plan 2021-2027 for decent work for young people.</p> <p>Component 23 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, (CM 16 June 2021): development of three initiatives aimed at the employment of women and their integration into the productive world.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, the State Public Employment Service is immersed in a major modernisation and digitisation process (components 11 and 23 of the PRTR).</p> <p>State Employment Agency (CM of 22 June 2022)</p> <p>Within the framework of the Social Dialogue, the new regulation of vocational training at work is being addressed, which will involve the reform of Law 30/2015 that regulates the Vocational Training System for employment in the workplace.</p> <p>Draft Employment Law in parliamentary procedure (includes Specific Recommendations for the Promotion of Decent Employment in Article 9.3).</p>	    

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
By 2022, amend Article 47 of the Workers' Statute, which regulates the suspension or reduction of working hours by means of a temporary redundancy regulation, to speed up the procedure for approving said regulations and to put this instrument to good use.	Provide continuity to the figure of the Temporary Redundancy Regulation (ERTE) , as a structural mechanism of internal flexibility as an alternative to dismissal in the event of temporary or cyclical downturns in the company's activity.	Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market.	 
By 2030, reduce the structural unemployment rate of the Spanish economy to levels comparable to those of EU countries and increase the activity rate to European levels.	Raise the employment rate towards the EU average and increase the growth of stable and quality employment by tackling duality and precariousness in the labour market.	Registered unemployment has fallen by 410,000 people in the last 12 months to below 3 million for the first time in 14 years.	 
By 2030, increase employment stability, reducing the high level of temporary employment to levels comparable to those of neighbouring countries by 2030, with special emphasis on the situation of population groups of migrant and/or racially diverse ethnic origin.	To regulate the activities of distribution to third parties using technological means (riders) by providing sufficient regulation, clarifying the notes of employment. Ratification of ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers (2011) , which aims to raise the profile of this type of work, contribute to the elimination of the informal economy and promote equal treatment with other employed workers.	Royal Decree-Law 9/2021 of 11 May amending the Workers' Statute to guarantee the labour rights of persons engaged in digital platform delivery. Formal procedures for ratification of ILO Convention 189 initiated, following authorisation by the Spanish Parliament.	   
By 2030, eradicate wage poverty by increasing wage incomes, including raising the minimum wage to 60% of the average wage, in compliance with the European Social Charter.	Improve labour incomes by developing an incomes policy that improves the living conditions of working people and boosts the economy as a whole. The revised European Social Charter and the Additional Protocol on Collective Complaints which strengthens the involvement of trade union, employers' and social organisations in the implementation of the European Social Charter.	Royal Decree 152/2022 of 22 February setting the minimum interprofessional salary for 2022. The instrument of ratification of the Revised European Social Charter submitted on 17 May 2022.	  
By 2030, ensure equal pay for work of equal value as a mechanism to eradicate the pay gap for women.	Development of Royal Decree 902/2020 of 13 October on equal pay for women and men, which implements Article 28 of the Workers' Statute and regulates pay transparency instruments. Strategic Plan of the Labour and Social Security Inspectorate , to strengthen the activity of the Inspectorate in the following areas: Fight against labour fraud and undeclared work, defence of employment stability, defence of equality and non-discrimination in employment and working conditions, guarantee of equal opportunities and non-discrimination based on gender, protection against excessive working hours, right to health and safety at work and protection of trade union freedom and the rights of workers' representatives.	Development of Royal Decree 902/2020, of 13 October, on equal pay for women and men, aims to facilitate the identification of pay differentials between women and men by defining jobs of equal value. Resolution of 29 November 2021, of the Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, publishing the Agreement of the Council of Ministers of 16 November 2021, approving the Strategic Plan for the Labour and Social Security Inspectorate 2021-2023.	 
By 2030, reduce the youth unemployment rate to levels comparable to those of EU countries by 2030.	Modernisation of Active Employment Policies , as a tool for integrating people into the labour market and as an element of productive transformation through measures such as the Spanish Active Employment Support Strategy 2021-2024 , the Employment Act and strategies aimed at specifically promoting youth employment such as the Youth Guarantee and a Youth Employment Shock Plan 2019-2021 .	Resolution of 24 June 2021, of the Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, publishing the Agreement of the Council of Ministers of 8 June 2021, approving the Youth Guarantee Plus Plan 2021-2027 for decent work for young people.	 

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
By 2030, increase safety and health at work, eradicating accidents at work and addressing the psychological well-being of workers, with particular attention to the new needs arising from changes in the world of work.	Regulate teleworking to establish principles that guarantee the rights of workers.	Royal Decree-Law 28/2020 of 22 September on distance work.	  
	Ratification of ILO Convention 188 on work in fisheries, which aims to improve working conditions and ensure decent work for workers in the fisheries sector.	Ratification in April 2022.	
	Ratification of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment at work, broadening the legal definition of sexual harassment in the workplace and strengthening adequate protection.	Ratification in May 2022.	
By 2030, reorganise and improve all the benefits of the social protection system.	The revised European Social Charter and the Additional Protocol on Collective Complaints which strengthens the involvement of trade union, employers' and social organisations in the implementation of the European Social Charter.	Deposited on 17 May 2022 the instrument of ratification of the Revised European Social Charter.	    
By 2030, put in place measures to eliminate discrimination in access to employment for people with a migrant background.	Ratification of ILO Convention 177 on Home Work (1996) and ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers (2011) , which aim to raise the profile of this type of work, contribute to the elimination of the informal economy and promote equal treatment with other employed workers.	<p>Ratification in May 2022 of ILO Convention 177 on Home Work (1996).</p> <p>Ratification in June 2022 of ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers (2011).</p>	  
By 2030, improve levels of occupational safety and health, and improve workers' preparedness for new crises and threats.	Adoption of a new national strategy for health and safety at work , in agreement with the social partners, whose objectives and actions will be articulated with the new EU Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027.	Extension of the Spanish Strategy for Safety and Health at Work 2015-2020 (MC of 23 February 2021).	  

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Updating and guaranteeing access to Vocational Training for Employment, strengthening its personalised provision based on the demands of the production system.
- Strengthening the training and professional re-qualification of workers, in order to redirect their careers to employment-generating sectors.
- New integrated management model of the public employment service to improve employment processes, services and programmes.
- Specific pathways for youth entrepreneurship and to ingrain the values of entrepreneurship in young people.
- Labour integration of the most vulnerable groups through the promotion of entrepreneurship and self-employment among people with functional diversity.
- Strategy for the Generation of Environmental Employment in Andalusia 2030.
- Support for the socio-occupational integration of groups in situations of social exclusion through a line of subsidies to Insertion Companies.



In 2021, the Regional Government of Andalusia launched several lines of subsidies linked to the Professional Guidance and Insertion Accompaniment Programmes, the Programme for the Promotion of Industrial Employment and Labour Insertion Measures in Andalusia, etc., to reinforce the training and professional re-qualification of workers and redirect their careers to sectors that generate employment.

For its part, in application of the Master Plan for the Organisation of Active Policies, it has been working on the digitalisation and improvement of the procedures for statistical profiling of labour supply and demand, which will profoundly modernise the functioning of the Andalusian Employment Service (SEA) in terms of placement, guidance and intermediation with the capacity to link people's labour supply with the needs of the Andalusian productive fabric.

Through the approval of the General Plan for Entrepreneurship 2021-2027 (Decree 176/2021, of 8 June), various programmes have been developed to promote entrepreneurial culture and business activity in strategic sectors and groups, with special emphasis on the development of specific itineraries to ingrain the values of entrepreneurship in young people, such as the "Innacia" Entrepreneurial Culture.

Several programmes have also been implemented to promote labour integration and personalised attention for vulnerable groups through the development of integrated projects that include guidance and trai-

ning actions, in particular the New Territorial Projects Programme for the rebalancing and equity of particularly vulnerable groups. Also noteworthy is the line of subsidies aimed at the socio-occupational integration of people belonging to groups in a situation of social exclusion through insertion companies.

ARAGON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Special employment plans for vulnerable sectors, such as young people, women and the over 50s.
- Improve the qualifications of human capital, through company-university-educational centre dialogue.
- Reinforce training for unemployed people, especially in rural areas, adapted to new professional needs.

The Government of Aragon, through the Aragonese Employment Institute (INAEM), has focused its actions on the development of employability programmes aimed at people in vulnerable situations in the labour market, especially women in rural areas and young people.

One of them consists of a training programme to improve the digital skills of women in rural areas that will train a total of 8,315 women in Aragon until 2025, giving preference to those living in municipalities of less than 30,000 inhabitants. The aim is to reach 20% of this figure this year and by 2023, to have trained 80% of the total number of Aragonese women who will benefit from this initiative, i.e., more than 6,650 women.

The second programme, aimed at unemployed young people under 30 years of age and registered in the Youth Guarantee System, will enable them to gain professional experience by participating in projects of general and social interest promoted by local entities, public bodies, universities and non-profit organisations in collaboration with INAEM. To this end, their hiring will be subsidised for a minimum of six months and with a working day of at least 50%.

The projects for which young people are recruited may be related to the implementation of R&D+i systems, ICT, scientific or technological activities, environmental protection, rehabilitation of public infrastructure, heritage conservation, socio-cultural development, community services, care for people with disabilities or in social exclusion, promotion of gender equality or activities linked to health or sport.

Finally, the Government of Aragon has promoted various training actions financed with funds from the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR) aimed at carrying out job placement initiatives with particularly vulnerable groups. These eight programmes, with a total budget of 33.8 million euros, include projects and actions to address the demographic challenge and the transformation towards a green and digital economy.

CANARY ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Co-responsibility measures with an intersectional perspective with funding from the European Resilience and Recovery Fund (*).
- 2nd Equality Strategy 2019-2023. (*)
- Support for women at risk of social exclusion to combat job insecurity, and aid to reduce job insecurity among Roma women.
- Programme for the promotion of stable and quality employment.
- Social and Labour Activation Protocols programmes, to reinforce the vocational guidance service.
- Programmes to improve employability.
- Promotion of youth employment through aid to companies (training and apprenticeship contracts, internship contracts and specific training).



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of the Canary Islands has focused its actions, within the framework of the accelerator policy, on the development of employment promotion programmes especially aimed at young people. The main purpose of these actions is to stimulate the hiring of young people, on the one hand, those under 30 years of age, and on the other, those who, having completed their university degree, vocational training or professional certificates, require support to gain their first work experience. In the period under analysis, the latter action had a budget allocation of €10m and had an impact on 750 beneficiaries. This last action is reinforced by the Programme - First Professional Experiences in Public Administrations which, with a budget allocation, provides for the recruitment of 382 people.

A second line of action of the Canary Islands Government is related to the transformation of the productive sectors and the ecological transition, the key activity of which is the Employment Plan for Ecological Transition and the fight against climate change. The aim of the Plan is to develop employment-generating projects in collaboration with the Island Councils of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, incorporating plans for the fight against climate change and just ecological transition, which involve the hiring of unemployed workers in accordance with the requirements established in the programme's regulatory framework. In these employment-generating projects, the people hired will acquire paid professional experience, carrying out works and services of general and social interest, which are the responsibility of these Administrations and which are related to the fight against climate change and the just ecological transition.

CANTABRIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Equality plans in companies, and incentives for SMEs to prepare them (*).
- Co-responsibility measures from an intersectional perspective with funding from the European Resilience and Recovery Fund (*).
- 2nd Equality Strategy 2019-2023.
- Support for women at risk of social exclusion to combat job insecurity, and aid to reduce job insecurity among Roma women.
- Programme for the promotion of stable and quality employment.
- Social and Labour Activation Protocols” programmes, to reinforce the vocational guidance service.
- Programmes to improve employability.
- Promotion of youth employment through aid to companies (training and apprenticeship contracts, internship contracts and specific training).

(*) Measure in progress.

The Government of Cantabria has supported the Programme for the promotion of stable and quality employment, with the aim of encouraging the conclusion of initial permanent and full-time contracts, as well as the transformation into permanent and full-time training contracts (training and apprenticeship contracts and internship contracts) in line with the reform promoted by Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market. Within the framework of the Programme, 695 grants have been awarded with a budget of 3,110,119.50 euros.

Likewise, there are the Actions for Improving Employability programme, in which subsidies amounting to 1,920,000 euros were granted in 2021, and 2,851 people were assisted (1,300 men and 1,551 women). In addition, accessibility to employment for young people under 30 years of age has been strengthened through the Work Placement Programme in regional public sector entities with a budget of 2,232,723.94 euros.

In order to reinforce the professional guidance service, through Social and Labour Activation Protocols, 1,216 long-term unemployed people have started an individual and personalised employment itinerary with the Cantabrian Employment Service.

A relevant field of action for the Government of Cantabria is the promotion of the gender perspective in its actions, supporting the production sector to comply with the regulations related to equality plans in companies with 50 or more workers through a line of subsidies; promoting the elaboration of strategic plans for the promotion of equality in the territory in the year 2022. (Order UIC/5/2022, of 14 February) and strengthening the development of the Co-responsible Plan in the autonomous territory in which 85 local entities of Cantabria have participated, representing 83.33% of the local entities of the Autonomous Community and benefiting 95.23% of boys and girls up to 14 years of age.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategy Agenda 2030 of Castile-La Mancha.
- Agreement for Economic Recovery and Employment 2021-2024.
- 3rd Agreement for Employment Stability in Castile-La Mancha.
- Regional strategy for employment of people with disabilities.
- Regional Employment Plan.
- Youth Guarantee Scheme: Youth Employment Operational Programme 2014/2020.
- Adelante Plan 2020-2023.
- 2nd Plan for the balancing of personal, family and working life of public employees of the Government of Castile-La Mancha.
- Plan for the promotion of the social economy (*)



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of Castile-La Mancha is working, together with the social partners, on the Employment Strategy, which will include the measures of the Regional Employment Plan and the Youth Guarantee Plan.

With the aim of improving employability, especially for people and groups in situations of vulnerability, within the framework of the Regional Employment Plans, a call has been published for aid to local entities for the recruitment of unemployed people and those in situations of social exclusion, to which 102 million euros have been earmarked. In addition, actions have been developed to improve accessibility to employment and guarantee quality employment conditions for young people through the youth guarantee programmes, which have promoted the hiring of young people in public administrations and universities. In the area of people with disabilities, the Decree regulating direct subsidies for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the protected market of Castile-La Mancha is being finalised.

A key instrument for promoting investment and improving business productivity is the Adelante Plan 2020 - 2023, which includes aid for different productive sectors in the region, such as the craft and tourism sectors, and for the promotion of innovative entrepreneurship.

Finally, the commitment of the Government of Castile-La Mancha to the Social Economy has allowed work to begin on the development of the Plan for the Promotion of the Social Economy, whose methodology of preparation has been characterised by dialogue and social participation, which began in December 2021. The Plan is in the process of being drawn up on the basis of the proposals received in the framework of citizen participation.

CASTILE AND LEON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Ensure greater involvement of statutory representation. Ensure that workers can appeal to their trade union organisations.
- Strengthen the Labour Inspectorate, through agreement with the most representative trade union organisations. Subsidies co-financed by the ESF aimed at promoting stable salaried employment.
- Plans to promote indefinite-term contracts.
- New Integrated Employment Strategy.
- Youth Guarantee Programmes.

Dissemination and personalised guidance actions to promote the employability of young people by facilitating their registration in the National Youth Guarantee System, through the Youth Guarantee Information Network. 2021: 11 information provider, 13,052 young people assisted, 3,309 registered, €232,500 of funding.

CATALUNYA- CATALONIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Economic Recovery and Social Protection Plan, following the COVID-19 impact.
- National basic agreement for economic recovery with social protection, with social partners.
- Strategic Plan for Social Services 2020-2024.
- Catalan Quality Employment Strategy 2021-2030
- Catalan Vocational Training and Qualification Strategy 2020-2030, to be deployed by the Catalan Public Agency for Vocational Training and Qualification.

In February 2022, the Government approved the Decree of the Statutes of the Public Agency for Vocational Training and Qualification of Catalonia (FPCAT) for this body to become operational. These statutes, which have the support of the most representative employers' and trade union organisations (CCOO, UGT, Foment and PIMEC), are the result of ongoing dialogue within the framework of the Governing Committee of the FPCAT System. FPCAT is essential for the effective management of vocational training in Catalonia as it integrates Initial Vocational Training (from the education system) and Vocational Training for Employment (occupational and continuous).

In June 2022, the Catalan Strategy for Quality Employment 2022-2027 was approved, promoted by the Department of Enterprise and Employment, through the Public Employment Service (SOC). The Strategy, an instrument provided for in the law on the organisation of the employment system and the SOC, establishes the strategic lines of employment policies for the next five years. The objectives of the Strategy are to improve people's employability, and to promote economic and business competitiveness and entrepreneurship, among others, with these supports for the quality of employment; attention to the most vulnerable people; the territorial deployment of active employment policies; and the active participation of companies.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Improving the digital skills of people with disabilities and functional diversity.
- Strategic Plan for Valencian Industry.
- LAB-ODS.
- LLAMP Project.
- Aid for public road transport undertakings affected by COVID-19.
- Decree 40/2020, creating the Valencian Observatory for Decent Work.



The Valencian Community, with the aim of improving the digital skills of people with disabilities and functional diversity, has continued the agreement with the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI) for the implementation of training activities to facilitate access to ICT and digital skills of people with functional diversity or disability, as well as the implementation of specific training courses on digital accessibility aimed at people who develop and manage content, applications and web pages, among others.

These actions are part of the digital citizenship programme set up by the Government for the Fight against the Digital Gap and are taught both on-site and on-line, with the Valencian Digital Skills Framework as a reference in their training content.

On the other hand, the Region has focused its actions within the framework of the Sustainable Economy, highlighting the Strategic Plan for Valencian Industry, where actions have been developed to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of industrial SMEs, the industrial areas of the Region of Valencia and business associations of multi-sectoral and regional scope.

Actions have also been promoted to improve access to employment for people in vulnerable situations and at risk of inclusion through the digital citizenship programme launched by the Government for the Fight against the Digital Gap, with the Valencian Digital Competences Framework (DIGCOMP CV) as a reference in its training content.

In order to establish the degree of contribution of Valencian companies to the Sustainable Development Goals, the LAB-SDG project aims to measure the degree of involvement with the SDGs that exists in Valencian companies, to see from what perspective a greater alignment with them and the commitments that derive from them can be promoted.

With regard to aid for public road transport companies financially affected by COVID-19, a notable feature is the €11.04 million earmarked for companies in the discretionary public passenger transport sector by bus in the Valencian Community.

BASQUE COUNTRY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Basque Employment Strategy 2030.
- Strategic Employment Plan 2021-2024.
- Basque Strategy for Health and Safety at Work 2021-2026.
- Plan to reduce the temporary nature of employment and the part-time nature of working hours.
- Plan to reduce the wage gap in the Basque Country.
- Plan for the Promotion of Cooperatives/Worker-Owned Companies.
- Special Labour Inspection Plan.
- Youth employment shock plan.

The Basque Government's action in the field of the Accelerating Policy has focused on promoting policies and regulations that foster quality and inclusive employment as factors of competitiveness. These are the two essential strategic axes of the Basque Employment Strategy, which reinforces key principles such as equality, anticipation, innovation and resilience.

Both the Strategy and the Strategic Employment Plan highlight the economic context marked by the pandemic and its impact at all levels, especially on certain groups. Hence, inclusion in the workplace is a key component of the Basque Government's policies and regulations, which is also manifested in the Basque Strategy for Health and Safety at Work 2021-2026, for the promotion and prevention of health at work, which is especially aimed at those people who may suffer greater health inequalities due to gender, age, origin, functional diversity or other reasons.

EXTREMADURA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Extremadura Employment Plan 2020-2021.
- Execution of employment integration programmes for groups with access difficulties: Crisol, Tutor, Build your Future, Vives Emplea, Puerta de Empleo.
- Programme oriented towards employment training for the insertion and social competence of young offenders.
- Extremadura Youth Employment Plan for 2020-2021.

The objectives of the Extremadura Employment Plan 2020-2021 were aimed at increasing the participation of women and men in the labour market, reducing structural unemployment and promoting quality employment, understood as an increase in stability, a reduction in temporary employment and an improvement in working conditions, as well as promoting social inclusion, concentrating efforts on guaranteeing equal access to opportunities for any vulnerable group, with a budget of 590 million euros.

Most of the actions included in each of the Plan's axes have been carried out. At the end of the Plan's term, 150,362 people had participated in the different programmes that comprise it. In addition, in Axis 1, dedicated to Quality, changes have been made, such as in the approved calls for indefinite-term contracts in which subsidies have been granted on the basis of contribution groups. This aid has evolved by simplifying its requirements and implementing online processing. During the period of validity of the plan, 10,500 workers have benefited from the lines aimed at hiring and promoting stable employment.

In the Plan, continuity was given to programmes that promote transitions between the world of education and work, such as the Itaca project; in addition to programmes aimed at attending to groups at risk of social exclusion, such as the Crisol-Training programme consisting of the development of guidance, tutoring and intermediation itineraries and training in alternation with employment for socio-occupational insertion in disadvantaged areas of the municipalities of action and professional experience in private companies for qualified participants. With this and other training programmes in alternation with employment, the inclusion of an accompaniment/tutoring process throughout the project for the personal and professional development of each participant is promoted.

The Regional Government of Extremadura and the economic and social agents have signed the Employment Plan 2022-23, which has already been launched, with a budget of 634 million euros.

Likewise, during 2020, due to the pandemic, the measures of the Youth Employment Plan 2017-2019 continued to be developed, giving way, in 2021, to a renewed Youth Employment Plan of Extremadura 2021-2122 with innovative measures adapted to the needs of any young person. The main objective of this Plan is to improve access to employment and the employability of young people in the region, both unemployed and employed, placing young people at the centre of the process and making them the protagonists of their life and work plan.

The total budget was €80 million, €40 million per annuity. Of the €40,000,000 budgeted in 2021, a total of €39,700,000 has been invested (€24,733,200 implemented and €14,966,800 committed), with only €300,000 missing from the P2 Programme: access in equality for young people aged 19-29 years, finally not applied as it is replaced by the Second Chance Schools to be launched in 2022. Of the 28 programmes, 11 have been completed and 17 are under development.

The total number of young people assisted in 2021 is 25,847 (17,571 in the programmes underway and completed + 8,276 guidance itinerary for young people). A total of 14,132 women and 11,715 men have participated. So far in 2022, the number of young people participating in the different programmes, without counting some of the lines and programmes, amounts to 10,652 without the guidance itineraries.

GALICIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Galicia Strategic Plan 2015-2020.
- Galician Strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) 2019-2021.
- Action plan for the promotion of digital content in Galicia - DICO Mindset Plan.
- Plan for employment stability and the provision of posts for statutory personnel in the Galician Health Service.
- Youth Guarantee Programme.
- Basic Digital Tutoring Programme for job seekers.
- Employment Galicia: training with recruitment commitment
- Dual employment workshops.



The actions of the Galician Government in the Accelerating Policy focus on the Galician Employment Programme, a programme to support the recruitment of groups with special difficulties in finding employment; the Galician School of Prevention and Vocational Training Programme, and the specific educational programme for the introduction of OHS content in the Galician student population.

All indicators related to the Accelerating Policy show a positive trend. In Galicia, the average income per hour of work improved by 7%. By gender, this indicator shows that the average hourly income per hour of men is higher than that of women, although the latter shows a more favourable evolution. The average hourly earnings of people with disabilities increased by 6% and the average hourly earnings of people without disabilities increased by 8%.

Regarding the unemployment rate, Galicia shows a decrease since 2015 of 38%. The analysis by gender allows us to conclude that the behaviour of the rate is better for men (-42% compared to -33%) than for women (-34% compared to -26%). The analysis by age shows an improvement of 39% in the unemployment rate for people between 16 and 64 in Galicia. This improvement is more evident for the unemployment rate of people between 16 and 64 years old without disability, which improves by 40%, than for the unemployment rate of people between 16 and 64 years old with disability, which improves by 19%.

The proportion of young men and women aged 15-24 who are not in education, employment or training has fallen by 28% since 2015.

Finally, regarding the reduction in the proportion of youth who are not employed and not in education or training, it only has one measurement indicator: the proportion of young men and women aged 15-24 not in education, employment or training, which shows positive results both in absolute values and trend, having reduced by 28% compared to 11% nationally, since 2015.

ILLES BALEARS - BALEARIC ISLANDS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Plan to combat job insecurity, 2021-2023.
- Quality Job Plan 2021-2023
- SOIB Visible, Dual, Vulnerable groups, Youth, Dual training programmes.
- Social Economy Master Plan.
- Strategic plan for self-employment and promotion of entrepreneurship 2021-2024.

Putting an end to job insecurity through public policies that are committed to quality and stability in employment is one of the main priorities of the Government of the Balearic Islands. The new contracting model promoted by Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market, has led to permanent contracts becoming the majority, according to IBESTAT data, with the number of permanent contracts rising from 6,034 in September 2021 to 21,793 in September 2022. In order to consolidate these achievements, the Quality Employment Plan 2022-2025 was presented in May 2022.

In order to maintain actions that strengthen the quality and stability of employment, the Government of the Balearic Islands has promoted a series of public policies, including the Quality Employment Plan 2022-2025, which aims to achieve full employment with equal opportunities, including significant investment in training policies, and to increase permanent and full-time employment. The estimated direct impact of this Plan will affect 85,000 people each year. On the other hand, the Plan to combat job insecurity 2021-2023, with a budget of 5 million euros, continues its development with more than 4,000 actions to control temporary employment, effective gender equality and compliance with occupational risk prevention measures.

In the specific area of self-employment, new initiatives have been developed with the aim of supporting 1,200 entrepreneurs and self-employed people and the Second Chance Programme has been presented with the aim of facilitating the return to self-employment of some 400 people.

LA RIOJA

The actions carried out by the Government of La Rioja within the framework of Accelerating Policy⁵ are particularly related to the strategic line of promoting quality employment, especially by improving employment conditions. In this regard, the study on job insecurity in the region highlights how job insecurity affects 48% of workers, but with significant differences by groups: insecurity increases in 75% of young people, 66% of migrants and 54% of women.



Consequently, the actions carried out are in line with Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, on urgent measures for labour reform, the guarantee of employment stability and the transformation of the labour market, developing new aid for the promotion of permanent contracts, the hiring of people over 45 years of age, young people and the long-term unemployed, repealing existing measures to support temporary contracts and strengthening labour inspections on temporary contracts and part-time work. In this sense, the results have not been long in coming and in June 2022 there have been 3,333 more permanent contracts than in June 2021, there are 4,087 fewer long-term unemployed people and 2,392 fewer unemployed women than in the same period in 2021.

NAFARROA - COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Employment Plan for Navarre.
- Active employment policies.



The actions of the Government of Navarre have been expressed through two key areas of intervention, the Employment Plan of Navarre and the active employment policies which emanate from one of the specific objectives of the Employment Plan.

Within the framework of the Employment Plan, the creation of the Navarre Business Observatory, a new instrument for the analysis of economic data as a basis for decision-making, facilitating real-time monitoring of companies and public administrations and analysing the impact of the implementation of public policies, stands out. In addition, specific working groups were set up to implement actions in the areas of Equality and Labour Relations and Quality in Employment, creating the Specialised Commission for Labour Relations and Quality in Employment and the Specialised Commission for Equality. Work has also been done on the design of an approach for the development of the Collective Bargaining Observatory with the participation of economic and social agents.

The Active Employment Policies Plan (PAES) of Navarre 2021-2024 takes shape through 5 main areas of intervention; quality employment; improving employability; facilitating inclusive employment and equal opportunities; advancing in the digital strategy and transformation and institutional coordination. The SEAP Plan 2021-2024 has 254 measures. It should be noted that the technical implementation of the Plan has been 90%.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Active policies and priority measures to promote and encourage youth employment, for women and vulnerable groups, with special attention to the rural world.
- Reinforcement of dual vocational training and dual vocational training for employment, adapting it to the needs and evolution of the productive system, and Accreditation of Professional Skills derived from work experience.
- Experiential, work integration and training-employment programmes for people with special difficulties in accessing employment.
- Promotion of entrepreneurship, self-employment and participative employment, favouring the development of social economy enterprises.
- Special Employment Centres for the promotion of employment of people with disabilities.
- Dialogue with social partners, trade unions and employers, to address inequalities, with special attention to the pay gap.
- Ensure healthy and safe working environments for workers, incorporating the prevention of new environmental, technological and psychosocial risks.
- Action protocol against harassment at work and sexual harassment for application in companies.

During the period under analysis, the Government of the Principality of Asturias has strengthened its actions in terms of employability and access to employment. Specifically, in active policies to promote employment, additional funding has been provided to consolidate and launch new programmes that promote the integration of unemployed young people in R&D+i projects and their first work experience in public administrations. These programmes also encourage the integration of women into the labour market through aid for entrepreneurs, the hiring of victims of gender violence and the development of an equality plan in active employment policies, and the promotion of territorial actions aimed at entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises, as well as aid for the employment of vulnerable groups.

Along the same lines of facilitating access to employment, a procedure for the accreditation of professional skills has been developed which establishes the requirements for assessing and accrediting competences acquired through work experience or non-formal training channels, thus enabling people to officially accredit those professional competences they have acquired outside the formal learning systems, having their professional qualification recognised regardless of the way in which it was acquired.

For its part, within the framework of the new regulation of vocational training in the workplace, it has launched a new dual vocational training (VET) programme that includes the main new feature of scholarships from companies for participating students, and for the 2022/2023 academic year, seven new specialisation courses will be created and training cycles adapted to the demand and needs of the environment will be launched.

On the other hand, the reduction of the wage gap is a fundamental objective for the Principality, which is why an agreement has been reached with the trade unions and the Asturian Federation of Employers (FADE) for the creation of delegated agents for equality in companies.

REGION OF MURCIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Programmes for the socio-occupational integration and improvement of the employability of people in a situation or at risk of social exclusion.
- Self-employment strategy addressing the different needs of the group.
- Promotion of participatory job creation, through aid for the creation and innovation of social economy enterprises.
- Digital Draft Law of Rights to adequately capture the rights of the working and business environment (*).
- Lifelong learning strategies to improve the skills of the labour force.
- Modernisation of public employment services (*).
- Regulation of persons working in the field of digital platforms (*).
- Strategies aimed at promoting youth employment: Youth Guarantee, Shock Plan, promotion of professional practices in Europe (EURODISEA), or Reactiva-T Programme (*).



(*). Measure in progress

The Region of Murcia has focused its actions on promoting labour integration and improving the employability of people in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, having a high impact by placing 63 men and 28 women on the labour market in the period under analysis through the activity of 28 production and support technicians. In addition, in terms of accessibility to the labour market for young people, employment was promoted for 41 people registered with the Youth Guarantee, with aid totalling 410,000 euros.

In the field of self-employment, the Government of the Region has promoted social dialogue with the main self-employment organisations, resulting in the Comprehensive Self-Employment Strategy of the Region of Murcia, aimed at addressing the challenges of individual entrepreneurship in a triple dimension: towards society, towards the figure of the self-employed and in relation to the company. On the basis of the Strategy, collaborative actions have been developed with these organisations to improve productivity, digitalisation, innovation, visibility of the figure of the self-employed with a budget allocation of €499,664.00.

The 5th Agreement for Excellence in the Social Economy (2021-2024) is also being promoted as an essential tool in the joint roadmap that the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, together with the main organisations representing the economic and social interests of Social Economy companies, should follow in order to make progress towards the goals set and achieve the objectives of increasing employability, improving working conditions and sustainable, innovative and inclusive growth. The Agreement is also guided by the principles of ecological transition and digitalisation and support for vulnerable groups.

In relation to youth employment, the Regional Training and Employment Service (SEF) has promoted the employment of 41 people registered in the Youth Guarantee, with aid amounting to 410,000 €. Youth Guarantee is a European initiative that aims to facilitate the access of young people to the labour market. Along the same lines, it is worth highlighting the promotion of the incorporation of young people into the agricultural sector, with aid for the creation of companies, of which a total of 292 young people have benefited, with a total amount of €8,308,500. The percentage of young women incorporated into the agricultural activity is significant, a total of 82, which represents 28% of the total. With regard to the territorial distribution of the new investments, the increase in the number of young people in sparsely populated municipalities (230), in mountain areas (47) and in cooperatives/SATs (72) is noteworthy, which is evidence of the commitment to the economy of depopulated areas and the promotion of associations.

As a measure to promote employment, the collaboration agreement between the Region of Murcia through the Murcian Social Action Institute (IMAS) and other entities in the region has been extended to facilitate training placements for people with intellectual disabilities, and a new agreement is currently being processed to replace the current one in order to increase the number of places offered.

Finally, the Plan to fight against the irregular economy, aimed at preventing fraudulent actions that allow evasion of the obligations established in terms of the contribution to the maintenance of the Welfare State, in collaboration with the Labour Inspectorate and the main social, trade union and business agents, should be highlighted.

AUTONOMOUS CITY OF MELILLA



The actions of the Autonomous City of Melilla are part of the development of the European Social Fund Operational Plan 2014 - 2020 whose main objective is to contribute to overcoming the needs and challenges in the city of Melilla, mainly through the fight against the high level of unemployment, the promotion of entrepreneurship and the improvement of the educational levels of the active population.

To promote employment and social inclusion, the Operational Programme foresees measures to facilitate access to employment for job seekers and inactive people through integrated training and employment pathways for which a budget allocation of €451,986 has been earmarked; and the development of recruitment and self-employment and entrepreneurship aids for a total amount of 89,202 €.

The actions have been aimed at the population that suffers most from the difficulties of access to employment and precarious conditions, such as the long-term unemployed, young people under 25, unemployed women and unemployed people over 50.

CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In country challenge 5, which focuses on putting an end to job insecurity, it is worth highlighting the role of the municipal employment agencies and the development of specific programmes to inform and guide unemployed people in the labour market, as well as the programming of specific courses and the organisation of regular meetings with youth associations. Likewise, activities have been developed with itineraries and training programmes for different groups, especially for the most vulnerable, and programmes have been created for professional guidance and accompaniment for insertion.

In some municipalities, there is an employment counsellor who is responsible for advising individuals and the self-employed in order to improve their employability and the profitability of their businesses. Besides, employment exchanges have been created to streamline labour supply and demand, optimising the search processes for both parties, and offering a wide range of training for the orientation of human assets in order to strengthen and update their professional skills, while favouring their adaptation to the demands of the market. Likewise, employment promotion plans have been developed and internships in companies have been promoted for the population as a whole.

In relation to the actions focused on favouring access to employment for young people, regional employment plans have been developed, while Labour Guidance Laboratories have been created for young people and specialised employment advice centres have been set up.

Some local entities have implemented different systems of collaboration grants in different areas of work, as well as grants for young graduates or the Young Research and Scientific Culture Awards 2022. Along the same lines, collaboration systems have also been created with different universities and education centres, with a wide variety of qualifications, and training programmes leading to certificates of professionalism to favour access to employment. In addition, different studies have been carried out on the needs and characteristics of the unemployed population and on the training on offer in the different municipalities, which has led to the creation of youth information services, guides to online training courses and workshops to promote employment and training.

On the other hand, and with regard to measures to stabilise the employment of interim municipal staff, in accordance with the provisions of Law 20/2021 of 28 December on Urgent Measures to Reduce Temporariness in Public Employment, it is expected that the offer of municipal public employment will contribute to 90% of local council workers having a stable job. In addition, municipal structuring plans are being developed to improve the conditions of municipal workers, both within the municipal structure and in the organisation of remuneration.

MEASURES TO RESPOND TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Royal Decree-Law 6/2022 of 29 March adopting urgent measures within the framework of the National Plan to respond to the economic and social consequences of the war in Ukraine and Royal Decree-Law 11/2022 of 25 June, adopting and extending certain measures to respond to the economic and social consequences of the war in Ukraine, to address situations of social and economic vulnerability, and for the economic and social recovery of the island of La Palma, have been the two main legal regulations to respond to the economic and social consequences of the rise in prices of certain goods and supplies caused by the war in Ukraine. Some of these measures have been applied since the outbreak of the COVID-19 health crisis, having been the subject of successive extensions since the adoption of Royal Decree-Law 11/2020 of 31 March, adopting urgent complementary measures in the social and economic sphere to deal with COVID-19.

Both 2022 regulations include the main packages of measures to respond to the global effects of the conflict in Ukraine and which clearly contribute to the accelerating policies set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

Specifically, a large part of the measures are aimed at extending social protection and protecting the income of families, particularly those in a more precarious situation, in the face of inflationary pressures, contributing directly to the fulfilment of the goals set out in **Accelerating Policy Number 1 "Social transition. Redistributing wealth and guaranteeing rights"**.

Among them, the 200-euro aid for employees, self-employed workers and unemployed people with an income of less than 14,000 euros per year stands out. According to calculations, it is estimated that it could benefit 2.7 million people.

In addition, there is a 15% increase in the Minimum Vital Income and in non-contributory retirement or disability pensions, reinforcing the incomes of more than 800,000 particularly vulnerable households with annual increases of more than 200 euros. This measure helps to minimise the impact of inflationary pressures on the purchasing power of vulnerable population groups, a protection guaranteed by law for those receiving contributory pensions.

The set of measures of this social shield are clearly aligned with SDG 1, and specifically with its target 1.3. on appropriate social protection systems and measures for all people and particularly for the most vulnerable groups, having also a clear positive impact on SDG 10 -Reducing inequalities-, SDG 2 -food security- or SDG 5 -Gender equality-, insofar as these measures will particularly benefit female-headed households.

This is in addition to the extension, until 31 December 2022, of the protection measures against evictions for vulnerable households facing eviction proceedings against their habitual residence, with the coordinated action of the judicial bodies and the competent social services, including and extending the limitation on the annual updating of the rent of housing rental contracts, which prevents rises above the 2 percent set by the competitiveness guarantee index.

This measure means protecting an essential right such as the right to housing, in line with SDG 11, which is also an instrumental right for the exercise of others such as the right to education (SDG 4), the right to health (SDG 3) and a key factor in correcting the population's risk of poverty.

In addition, a 50% reduction has been included in multi-journey tickets for rail services provided by the Spanish National Rail Company (Renfe) (commuter, medium distance and high speed) as well as in regular road passenger transport from state concessions, and a 30% reduction in the price of regional and local public transport season tickets.

This last measure not only contributes to protecting household income in the current extraordinary situation of sustained fuel price increases, but also helps to encourage the use of public transport, favouring more sustainable mobility, with lower greenhouse gas emissions and local pollutants, contributing to the fight against global warming and making our cities more liveable places, in line with **accelerating Policy 2 “A Country that respects the limits of the Planet”** and with SDGs 11 and 13.

A **second block of measures** addresses the need to curb the escalation of energy prices, contributing to maintaining employment and combating energy poverty, in line with the aforementioned Accelerator Policies 1 and 2, as well as with **Accelerating policy 4 “A new green, digital and fair economic and productive model”**.

The first of these is the reduction of VAT on electricity from 10% to 5%, which will reduce the bill for 27.7 million households, self-employed workers and companies, in addition to the measures to reinforce the social electricity voucher and the guarantee of water and energy supply to vulnerable consumers and those at risk of social exclusion. Specifically, through the Royal Decree-Law of last March, the government approved a reinforcement of the electricity social voucher, extending its coverage by 600,000 additional families, up to 1.9 million households, and establishing its automatic renewal, among other improvements. It also increased the allocation for the thermal social voucher for 2022 to 228 million. Last June, it was decided to maintain the current extraordinary discounts of the electricity social voucher for vulnerable and severely vulnerable consumers, at 60% and 70% of the regulated tariff (PVPC), respectively, for the whole of 2022.

Another measure that contributes to the fight against energy poverty in a context of rising prices is the freezing of the price of a cylinder of butane at 19.55 euros, especially benefiting low-income groups, who are the main users of this energy source.

This is in addition to the regulations approved in Royal Decree-Law 10/2022, of 13 May, which temporarily establishes a production cost adjustment mechanism to reduce the price of electricity on the wholesale market and which includes the mechanism that makes it possible to limit the reference price of gas used for electricity production, in order to reduce the bills of families and companies and protect them from the current rise in gas prices on international markets.

In short, all of these measures are consistent with target 7.1 of SDG 7, to which should be added the one announced by the government on the activation of an extraordinary tax that will allow the immense profits of large energy companies to contribute to the redistributive effort and the protection of the most vulnerable groups, and whose effective application is expected in the coming months.

A final block of actions falls under SDG 8 - decent work and inclusive growth - and SDG 9 - industry, innovation and infrastructure - and contribute to the targets set out in **Accelerating Policy 5 “Quality and Stability in Employment”**.

Among them, it establishes the impossibility of including the increase in energy costs as an objective cause for dismissal for those companies benefiting from direct aid from the National Plan of response to the economic and social consequences of the war in Ukraine.

This measure helps to protect employment from the impact of the war, but also the production fabric as a whole through the extension of special deferrals of social security contributions at a very low interest rate - 0.5%, i.e., seven times lower than usual - for sectors particularly affected by the current economic situation.

Likewise, in order to favour liquidity, Royal Decree-Law 6/2022 promoted a new line of ICO guarantees worth 10 billion euros and extended the maturity and grace period for the sectors most affected by the temporary increase in the cost of energy and fuel.

Finally, the agricultural, fisheries, transport, electro-intensive and gas-intensive industries are also important sectors for support under this Plan.

In short, the measures deployed by the Spanish government represent a total investment of around 15,000 million euros which, if not implemented, would mean an increase in the CPI of 3.5 additional points.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 6.

REVERSING THE CRISIS IN PUBLIC SERVICES

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

The definition of “Country Challenge 6: Reversing the crisis in public services” and its corresponding policy accelerating “strengthened public services for a democratic and resilient welfare state” identified the following priority areas for action: social services, dependency and disability care; health, education, comprehensive child protection; public administration; access to justice and protection from violence and public finances.

Action in these areas is relevant to the achievement of several of the SDGs, specifically goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 10 and especially 16, without prejudice to the practical involvement of all the other goals, due to the important presence of strong institutions in their achievement.

This is a broad and complex challenge and an ambitious policy where it is not always easy to select indicators, if they are available at all. This report has opted for continuity with the indicators used in previous versions to facilitate the monitoring of policies aimed at meeting the challenges in the horizon year 2030, but also to try to provide some stability in an area as complex as the one that has arisen in recent years.

While the first efforts to implement the SDGs were launched, the main problem, and not a minor one, was to compensate for the disinvestment produced as a result of the economic stabilisation efforts undertaken during the 2008 economic crisis, the emergence of new and complex challenges to the previous status quo (global pandemic of COVID-19, the emergence of illiberal populisms that question certain basic consensus in the international and national order, the climate crisis, the energy and raw materials crises, etc.) have fragmented and complicated the international scenario, creating a demand for new solutions but, at the same time, generating the recovery of public consensus around the fundamental role played by the strengthening of public services¹⁰⁵.

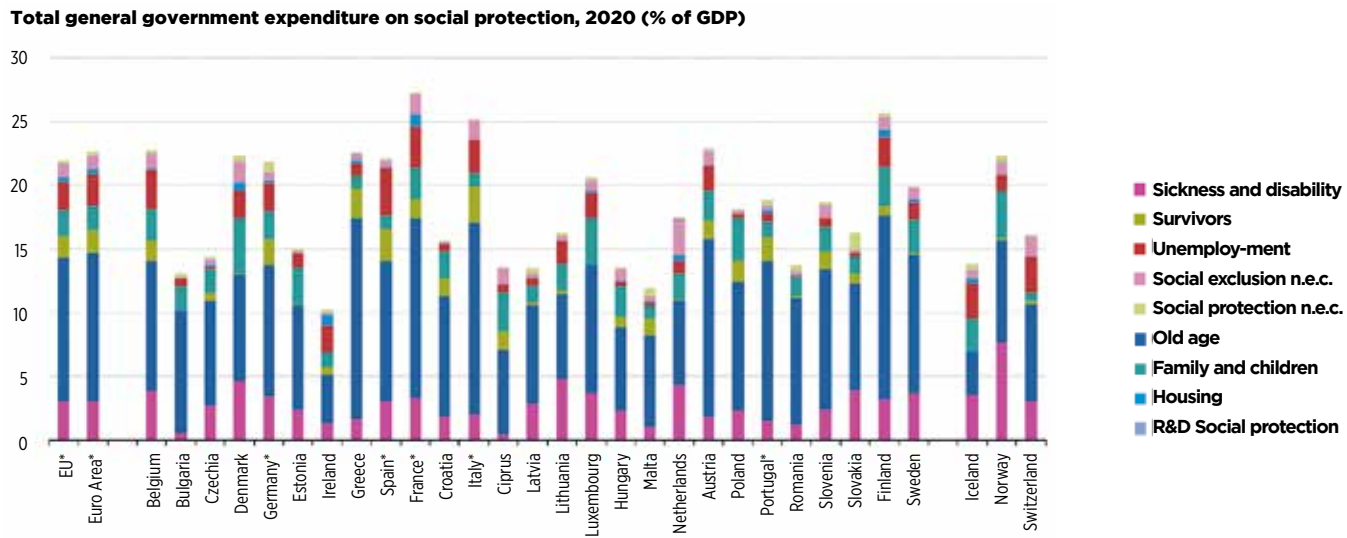
Investment in social policy is a crucial element in the development of public services in the 21st century, as guarantors of minimum rights for the entire population and equal starting conditions for all¹⁰⁶. The creation of the welfare society, the growing demand for these services, as well as the evolution of Spanish society and its environment, justify preferential attention in a strategy for the recovery of public services.

A clear indication of this relevance can be deduced from the weight of social protection in GDP, as illustrated in figure 1:

105 This diagnosis focuses on the classic public services of solidarity and, according to EU law, non-economic social services of general interest (education, health, care services).

106 State Secretariat for the 2030 Agenda, Government of Spain (2021). Progress Report 2021 and Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. Document available [here](#).

FIGURE 1. TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION IN 2020 (% OF GDP)

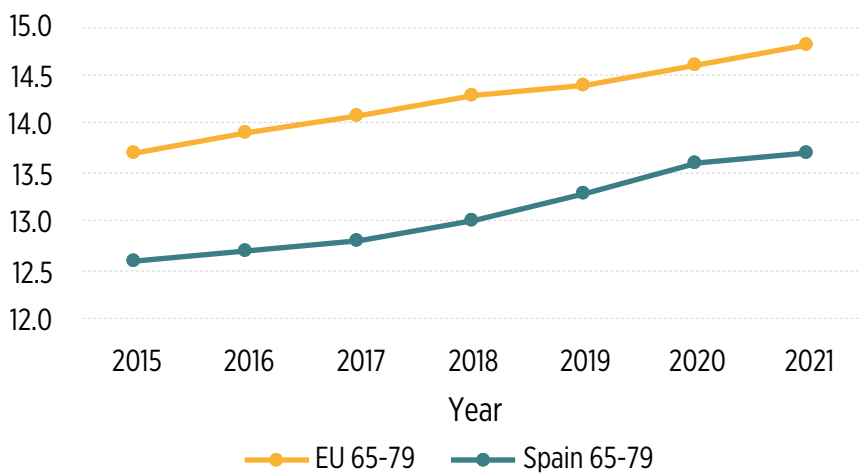


Source: Eurostat (gov_10a_exp)

In Spain, as can be seen, although the percentage of expenditure in relation to GDP is in line with the EU average and slightly below that of the Eurozone, in the latest year available, 2020, the enormous weight of unemployment benefits should be highlighted, which leads to less attention being paid to other aspects such as family protection or housing.

It is very significant, in general terms for the EU, the important weight of benefits for the elderly in these benefits. This weight is largely explained by the ageing of populations in the West, which is also reflected in Spain. The population over 65 years of age represents 19.8% of the Spanish population (2021), a percentage that is expected to reach 23.8% in 2030¹⁰⁷. Although Spain is slightly below the European average for the population aged 65-79, in the case of the over-80s our country is above the European average (Figures 2 and 3).

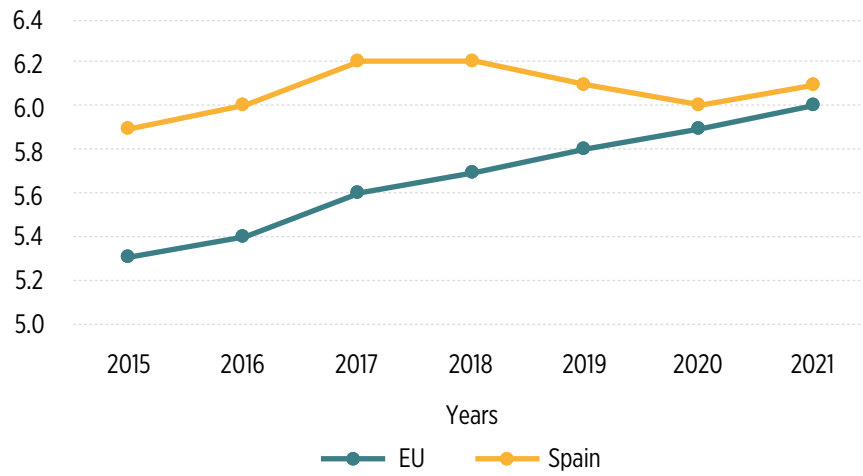
FIGURE 2. EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION AGED 65-79 (2015-2020) (PERCENTAGE)



Source: own preparation according to Eurostat data - structure of population indicators at national level.

107 Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Committee of the European Commission (2021). 2021 Annual Report of the Social Protection Committee.

FIGURE 3. EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION AGED 80+ (2015-2020) (PERCENTAGE)



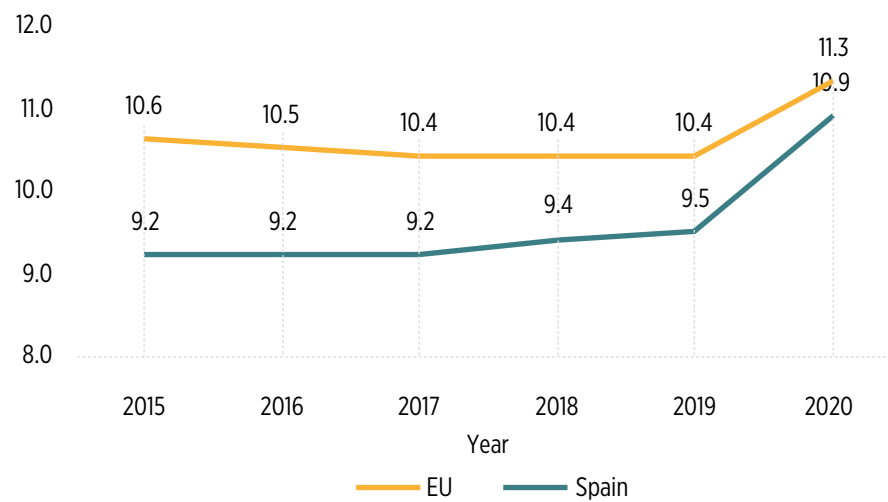
Source: own preparation according to Eurostat data - structure of population indicators at national level.

Pensions

Pensions are an essential element for the economic sufficiency of people who have reached the end of their working life or have suffered a misfortune (old age, sickness, total or partial disability, survivors' pensions).

Public expenditure on old-age pensions in relation to GDP reached 10.9% in Spain in 2020, with an expenditure of 122,758 million euros (according to provisional figures contained in EUROSTAT). This figure has been approaching the EU average (11.3% in recent years).

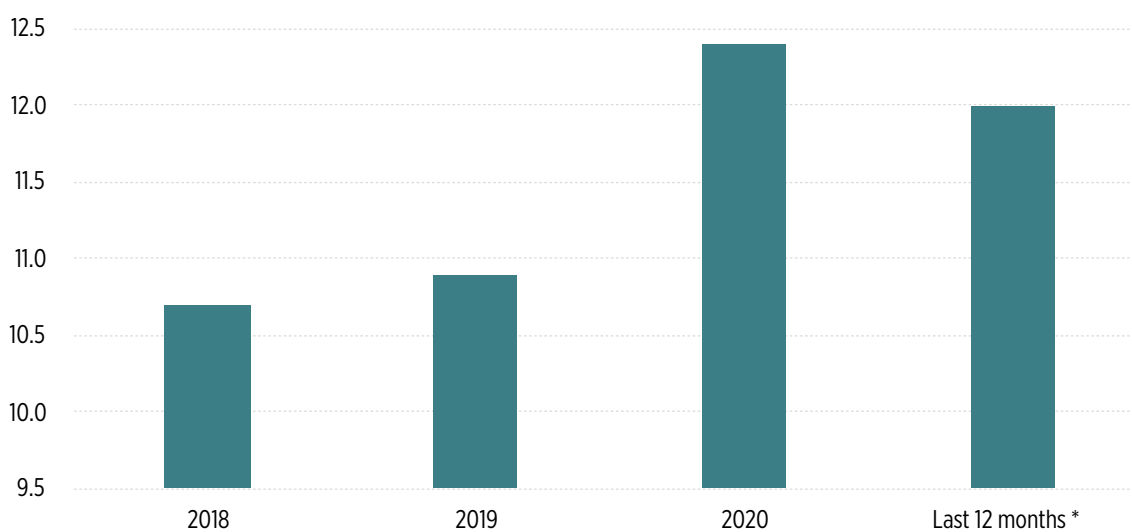
FIGURE 4. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON OLD-AGE PENSIONS (% GDP) (PERCENTAGE)



Source: own preparation based on Eurostat data¹⁰⁸.

If we compare figures 3 and 4 - which should reflect definitive data once they are incorporated into the Eurostat database - the data from the Ministry of Inclusion, Security and Migration are comparable to the EU average, if not higher.

FIGURE 5. PENSION EXPENDITURE (% GDP)



*Estimation

Source: Ministry of Inclusion, Security and Migration¹⁰⁹

Dependency care

The policy of care for dependent adults, articulated from Law 39/2006, of 14 December, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons, has been consolidated as an important policy in the field of social services.

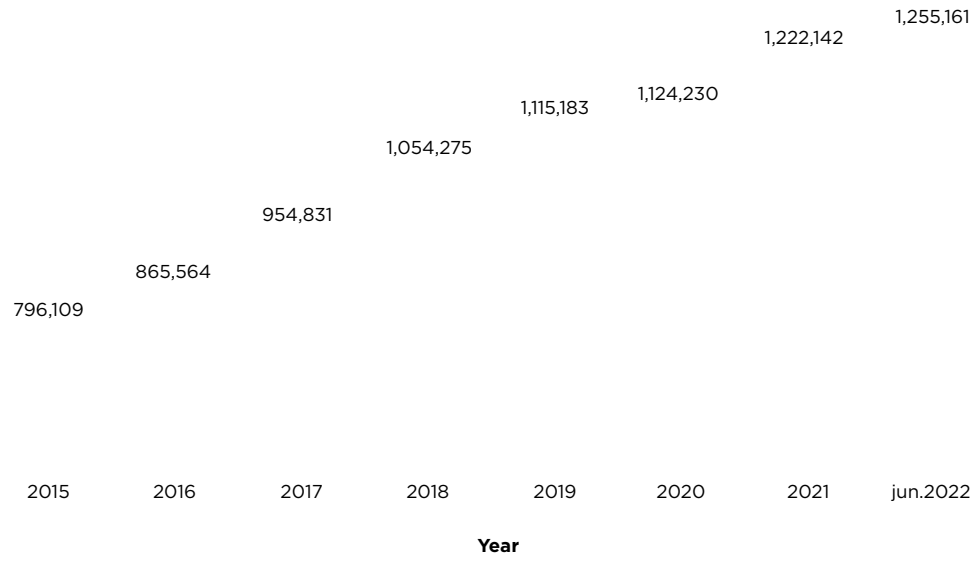
The following figure shows the progressive evolution and increase in the number of people receiving benefits, where as of June 2022, the "System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency" (SAAD) covered 1,255,161 beneficiaries with recognised benefits, representing 86.54% of the total number of entitled persons (1,450,370).

Public expenditure on long-term care in 2021 was €9,704 million, an increase of 8.95% compared to 2020, which was €8,907 million¹¹⁰.

109 Information available [here](#).

110 IMSERSO. (2021). Report on the financing of dependency 2021.

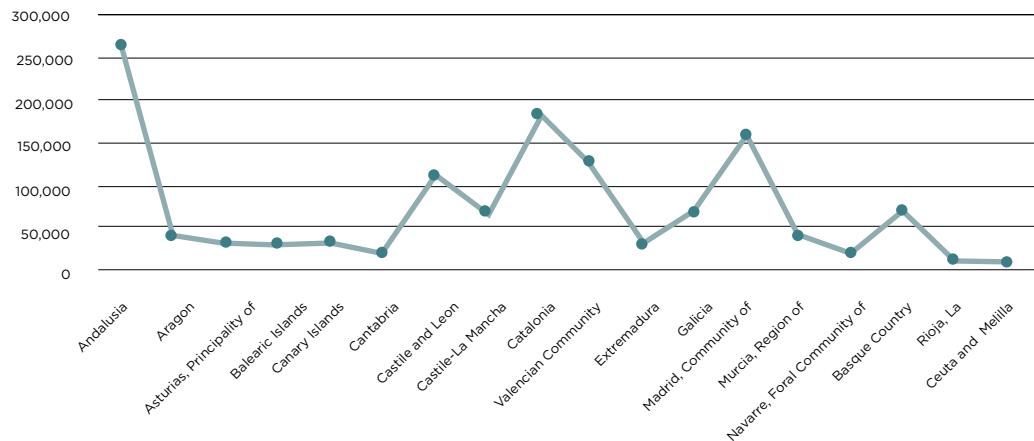
FIGURE 6. EVOLUTION OF BENEFIT RECIPIENTS (2015-2020)



Source: Prepared by the authors based on the explanatory analysis of the monthly statistics of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency as of 30 June 2022 - IMSERSO.

72.31% of beneficiaries are aged 65 or over, and the main reason for leaving the system is death.

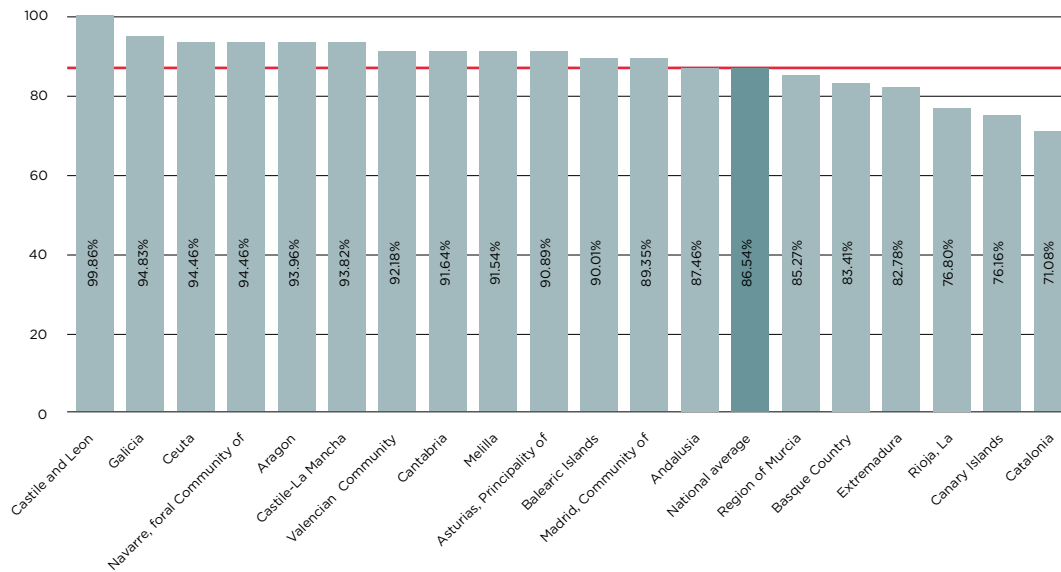
FIGURE 7. PERSONS RECEIVING BENEFITS BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY.



Source: compiled by the authors according to monthly statistics of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency as of 30 June 2022 - IMSERSO.

Finally, the following figure shows the percentages by Autonomous Region of people receiving benefits, as opposed to people entitled to and awaiting benefits, with the best percentages in Castile and Leon, Galicia versus the Canary Islands and Catalonia, with the worst percentages in cases pending benefits.

FIGURE 8. BENEFIT RECIPIENTS/BENEFICIARIES WITH ENTITLEMENT TO SAAD BENEFITS



Source: Explanatory analysis of the monthly statistics of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency as at 30 June 2022 - IMSERSO.

It is interesting to observe the evolution of applications and the recognition of benefits. The figure below shows the increase of applications registered on 31 December (2.3%), a higher increase of benefits (8.7%) and of beneficiaries with active benefit (8.6%).¹¹¹

TABLE 1. EVOLUTION OF THE BENEFITS REGISTER (2020-2022)

	TOTAL						
	31/12/20	31/12/21	31/7/22	Var 2020-2021		Var 2021-2022	
				%	num	%	num
Applications	1,850,950	1,892,604	1,947,223	2.3%	41,654	2.9%	54,619
Grade resolutions	1,709,394	1,768,008	1,812,864	3.4%	58,614	2.50%	44,856
No grade	352,921	352,430	354,929	-0.1%	-491	0.70%	2,499
Eligible beneficiaries	1,356,473	1,415,578	1,457,935	4.4%	59,105	3.00%	42,357
Ptes. Titration	141,556	124,596	134,359	-12.00%	-16,960	7.80%	9,763
<6 months	54,447	66,095	80,551	21.40%	11,648	21.90%	14,456
≥ 6 months without reason excl.	87,102	58,499	53,672	-32.80%	-28,603	-8.30%	-4,827
≥ 6 months with reason excl.	7	2	136	-71.40%	-5	6700.00%	134
PIA Resolution	1,124,230	1,222,142	1,268,906	8.70%	97,912	3.80%	46,764
Pending resolution	232,243	193,436	189,029	-16.70%	-38,807	-2.30%	-4,407
<6 months	15,469	20,098	26,469	29.90%	4,629	31.70%	6,371
≥ 6 months without reason excl.	204,506	168,490	157,467	-17.60%	-36,016	-6.50%	-11,023
≥ 6 months with reason excl.	12,268	4,848	5,093	-60.50%	-7,420	5.10%	245
Beneficiaries with benefits Effective	1,084,209	1,177,484	1,244,849	8.60%	93,275	5.70%	67,365
Pending Delivery of benefits	40,021	44,658	24,057	11.60%	4,637	-46.10%	-20,601
<6 months	20,144	21,990	9,822	9.20%	1,846	-55.30%	-12,168
≥ 6 months without reason excl.	19,837	15,369	8,668	-22.50%	-4,468	-43.60%	-6,701
≥ 6 months with reason excl.	40	7,299	5,567	18,147.5%	7,259	-23.7%	-1,732

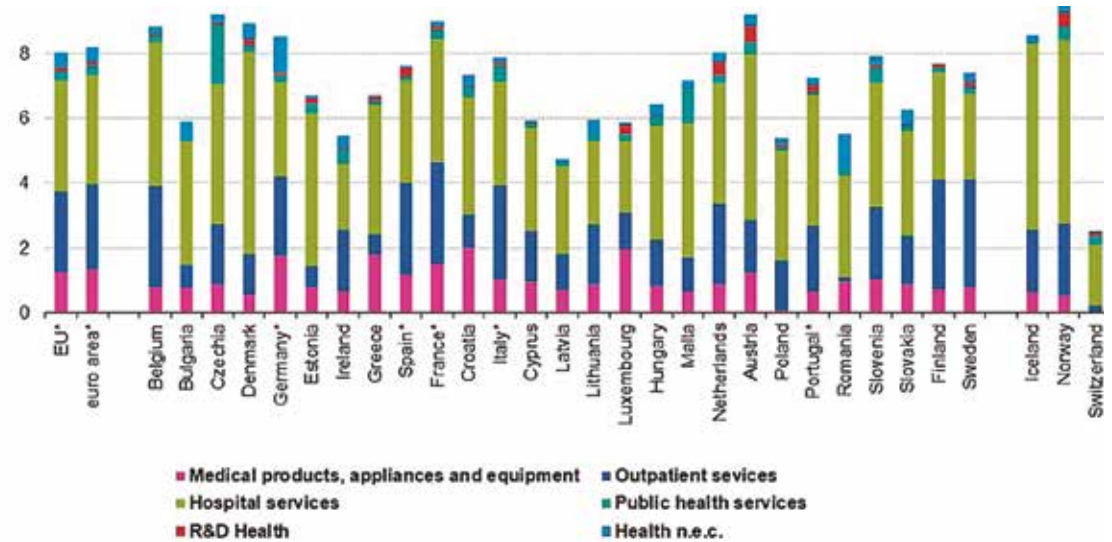
Source: SAAD: Monitoring of the waiting list reduction plan as of 31 July 2022

¹¹¹ It is noted that for the period 31 December 2021 to 30 June 2022, there is a relative worsening of the figures that is not considered as they refer to a result of less than one year and are outside the period covered by this report.

Health

Another major pillar of provision is health care, which also appears in the budget (figure 9).

FIGURE 9. TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH 2020, IN RELATION TO GDP

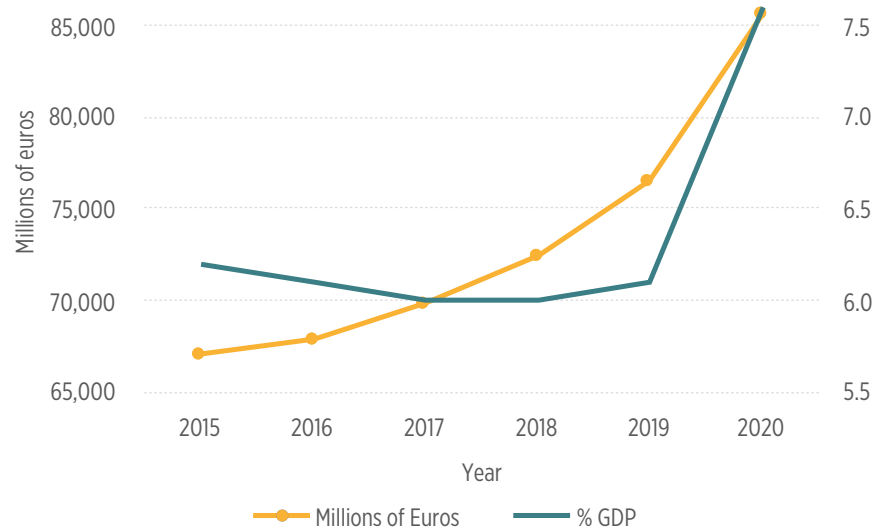


Source: Eurostat.

Using the latest available data, according to Eurostat, **total public expenditure on health** in Spain in 2020, at 7.6% of GDP, was below the European average (8.2%). This difference becomes more noticeable when compared to countries such as France (9.0%) and Germany (8.5%).

At the national level (figure 10), we observe a decrease in spending since the 2008 financial crisis, with a significant increase in both millions of euros and as a percentage of GDP in 2020, which can be explained, at least in part, by the need to respond to the crisis caused by COVID-19.

FIGURE 10. EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE (2015-2020)



Source: own preparation according to Eurostat GDP data¹¹², Expenditure in millions according to Ministry of Health data.¹¹³

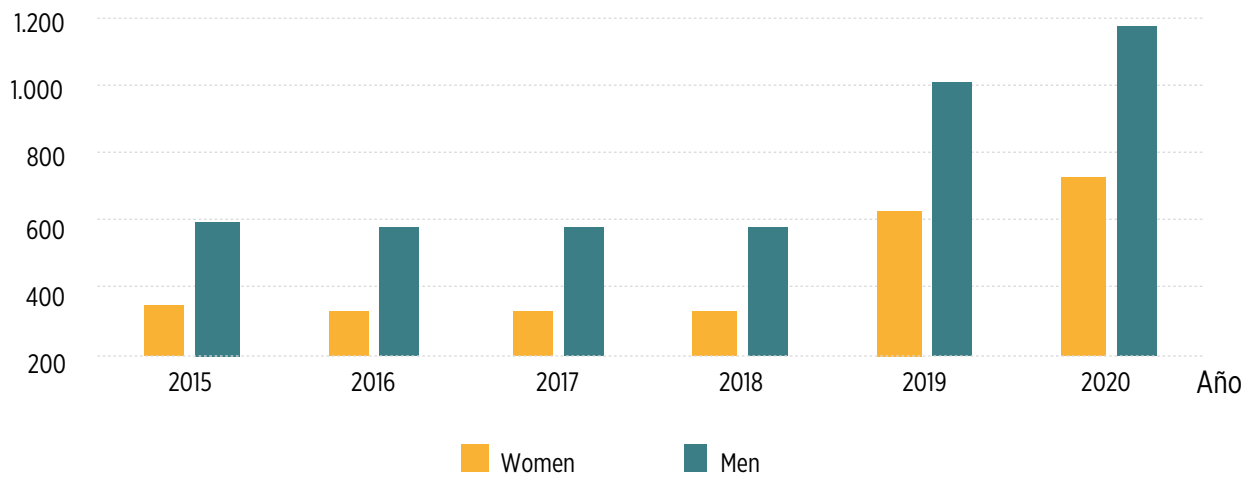
112 Data available [here](#).

113 Data available [here](#).

The **overall mortality rate** per 100,000 population below reflects a trend of more deaths in males than in females between 2010 and 2018, however, this rate has increased significantly in both genders in the last two years, for example, while in 2018 it was 333 and 569, in 2019 it rose to 622 and 1000 and in 2020 to 726 and 1,160 for females and males respectively.

This increase generated a variation of 46% and 43% from 2018 to 2019 and 54% and 50% from 2018 to 2020 for women and men respectively, which may have several causes, such as the ageing of the population analysed above and also the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

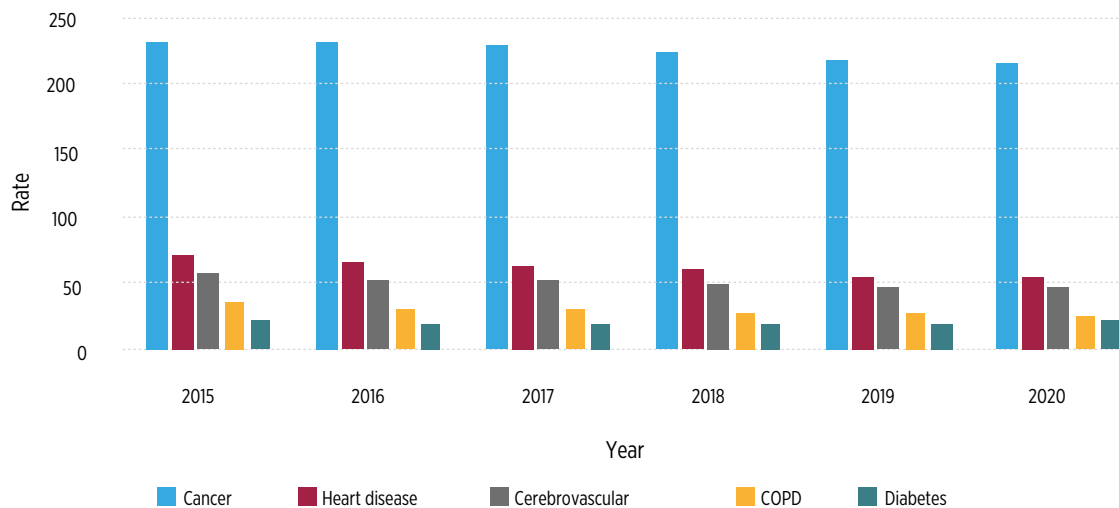
FIGURE 11. GENERAL MORTALITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION (2015-2020)



Source: own preparation based on data from the Ministry of Health.

In terms of mortality rates for major diseases per 100 000 population (figure 12), cancer has the highest growth, and although the trend has been decreasing since 2015, the figure remains high at 214.95 in 2020.

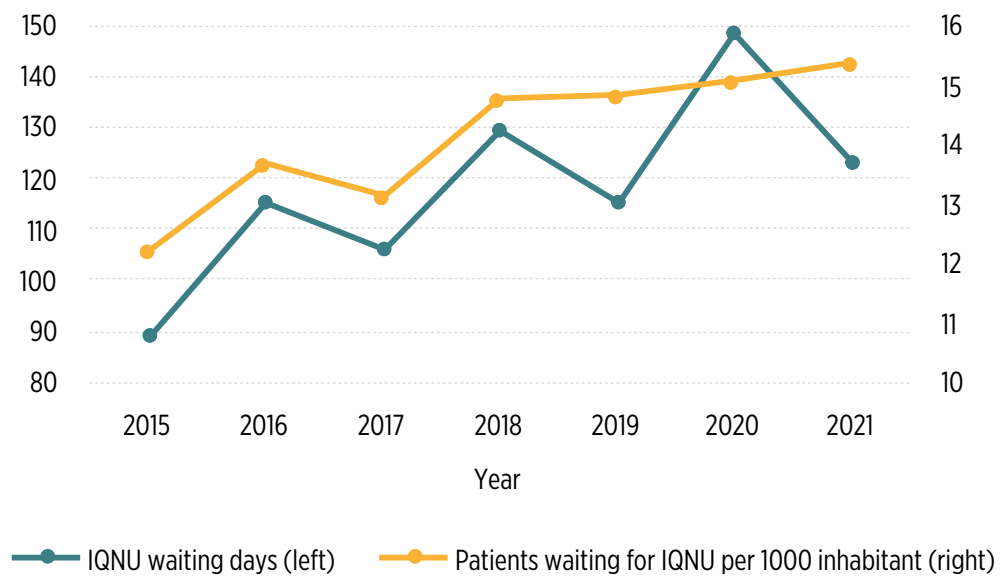
FIGURE 12. EVOLUTION OF THE OVERALL MORTALITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION BY DISEASE (2015-2020)



Source: own preparation based on data from the Ministry of Health¹¹⁴.

Figure 13 shows the information on the waiting list for surgery (LEQ). The data on the left axis, referring to non-urgent operations, show a significant increase, from 90 days in 2015 to 123 days in 2021. The right axis represents the number of patients waiting for non-urgent surgery per 1,000 inhabitants, showing a steady increase from 9.83 in 2010 to 15.39 patients in 2021.

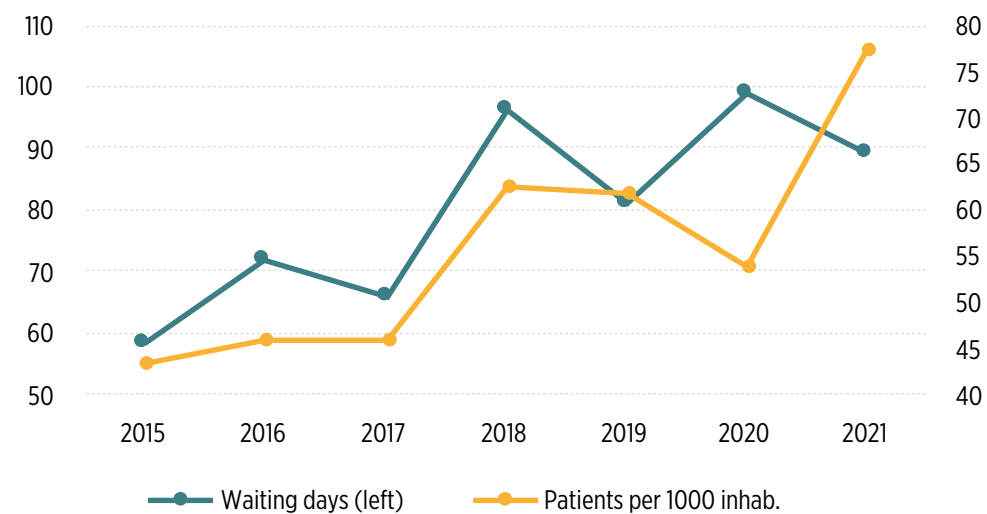
FIGURE 13. EVOLUTION OF WAITING DAYS FOR SURGERY (2015-2020)



Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the Ministry of Health.

Regarding unmet need for medical care, figure 14 shows waiting days (left) and patients per 1 000 inhabitants (right) for a first specialised consultation. Although both indicators reflect a steady increase, between 2020 and 2021, the relationship is opposite: waiting days decrease from 99 to 89, patients per 1,000 inhabitants increase from 53 to 77, possibly explained by the periods of lockdown and the new normality.

FIGURE 14. EVOLUTION OF WAITING DAYS FOR A SPECIALIST CONSULTATION (2015-2020)

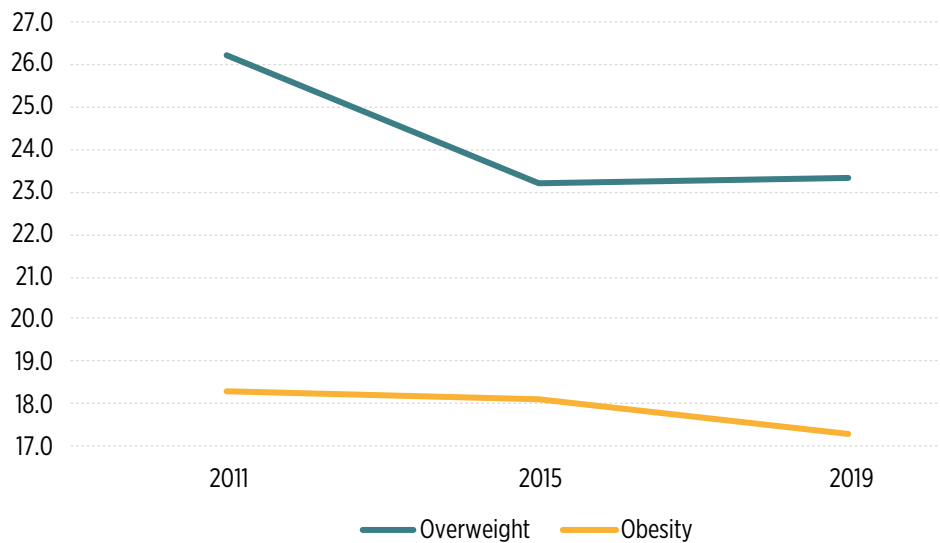


Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the Ministry of Health.

Regarding the percentage of **children between 6 and 9 years of age who are overweight and obese**, the data show a slight downward trend since 2011, but stable behaviour in both indicators.

A higher prevalence of both indicators is observed depending on the income of the families, with the percentage of obesity being 23.2% in families with an income of less than 18,000 Euros gross/year and only 11.9% in families with an income of more than 30,000 Euros. A similar situation occurs with overweight children, with a prevalence of 24.1% in children in families with an income of 18,000 Euros gross/year, while in families with an income of over 30,000 Euros it is reduced to 21.8%.

FIGURE 15: OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY IN CHILDHOOD (6 TO 9 YEARS)

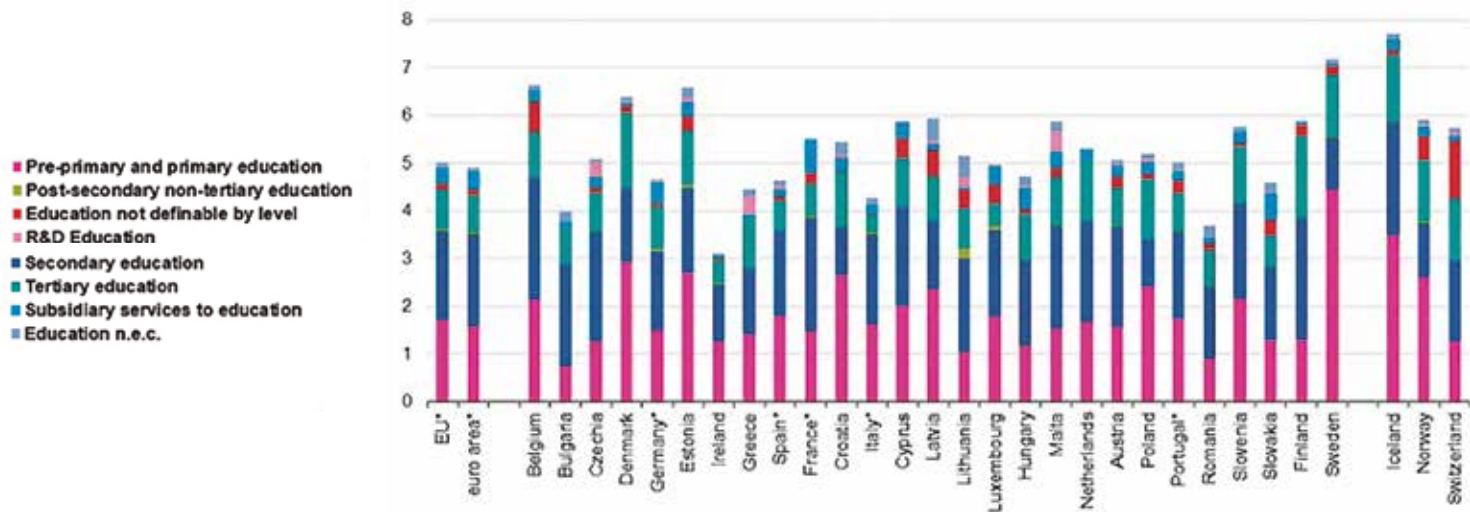


Source: AESAN, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Estudio Aladino 2019¹⁵

Education

Education is another pillar of the social action of public services. Comparing total expenditure on education in 2020 in relation to the percentage of GDP in Europe, we see that Spain is below the European average (5%), and even further behind countries such as Sweden (7%), Belgium (6.6%) or Denmark (6.4%)¹¹⁶.

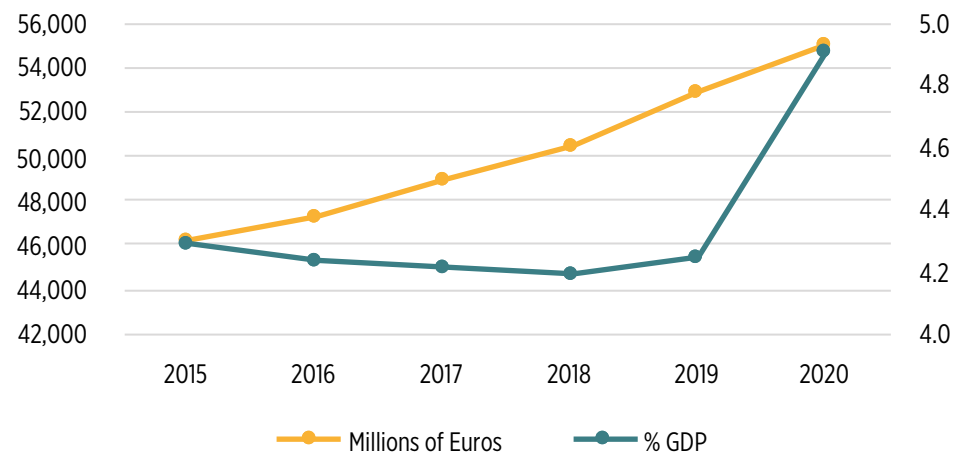
FIGURE 16. TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION IN 2020 (% GDP)



* Provisional
Source: Eurostat.

The following figure reflects the significant increase in public spending on education in relation to GDP, from 4.25% in 2019 to 4.91% in 2020, with the difference in 2020 being visibly higher than in previous years, making this change a significant one after a decade of decline in public spending on education in relation to GDP.

FIGURE 17. EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC SPENDING ON EDUCATION (2015-2020)



Source: own preparation according to statistics from the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, excluding financial chapters.¹¹⁷

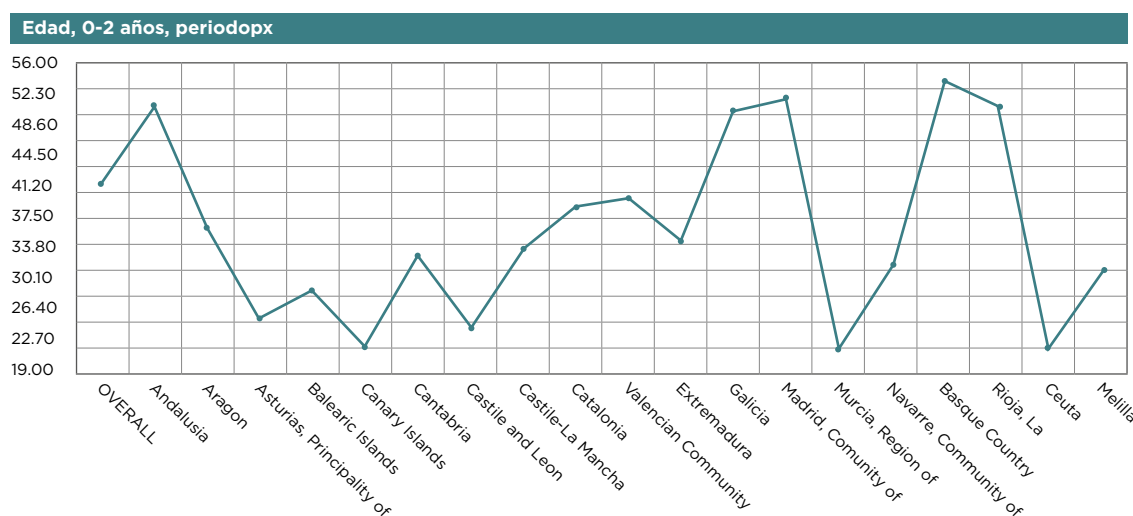
¹¹⁶ Data available [here](#).

¹¹⁷ Data available [here](#).

Total public spending on education in Spain in 2020, excluding financial chapters, amounted to 55,057 million euros, 4.2% more than in 2019, which, in turn, rose by 4.7% compared to 2018, denoting a sustained increase in spending, which means better prospects for reducing social gaps through education.

With regard to the enrolment rate in the first cycle of pre-primary education by Autonomous Community (0-2 years) for the 2021/2022 school year (figure 18), there is a significant difference between regions. The average is 41.4 % and is exceeded by the Basque Country (53.8 %), the Community of Madrid (51.7 %) and Andalusia (50.8 %), while the lowest rates are in Ceuta (21.4 %), the Region of Murcia (21.7 %) and the Canary Islands (21.9 %).

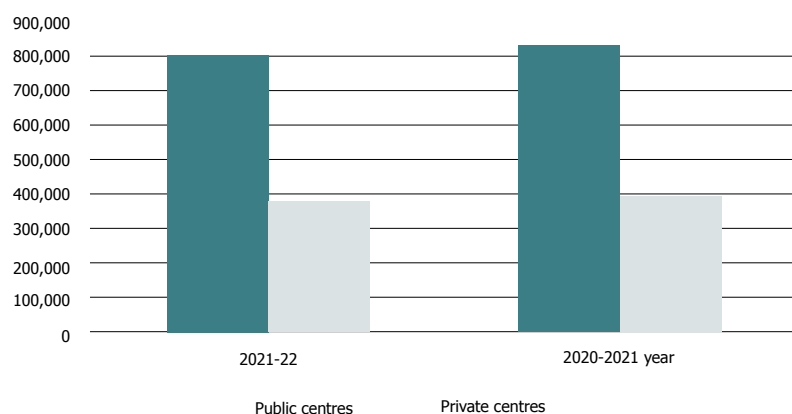
FIGURE 18. ENROLMENT RATE IN THE FIRST CYCLE OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY.



Source: EDUCAbase Ministry of Education and Vocational Training / Ministry of Universities.

In the enrolment rate for the second cycle of pre-primary education by type of school (3-5 years), in the last school year (Figure 19) there was a percentage variation of -3.6 % between 2021 and 2021 in both public and private schools, with figures of 30,238 and 14,465 students, respectively.

FIGURE 19. ENROLMENT RATE IN THE SECOND CYCLE OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION BY TYPE OF CENTRE

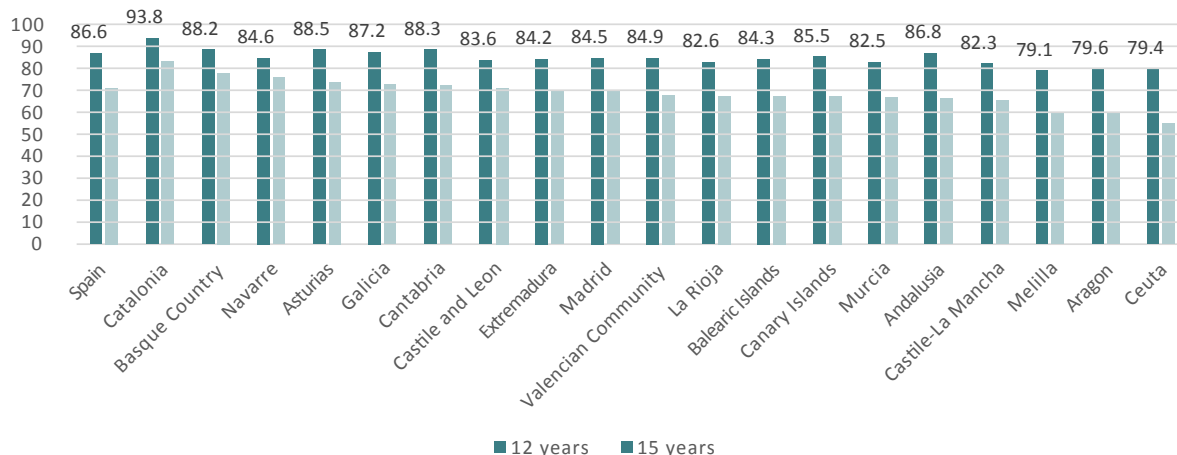


Source: EDUCAbase of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training/Ministry of Universities.

In terms of suitability rates for the 2019-2020 academic year by autonomous community (figure 20), they decrease from 89.8 % at the age of 10 to 71.1 % at the age of 15. This means that 28.9 % of Spanish pupils

aged 15 were not enrolled in the year that corresponds to their age, but in an earlier year. At the age of 12, which is the theoretical starting age for the first year of Compulsory Secondary Education, the eligibility rate was 86.6 %, i.e., 13.4 % of pupils throughout the territory do not start Secondary Education at the stipulated age¹¹⁸.

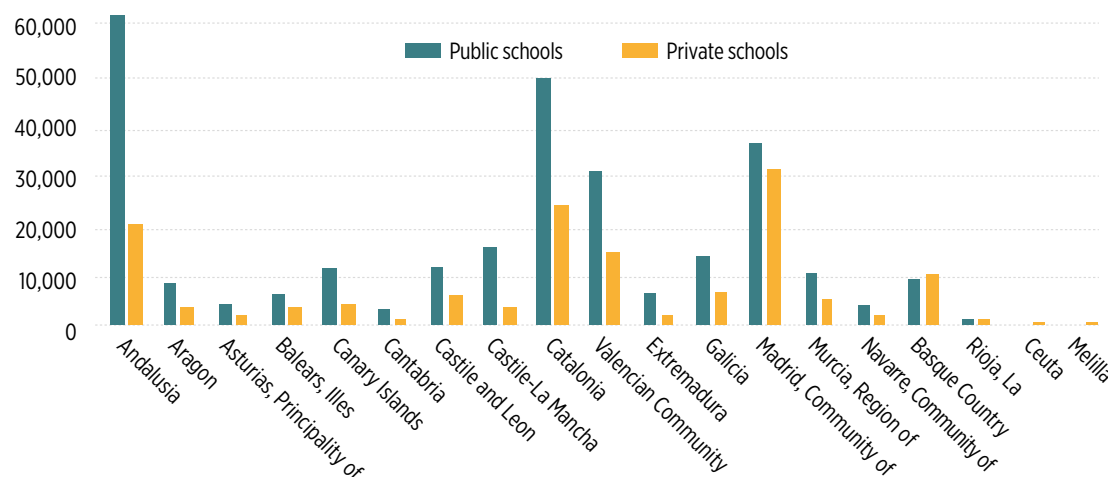
FIGURE 20. SUITABILITY RATE¹¹⁹ AT 12 AND 15 YEARS OF AGE BY AUTONOMOUS REGIONS (ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020)



Source: Facts and figures. School year 2021-2022 Ministry of Education and Vocational Training¹²⁰

Regarding the completion rate in primary education (Figure 21), the highest number of students is to be found in Andalusia, Catalonia and Madrid. It is in the latter territory where the number of students in private schools (30,405) is closest to the number of students in public schools (36,255).

FIGURE 21. PUPILS ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY AND TYPE OF SCHOOL (ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020)

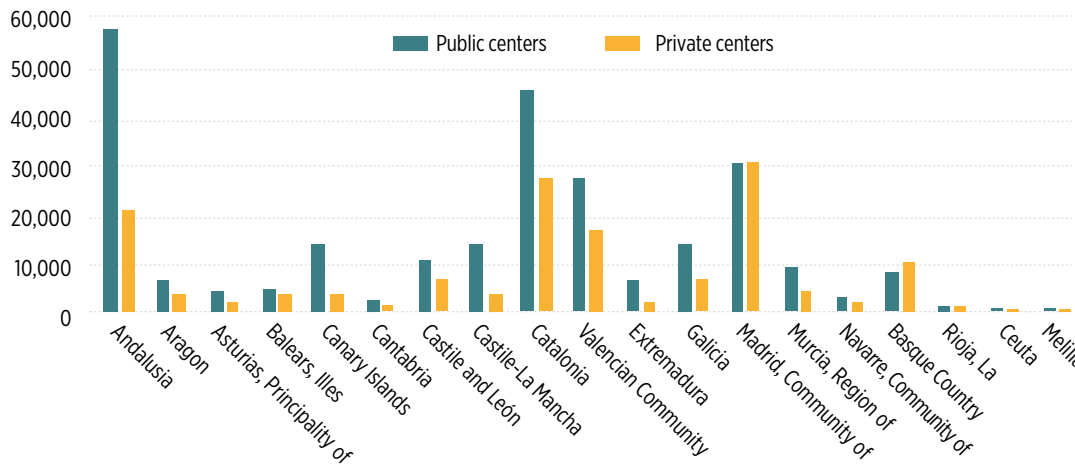


Source: EDUCAbase of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training/Ministry of Universities.

118 Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (2021). Report 2021 on the state of the education system. Academic year 2019-2020. Document accessible [here](#).
 119 Percentage ratio of pupils of the age group concerned taking the course that theoretically corresponds to that age group or above to the total number of pupils of that age group
 120 Document accessible [here](#).

The data on the completion of Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO), according to the academic year 2019-2020 by autonomous community. (Figure 22), draws attention to the fact that in Madrid and the Basque Country the number of students who completed secondary education in private and subsidised schools (30,276 and 10,532, respectively) is higher than in public schools (30,174 and 8,577).

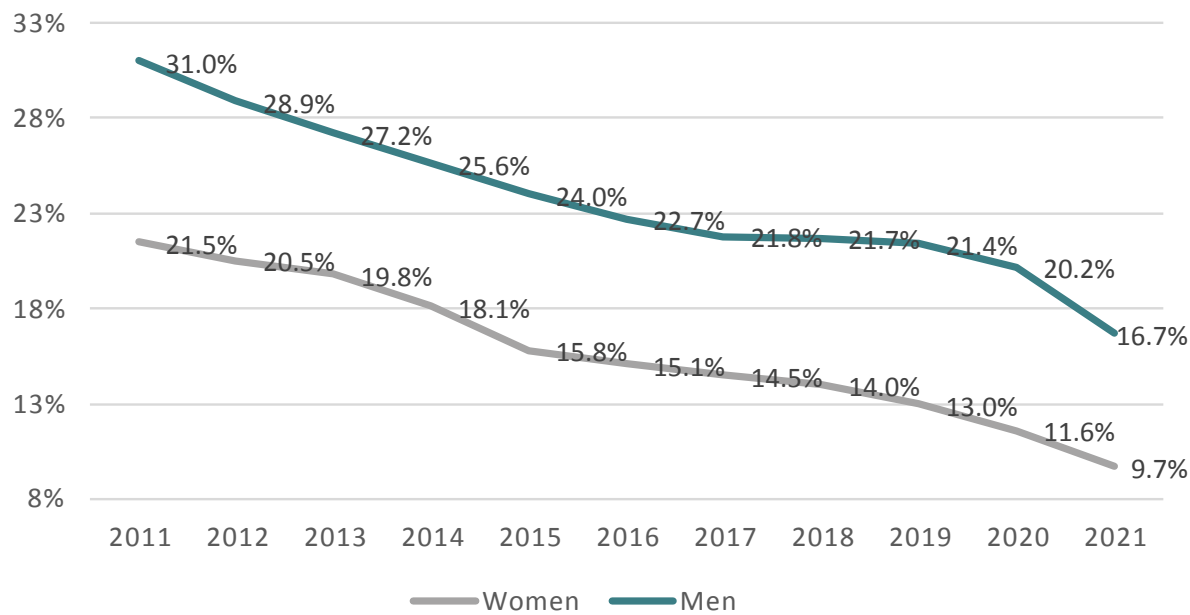
FIGURE 22. PUPILS ATTENDING SECONDARY EDUCATION BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY (ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020)



Source: EDUAbase of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training/Ministry of Universities.

The early dropout rate for 18–24-year-olds, by sex, “has been decreasing notably over the last decade: in 2011 it was 26.3 % and in 2020 it stood at 16.0 % for Spain as a whole, the lowest in the history of our country, which represents a reduction of 10.3 percentage points” according to the 2021 Report on the state of the education system, prepared by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (figure 23).

FIGURE 23. EVOLUTION OF EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS BY GENDER (2011-2021)



Source: Report 2021 on the state of the education system. Academic year 2019-2020 Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

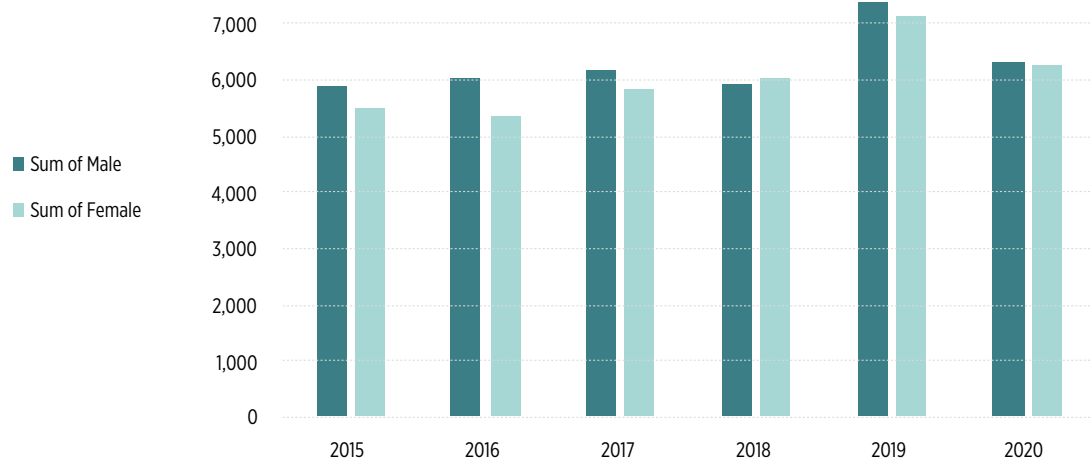
Protection of groups

Child protection services.

One group that requires special attention is children and young people. Other sections of this study have already mentioned public services that have a special impact on this group, such as health and education, but their needs are not limited to these aspects. Issues such as their safety or the guarantee of suitable conditions for their full development as individuals are other facets that demonstrate the need for a comprehensive protection strategy.

In this context, the number of violent assaults suffered by children is worrying (Figure 24), as the number of victimisations remains on a slightly rising trend with the exception of 2020.

FIGURE 24. VICTIMISATION BY AGE (0-13 YEARS)

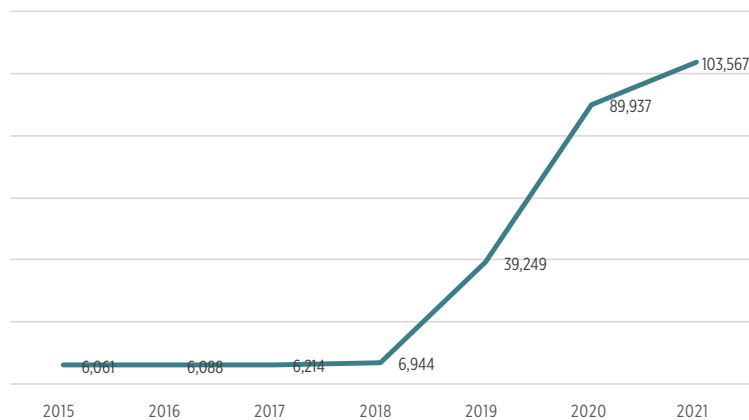


Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the Ministry of the Interior's Crime Statistics Portal¹²¹.

Services to the migrant population

Another group requiring protection by the public authorities is migrants, and in particular the most vulnerable (e.g., people displaced by conflicts, applicants and beneficiaries of international and temporary protection, victims of trafficking, minors, as well as some categories of migrants). The following figure shows the number of **foreigners** with a valid residence card according to humanitarian and other reasons as of 31 December 2021 amounts to 103,567, mainly from Venezuela (90,214), Morocco (4,319) and Colombia (1,813).

FIGURE 25. EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED FOREIGNERS (2013-2021)



Source: infographic Foreigners with valid registration certificate or residence card, published on 8 April 2022¹²².

121 Accessible [here](#).

122 Data available [here](#).

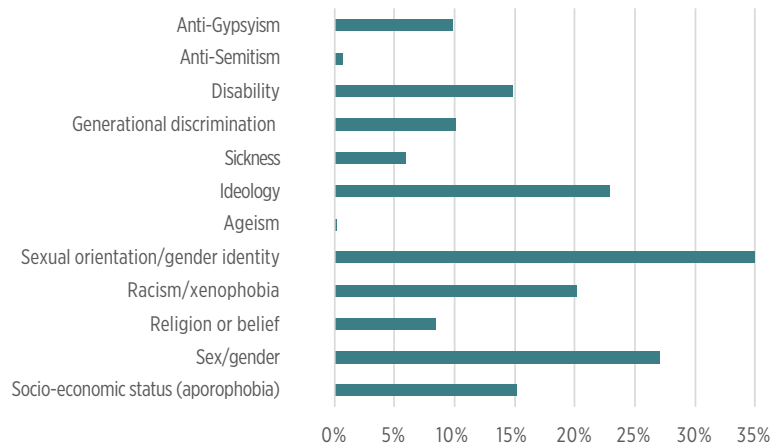
One of the specific problems in relation to this sector is the possible overlapping of the characteristic vulnerability derived from displacement to another country with others derived from their personal conditions (disability, economic or functional vulnerability) or from the reasons for their displacement (personal or social insecurity).

Groups affected by hate crimes.

Immigrants, along with other groups, are particularly sensitive to being victims of hate crimes. This is another field of action for social services.

Regarding the **evolution of hate crimes** according to the 2021 report¹²³ shows the percentages (%) of response in relation to the question: What do you think was the reason why you were a victim of hate crime? Note: Multi-choice question. The total percentages (%) do not add up to 100%, but each response is relative to the total number of participants who answered the question (n = 437). The main reasons include "sexual orientation/gender identity" (35.4%), "ideology" (22.8%) and "racism and xenophobia" (20.1%).

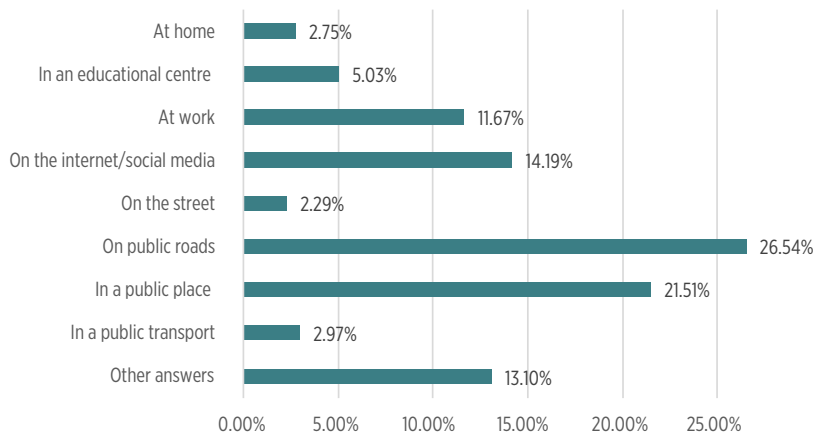
FIGURE 26. HATE CRIMES ACCORDING TO MOTIVE (%)



Source: Ministerio del Interior.

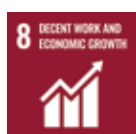
Finally, an attempt was made to find out where hate crimes mainly take place. The responses show that they mainly take place in public places such as roads (26.54%) or other public locations (21.51%)¹²⁴.

FIGURE 27. HATE CRIMES ACCORDING TO LOCATION (%)



123 National Office for Combating Hate Crime (2021). Hate Crime Survey Report. Document accessible [here](#).

124 Multiple choice type question. The total percentages do not add up to 100, but each answer is relative to the total number of participants who answered it (n = 437).



ACCELERATING POLICY 6.

STRENGTHENED PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A RESILIENT DEMOCRATIC WELFARE STATE

Source: Report on the evolution of hate crimes in Spain 2021, p. 40.

Accelerating policy 6 aims to deepen and consolidate the welfare state through inclusive and quality public services that ensure that no one is left behind. This means consolidating public health as an essential and universal service, based on research and scientific knowledge; an education system that guarantees equity and equal opportunities throughout life so that everyone can obtain the learning and skills necessary to develop their life projects with guarantees; a public pension system that protects our elderly; and social services and care for dependency that have the necessary resources to meet growing needs. In addition to the objective of strengthening the welfare state, there are also a variety of priorities for action aimed at guaranteeing the necessary duty of prevention and comprehensive protection on the part of the public authorities in the face of situations that violate rights. In short, these are actions that allow us to advance in the necessary social transition in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Dependency care is one of the four pillars of our welfare state, of growing importance as a result of the accelerated ageing process of our population and the profound changes undergone by the social structure of the family and the caregiving population. Act 39/2006, of 14 December, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons (LAPAD) was a milestone in social policy in that it promoted the implementation of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons (SAAD), with the collaboration and participation of all public administrations. The budget cuts in social matters initiated in 2012 seriously affected the SAAD, diluting the expectations generated, accelerating the lack of protection and returning the responsibility for care to the private sphere, with the consequent effect of overburdening women with the burden of care.

The effects of this disinvestment were evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the shortcomings of the current model of residential and long-term care. There is thus a clear need to promote a profound change in the long-term care model towards a more person-centred one that is more focused on individuals and their needs and preferences, promoting their personal autonomy and encouraging deinstitutionalisation. This is why improving the SAAD has been placed as a central priority in the Sustainable Development Strategy because of its relevance to meeting the social protection targets of SDG1 and the equitable distribution of care in SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda.

This priority is reflected, among other measures, in the development of the **2021 Shock Plan for Dependency**, which has led to an increase in SAAD funding by the General State Administration (AGE) of 1.2 billion euros in the years 2021 and 2022, and which is anchored in the *Agreement for the implementation of the 2021 Shock Plan for Dependency*, reached within the Territorial Council of Social Services and the SAAD.

The improvement in the funding of the SAAD by the National Government led to an increase of €600 million in 2021 and was continued in 2022 with a further €600 million, both in respect of the minimum level and the agreed level. Thus, Law 22/2021, of 28 December, on the General State Budget for 2022 modified the **amounts associated with the minimum level** of protection, to set them at €250 per month for Grade III (an increase of 6.38% over the previous year), and at €125 per month for Grade II (an increase of 32.98%) and €67 per month for Grade I (an increase of 11.67%). In this regard, it is important to note that, for the financial year 2021, Law 11/2020, of 30 December, on the General State Budget for 2021, had already significantly increased the amounts of the minimum level, such that the total expenditure in the financial year 2021 represented an increase of 280 million euros (20.16%), in relation to the investment for the financial year 2020.

In a similar direction, the aforementioned Law 22/2021, of 28 December, committed 483 million euros as a provision for the so-called **agreed level**, an amount that is distributed among the autonomous communities through the Inter-administrative Cooperation Framework, and which represents an increase of 200 million euros in relation to that envisaged in the year 2021. It is also important to remember that this funding channel had been suspended since 2012 and was recovered in 2021.

In relation to the execution of the Inter-administrative Cooperation Framework in 2021, throughout the year the appropriate collaboration agreements were signed with the autonomous communities, in order to develop the transfer of the amounts corresponding to each autonomous community, to include the commitments and objectives to be achieved in each case, and the agreements corresponding to 2022 are expected to be signed during the course of this year. The analysis of both concepts (minimum level and agreed level) shows that for the current year 2022 a total of 2,629,345,401.44 euros has been initially allocated for the financing of both levels of protection, which represents an increase of 675.8 million euros (34.5%) in relation to the amounts executed in the past year 2021.

With regard to the reduction of the waiting list, in 2021 the Territorial Council of Social Services and the SAAD adopted the *Agreement on the Reduction of the SAAD Waiting List*¹²⁵. This document analyses the very concept of the waiting list, its main causes, its current situation, and identifies the issues that need to be addressed to achieve an effective reduction in the waiting list, such as measures to simplify procedures, measures to integrate administrative and technical processes, and an increase in human and technical resources. It also includes various measures to be adopted by the Autonomous Communities themselves, with the common objective of reducing and extending the coverage of this social protection mechanism.

According to the latest available data¹²⁶, a total of 134,602 persons are pending assessment, and 195,209 persons, once assessed and in a situation of dependency, are awaiting recognition of the benefit or benefits to which they may be entitled. This figure reflects a decrease of a total of 37,034 persons (16%) in relation to the figures existing on 31 December 2020. It should also be noted that, since the same date, the increase in the number of people with an Individual Care Plan (PIA) has been very high, rising from 1,124,230 people to 1,255,161 by 30 June 2022, i.e., 130,000 more people. However, the observed increase in demand (new applications), together with the large number of people receiving care, has had a slowing effect on the reduction of the waiting list for access to the PIA.

A key tool for the transformation of the long-term care model and for moving towards care that is more focused on the person and their needs is the **Agreement on the accreditation and quality of the centres and services of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency**¹²⁷, reached in June this year with the Autonomous Communities within the framework of the Territorial Council of Social Services and SAAD. This agreement includes a broad set of actions to promote a deinstitutionalising, community-based and proximity-based approach to support, to be implemented gradually until all requirements have been met by December 2029.

One of its actions is the commitment to a model of care at home, guaranteeing the necessary support so that people can remain at home for as long as possible and, if not, reside in a residential centre that is as close to home as possible. To this end, the maximum size for newly built centres is regulated, minimum percentages of rooms for individual use are established and the organisation in

125 Document accessible [here](#).

126 Corresponding to 30 June 2022.

127 Document accessible [here](#).

small stable cohabitation units is agreed, configured for a maximum of 15 people and equipped with common spaces to enable joint activities and socialisation. A noteworthy advance is the commitment to the gradual increase in staff ratios so that, by the end of the agreement's term, the existence of practically one professional for every two people cared for will have been guaranteed, thus ensuring quality care. A final aspect to be highlighted is the recognition of the right of people to care free of physical, mechanical, chemical or pharmacological restraints by means of the existence in the centres of a restraint-free care plan.

Also framed within the objective of promoting the modernisation and guarantee of social services as part of the strengthening of the welfare state, guaranteeing social and territorial cohesion, is the **Law on Basic Conditions for Equality in Access to and Enjoyment of Social Services**, aimed at reinforcing this pillar of the Welfare State, while at the same time enabling the organisation of the public system as a whole, its internal coordination and coordination with other social protection systems, education, housing or employment, etc., in order to provide comprehensive care. It also aims to clarify and reinforce aspects such as the information exchange system, the system of competences, financing, or the mechanisms to promote research, quality, innovation and evaluation of the system. All of this without detriment to the exclusive competences that the legal system grants in this area to the Autonomous Communities, and from an approach of cooperation and collaboration between all the administrations involved.

This regulatory project is currently in the drafting process, after having completed the prior public consultation process in February 2022, in which around 600 contributions from social entities, professional associations, administrations and private individuals were collected. It is expected to be submitted to the Council of Ministers in first reading in the second half of this year.

Another of the pillars of the Welfare State, which if possible has shown even more its importance in the context of the global pandemic, is the **National Health System (NHS)**, which is directly linked to the achievement of SDG3, but which also allows us to make progress in achieving other Sustainable Development Goals.

The first of the actions in the area of the right to health, included in this policy to accelerate sustainable development that commits to strengthening public services, is the development of the National Health System's Strategic Framework for Primary Care, approved in 2019. In this area, and as part of those aimed at the renewal and expansion of the capacity of the NHS included in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, the **Primary and Community Care Action Plan 2022-2023**¹²⁸ has been approved, which includes specific actions for the promotion and implementation of this strategic framework.

Among its 52 actions are an increase in human resources and an improvement of their working conditions, committing to the objective of reducing temporary employment to below 8%, as well as the updating of the common portfolio of services, especially with regard to the indication and performance of diagnostic procedures and in the Community Care Service, and the progressive extension of the common portfolio of oral health services. It also incorporates as an objective the development of a Community Health Strategy at the level of each autonomous community, complemented by a training strategy in the field of a biopsychosocial approach and community action. Furthermore, in order to promote a global health perspective, strategies and coordination mechanisms will be promoted between the health system and neighbourhoods, municipalities and autonomous communities, with the participation of citizens. Finally, the Plan promotes an increase in remote consultation projects, access to medical images, the issuing of individualised alerts and the remote detection of risks through IT and Big-Data tools. These actions will be implemented through the development of Integrated Regional Projects (PRI) by the autonomous communities.

A second action set in motion during the period under review is the approval by the Council of Ministers of the **Draft Law amending various regulations to consolidate the equity, universality and cohesion of the National Health System**, including Law 14/1986 of 25 April 1986 on General Health; Law 16/2003 of 28 May 2003 on the cohesion and quality of the National Health System; Royal Decree 8/2008 of 11 January 2008 regulating the benefit for reasons of need in favour of Spaniards living

abroad and returnees (with regard to health care when travelling abroad), or the revised text of the Law on guarantees and rational use of medicines and health products.

This regulation, which is part of the commitments of component 18 of the PRTR, aims to strengthen the National Health System (NHS) and adapt it to current challenges in order to continue extending rights, making it impossible to introduce new co-payments, ensuring the participation of patients, people with disabilities and health professionals in the main NHS discussion forums, as well as the evaluation of the impact on health in those initiatives that affect the determinants of health, among other aspects.

A third commitment corresponds to the field of mental health, through the approval of the **Mental Health Strategy of the National Health System 2022-2026**¹²⁹, which is the result of collaboration between scientific societies, mental health professionals and family associations, as well as the dialogue generated within the framework of the Institutional Committee of the Mental Health Strategy of the National Health System, in which the autonomous communities, the National Institute of Health Management (INGESA) and the National Plan on Drugs participate.

Based on the Strategy, and conceived as an instrument to facilitate the implementation of its objectives and recommendations, the **Mental Health Action Plan 2022-2024**¹³⁰ has been designed, approved by the Interterritorial Council of the NHS in May of this year. The Plan is structured into six strategic lines, aimed, among other aspects, at strengthening human resources in the field of mental health; tackling mental health problems in contexts of greater vulnerability; raising awareness and combating the stigmatisation of people with mental health problems; and the prevention, early detection and care of suicidal behaviour. Linked to this last objective, the **024 Line** has been set up, a free, anonymous and confidential suicide helpline. For the development of its actions, it will have an estimated budget of 100 million euros, 80% of which will be managed by the autonomous communities.

Finally, progress has been made in the formulation of the **Precision Medicine Strategy**, which will encompass the areas of predictive medicine and genomic medicine, as well as the massive and integrative analysis of molecular and clinical data and social, environmental and behavioural factors, with the aim of improving diagnosis, treatment and the ability to predict the development of diseases. This Strategy is, in turn, part of the commitments of the **Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2027**, and represents a transformation in the way decisions are made in clinical practice and in public health measures. It will enable safer, more efficient, preventive and predictive medicine, based on the use of clinical data obtained routinely in the clinical-care process, as well as adapting practice to the individual characteristics that affect health.

In addition, within the framework of the Shock Plan for Science and Innovation, a call for R&D has been launched for the creation of the Infrastructure for Precision Medicine associated with Science and Technology (IMPACT). The IMPACT action is composed of three programmes that should be integrated under a shared strategic plan to facilitate the implementation of precision medicine. That is, a Predictive Medicine Programme, which will make it possible to set up a large population cohort with clinical, epidemiological and biological data that will make it possible to represent the entire resident population of Spain, taking into account ethnic variability and geographical and environmental diversity; a Data Science Programme, to develop a system for the collection, integration and analysis of clinical and molecular data oriented towards the health of each patient, but with secondary use of the information for the benefit of public health, health planning and research objectives; and, finally, the Genomic Medicine Programme, which will facilitate the availability of infrastructures and coordination protocols to carry out highly complex genomic analyses, for their application to the diagnosis of diseases. IMPACT's overall budget is 25.7 million euros.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the approval of the Strategic Project for Economic Recovery and Transformation (**PERTE**) for **Vanguard Health**¹³¹. This is an instrument of public-private collaboration focused on the transformation of the health sector through science and innovation. This strategic project aims to foster the creation of a high-performance healthcare system based on precision med-

129 Document accessible [here](#).

130 Document accessible [here](#).

131 Documentation available [here](#).

icine, advanced therapies and artificial intelligence. Cutting-edge health refers to the development of innovative procedures to improve personalised prevention, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation of patients. In short, the aim is to promote a transformation of the health sector with actions in which science, innovation and digitalisation go hand in hand to meet the new healthcare challenges. In total, public and private sector investment of 1,469 million euros is planned for the period 2021 to 2023.

Likewise, in relation to the protection of health and the promotion of healthier lifestyles, this accelerating policy is committed different priorities for action that have been developed significantly during this first year of the Sustainable Development Strategy. The first of these is related to the actions of the **Nutrition and Obesity Study Observatory**, which has been set up as an information system to ascertain the nutritional situation and the evolution of obesity in the Spanish population, as well as serving as a meeting platform for all the agents involved in achieving the objectives of the **NAOS Strategy** (Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention).

Among the initiatives developed in the period under analysis, the **Programme for the Control of the nutritional quality of school menus**, within the National Plan for the Official Control of the Food Chain (PNCOCA), stands out, having approved a protocol of minimum criteria for the evaluation of the food supply in schools, thus guaranteeing an evaluation based on common parameters for the whole of the territory. In addition, the VAT rate on sugary and sweetened beverages has been raised from 10% to 21%, in order to discourage consumption, particularly among children and young people. Other actions include studies and actions to raise awareness of the benefits of a healthy and varied diet and to promote physical activity.

In addition, the **school programme for the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk** has continued to be developed, which has a marked informative and educational approach, stressing the importance of children consuming these products, as well as improving their knowledge of the production chain and its relationship with the rural world. The distribution of fruit and vegetable products is complemented by accompanying measures aimed at increasing, in the short and long term, the consumption of healthy products and reconnecting children with agriculture and food production. During the last school year 2020/2021, this programme has reached more than 7,200 schools and a total of 1.3 million children.

The **Right to Education** is another pillar of the welfare state and a goal in itself of the 2030 Agenda, fundamental to progress in achieving the other Sustainable Development Goals and to be able to enjoy a full life in dignity.

Among the commitments acquired in this accelerating policy, the **development of Organic Law 3/2020 of 29 December, which modifies Organic Law 2/2006 of 3 May (LOMLOE)**, in accordance with the implementation schedule set out in its fifth final provision, and the timing of the commitments set out in its additional provisions, should be highlighted. This development has appeared in the approval of different royal decrees, which regulate areas such as assessment and promotion in the different educational stages (RD 984/2021, of 16 November); the organisation and minimum teaching of Pre-school Education (RD 95/2022, of 1 February); Primary Education (RD 157/2022, of 1 March); Compulsory Secondary Education (RD 217/2022, of 29 March); and the Baccalaureate (RD 243/2022, of 5 April), and in other areas.

In addition, as part of the development of the fifth additional provision, which regulates the priorities in the territorial cooperation programmes, 12 programmes have been designed and agreed in areas such as the financing of textbooks and teaching materials; in the field of territorial cooperation for the training, improvement and mobility of Vocational Training teachers; Dual Vocational Training; to improve the quality of Vocational Training; for the digitalisation of the educational ecosystem and for the improvement of educational digital competence; for the promotion of schooling in the first cycle of Infant Education, for the Programme for guidance, advancement and educational enrichment in centres of special educational complexity (PROA+ Programme) or for the creation of personal and family accompaniment and guidance units, etc. These will be financed both from the ordinary budget and through the resources of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.

Within this framework, one of the priority lines of action during this period has been the promotion of **children's participation in pre-school education**, as this is one of the most important predictors of improved results and future educational performance. Schooling at this educational stage facilitates both the reconciliation of work and family life and the personal development of the child, contributing

to the reduction of inequalities. However, there are important differences in access to the first cycle of Infant Education associated with socio-family characteristics that need to be corrected in order to guarantee equal opportunities. Proof of this is that, according to the latest available data (LCS, 2016), in the 0-3 years stage, only 26.3% of children from families in the lowest income quintile were enrolled in school compared to 62.5% in the highest quintile.

In recent years, net enrolment rates in centres authorised by the education administration for the first cycle of early childhood education have risen significantly. Thus, in the 2019/20 academic year, the enrolment rate for boys and girls rose to 41.1% on average, with the highest enrolment rate for 2-year-olds (63.1%). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a temporary setback in enrolment rates for the 2020/21 school year.

For this reason, the Government is focusing its efforts on **extending the first cycle of early childhood education with a sufficient public offer with equity and quality** that guarantees its educational nature. To this end, a significant budgetary effort has been planned, through the funds of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism. *Modernisation and digitalisation of the education system*, including early education from 0 to 3 years of age, which includes the Territorial Cooperation Programme (PCT) with the Autonomous Communities to promote schooling in the First Cycle of Pre-school Education with new publicly-owned places, referred to above as part of the development of the provisions of the LOMLOE. For its development, more than 200 million euros have been allocated in the 2021 budget year, in addition to more than 331 million euros of investment in 2022 and 134 million euros in 2023.

Once schooling has been consolidated as a result of the development of this Territorial Cooperation Programme, the education administrations will bear the costs, with their ordinary budgets, for the maintenance of the places created. It should also be noted that this investment responds to the recommendations of the European Commission and that its implementation is a priority in order to advance equal opportunities from the earliest ages, based on the premise of leaving no one behind.

With regard to **special educational needs and disability in education**, the LOMLOE establishes that the education authorities shall ensure that schooling decisions guarantee the most appropriate response to the specific needs of each pupil, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 74 of the law. The Government, in collaboration with the education administrations, will develop a plan so that, within ten years, in accordance with Article 24.2.e) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in compliance with SDG4 of the 2030 Agenda, ordinary schools will have the necessary resources to be able to attend, in the best conditions, to students with disabilities. Furthermore, education authorities will continue to provide the necessary support to special education centres so that, in addition to providing schooling for students who require highly specialised attention, they can also act as reference and support centres for mainstream schools.

The percentage of students with special educational needs (ACNEE) in ordinary schools shows differences, which are difficult to justify, between the last stage of basic education (Compulsory Secondary Education) and the post-compulsory stages (intermediate or higher vocational training cycles and Baccalaureate). In the 2020/21 academic year, the percentage of students with special educational needs in Compulsory Secondary Education was 3.0%, compared to 0.9% in Baccalaureate, 6.8% in Basic Vocational Training, 2.2% in Intermediate Level and 0.7% in Higher Level.

Based on this, and in order to move towards a more inclusive education, the LOMLOE has incorporated different provisions, among which are the formulation of the principle of educational inclusion (arts. 1 and 4), with the aim of attending to the diversity of needs of all pupils; the reinforcement of measures to attend to diversity (grouping of areas or subjects, educational and vocational guidance, personalised support measures, or curricular reinforcement or enrichment programmes); making stages more flexible and adaptation of assessment tests, both internal and diagnostic and general; it has also modified the aspects referring to schooling and, particularly, in the case of possible discrepancies between the family and the educational administration, it gives preference to the family in the case of opting for the most inclusive system.

In this line, an Inclusive Education TCP is planned, endowed with 38 million euros in the financial year 2022, to be implemented in the academic year 2022/23, with the aim of contributing to the financing of the aforementioned measures. In addition, technical assistance has been obtained from the European Commission and the European Agency for Special Needs Education to produce recommen-

dations for better implementation of inclusive education. This is a European Commission Flagship Project, included in the European Child Guarantee Programme.

On the other hand, the LOMLOE insists on the need to take into account the **digital change** that is taking place in our societies and which inevitably affects educational activity. With this objective in mind, it includes attention to the **development of the digital skills of students at all stages**, both through specific area or subject content and from a cross-cutting perspective. This has been contemplated in all the LOMLOE development regulations linked to the organisation of the stages and their minimum teaching.

With regard to teacher training, both initial and in-service, the framework approved in 2020 by the Autonomous Communities and the National Government has been updated in order to adapt it to the new educational context, through the constitution of a paper under the Learning Technologies Working Group (GTTA), resulting in the implementation of ongoing training programmes for in-service teaching professionals. To this is added the introduction of content in this area in the training of future primary and secondary school teachers. This approach is complemented by the implementation of initiatives such as the I Learn at Home and AseguraTIC portals, aimed at providing quality educational tools, resources and applications to facilitate the involvement of families in digital learning.

Finally, the **Digital Education** programme was developed in response to the needs of students who, as a result of the transfer of teaching activity from schools to homes during the health crisis caused by COVID-19, had difficulties in accessing devices and connectivity in their homes. As a result of this experience, this initiative consists of a set of actions to support the digital transformation of the education system through the provision of devices, digital educational resources, adaptation of teachers' digital skills and actions involving the application of artificial intelligence to personalised education. In short, a programme that allows further progress to be made, following the steps already taken in this area, such as the Connected Schools programme, which contributes to providing schools with reliable and quality connectivity.

For its part, with regard to the priority of action related to the promotion of coeducation at all educational stages, it should be noted that the various Royal Decrees implementing the LOMLOE have included **references to the gender perspective at all educational stages from the perspective of coeducation**, which are reflected in the specific competences, basic knowledge and assessment criteria. Furthermore, education administrations will promote that curricula and textbooks and other educational materials promote the equal value of women and men and do not contain sexist or discriminatory stereotypes. Likewise, they shall include this content in initial teacher training programmes.

In Compulsory Secondary Education and the Baccalaureate, in development of the regulations in the aforementioned Organic Law, special attention will be paid to the educational and professional guidance of pupils, incorporating the gender perspective. Furthermore, the LOMLOE creates a new subject, education in civic and ethical values, which will be compulsory in both Primary Education and Compulsory Secondary Education and in which special attention will be paid to knowledge of and respect for human and children's rights, the rights enshrined in the Spanish Constitution, equality between men and women and the value of respect for diversity, among other aspects.

With respect to university education, the approval of the **Draft Organic Law on the university system** is noteworthy, which responds to the need to adapt and update the legal system that regulates the Spanish university system as expressed in Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on universities, with the aim of promoting a quality, accessible, equitable and internationalised university, which produces knowledge at the service of society and contributes to sustainable development.

This bill aims to address some of the main problems affecting the university system, largely as a result of the disinvestment policies implemented after the onset of the economic crisis in 2008, which led to a 20.1% reduction in public funding in real terms between 2008 and 2020, forcing an increase in private funding through an increase in university fees, thus hindering access to university for young people from lower-income households. At the same time, this has resulted in an ageing workforce, with 53.5% of the current permanent teaching staff reaching retirement age in the academic year 2030/2031, and an increase in job insecurity due to the frequent recourse to the figure of associate lecturers, who are part-time and temporary.

Similarly, in recent years, women have been under-represented at all levels, so that only 23% of vice-chancellors and 35% of deans are women, despite the fact that women are already in the majority among the student body (55% compared to 45% of men). A final problem has to do with the lack of internationalisation of Spanish universities, since barely 2.6% of all teaching and research staff are nationals of another country, and the percentage of foreign students is lower than in neighbouring countries.

Against this, the draft law approved by the Council of Ministers in June 2022 seeks to ensure that the human and financial resources of the university system are adequate and sufficient for the fulfilment of the functions entrusted to it, with the dignification of working conditions being one of its priority objectives. The measures envisaged to achieve this will benefit more than 25,000 professors and associate professors, reducing temporary employment from the current 40% to 8%, and enabling a more predictable, shorter and more stable academic career.

For its part, the text includes different actions in the area of gender equality, such as the need to have equality plans and measures to eliminate the salary gap, as well as protocols against all types of harassment. Equality and Diversity Units will also be mandatory and parity will be guaranteed in all university bodies and in staff evaluation or selection committees, with the possibility of applying positive actions to hire the under-represented sex under equal conditions of suitability.

It also includes a commitment to allocate at least 1% of GDP to spending on universities, which represents a substantial increase with respect to the investment of recent years, which has averaged 0.7%. Finally, it incorporates actions to promote the internationalisation of the university system through the drawing up of specific strategies in this area between the government, autonomous communities and universities, aimed at reinforcing, among other things, alliances between European, Euro-regional and international universities, or the promotion of shared degrees. In short, the aim is to ensure an autonomous, democratic and participatory university that constitutes a space for freedom, cultural debate and personal development, while at the same time being effective and efficient in its decision-making and management.

A final fundamental pillar of the welfare state is the pension system. In this regard, the Sustainable Development Strategy includes in this accelerating policy the **Commitment to maintaining, improving and adapting the public pension system in accordance with the recommendations of the Evaluation and Reform Report of the Toledo Pact.**

In response to this commitment, Law 21/2021 of 28 December on guaranteeing the purchasing power of pensions and other measures to reinforce the financial and social sustainability of the public pension system was passed, which has restored the guarantee of the purchasing power of pensions by updating them in line with inflation, modified the regulation of the modalities of access to retirement, especially early retirement and the forced retirement regime. Finally, it establishes a new **intergenerational equity mechanism** to replace the previous sustainability factor, aimed at reinforcing the sustainability of the pension system. These amendments represent a substantial change in the approach to the pension system, leaving behind possible cuts and focusing on new forms of financing, with the central objective of guaranteeing decent and adequately funded pensions.

The aforementioned law establishes a new criterion for the revaluation of pensions in order to guarantee the maintenance of purchasing power. In other words, at the beginning of each year, pensions are guaranteed to be re-valued by a percentage equivalent to the average value of the year-on-year rate of change expressed as a percentage of the Consumer Price Index for the twelve months prior to December of the previous year.

With regard to bringing forward the retirement age, the regulation incorporates measures aimed at voluntarily bringing the effective age closer to the ordinary retirement age, thus regulating aspects concerning the review of early retirement, both voluntary and involuntary, due to activity, delayed retirement, active retirement and forced retirement. Specifically, with regard to voluntary early retirement, the coefficients become monthly in order to give future pensioners more flexibility and to encourage the voluntary shift of the age of access to retirement. In addition, longer contribution careers are treated more favourably.

As regards **involuntary early retirement**, two aspects are improved. On the one hand, monthly coefficients are established instead of quarterly ones. On the other hand, the application of the more ben-

official reduction coefficients corresponding to retirement for reasons not attributable to the worker is allowed if the worker has received unemployment benefit at least three months in advance. With regard to early retirement due to work, the application procedure is modified, specifying in greater detail the indicators of danger or arduousness that determine access to this type of early retirement, so that its application can be effective.

With regard to **delayed retirement**, new incentives have been approved, such as exemption from paying contributions for common contingencies, except for temporary incapacity, once the corresponding ordinary retirement age has been reached, and, most notably, the incentives have been significantly strengthened. With regard to **forced retirement**, it is established that collective agreements may not establish clauses that make it possible to terminate the employment contract if the worker reaches an age of less than 68 years. This limit may be lowered in some sectors on condition that the participation of women in these sectors is increased. Finally, as far as the new **intergenerational equity mechanism** is concerned, it combines various elements that make it possible to distribute the intergenerational effort in a balanced way in order to strengthen the system, avoiding the cuts in the initial pension that the Sustainability Factor entailed.

Finally, there was the approval of Royal Decree-Law 13/2022 of 26 July establishing a new contribution system for the self-employed also contributes to strengthening the public pension system and ensuring its financial sustainability.

The reform, which complies with the 4th and 5th recommendations of the Toledo Pact, consists of bringing the contribution bases of self-employed or self-employed workers closer to their real income, so that the basic principles of contributions nature and solidarity on which the system is based are not undermined, since it was considered that the low contribution, characteristic of a group that mainly pays the minimum contribution base, is the main cause of their low pensions.

The adaptation of the contribution bases of the self-employed to their actual income will have an impact on improving the adequacy of their future benefits, so that the self-employed will achieve social protection comparable to that of employees.

As a complement to the reinforcement of public services linked to the four pillars of the welfare state, **this accelerating policy commits to actions framed within the duty of public administrations to protect against the violation of rights and discrimination experienced by certain groups in particular**, in line with the SDG10 targets.

Spanish legislation has incorporated important advances in the protection of children and adolescents from violence, through the approval of **Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June, on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents from violence (LOPIVI)**, which places Spain at the international forefront in this area and which, together with the partial modification of the Civil Code and the Civil Procedure Act, through Organic Law 8/2015, of 22 July, and Law 26/2015, of 28 July, constitute a solid legal framework for the protection of minors.

The public administrations are engaged in full deployment of the LOPIVI, with important advances in various areas such as the development of child-friendly justice, through the implementation of specialised courts and comprehensive victim care services; the promotion of specialised full-time foster care to reduce the number of children in the protection system living in residential care; or the implementation of the figure of welfare coordinators to prevent and avoid bullying in educational centres. The Commission on Violence against Children and Adolescents of the Interterritorial Council of the National Health System has also been created, and the common protocol for health action is being drawn up, as established in OL 8/2021.

Among the actions attached to the LOPIVI and pending development are the National Strategy for De-institutionalisation, which aims to promote foster care, as opposed to institutionalisation, to enable more autonomous and freely chosen life projects, and the Strategy for the eradication of violence against children and adolescents, currently in the process of being drawn up. The latter will include the **Action Plan against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the child protection system**¹³², approved in May 2022 at the Joint Sector Conference on Equality and Childhood and Ado-

lescence, which promotes a series of initiatives to prevent this type of violence against children and adolescents under the care of the administrations, improve care for victims and structurally reinforce the protection system in order to prevent this type of violence from occurring in the future.

Important advances have also been made in **deepening the international standards of migrant children's rights in the state and autonomous community regulatory frameworks on child protection**. The increase in the arrival of migrant children and adolescents without family references who are taken in by the Public Child Protection Bodies of the autonomous communities often exceeds the capacity of these territories to receive and care for children in situations of vulnerability and multiplies the difficulties for the child protection system to offer an adequate and coordinated response based on the best interests of minors. For this reason, and in compliance with the mandate of the Sector Commission for Childhood and Adolescence of 21 February 2022, work is being carried out on a model for the management of migratory contingencies for unaccompanied foreign children and adolescents, to address emergency situations in migratory crises, based on co-responsibility, cooperation and inter-territorial solidarity. The Sector Conference on Childhood and Adolescence will be the body responsible for approving this contingency management model and for declaring the activation of the Response Plan for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents in the event of migratory contingencies.

Four initiatives stand out with regard to the priority of action focused on **reforms to the asylum and aliens' system**, incorporating the perspective of children's rights. The first is the approval of **Royal Decree 220/2022, of 29 March, approving the regulations governing the reception system for international protection**, which aims to improve the efficiency of the Spanish reception system and modify the funding model for collaborating entities, moving from a system of subsidies to a model of concerted action. This also reinforces legal certainty, as it updates and centralises different regulations of different rank that were scattered throughout the legal system.

Basically, the reform regulates a new itinerary by means of which the reception benefits are adapted to each applicant in three phases: initial assessment and referral (for the essential time, the period may not exceed, in general, one month from admission); reception (phase whose duration extends until the resolution of the application procedure, the period may, exceptionally, be longer); and autonomy, aimed at persons benefiting from protection with a maximum duration of six months (extendable in exceptional cases). It also replaces the model of funding through annual subsidies, which hindered the long-term vision and entailed high processing costs, with a new model of concerted action that allows for the granting of authorisation to any entity that meets the established requirements for the provision of care services for a period of between two and four years, which may be extended up to a maximum duration of eight years. In addition, it allows the administration to advance entities up to 50% of the maximum agreed remuneration for the services to be provided.

This new model of concerted action included in Heading 5 of Royal Decree 220/2022 has its regulatory development through Order ISM/680/2022, of 19 July, which develops the management of the system of reception of international protection through concerted action with the aim of increasing efficiency in the operation of the reception system.

The second of these corresponds to the modification of the Regulation of the Organic Law on Aliens, through Royal Decree 903/2021 of 19 October, which is specifically aimed at reinforcing the rights and protection of migrant children.

In a context in which Spanish legislation was an anomaly in its European environment, due to excessive and highly bureaucratic documentation deadlines, this reform pursues the objective of promoting legal security, favouring inclusion and reducing the vulnerability of unaccompanied migrant children and young people, thus aligning itself with the most widespread model in the European Union.

This regulation has simplified and facilitated the documentation procedure for foreign minors who migrate without family accompaniment, preventing them from reaching the age of majority without documentation, as well as consolidating the right of access to the labour market for adults and minors from the age of 16, on equal terms with Spanish nationals and resident foreigners. It also establishes a specific regime for foreign minors who migrate alone when they reach the age of majority, establishing requirements that are more in line with their reality. Finally, it extends the validity of residence permits from one to two years, easing the administrative burden for both the applicant and the administration, and allows young people between the ages of 18 and 23 who, as a result of the

application of the Supreme Court's doctrine, had been condemned to undergo irregular situations to obtain a permit.

This new regulation has enabled 12,465 files to be recorded for residence permits for foreign minors without family accompaniment and for young foreigners formerly under guardianship, with a total of 9,683 permits having been granted so far, i.e., 77.7%, up to 12 June 2022, eight months after its entry into force.

In the same line of improving the protection of the rights of foreigners and persons of Spanish nationality with foreign family members, the reform of the Regulations of the Organic Law on Foreigners, through Royal Decree 629/2022, of 26 July, introduces relevant new features such as the creation of a specific status for foreign family members of Spanish citizens, through the concept of the "family ties" for persons who wish to reside in Spain, eliminating bureaucratic obstacles that could limit this right. Secondly, specific mention is made of the situation of guardians of foreign nationality of disabled persons of Spanish nationality, as well as of persons who provide support for the exercise of their legal capacity and live with them, granting in these cases a five-year authorisation that enables them to work as employees and self-employed persons. Thirdly, the economic requirements for family reunification are made more flexible, especially when it affects minors of foreign nationality. Finally, the stability of foreigners in Spain and the reduction of the administrative burdens associated with immigration procedures are favoured, extending the duration of renewals from two to four years, and increasing the number of authorisations that entitle the holder to work as an employee or self-employed person.

Fourthly, it should be noted that in November 2021, the **Secretary of State for Migration** issued **Instruction 2/2021** on temporary residence and work permits for exceptional circumstances for foreign women victims of gender-based violence, which clarifies that foreign women victims of gender-based violence who meet the requirements established therein and who request it, regardless of their administrative situation in Spain, may access this type of permit (provided for in Article 31 bis of the Organic Law on Foreigners).

Finally, another noteworthy feature in the area of strengthening the inclusive and social dimension of migration is the drafting of a document aimed at strengthening mechanisms for the inclusion and integration of people of foreign origin and developing processes and instruments for the prevention, monitoring, detection and elimination of xenophobia, racism and other associated forms of intolerance in the national territory.

Another priority for action in the area of protection of rights that has made progress is the **reform of civil and procedural legislation to support people with disabilities in the exercise of their legal capacity**, through **Law 8/2021 of 2 June**. Among the reforms, the modification of the Civil Code stands out, given that it lays the foundations for the new system based on respect for the will and preferences of the person with disabilities. In this way, incapacitation or modification of capacity is replaced, since this, as an inherent condition of the person, cannot be modified, by support, a term that encompasses everything from technical assistance in the communication of declarations of will, the breaking down of architectural barriers, to representation or substitution in decision-making, only when the support cannot be given in any other way. The amendment also addresses the institution of guardianship, understood from a welfare perspective, and the elimination from the field of disability, not only of guardianship, but also of extended parental authority and rehabilitated parental authority, figures that do not respond to the system of promoting the autonomy of adults with disabilities. These changes in turn make it necessary to amend the Mortgage Act and Act 20/2011, of 21 July, on the Civil Registry.

Added to this is the approval of the **technical document on basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination for access to and use of urbanised public spaces**, approved by Order TMA/851/2021, of 23 July, which represents an important step forward in public policies to guarantee accessibility, and whose adoption has been accompanied by a Guide with recommendations for its application¹³³.

Another area of development of the public authorities' duty to protect is linked to protection against hate speech and hate crimes, which are a challenge to coexistence and social cohesion. The development of the **Action Plan to Combat Hate Crimes** is key to promoting and strengthening a comprehensive legislative and political framework to eradicate them, and to guarantee the protection of the rights and freedoms of all people.

In this area, it is worth highlighting the approval of the **2nd Action Plan to combat hate crime 2022-2024**¹³⁴, approved on 12 April 2022, which has led to the development of different lines of work, including the publication of the Report on the Hate Crime Survey¹³⁵, presented in June 2021. This is a voluntary and anonymous survey aimed at obtaining a picture of hate crimes in Spain, in order to draw conclusions to improve the prevention and reaction of the Security Forces and Corps, one of the results being that only one victim in ten chooses to file a formal complaint. In addition to this, an interactive map has been implemented to facilitate the identification by victims of existing care resources in each province, and a database of symbols of radical groups (homophobic, racist, anti-Muslim or anti-Semitic, etc.) has been created in order to improve the investigation and prevention of this type of crime, particularly with regard to online hate speech.

The measures and priorities for action described so far are complemented by the necessary improvement in accessibility to public administrations for all citizens, through the promotion of digitalisation processes and the improvement of administrative procedures.

In this regard, the development of the **Public Administration Digitalisation Plan 2021-2025**¹³⁶ stands out. This plan aims to improve the accessibility of public services to citizens and companies, with all the guarantees of data protection, boost the efficiency of public administrations and overcome social and territorial digital divides. To achieve this, investments worth more than 1 billion euros have been launched in different lines of action for digitalisation, with a vision of the administration as an engine for the transformation of the economy as a whole, and as a driving force for growth and innovation. An example of this is the new **Smart Process Automation Service**, which will reduce costs and internal processing times, supported by process automation and Artificial Intelligence technologies. Its deployment has begun with the commissioning of a common platform for task automation based on robotisation (RPA), which has enabled the automated collection and evaluation of information on applicants for Digital Kit subsidies, thus enabling massive and automated processing of files at any time of the day, including weekends.

In addition, the new data platform of the General State Administration has been acquired, on which the Administration's corporate data warehouse will be built, and which, through the use of Big Data technologies and advanced analytical techniques, will give added value to information to improve public services. Similarly, work has begun on improving the Administration's large Data Processing Centres (DPC), boosting their capacities and availability. In the area of cybersecurity, the Cybersecurity Operations Centre of the General State Administration has been set up and the integration of ministries and agencies has begun, thus taking a further step towards reinforcing cyber-resilience of administrations.

Strategic projects are also being implemented in the areas of health, justice, employment, inclusion, social security, migration, foreign affairs, defence, interior, consumer affairs and agriculture, which include, among others, the development of the National Health System's digital services and the improvement of the SEPE's management of aid, resources and employment guidance. As an example of this, the distribution of funds to the autonomous communities for the Justice 2030 Plan and for the "Zero Project" has been approved, which will enable the implementation of homogeneous and interoperable digital infrastructures throughout the territory.

In the area of local and regional administrations, three calls for subsidies have been published for the digital transformation and modernisation of local entities for a total amount of 247.28 million euros, with which they have already begun projects that will allow for measures such as improvements in the cybersecurity of these administrations, which are key to the security of digital public services offered to citizens and businesses. The transfer of 118 million euros has also been completed for the digital

134 Document accessible [here](#).

135 Document accessible [here](#).

136 Document accessible [here](#).

transformation and modernisation of the autonomous communities, which have already begun to implement their projects, in accordance with the Plan's lines of action and global objectives.

In this regard, component 11 of the PRTR includes investments linked to the digital transformation and modernisation of territorial public administrations, with a total budget of 1,000 million euros. Through this programme, over the course of 2022, 330 projects have been financed in 145 municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, for a value of more than 89 million euros, with two new calls for proposals having been published in September for a total of 157.84 million euros, the first for municipalities with a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants and provincial capitals with a lower population, and the second for municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants.

This drive to digitise the Administration is accompanied by the protection of rights through the **Charter of Digital Rights**, presented in July 2021 as part of the measures of the **Digital Spain Agenda 2026**³³⁷. The Charter aims to serve as a reference framework for the adoption and interpretation of fundamental rights in the digital environment, as well as to serve as a roadmap to guarantee the rights of citizens and companies in the new digital reality, so that the rights we enjoy offline are also protected online and all people can fully develop in a humanist digital transformation that places people at the centre.

Likewise, the **National Digital Skills Plan** has been promoted, which responds to the need to develop the digital skills and abilities of both workers and citizens as a whole. This plan includes different actions aimed at both active workers (in the public and private sector) and the unemployed. This plan is mostly funded by the PRTR, specifically by Component 19, National Digital Skills Plan, with a budget of €3,593 million.

Strengthening public services also requires effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions at all levels, as called for by the 2030 Agenda in its SDG16. This implies the configuration of a new public governance framework, which ensures the promotion of democratic, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, and where access to justice is guaranteed for all people.
















In line with this objective, this policy to accelerate sustainable development includes among its priorities for action the development of the **4th Open Government Plan for Spain 2020-2024**, which includes ten commitments and 112 initiatives aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability, improving participation, establishing public integrity systems and training and raising awareness among citizens and public employees in this area. Ten commitments that are developed through the combined efforts of the three levels of public administration (state, regional and local) in our country. Since its approval in October 2020, this Plan has experienced a significant degree of implementation of its commitments, with 91 initiatives partially implemented, and 17 of them having been completed in areas such as the reinforcement of transparency in the field of public procurement, access to information on financial management and accountability in local government, or the improvement of the Open Government Forum, the promotion of open data and the reuse of public sector information or the education of citizens in open government.










With regard to the priority of action linked to **transparency, access to information and good governance, through the regulatory development of Law 19/2013, of 9 December**, a commitment derived from the block of measures on transparency and accountability of the 4th Open Government Plan, a subgroup has been set up within the Open Government Forum of equal composition and made up of representatives of public administrations and civil society. This subgroup is currently studying the commitments of the Open Government Plan which, in this area, include the reform of Law 19/2013, the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Public Documents and the approval of the Regulation of Law 19/2013. These initiatives are aimed at extending the obligations of active disclosure, promoting maximum guarantees in the exercise of the right of access and in the activity of the guarantor bodies, and boosting citizen participation in public affairs.
















In the area of integrity, the commitment derived from the **Integrity Axis** of the 4th Open Government Plan has coincided with the approval of the PRTR, which has implied the adoption of Order HFP 1030/2021, of 29 September, which configures the PRTR management system and for which guidelines have been published with the aim of reinforcing the mechanisms for the prevention, detection

















and correction of fraud. Therefore, in this context, the aforementioned Integrity Axis has as a priority the need to complete and, where necessary, holistically reinforce the instruments that make up the National Government's Integrity System. The aim of this system is to strengthen the development of a culture of public integrity and ethics that favours transparency and accountability, with the means to control and evaluate actions and the participation of society. Ultimately, the aim is to improve citizens' trust in and appreciation of institutions.










Finally, with regard to the **reinforcement and reorganisation of the public evaluation system**, last May the Council of Ministers approved the Draft Law for the Institutionalisation of Public Policy Evaluation in the General State Administration, which is currently undergoing parliamentary procedure. This law is aimed at reinforcing the culture of public policy evaluation, establishing common mechanisms and tools for this purpose, while redefining the functions of the Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies and its transformation into the State Agency for the Evaluation of Public Policies as the body responsible for the coordination, promotion and supervision of the public evaluation system.

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
<p>Until 2030, strengthen the universal public system of Social Services, guaranteeing a minimum portfolio of common services of decentralised management and agreed with the Autonomous Communities, which will strengthen community intervention.</p> <p>Until 2030, improve the systems for generating and processing information on the functioning of the universal public system of social services, and advance in its articulation with public employment services.</p>	<p>Law on Basic Conditions for Equality in Access to and Enjoyment of Social Services, which will articulate the catalogue of basic benefits guaranteed to the entire population, regardless of the territory in which they reside.</p>	In the pipeline.	     
<p>Until 2030, modernise and strengthen all social services, with special attention to the promotion of a new model of long-term care that improves its coverage, intensity and quality through, among others, the increasing investment of resources and the promotion of the deinstitutionalisation of care, guaranteeing equitable access throughout the territory by means of a state regulatory framework.</p>	<p>Promotion of personal autonomy and care for dependent persons, through the development of Law 39/2006, which recognises care for dependent persons as a universal and subjective right integrated into the social protection system together with health, social services and social security, and which is articulated through the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency (SAAD).</p> <p>Shock Plan for Dependency 2021 which involves an increase in SAAD funding by the General State Administration of at least 1,200 million euros for the years 2021 and 2022, which entails a rise in the amounts of the minimum level of 31.5% for grade III, 48% for grade II and 41.4% for grade I.</p> <p>Positive action measures aimed at preventing or compensating for disadvantages for a person with a disability to participate fully in political, economic, cultural and social life.</p> <p>Technical document on Basic Conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination for access to and use of urbanised public spaces, providing Spain with basic accessibility conditions.</p> <p>Reform of civil and procedural legislation to support persons with disabilities in the exercise of their legal capacity, in order to adapt the Spanish legal system to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>National Deinstitutionalisation Strategy to be put in place so that older people remain at home as long as possible before going into residential care.</p> <p>National Older People's Strategy for Active Ageing and Well-treating Older People.</p>	<p>Law 22/2021, of 28 December, on the General State Budget for the year 2022. Modification of the one hundred and eighth additional provision, increasing the amounts associated with the minimum level of protection.</p> <p>Resolution of 28 July 2022, of the Secretary of State for Social Rights, publishing the Agreement of the Territorial Council of Social Services and the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency, on common criteria for accreditation and quality of the centres and services of the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency.</p> <p>Law 22/2021, of 28 December, on the General State Budget for the year 2022. Modification of the one hundred and eighth additional provision, increasing the amounts associated with the minimum level of protection.</p> <p>Development of the Agreement for the implementation of the Shock Plan for Dependency 2021, adopted by the Territorial Council of Social Services and the SAAD.</p> <p>Spanish Disability Strategy 2022-2030 (CM of 3 May 2022)</p> <p>Order TMA/851/2021, of 23 July, which develops the technical document on basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination for access to and use of urbanised public spaces.</p> <p>Law 8/2021 of 2 June on reforming civil and procedural legislation to support persons with disabilities in exercising their legal capacity</p> <p>In the pipeline.</p> <p>Start work through pilot projects (funded under Component 22 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan).</p>	     
<p>Until 2030, guarantee the sufficiency of pensions as a basic principle of protective action for citizens, and in compliance with Article 50 of the Spanish Constitution, based on the recommendations adopted by the Parliamentary Commission of the Toledo Pact, including the reinforcement of the principle of solidarity in the different areas of protection or the maintenance of the purchasing power of pensioners, through the updating of the amount in accordance with the consumer price index.</p>	<p>Commitment to maintaining, improving and adapting the public pension system in line with the recommendations of the Evaluation and Reform Report of the Toledo Pact.</p>	<p>Law 21/2021 of 28 December on guaranteeing the purchasing power of pensions and other measures to reinforce the financial and social sustainability of the public pensions system.</p>	  

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
Until 2030, guarantee the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents from violence through the deployment of the provisions contained in the new Organic Law and the development of other strategic frameworks.	Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents from Violence , which aims to prevent and protect children and adolescents from any situation of violence.	Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June, on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence (LOPVI). Creation of the Commission on Violence against Children and Adolescents of the Interterritorial Council of the NHS and drafting of the common protocol for health action.	 
	Deepen the international standards of migrant children's rights in the state and autonomous community regulatory frameworks on child protection.	Resolution of 10 December 2021, of the Secretary of State for Social Rights, which publishes the Agreement of the Sector Conference on Childhood and Adolescence, which approves its Rules of Organisation and Operation.	
	Improve protection against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the child protection system, make progress in the care of victims of sexual exploitation and structurally reinforce the child and adolescent protection system.	Action plan against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents of the child protection system, approved by the Joint Sector Conference on Equality and Childhood and Adolescence on 5 May 2022.	
By 2030, develop the provisions of the new education legislation, with the aim of increasing educational and training opportunities for all students, taking special account of the most disadvantaged population groups (immigrant and Roma population), contributing to the improvement of educational outcomes and ensuring inclusive and quality education with equity.	Development of Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May (LOMLOE).	Development of Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which modifies Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May (LOMLOE). Compliance with the Fifth Final Provision of the Implementation Calendar and the timing of the commitments set out. Territorial Cooperation Programmes with the Autonomous Communities: Programme for guidance, advancement and educational enrichment in centres of special educational complexity (PROA+ Programme) and the creation of personal and family accompaniment and guidance units.	   
	Extension of the first cycle of pre-school education (0-3 years), tending towards free education and prioritising access for pupils at risk of poverty and social exclusion and the situation of low school enrolment.	Territorial Cooperation Programme (PCT) with the Autonomous Communities to promote schooling in the First Cycle of Pre-school Education with new publicly-owned places.	
By 2030, to compensate for the effects of inequalities of origin - economic, social, cultural, and territorial - in economic, social, cultural and territorial inequalities in education through the expansion and reform of scholarship and study aid programs and reform of scholarship and study aid programs, elimination of school segregation based on the conditions of origin of students, promoting of students, promoting school coexistence, and the articulation of school guidance and reinforcement programs in primary and secondary in primary and secondary education to prevent school failure and early dropout from education and training.	Development of Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May (LOMLOE).	Actions on school coexistence in cooperation with the Autonomous Regions and promotion of the State Observatory for School Coexistence and development of its work plan.	  
		<p>Territorial Cooperation Programmes (PCT) with the Autonomous Communities: Programme for guidance, advancement and educational enrichment in centres of special educational complexity (PROA+ Programme) and the creation of personal and family accompaniment and guidance units.</p> <p>Territorial Cooperation Programme with the Autonomous Communities on inclusive education.</p> <p>Territorial Cooperation Programme with the Autonomous Communities on emotional well-being in education.</p> <p>Royal Decree 984/2021, of 16 November, which regulates assessment and promotion in Primary Education, as well as assessment, promotion and qualifications in Compulsory Secondary Education, Baccalaureate and Vocational Training.</p> <p>Royal Decree 95/2022, of 1 February, which establishes the organisation and minimum teaching of Pre-school Education.</p> <p>Royal Decree 157/2022, of 1 March, which establishes the organisation and minimum teachings of Primary Education.</p> <p>Royal Decree 217/2022, of 29 March, which establishes the organisation and minimum teaching of Compulsory Secondary Education.</p> <p>Royal Decree 243/2022, of 5 April, which establishes the organisation and minimum teaching of the Baccalaureate.</p> <p>Order EFP/279/2022, of 4 April, which regulates the evaluation and promotion in Primary Education, as well as the evaluation, promotion and qualification in Compulsory Secondary Education, Baccalaureate and Vocational Training in the field of management of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.</p> <p>Significant budget increase in the area of scholarships and study grants. By 2023, the increase, over 2018, in the amount allocated to scholarships and grants by the MEFP exceeds 60%.</p>	
By 2030, develop a new curricular model based on key competencies, prioritizing key competencies, prioritizing essential learning and the regulation of inclusive academic planning that also guarantees attention to the special educational needs of children and adolescents children and adolescents to make possible a fully inclusive education system.			

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
By 2030, promote the inclusion of inclusive education, attention to diversity, as well as specific training on equality, bullying and ill-treatment in schools, in the in-service training of teachers.	Development of Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June, on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence (LOPIVI).	Cooperation with the Autonomous Regions for the implementation of the figure of welfare coordinators . In-service teacher training, complementary to that developed by the Autonomous Regions for the fulfilment of this goal.	  
By 2030, guarantee the right of girls and boys to have an accessible, affordable, inclusive and high-quality place in the first cycle of early childhood education, prioritising access for pupils in areas with a higher incidence of poverty risk or social exclusion and extending it to rural areas.	Extension of the first cycle of pre-school education (0-3 years) , tending towards free education and prioritising access for pupils at risk of poverty and social exclusion and the situation of low school enrolment .	Territorial Cooperation Programme (PCT) with the Autonomous Communities to promote schooling in the First Cycle of Pre-school Education with new publicly-owned places.	  
By 2030, promote the development of digital skills and the reduction of the digital divide, paying special attention to disadvantaged population groups (women, migrants, older people), to enable equitable access to public services, as well as to the employment opportunities generated by the digitalisation of the economy.	National Digital Skills Plan, which responds to the need to develop the digital skills and abilities of both workers and citizens as a whole.	<p>Resolution of 4 May 2022, of the Directorate General for Evaluation and Territorial Cooperation, which publishes the Agreement of the Sector Conference on Education, on the updating of the reference framework for digital competence in teaching.</p> <p>Resolution of 1 July 2022, of the Directorate General for Evaluation and Territorial Cooperation, which publishes the Agreement of the Sector Conference on Education, on the certification, accreditation and recognition of digital teaching competence.</p> <p>Programme for the Digitalisation of the Education System #EcoDigEdu (mobile devices and connectivity for use at home by students from low-income families, digital classrooms and digital school plan, training in their use). PRTR, C19.12.</p> <p>Programme for the improvement of digital skills in education #CompDigEdu. PRTR, C19.12.</p> <p>Development of open educational resources (OER) in digital format.</p> <p>Educa en Digital” programme to reduce the digital divide.</p> <p><i>Launching the I’m learning at home portal</i>: (https://aprendoencasa.educacion.es/)</p> <p>Portal Asegura TIC (https://intef.es/aseguratic/) to protect minors in their interaction with the Internet.</p>	    
By 2025, guarantee adequate digital connectivity for 100% of the population, by extending broadband to favour territorial structuring, reaching 100% of the population with 100 Mbps coverage.	Digital Spain Agenda 2025 , which is the strategy for the digital transformation of Spain through the guarantee of digital connectivity, the deployment of 5G, training in digital skills, the reinforcement of cybersecurity capacity, the digitisation of public administrations and companies.	Update of the Digital Spain Agenda 2026 (CM 5 July 2022).	 
By 2030, promote the digitalisation of all administrative processes, including those related to Spanish citizens living abroad, with the aim of facilitating access and speeding up procedures.	<p>Public Administration Digitalisation Plan 2021-2025, which aims to improve the accessibility of public services to citizens and businesses with all the guarantees for the protection of personal and business data, overcome social and territorial digital divides and boost the efficiency of public administrations through digitalisation.</p> <p>Promotion of the Charter of Digital Rights, as a reference framework that equates the rights of citizens in the digital and analogue worlds, as well as placing Spain in a position of international leadership in the debate on technological humanism.</p>	<p>Component 11 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan for Modernisation of Public Administrations adopted on 11 June 2021.</p> <p>President of the Government presented the Charter of Digital Rights of Spain on 14 July 2022, as part of the measures of the Digital Agenda 2026 (CM 5 July 2022).</p>	 

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
By 2024, resize the supply of Vocational Training, creating 200,000 new places in intermediate and higher cycles and specialisation courses, in order to increase the level of skills of young people and improve their employability, as well as making 3,700 groups of students in intermediate and higher cycles bilingual.	Development of Organic Law 3/2022, of 31 March, on the Organisation and Integration of Vocational Training.	<p>Territorial Cooperation Programme under the Vocational Training Modernisation Plan (component 20, reforms 1 and 2, investments 1, 2 and 3 of the PRTR).</p> <p>Territorial Cooperation Programme to improve the quality of Vocational Training in accordance with Article 9 of Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education.</p> <p>Creation of the National Network of Digital Training Centres (component 19, investment 1 of the PRTR).</p> <p>Creation of a set of simulators and digital twins applied to the teaching of Vocational Training (component, 19, investment 2 of the PRTR).</p>	  
By 2030, consolidate the universality of the coverage of the National Health System (NHS), including effective and equitable access for all persons resident in Spain, regardless of their criminal, administrative or employment status, through the Law on measures to improve the equity, universalisation and cohesion of the NHS.	<p>Strategic Framework for Primary Care of the National Health System to address, among others, the improvement of the working conditions of health professionals and the reinforcement of the workforce at all levels of care.</p> <p>Draft law on measures for equity, universality and cohesion of the National Health System to introduce the health approach in all public policies.</p>	<p>Primary and Community Care Action Plan 2022-2023 approved by the Interterritorial Council of the National Health System on 15 December 2021.</p> <p>Undergoing parliamentary procedure.</p>	  
By 2030, progress in the use of tools such as telemedicine, both for its relationship with users and for inter-consultation with health professionals at hospital level.	Spanish Strategy for Personalised Precision Medicine, which includes action plans for the generation and use of genomic and molecular information on individuals and the integration of this information with clinical, environmental and lifestyle data.	In the framework of the Shock Plan for Science and Innovation, the Carlos III Health Institute launched a call for R&D for the creation of the Infrastructure for Precision Medicine associated with Science and Technology (IMPACT).	 
By 2030, improve the health and quality of life of groups in situations of special vulnerability: people with disabilities, people deprived of liberty, former wards, people of immigrant origin, the Roma population, people belonging to other ethnic groups, people with HIV, the homeless, etc. through the development of specific programmes and strategies for each group.	<p>Naos Strategy (Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention), which regulates food advertising aimed initially at children under 12 years of age to promote healthy nutrition and eating, as well as the practice of physical activity, through educational and informative actions aimed at consumers.</p> <p>Spanish Strategy for the implementation of the School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Programme from the school year 2017/2018 to 2022/2023.</p> <p>Nutrition Observatory to promote healthy eating and favour a non-obesogenic environment, reducing the prevalence of excess weight (overweight and obesity), with a specific focus on children and disadvantaged people.</p>	<p>Presentation Draft Royal Decree for the protection of the right to health of minors, limiting the advertising of processed products with high sugar, fat and salt content.</p> <p>Participation in the MAPA's School Fruit, Vegetable and Milk Consumption Programme to promote the free distribution of these foods in schools.</p> <p>Programme for monitoring the nutritional quality of school menus, as part of the National Plan for the Official Control of the Food Chain (PNCOCA).</p> <p>Approval of a Protocol of minimum criteria for the evaluation of food supply in schools.</p> <p>Study on obesity and child poverty. X-ray of a double inequality. In progress.</p>	  
By 2030, establish coordination mechanisms between health and social services to work from the perspective of the social determinants of health, also encouraging citizen participation, in order to provide a comprehensive response to the health challenges of particularly vulnerable groups.	<p>Strategic Framework for Primary Care of the National Health System to address, among others, the improvement of the working conditions of health professionals and the reinforcement of the workforce at all levels of care.</p> <p>Draft bill on measures for equity, universality and cohesion of the National Health System to introduce the health approach in all public policies.</p> <p>National Mental Health Strategy, which will pay special attention to gender equity and groups from the most vulnerable backgrounds, providing "rapid and universal" care to those who need it.</p>	<p>Primary and Community Care Action Plan 2022-2023 approved by the Interterritorial Council of the National Health System on 15 December 2021.</p> <p>In the pipeline.</p> <p>Approval of the Mental Health Strategy of the National Health System 2022-2026 (CM of 3 December 2021).</p> <p>Mental Health Action Plan 2022-2024 (approved by the Territorial Council of the National Health System on 11 May 2022).</p> <p>Launch of the 024 Helpline for Suicidal Behaviour by 10 May 2022.</p>	 
By 2025, ensure access to 50% of public services through mobile applications and other digital mechanisms.	Public Administration Digitalisation Plan 2021-2025, with the aim of improving the accessibility of public services to citizens and businesses, overcoming social and territorial digital divides and boosting the efficiency of public administrations through digitalisation.	Commissioning of a common platform for the auto-mapping of tasks based on robotisation. Acquisition of a new data platform for the General State Administration. Component 11 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (CM of 16 June 2021).	 
By 2030, promote the necessary public institutional mechanisms and tools for cooperation between administrations, accompanied by a digitalisation of the administration's systems for a better elaboration of public policies aimed at consumers, with special attention to vulnerable consumers.	Promoting the Charter of Digital Rights.	President of the Government presented the Charter of Digital Rights of Spain on 14 July 2022, as part of the measures of the Digital Agenda 2026 (CM 5 July 2022).	

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
By 2030, strengthen transparency and accountability, improve participation and establish public integrity systems.	4th Open Government Plan 2020-2024 , which includes ten commitments to strengthen transparency and accountability, improve participation, establish public integrity systems, and train and raise awareness of Open Government among citizens and public employees.	Implementation of the commitments of the 4th Open Government Plan for Spain 2020-2024. Integrity system of the General State Administration.	
	Transparencia, Acceso a la Información y Buen Gobierno , con el desarrollo reglamentario vía Real Decreto de la Ley 19/2013, de 9 de diciembre.	Reform of Law 19/2013 of 9 December on transparency, access to public information and good governance, ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on access to public documents and approval of the Regulation of Law 19/2013 of 9 December.	
By 2030, strengthen the evaluation of public policies through the reinforcement and reorganisation of the public evaluation system in public administrations, incorporating socio-economic monitoring indicators.	Strategy for the reinforcement and reorganisation of the public evaluation system in public administrations.	Draft Law on the institutionalisation of the evaluation of public policies in the General State Administration, which, among other measures, will redefine the functions of the Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies and its transformation into a State Agency.	
By 2030, reduce the temporary nature of employment in public administrations and put in place effective measures to prevent and sanction the abusive use of temporary public employment.	Law on the Civil Service of the State Administration , which will deploy all the innovative potential of the Basic Statute of the Public Employee.	In the pipeline.	
By 2030, strengthen the capacities of public employment by implementing a competency-based human resources model, which favours the attraction and retention of talent through the articulation of a career path that ensures equality between women and men, together with professional public management that avoids excessive turnover and ensures results-oriented public management.	Talent Recruitment Plan for the General State Administration (AGE) , which aims to incorporate new generations into public employment in order to achieve a more modern, agile, dynamic, egalitarian and inclusive Administration.	Document "Guidelines for change in selection in the NSA" presented on 26 May 2021, for to bring about a change in the selection processes and make them more agile and attractive. Dissemination of free and open material for the preparation of competitive examinations by INAP.	 
By 2030, improve protection for particularly vulnerable migrants, such as victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation or labour exploitation, as well as their children, by strengthening the reception system specifically designed for this group. Until 2030, improve the model of reception of persons seeking international protection in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, to guarantee their full inclusion in Spanish society. Until 2030, improve and reinforce the system for the reception of persons seeking international protection to ensure their full inclusion in Spanish society.	To deepen the international standards of migrant children's rights in the state and autonomous community regulatory frameworks on child protection.	The development of the Migration Contingency Management Model for unaccompanied foreign children and adolescents is in the pipeline. Action plan against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents of the child protection system, approved by the Joint Sector Conference on Equality and Childhood and Adolescence on 5 May 2022.	
	Reforms in the asylum and aliens' system incorporating a children's rights perspective .	Royal Decree 903/2021 of 19 October and Royal Decree 629/2022 of 26 July amending the Regulation of Organic Law 4/2000 on the rights and freedoms of foreigners in Spain and their social integration, following its reform by Organic Law 2/2009, approved by Royal Decree 557/2011 of 20 April.	 
	New model for the reception of applicants for international protection , respecting the integration competences of the autonomous communities.	Instruction of the Secretary of State for Migration 2/2021 on authorisation for temporary residence and work due to exceptional circumstances for foreign women victims of gender violence. Approval of Royal Decree 220/2022, of 29 March, which approves the regulations governing the reception system for international protection. Order ISM/680/2022, of 19 July, which develops the management of the international protection reception system by means of concerted action.	
Until 2030, promote strategies and plans to prevent and combat hate crimes and the growing hate speech contributing to the protection of people's rights, security and democracy.	Hate Crime Action Plan to promote and strengthen a comprehensive legislative and policy framework to eradicate hate speech and hate crime, ensuring the protection of the rights and freedoms of all people.	2nd Action Plan to combat hate crime 2022-2024, (CM 12 April 2022).	 

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Continuity of the provision of residential care and home help services for people in a situation of dependency.
- Socio-educational Attention Decree for students in a situation of socio-educational vulnerability (*).
- Programme of Reinforcement, Guidance and Support in public schools (PROA Andalusia).
- Impulsa Programme: teacher training and motivation of pupils at risk of dropping out of school.
- Promociona programme to promote the schooling of Roma pupils.
- Rural School Support Plan, and Digital Education Strategy.
- Adaptation of public services towards digital channels, and support for the development of the Digital Bill of Rights.
- Law on the organisation and operation of the public system for the evaluation of public policies (*).
- Platform for the Management of Social Services Centres (*).



(*). Measure in progress

The Andalusian Government has promoted the sector-based reinforcement of public services in the region through actions in social services, education and health.

From the perspective of social services, the provision of residential care and home help services for dependent persons has been provided with continuity. In 2021, 257,227 beneficiaries received 359,285 benefits, a net increase of 28,672 beneficiaries (12.54%) and 48,861 more benefits (15.74%) than at the end of 2020. In the same line of action, the Home Help Service maintains a progressive increase, reaching an all-time high of 129,060 people and the Residential Care Service increased to 25,784 people assisted, as did the Telecare Service, which also reached an all-time high of 107,699 people in a situation of dependency.

In addition, 12,877 people are cared for in day centres, 78,485 people receive the economic benefit for care in the family environment, 4,335 service-linked benefits, 14 personal assistance benefits and 1,031 have the service for the promotion of autonomy and prevention of dependency.

In the field of education, in November 2021 the call was issued for the PROA+ “TRANSFORMATE” guidance, advancement and educational enrichment programme in the public educational centres of the Regional Ministry of Education and Sport of the Regional Government of Andalusia. It was also organised and set in motion. The implementation of this Plan aims to strengthen those public schools that throughout the current academic year show higher indicators of educational poverty: significant educational backwardness, disconnection from school, high rates of repetition and absenteeism, low suitability rates, risk of school failure and early dropout.

These schools need additional support to respond to the multiple demands of organisational, curricular, methodological and teaching reinforcement readjustments that they have to face to compensate for the impact that the confinement and closure of the schools had on the student body in the 2020 academic year. Therefore, from March 2021 until the end of the school year, a total of 460 teachers have been recruited in the specialisation of Educational Guidance, as part of the Group of Secondary Education Teachers.

To further reinforce the actions aimed at pupils at risk of dropping out of school, in November 2021 the Impulsa Programme was approved, which is conceived as a set of actions aimed at strengthening the inclusive culture of educational centres and improving the degree of acquisition of skills through the improvement of classroom resources and/or the implementation of innovative experiences, active and experimental processes that develop students’ know-how, based on their knowledge and fostering attitudes such as autonomy, responsibility, respect and teamwork, under the principles of attention to diversity and gender equality. The Impulsa Programme will be developed through Projects for Educational Innovation, in two lines of action: Impulsa Innovation, with specific innovative measures that contribute to educational success and the prevention of absenteeism and school dropout; and Impulsa Inclusion, with specific innovative measures that contribute to universal accessibility and the development of the skills of students attending specific Special Education units located in ordinary schools.

It also includes the launch of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Education, aligned with the new EU Digital Education Action Plan, which has as its backbone the development of digital skills for schools, teachers, students and families. Among the measures included in this digital strategy is the provision of more than 100,000 portable devices with the new operating system based on free software, EducaAndOS, to public educational centres, with the aim of reducing the digital gap among students. Also, during this academic year, 1,800 touch panels and 900 robotics and aerospace research kits will be provided.

ARAGON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Collaboration with public, private and social entities for adequate provision of services.
- Social Infrastructure Plan (*).
- Shift the trend from the macro residential model to the micro residential model with complementary services.
- Extension of free education for 0–3-year-olds.
- Vocational training curricula adapted to employment needs arising from the health crisis (COVID-19) and the climate crisis.
- Promotion of a quality public university accessible to all.
- Promotion of digital administration and simplification of administrative procedures without undermining compliance with labour, health and environmental requirements.
- Strengthen the provision of public civil protection and emergency services.



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of Aragon announced subsidies for the implementation of support programmes for families in Aragon by non-profit organisations for 2021. In addition, agreements were signed in 2022 by the Spanish Committee of Representatives (Cermi), at a value of 80,000 euros, with the Association of single-parent and single-parent families (Amasol) for 85,000 euros, and with the Association of large families (3ymas) for 85,000 euros, for the development of specific measures derived from their situation, which require priority and specific attention that responds to their needs.

In 2022, a pioneering project was presented for the care of the elderly in the town of Ateca at a cost of 6.2 million euros, paid by the Resilience Funds and works will commence before September 2022. It responds to the need to meet the demand for care in the Calatayud region, which does not have a public residence of the Aragonese Social Services Institute (IASS). The Ateca centre is one of the two new residential complexes that Aragon plans to build until 2023 (the other is the Buen Pastor, in Zaragoza), as part of the implementation of the Resilience funds from Europe. In total, the Department of Citizenship has 85,344,687.80 euros from this European resilience initiative, to be executed until 2023. The Ateca initiative has a pioneering approach to care, framed in the “Elderly Persons’ Plan. Generation of Change” and based on a person-centred care model. It addresses, among other aspects, the change in the model of residences to guarantee the quality of life of people, giving continuity to their life projects with more homely environments, with person-

alised care that fosters their abilities, self-determination and integration.

In the 21/22 academic year, a new vocational training offer was launched, which was extended with 19 vocational training qualifications and 10 specialisation courses, also known as vocational training master’s degrees. The new offer responds to the employment needs in strategic sectors for the Aragonese community.

Regarding programmes aimed at children, in the 2021-2022 school year, the Government of Aragon signed a total of 162 agreements, compared to the 157 agreements signed in the previous school year, with a duration from July 2021 to June 2022, involving funding of 8,430,716.67 euros, distributed into 4,215,950.00 euros in 2021 and 4,214,766.67 euros in 2022. In addition, the agreement with the City Council of Zaragoza for an amount of 1,167,000.00 euros is foreseen. The trend of these actions is on the rise, as the number of planned agreements increases every year.

In 2022, a funding agreement was reached with the University of Zaragoza that guarantees 1,082 million for the campus until 2026 as an engine for future and social transformation. The model is 30% higher than the previous one and will cover all ordinary expenses for the first time, combating the precariousness and temporary nature of the centres. It includes a 60 million investment plan and a five million fund for green and social policies. The allocation for research institutes has been doubled to more than 10 million. This allocation, which will help in undertaking improvement works and equipment, as well as other actions to

promote research, development and innovation, aims to reinforce the excellence of scientific and technical facilities in which more than 1,200 researchers currently work.

CANARY ISLANDS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategy for the Promotion of Primary Care in the Canary Islands (+AP).
- Strategy for the technological and digital modernisation of the Canary Islands public health system, and Technological Renewal Plan of the Canary Islands Health Service.
- Canary Islands Health Plan.
- Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Pre-school Education for 0–3-year-olds.
- Canary Islands Vocational Training Plan 2021-2024, and Vocational Training Modernisation Plan.
- Complementary/Compensatory Education Support Services Plan.
- Canary Islands Smart Governance Strategy.
- Canary Islands Open Government Act.
- 2nd Socio-Healthcare Infrastructures Plan 2018-2023.

The Canarian Government's actions within the framework of the accelerating policy have been developed in three main areas: health, education and the promotion of transparency and open government.

In the health sector, the Strategy for the Promotion of Primary Care in the Canary Islands (+AP) seeks to reorient the care model to make it more accessible. Some specific actions are:

1. 'Reconecta', a project that benefits 5,000 chronic and vulnerable patients;
2. Development of a Demand Management Service with a more focused patient care model;
3. The promotion of apps and notification systems for the control and monitoring of patients;
4. Implementation of ultrasound scanners and dermatoscopes in Primary Care centres.

The Strategy is complemented by the development of the 2nd Health Infrastructure Plan, which envisages the creation of a total of 5,466 new care places, both in residential resources and in day centres for the elderly and the disabled.

On the other hand, between 2022 and 2023, 196 family doctors, 60 paediatricians, 199 nurses, 40 midwives, 60 nursing assistants, 70 administrative assistants, 20 documentalists, 43 social workers and six pharmacists, 44 physiotherapists and 36 clinical psychologists are expected to be recruited.

With regard to the Strategy for Technological and Digital Modernisation of the Canary Islands' public health system, numerous projects have been launched over the last twelve months, including the following:

1. Participation in Tartaglia (Missions in AI programme) and in the Data Governance working group for the Health Data Lake project managed by SEDIA;
2. Digitisation of PC (telemonitoring of home patients, definition and development of a citizen channel and patient school, among others);
3. Public health and epidemiological surveillance projects, updating of the information system for reporting and monitoring notifiable diseases, cancer registry and environmental health systems (water and legionella);
4. Definition of the SCS data governance strategy and the process of creating a dedicated office for the research area;
5. Promotion of innovation from the demand side, through innovative public procurement; etc.

The Canary Islands Health Plan (PSC) 2022-2030 is currently being drawn up. It has two fundamental axes: inter-sector (Health in all Policies) and health outcomes, for the most prevalent problems such as cancer, cardiovascular, mental health and, in general terms, pathologies associated with chronicity. This process

has made it possible, on the one hand, to strengthen the development of the Canary Islands Health Observatory and, on the other, to establish a permanent process of inter-sector work and collaboration.

In the field of education, the Canary Islands Government has promoted the Vocational Training Modernisation Plan, which has been structured around 5 lines or axes:

1. Assessment and Accreditation of Skills Acquired through Work Experience (5,743 units of competence assessed and 4,657 accredited);
2. Digital and Green Training Applied to the Production Sectors for VET Teachers (28 actions, 873 certified teachers);
3. Creation of 20 Entrepreneurship Classrooms in Vocational Training so that students assimilate entrepreneurship as an integral part of their professional competences;
4. Resizing of the Vocational Training Offer (2,400 more places until 2024); (5) Conversion of Classrooms into Applied Technology Spaces (creation of 9 classrooms).

The obvious improvements required by the current Canarian Law 12/2014 on Transparency and Access to Public Information, and the processing of the transposition of the Open Data Directive into Spanish law have led the Canary Islands Government to unify open government in a single regulation: the Canarian Law on Open Government. To this end, the mandatory prior public consultation has been carried out. The bill is currently at the drafting stage.

Finally, the 2nd Health Infrastructure Plan envisages the creation of a total of 5,466 new care places, both in residential facilities and in day centres for the elderly and the disabled. However, the development of the 2nd Healthcare Infrastructure Plan has been substantially conditioned by the situation caused by COVID-19 and the consequent stoppage of construction and improvement work on the network of residential and day centres. For this reason, measures have been adopted such as the extension of the Plan until 2024 and the extension of the execution deadlines.

CANTABRIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Regulation of structural, functional and accreditation requirements for care centres for dependent persons and development of advanced telecare (*).
- Action programmes on health determinants.
- Plan for the Digital Transformation of the Public Health System.
- Diversity plans and inequality compensation programmes for full educational inclusion for socio-educationally disadvantaged pupils (*).
- Plans and programmes for the control of absenteeism, the promotion of qualifications and equal opportunities and structural plans for the prevention of early school leaving (*).
- Specialised programmes for the development of students' talent, and teacher training in methodologies that promote comprehensive education.
- Vocational training through the implementation of the integrated educational offer with an increase in the offer of certificates of professionalism and the promotion of vocational training specialities.



(* Measure in progress)

The actions of the Government of Cantabria within the framework of the acceleration policy have been aimed at strengthening public services from an inclusive and quality perspective.

With this objective, and in the field of social services, the new regulations governing the material and functional requirements of specialised social services centres and the accreditation requirements for dependency care centres in the Autonomous Community of Cantabria were approved; the preliminary study reports

on the development and technological equipment needs of the advanced telecare service have been completed and two pilot projects have been carried out: "Adaptation of the Barnahus model to the administrative and legal context of Cantabria", whose report is pending final review, and the Careto Programme to work on therapeutic residential care.

In the field of health, it should be noted that in 2022, for the first time in its history, the Cantabrian public health system will have a budget of 1,028 million euros, 32 million more than in 2021, in absolute terms, to continue putting people's health and the needs of the population in health matters first, as well as making a clear commitment to strengthening essential public services.

Among the actions carried out in the health sector, the regional government has strengthened the systems for tracking and supporting epidemiological surveillance, assessing the impact on health of the plans and programmes for action on health determinants in the community through epidemiological monitoring of syndromes and suspected and confirmed cases of infections by biological agents of a transmissible nature by systematising electronic notification from Primary Care and microbiology services on a daily basis to assess the level of risk. In addition, computerised monitoring systems were developed using dashboards with real-time information for COVID and the development of monitoring of other infections and non-communicable pathologies has begun, which will constitute the future Public Health Surveillance Information System of Cantabria.

The Digital Transformation Plan of the Public Health System of Cantabria is currently being implemented and includes the improvement of the usability and services included in the electronic health folder available on the web and App on mobile devices, consolidating all the advances made during the COVID crisis. The proposal includes the Unified Electronic Health Record; electronic prescription; request and management of appointments; video consultation with professionals or vaccination record, among other functionalities.

A third priority area of action for the Cantabrian Government is the reinforcement of the public education system, in which various measures have been implemented. These include the promotion of digital skills through the Centre Digital Plan as a strategic document that serves as a reference for the entire educational community and as an improvement plan for a real and appropriate integration of technologies in the education of students, as well as the provision of materials to the centres of the region; the creation of a specific technical consultancy to work on equality and the development of training for teachers in Gender Equality or the development of entrepreneurial and citizenship skills.

Finally, with the aim of promoting labour market insertion, the calls for procedures for certificates of professionalism have been boosted. These are the official accreditation instrument for the professional qualifications of the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications in the field of labour administration. Each certificate accredits the set of professional competences that enable the development of an identifiable work activity in the productive system. In this way, nearly 400 people have been able to obtain the accreditation of a unit of competence or a professional qualification that will enable them to access the labour market.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Castile-La Mancha Agenda 2030 Strategy.
- Castile-La Mancha Health Plan: Horizon 2025.
- General action and training plan for educational inspection 2019/2020.
- 2nd Plan for educational success and prevention of early school leaving: Prepara-T, Ilusiona-T, Titula-S.
- Childhood and Family Plan 2018-2021.
- Plan for digitalisation, improvement and implementation of digital tools.
- Plans to boost public services and to simplify and reduce administrative burdens.
- Law 8/2019 on participation in Castile-La Mancha.
- Social Services Strategic Plan (*).
- Law on Universal Service for Early Childhood Care (Publication of final report on contributions made in the public consultation process. In the process of public information).



(* Measure in progress)

The Government of Castile-La Mancha has among its priorities for action the reinforcement of public services in the Region. This commitment was embodied in the approval of the 3rd Plan to Boost Public Services 2020-2023 with the aim of providing the services of the region with the necessary staff for their purposes with the required quality. In this regard, the Public Employment Offer of 1,547 vacancies and the one carried out for the stabilisation of temporary employment, which includes 4,057 vacancies, stand out. All these actions make the region one of the Autonomous Communities with the lowest percentage of interim staff at present.

Another priority for action is the promotion of participation and transparency in government actions. Firstly, based on the Participation Portal created in September 2020. To date, 154 participatory actions have been launched through the Portal: 71 participatory processes and 83 prior public consultations, we have 5576 participants (individuals, legal entities and citizen platforms) who have made 5759 contributions and have received 81,147 visits from 74,403 visitors.

In addition, the Castile-La Mancha Digitalisation Plan has been boosted and, according to the 2021 e-Government Questionnaire Report, more than 80% of its procedures are offered through a digital channel, and it helps citizens in 95% of its digitalised procedures. Castile-La Mancha is among the Autonomous Regions with the highest percentage of procedures with complete digital processing, at 95%, while the average for the Autonomous Regions as a whole is 69%. In addition, in 2022, the Digital Empowerment Plan for citizens will be developed with an investment of 7 million euros to make progress in reducing the digital divide, promoting digital literacy and the acquisition of digital skills.

From a sector perspective, the Government of Castile-La Mancha has approved the Horizon 2025 Health Plan, which is the strategic planning, management and organisation instrument of the Health System that establishes the basic guidelines, the fundamental actions of the Health Service and the main commitments of the health service providers in the development of the health care objectives and priorities. The Plan is strategically aligned with the sustainability of the health system, the humanisation of health care, the consolidation of professionals as an essential value of the system and a change in the organisational model of the health system. It is structured around nine specific plans, which provide the backbone of the Plan through the objectives and actions defined in the strategic document.

CASTILE AND LEON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Social Services Act.
- Strategic plan for equal opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Support for the Network of Attention to Immigrants (*).
- Budgetary reinforcement of the Public Health System, and promotion of research and innovation in the field of health and health.
- Action plans for educational inspection and regulations for the protection of minors (*).
- Code of Ethics and Austerity for Senior Officials of the Administration of the Community of Castile and Leon and its affiliated entities (*).
- Law on Transparency, Participation and the Office for Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption (*).
- Public policy evaluation system: Decree for the improvement of the quality and innovation of public services (*).
- Citizen services, through registration offices with a new assistance model and through a multi-channel using the 012 service.

(*). Measure in progress

The impulse and promotion of quality public services has been one of the government's priorities in Castile and Leon. In this regard, there is a regulatory framework of reference such as Law 2/2010, of 11 March, on the Rights of Citizens in their relations with the Administration of the Community of Castile and Leon and Public Management. In development of the provisions contained in the Law, a Draft Decree is being processed which approves measures regarding the evaluation of public policies and creates the register of evaluations of public policies of the Administration of the Community of Castile and Leon. The purpose of the draft decree is to develop and facilitate the process of institutionalisation and implementation of the public policy evaluation system in the Administration of the Community of Castile and Leon.

On the other hand, Decree 4/2021 of 18 February establishes the framework for the improvement of the quality and innovation of the public services of the Administration of the Community of Castile and Leon. Within the framework of this decree, by means of Agreement 11/2022 of 20 January, the Government of Castile and Leon approved the annual action plan for quality and innovation in the public services of the Administration of the Autonomous Community of Castile and Leon for 2022 with the aim of integrating quality assessment, quality commitments in the provision of public services and facilitating the participation of citizens in both the development and evaluation of the public services provided.

From the point of view of accessibility, the Citizen Service has been strengthened, through the registry offices with a new assistance model and through a multi-channel using the 012 service. The digital transformation of face-to-face customer service has been consolidated, in application of Decree 13/2021 of 20 May, which regulates the registry assistance offices of the Administration of the Community of Castile and Leon, with the implementation, in November 2021, in all regional offices, of the services of registration of powers of attorney to appear in court and electronic assistance in registry matters, in a pioneering manner in Castile and Leon, thus joining the Registry Interconnection System at the service of citizens in which the our Administration of Castile and Leon has been active since 2017.

From a sector perspective, the law of Castile and Leon establishes the regulation of a catalogue of social services as the instrument by means of which the benefits are determined, ordered and qualified, consolidating comprehensive social care and on demand according to the needs of the person at any given time. The Catalogue supports continuous updating, extending and improving benefits with more rights, more compatibilities and more professional services.

The 2nd Strategic Plan for Social Services 2022-2025 has been approved. It highlights the technological innovation and modernisation of the social services system, its transformation into a smart system, capable of providing new services that are closer and with high added value, in order to increase the quality of care,

optimise resources and reach all parts of the territory. The dependency care model 5.0 is the paradigm of this commitment to modernisation, placing new technologies at the service of dependent persons.

With regard to the promotion of research and innovation in the field of health and health, the Regional Health Management of Castile and Leon allocates an annual budget of almost 4.5 million euros to carry out actions to strengthen and coordinate biomedical research and innovation and knowledge transfer, aimed at improving the care and level of health of our citizens.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Interdepartmental Public Health Plan (PINSAP).
- National Strategy for Primary Care and Community Health (ENAPISC) and Plan for Drugs and Behavioural Addictions 2019-2023.
- Strategic Plan for Social Services 2020-2024.
- 4th Support Plan for the Third Social Sector of Catalonia (*).
- Citizenship and Migration Plan 2017-2020.
- Actions to prevent school segregation.
- Implementation of the Digital Education Plan 2020-2023.
- Implementation of the STEMCat Plan to promote scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical vocations.
- Law 19/2020 on equal treatment and non-discrimination.



(*) Measure in progress

On 21 December 2021, the Government approved the Catalan Health Plan 2021-2025, the instrument and framework of reference for all public actions in the field of health in the sphere of the Government of Catalonia. The new Plan defines the evaluation indicators and faces the challenge of advancing in the transformation of the health system by adopting a more strategic vision. It also focuses on the fight against social inequalities, given that they are one of the main determinants of health, and emphasises the need to develop policies with an interdepartmental and inter-sector approach. The Plan is explicitly committed to the strategic framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), objectives aligned with the National Plan for the 2030 Agenda and the Horizon Europe 2021-2027 Programme.

The Plan is based on four major strategies arising from the priorities detected both in population health and in the health system itself. The four strategies, in which various lines of action will be developed, focus on equal opportunities in health throughout life, healthy environments, the integration of health care and the levers of cross-cutting and transformational change.

On 7 June 2022, the Catalan Food Safety Plan 2022-2026 was presented as a reference framework for public intervention in the area of Food Safety. It includes the objectives and actions to be developed over the next 5 years throughout the food chain to minimise health risks and contribute to the prestige of products on the national and international market. This plan defines food safety policy within the framework of health policy in Catalonia, as indicated in the Catalan Health Plan and the Interdepartmental and Inter-sector Public Health Plan.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Mapping of public and private hospitals.
- Mapping of Social Welfare centres.
- Viewer for monitoring the evolution of COVID-19 in the region.
- Biennial transparency plan.
- Valencian Open Government Alliance.
- Open data strategy of the Valencian Government.
- Participatory Budgets of the Valencian Government.

The Government of the Valencian Community has focused its efforts within the framework of the accelerating policy 6 on the promotion of transparency and open government actions as key instruments in the reinforcement of democracy and public services in the region.

These actions have been channelled mainly through the Biennial Transparency Plan 2019-2021, which is the planning and evaluation instrument for the actions carried out in terms of transparency, access to public information, good governance and open data between 2019 and 2021 in the Government of the Valencian Community. With a total of 89 actions, the Plan has had a degree of execution of 90%, and has been very positively evaluated. Among the achievements, it is worth highlighting the improvement in the management of information requests, the creation of a new open data portal and a platform to facilitate compliance with transparency obligations for private entities, and the greater prominence of GVA Oberta as a means of access to information for citizens and accountability.

The Valencian Alliance for Open Government is in the same line of action. The result of collaboration between the Generalitat, the regional councils and the Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, it has served to establish a training programme for the technical staff of local councils. During this year, workshops have been organised on participation, access to public information, evaluation methodologies, open data and integrity plans; the calls for subsidies in this area have been unified in order to optimise them and avoid duplication, and useful platforms and tools have been shared.

The Government of the Valencian Community's adherence to the International Open Data Charter has promoted the development of its Open Data Strategy. This is the new framework for the implementation of a public data management system that will enable the maximum value to be obtained from the large volume of information generated by the Administration. Its aim is to establish a common policy, plan the publication of data from all areas of government, automate and make active transparency reusable, generate demand and capacity for use both for economic purposes and within the Government of the Valencian Community, as well as evaluate the contribution of value.

The promotion of strong, inclusive and strengthened public services does not only depend on the actions of public entities. In this sense, the Government of the Valencian Community has promoted citizen participation in the development of public policies through the first experience of Participatory Budgeting in the autonomous region. Of the 874 proposals submitted, 96 projects reached the final phase to allocate an investment of 101,784,548 euros, with 24,648 people participating in the decision-making process. The mechanisms employed have allowed the impact to be significant in rural or less populated areas, as the representation of less densely populated areas has been encouraged, and not only in the proposals generated by and for metropolitan areas.

EUSKADI-BASQUE COUNTRY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Draft Law on Income Guarantee.
- Basque Strategy for Active and Healthy Ageing (**).
- Interdepartmental Youth Emancipation Plan (**).
- Strategic Health Plan 2021-2028 (**), Basque Health Research and Innovation Strategy 2022-2025 (*), Suicide Prevention Strategy, and Childhood Obesity Prevention Strategy.
- 2nd Coeducation Plan for the Basque education system, on the road to equality and good treatment 2019-2023.
- VVI Vocational Training Plan (**).
- Plan of Attention to Immigrant Pupils in the framework of an Inclusive Intercultural School 2019-2022.
- Strategic Plan for Governance, Innovation and Digital Government, ARDATZ 2030.



(*): Approved in May 2022.

(**): In preparation.

In May 2022, the Draft Income Guarantee Law was approved, which aims to update and strengthen the Basque Income Guarantee and Inclusion System as an autonomous system, constituted as a coherent and integrated whole, embedded in employment services, but with a cross-cutting perspective in the policy for inclusion, with the intervention of other sector-based systems such as social services, health, education and housing, with the aim of responding to new situations of poverty, improving its protection capacity, avoiding the chronification of situations of social emergency.

On the other hand, the Basque Government continues to develop initiatives with the aim of consolidating and improving public services in the Basque Country.

ARDATZ 2030 addresses strategic planning in terms of governance, innovation and digital government as a single whole, a single document that facilitates its coherent preparation, the effectiveness of its deployment and the execution of the measures and actions, as well as their control, monitoring and evaluation. These measures will make it possible to move towards a simple, participatory and transparent digital administration in its relationship with citizens.

The health, social and economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever the need for further modernisation of the administration, and this involves the digitisation of relations between people and administrations.

The aim is to implement a strategy to promote new management models and a new culture of governance in public administration, to make progress in the use of data to design services and to generate innovation in companies and citizens who can use them for entrepreneurial activities. All of this within a framework of collaborative co-governance and coordination between the different public institutions and bodies that places people at the centre of the Basque Government's policies and objectives.

In short, the aim is to generate public value through governance, innovation and digital government to solve citizens' needs.

EXTREMADURA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategy for the change of model in Residential Care for dependent people.
- Strategic Patient Safety Plan.
- Promotion of a university policy based on a quality public system.
- Universalisation of the first cycle of pre-school education.
- Programme for the improvement of educational success, the Proyecto Programme for high-achieving students, and the Ilusionarte Programme for working on divergent thinking.
- VET modernisation plan, and lifelong learning programmes.
- Programme for the Evaluation and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Violence.
- Expansion of the Roma Education Promoters Programme.
- Design of the Digital Modernisation Strategy of the Regional Government of Extremadura, and implementation of a single electronic registration system.
- Universal accessibility strategy for equal opportunities in Extremadura (*).
- Inclusive language protocol in the institutional and communication spheres.
- Actions to promote universal accessibility in public buildings and services, public awareness campaigns, specific training and pilot projects.
- Extremadura Accessibility Offices.

(*) In process

Within the framework of accelerating policy 6, the Government of Extremadura has focused its progress on the implementation of a Person-Centred Care Model in publicly managed centres, based on the principles of dignity and respect, personalisation of care, participation in decision-making, integration into society and the environment closest to the centres, etc. Consequently, all plans, strategies and regulations are guided by this guiding principle. It is important to mention at this point the progress in the approach to the creation of community centres, whose main function is to provide proximity services aimed at those people who require care within their usual environment with the aim of delaying institutionalisation, providing in a personalised manner the support they need at home.

In this sense, and as a fundamental pillar for the change of paradigm in care, the Government of Extremadura launched the last quarter of 2021 the Plan for the Liberation of Restraints "Untying knots for good treatment", whose objective is to achieve zero tolerance in the use of restraints and to create restraint-free spaces. At present, the training designed for this purpose has been completed by the professionals of four residential centres, one of which has already been accredited as a restraint-free centre and another is pending accreditation.

With regard to the Strategy for the change of model in Residential Care for dependent persons, it should be noted that, from 2021 to the present day, work has been carried out on a modification of the accreditation criteria for centres, services and entities that act in the field of personal autonomy and care for dependent persons with the aim of guaranteeing the right of people to receive quality services. In this sense, progress has been made in the drafting of a document of minimum accreditation criteria within the Territorial Council of Social Services and Dependency, to which Extremadura has made contributions for improvement. At the same time, drafts have been developed for subsequent regional regulatory development.

It should also be noted that support is being given to the adaptation and fitting out of centres in those geographical areas that require an increase in the number of care places for dependent people who, due to their situation or intensity of care, are unable to remain at home. Thus, there are plans to set up eight residential centres, which will be Convalescence and Continuing Care Centres for the Elderly, of regional reference.

On the other hand, with regard to the Universal Accessibility Strategy for Equal Opportunities in Extremadura, its actions are committed to the design of transversal public policies in all regional competences to guarantee the life itineraries of all people, to promote awareness in society and citizen participation, to pro-

mote education and training in all professional sectors, to advance in the development of regulations and in R&D+i, and to undertake measures to improve physical and virtual environments. In addition, the Protocol on Inclusive Language in Institutional and Communication Spheres, to guarantee equal and inclusive treatment in public services and the media. Work is also being carried out on buildings for health, social and health care and social housing to guarantee universal accessibility, as well as awareness-raising campaigns and training activities. A commitment to the mainstreaming of universal accessibility that runs through the actions of all the governing bodies of the Regional Government of Extremadura.

GALICIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Decree 97/2020, of 25 June, regulating certain instruments for the management, evaluation, supervision and improvement of quality in the autonomous public sector of Galicia.
- General plan for the management and improvement of the quality of public sector services 2021-2023.
- Interdepartmental Coordination Council for the Prevention and Care of Suicidal Behaviour.
- Mental Health Plan of Galicia post-COVID-19.
- Galician strategy for the care of people with chronic conditions.
- Galician social services inspection plan for the year 2021.
- Technological modernisation plan for mobility in Galicia (e- Mobility).
- Plan Recupera for students to reinforce learning not consolidated during the pandemic.



As regards the health area in Galicia, an increase in the number of health professionals is observed, although in some professions the increase is below the expected one. In general, the data present a positive trend, increasing by 10% for dentistry and pharmacy, 12% for medicine and 30% for nursing from 2015 to 2020.

Galicia is well advanced in putting an end to epidemics:

In relation to HIV, the 2019 figure (5.7 per 100,000 inhabitants) shows that in Galicia there was an increase in cases compared to 2018, from 4.4 to 5.7 per 100,000 inhabitants, although the region is on the right track to reach the proposed target for 2022 (4/100,000). It is expected that the figure will continue to improve thanks to the Galician Plan to combat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Tuberculosis: In 2019 the value achieved was 19.2 per 100,000 inhabitants, which shows a positive trend with respect to 2015, achieving a decrease of 11%. As for malaria; it is considered eradicated in Spain as, to date, it does not have a transmission vector and the cases that occur in Galicia are considered imported cases, as is the case of residents who travel to countries with the presence of malaria for work or leisure (in 2018 the rate was 0.4/100,000 inhabitants). The number of people infected with Hepatitis B is very low (0.80/100,000) thanks, among other things, to the fact that Galicia has universal child vaccination.

In the period 2015-2019, mortality from diabetes fell by 45%, from lung disease by 22%, from diseases of the circulatory system by 10% and from cancer by 6%. With respect to mental health, it is worth noting that the mortality rate for suicide in Galicia among people under 65 has fallen by 7% since 2015.

Some of the instruments available to the Xunta de Galicia to achieve this goal of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and promoting mental health are: the Interdepartmental Coordination Council for the Prevention and Care of Suicidal Behaviour (2019), the Suicide Prevention Plan in Galicia (2017), the Manuals and training for patients with diabetes, the Galician Chronic Disease Surveillance System and the Galician Strategy for the care of people with chronic conditions. In addition, sector Priority 7 of the Galician Social Inclusion Strategy includes promoting social inclusion through health care. The measures included in objective 1 are to promote access to prevention and health care, within a framework of coordination and interaction between health services and social services.

In Galicia, the number of people aged 16 and over with unmet health care needs decreased by 98% in the period 2015-2020.

With regard to education, the early school dropout rate of the population aged 18 to 24 Total, and the same rate for men, show a significant decrease in both, with 26% and 22%. Likewise, the results of the indicator for women achieve favourable results with a reduction of 31%.

It also achieves better results in the proportion of adolescents who, at the end of lower secondary education (ESO), reached a level of proficiency in mathematics higher than 1, improving by 1%. However, the proportion of adolescents who, at the end of lower secondary education reached a reading proficiency level higher than 1, decreased in Galicia by 4% from 2015 to 2018, a trend that needs to be reversed.

On the other hand, family education programmes are being developed by Galician municipalities, increasing from 35 in 2017 to 52 in 2020. Galicia obtains good results in indicators such as the net school enrolment rate at age 5, which improved by 1.1%: the rate for boys increased to 1.3%, and the rate for girls improved by 0.9%.

The percentage of the adult population (25-64 years old) who received training during the last four weeks showed an increase in Galicia of 16% since 2015, and the value of the indicator by gender shows an increase of 14% for men and 17% for women. The percentage of adult population (25-64) with higher education improved by 15% in Galicia. This improvement was more significant for Women with 16% (14% nationally) than for men with 13%.

ILLES BALEARS - BALEARIC ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Agreement of social services for vulnerable groups with the network of third sector entities.
- Balearic Islands Mental Health Strategic Plan 2016-2022.
- 2022-2023 canteen grants.
- Strategic Plan for Continuing Adult Education (2018-2023).
- Digitalisation plan to bridge the digital divide for students
- Law 5/2022, of 8 July, on youth policies of the Balearic Islands.
- Strategic Grants Plan 2021-2023.
- Law 1/2022, of 8 March on education in the Balearic Islands.
- Education Infrastructure Plan 2016-2023.



The Government of the Balearic Islands has continued to increase the reinforcement and modernisation of public services. Thus, a new Education Law of the Balearic Islands (Law 1/2022, of 8 March) has been approved with the commitment to reach at least 5% of Gross Domestic Product investment in a maximum period of 8 years, which means a significant increase in investment and a 10% reduction in ratios, among other improvements. It is expected that by 2024 more than 8,000 teaching posts will have been advertised, reducing the interim rate to less than 8% (in 2015 the average number of interims was 40%).

In the area of health, the implementation of the Human Resources Stabilisation Plan will continue in 2022, in which it is planned that more than 2,300 temporary staff will become permanent, and the creation of some 1,200 new structural positions, and the new Public Health Agency will be set up with the aim of strengthening surveillance, prevention and health promotion. The Strategic Plan for Primary Care of the Health Service 2022-2026 has been approved with the aim of strengthening the primary care system through cross-cutting strategies that guarantee the sustainability of the system and instrumental strategies to advance in digital transformation, boost professional development, research and innovation. Work has begun to draw up a new 2022-2026 Mental Health Plan, of a comprehensive and transversal nature, with health and social care as the main axes, inter-institutional care and assistance, reinforcing infrastructures and fighting stigma.

In public social services of the Balearic Islands, the budget for 2022 has been increased by more than 25% compared to the previous year. In the Balearic Islands there are currently almost 25,000 people in a situation of dependency, and this is one of the Government's priorities. The new Youth Policies Act of the Balearic Islands aims to regulate and organise a system of youth services and facilities that responds to the needs of young people, promoting their autonomy, emancipation and quality of life, in conditions of equality between women and men.



LA RIOJA

The Government of La Rioja has included new initiatives in the framework of the consolidation of public services in the region.

A priority line of action has been the promotion of the reinforcement of the democratic system and the involvement of citizens in the common good through the Strategy for Citizen and Social Participation of La Rioja 2020-2023, whose objectives are: to generate a greater culture of participation in the region, to build the necessary spaces and resources to achieve effective participation and to specifically support local and regional participation in rural areas.

The Strategy is an instrument by which a series of specific actions are deployed, such as the full incorporation of participation within the management dynamics of the government of La Rioja. To highlight the development of the Participation Act, the improvements made to the Rioja Participa portal and the implementation of Open Budgets.

A second strategic line is the support for participation at local and regional level through measures such as the programme of financial aid for the development of participation projects; the training of regional civil servants in the field of participation.

NAFARROA- COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Disability Plan.
- Navarre Health Plan 2014-2020.
- Navarre Occupational Health Action Plan (2017-2020).
- Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion 2018-2021.
- ikasNOVA digital transformation strategy for education.
- The Coeducation Plan (2017-2021) for the Educational Centres and Communities of Navarre.
- Open Government Plan.

In Navarre, the focus has been on reinforcing public services in the areas particularly affected by the crisis unleashed by the pandemic, and transversally, the effort being made in transparency and accountability through the Open Government Plan. The most relevant actions in this period of analysis are the following: Disability Plan. Work has begun on the draft bill for the Regional Law on care for people with disabilities in Navarre and guaranteeing their rights, with the broad participation of people with disabilities and the organisations that represent them, with more than 500 contributions to the text having been submitted. Likewise, progress has been made in the transversal work of the entire government to improve universal accessibility. A tender has been issued for the advanced telecare service to support the maintenance of people with support needs at home and progress has been made in the implementation of the person-centred care model in residential centres for the elderly and people with disabilities.

- 2014-2020 Navarre Health Plan. The main results in the period have been mainly along the lines of adapting the functioning of health services to avoid the risks derived from SARS-CoV-2. In the last period, an effort has been made to reverse the consequences of the pandemic on health services, recovering face-to-face healthcare activity, promoting face-to-face training for professionals, promoting networking, developing telemedicine, reinforcing integrated social and healthcare care, continuing with the accreditation of baby-friendly (IHAN) healthcare centres, promoting integrated care for women victims of violence, their children and vulnerable people to guarantee their accessibility to the system.
- Occupational Health Action Plan. Work has continued on identifying hazards and issuing recommendations to construction sites, companies and forestry operations. All serious and fatal accidents are being investigated, as well as damage due to psychosocial risks at work. The integration of prevention in business management in retirement homes is being promoted. A report on asbestos elimination plans has been drawn up, as well as the organisation of a professional course on the location and diagnosis of asbestos. A

dissemination and preventive information campaign has been carried out on social networks, in the press, annual calendar, monthly newsletter, etc. Visits were made to companies at risk of thermal stress.

- ikasNOVA educational digital transformation strategy and Coeducation Plan (2017-2021) for Navarre's Education Centres and Communities. A strategy has been drawn up for the gradual transition of pupils with special educational needs in special education centres to ordinary centres, containing a plan for the transfer of technical knowledge and technical staff from special education centres to ordinary centres and transforming them into resource centres. Structures have been created in mainstream schools to provide different responses to these students (24 Transition Units, 20 Alternative Classrooms and 52 Specific Curriculum Units).
- During the last two academic years, there has been significant progress in the digital field in the field of education. All public schools have improved connectivity, and the number of digital blackboards and projectors has increased. Pupils from 3rd year of primary school onwards have individualised digital tools and vulnerable pupils, when requested by the school, have been provided with individual connectivity devices. Work has continued in schools on the implementation of this Coeducational Plan (257 in the 2021-2022 school year). Coeducation in public and subsidised private schools in the education system has been regulated and the Coeducation Plan 2021-2023 has been approved. Fourteen coeducational networks have been created, bringing together different schools with the aim of cooperation and coordination between schools.
- Open Government Plan. On 23 June 2021, the first Open Government Plan of Navarre 2021-2023 was approved, which aims to promote a more collaborative society, more legitimised and democratic public policies and services, and the involvement of society in the common good. In turn, it aims to reverse the situation of alienation and lack of trust between citizens and public administrations. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to create more resilient societies. The Plan includes 25 commitments by the Government of Navarre.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Asturian Law on Social Services, Law on Concerted Action for the provision of social services and Law on the Guarantee of Vital Rights and Benefits.
- Extend early care by coordinating actions from health, social services and education, and Long-term Care Transition Plan.
- Active Ageing Strategy.
- Health Service Strategic Plan and Patient Safety Strategy. Primary Care Strategy. Health and Environment Plans; Mental Health; Gambling Prevention.
- Death with Dignity Act and Death with Dignity Observatory.
- Asturian education regulations and educational innovation projects.
- Children's Act.
- Promote good governance through the development of transparency and participation regulations.
- Programmes for the modernisation of the justice system, improvement of judicial headquarters and equipment.
- Asturian Local Government Act.



The Government of the Principality of Asturias has developed a major boost to reinforce policies in the health field and has promoted it from a transversal perspective in which all the strategic instruments of action share the perspective of equity, the improvement of environments and conditions in the different stages of life, acting on structural and intermediate health determinants and guaranteeing an adequate and safe public socio-health space with a community orientation. In this way, a multidisciplinary and decisive health system is promoted, which enhances people's care, facilitating their autonomy, dignity and participation, as well as respect for human rights, training and information, education, control and inspection and health care, while promoting this area as a source of innovation, research and opportunities for sustainable economic development.

One of the strategic instruments that the region has adopted is the Asturias Plan for Health and Environment (PASYMA), which seeks to provide a response to the challenges that environmental conditioning fac-

tors pose for the health of the population, in order to achieve a progressive improvement in environmental conditions and strike a balance between human development, health protection and respect for the environment.

A key line of action of the Government of the Principality of Asturias is related to the extension of the catalogue of citizens' rights in the social sphere. The Law on the Guarantee of Vital Rights and Benefits has been approved, which guarantees the coverage of the vital needs of people who lack sufficient resources, as well as the promotion of the social and labour incorporation of those who find themselves in situations of vulnerability. This law is complemented by the Law on concerted action with non-profit social initiative entities for the provision of social services, which ensures an effective response to the satisfaction of the social needs of disadvantaged groups and the guarantee of personalised, comprehensive and quality care, consistent with the rooting of people in their environment. Likewise, in the exercise of autonomous powers, the Law of the Principality of Asturias on rights and guarantees of the dignity of persons in the end-of-life process was approved, which has been complemented with a Decree that regulates the organisation and operation of the Dignified Death Observatory, as well as establishing the Mortality Commissions of the Health Areas.

In the field of education, the Government of the Principality of Asturias has promoted the adaptation to the Principality of Asturias of the Organic Law on Education, the fundamental characteristic of which is to deepen learning competence in Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) and Baccalaureate, governed by transversal principles such as equality, the focus on digitalisation, attention to diversity and an increase in optional subjects. In addition, the Draft Law on Childhood and Adolescence is currently in the public consultation phase.

Regarding the promotion of good governance through the development of transparency and participation regulations, the drafting of the preliminary draft of the Law on Citizen and Municipal Participation and the regulatory development of the Asturian Transparency Law in the areas of interest groups, regulatory footprint, whistleblower statute, and regulatory development stand out.

Finally, within the framework of the modernisation of Justice, the Asturian Government has strengthened the technical means of work (videoconferencing and recording systems, telematic support and management software, etc.) and is working on four projects of the Justice 2030 Plan such as the ACCEDA-Justice project, the integration of the procedural management system (Minerva) with the records exchange system (SIR), the textualisation of recordings of court hearings and the virtual digital immediacy desk (EVID). The legal aid scales have also been updated. Also noteworthy is the construction of new courts in several localities and a new court for violence against women, and a Gesell room has been added for better attention to victims.

REGION OF MURCIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Law on Early Intervention in the Region of Murcia (*).
- Catalogue of Social Services of the Region of Murcia (*).
- Strengthen preventive and public health actions, especially the Connected Youth programme, and to promote patient participation in decision-making.
- Regional School Coexistence Plan 2021.
- Comprehensive care for immigrants in vulnerable situations, in temporary accommodation resources.
- Regional Child Protection Regulations (*).
- Public Governance Strategy.
- Strategy for the Transformation of the Regional Civil Service LGBTI Observatory and LGBTI Hate Crimes Guide.
- Implementation of social and environmental clauses in public procurement and Code of Ethics.

(*). Measure in progress

An important measure was the approval of Law 6/2021, of 23 December, which regulates the comprehensive intervention of early intervention in the Region of Murcia. This is the regulatory instrument for early intervention to guarantee the universality and zero cost of the service, with the aim of establishing the necessary procedures and resources to identify pupils with specific educational support needs at an early stage, urging that comprehensive care be initiated from the very moment in which this need is identified by duly qualified staff and in the terms determined by the educational administrations.

For its part, the catalogue of benefits of the social services system is in the phase of prior regulatory consultation in order to initiate the process for its approval. In addition, from the Diversity Attention Service we should highlight, among others, the programme of personal and family accompaniment and guidance units for educationally vulnerable pupils, through the Personal and Family Accompaniment and Guidance Units for educationally vulnerable pupils. Special mention should also be made of the Educational Therapeutic Unit (UTE) and the implementation of the Educational Home Care Service (SAED).

In addition, the development of the Regional Public Governance Strategy 2020-2023 has been prioritised. The Strategy includes five strategic lines with 13 objectives to be achieved through 73 measures, all aimed at advancing public governance. The five strategic lines or objectives are modernisation and administrative simplification; quality of public services and evaluation of public policies; open government; public ethics and integrity; and, finally, cultural change, collaboration and alliances. Currently, 88% of the actions have been implemented or are in the process of implementation.

With regard to comprehensive care for immigrants in vulnerable situations, the Region of Murcia has a network of temporary accommodation resources. The network is made up of shelter-type resources and shelters. The aim of these resources is to cover the needs of immigrants who are in a situation of special social vulnerability, offering them temporary accommodation, food and other services aimed at promoting their social and occupational integration. In terms of the impact of this action, we can highlight that a total of 387 people have been cared for in the housing-type resources. Seventy-five per cent of the places have been occupied by men, 16% by women and 9% by minors accompanied by their parents.

In addition, in 2021 the Regional Observatory against Discrimination on the grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity was set up in the Region of Murcia, and the LGTBI Hate Crimes Guide was updated, training sessions were held to raise awareness of this type of crime, and an LGTBI information and guidance point (Punto Arcoíris) was set up.

Also noteworthy is the approval of the Code of Conduct for Public Procurement, which sets out the general principles that should govern procurement and contractual practices compatible with sustainability, through the inclusion in the administrative specifications, insofar as the object of the contract so permits, of the use of ecological and social criteria and of obligations relating to the application of the principles of socially responsible procurement.

Finally, with regard to the Draft Law on Children in the Region of Murcia, prior consultation has been carried out to enable citizen participation in its design.

CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The achievement of a democratic and resilient welfare state is linked to a set of cross-cutting axes in which local authorities have reported a series of advances and actions in several areas.

Firstly, initiatives in the area of care for dependency and disability, centred on the implementation of home help programmes, as well as various home help services and information, guidance and care services for the elderly and people with dependency. Likewise, certain public spaces have been ceded to associations for the elderly and people with functional diversity for the development of their activities, and information points have been set up for the elderly where, among other things, advice is provided on the services and resources contemplated in the Law for the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons. In this respect, in particular, local authorities have made progress in the provision and management of the telecare service.

In the framework of disability, on the other hand, residences for people with functional diversity are being built and services such as municipal social catering and orthopaedic material lending banks, among others, are being offered. In addition to this, in coastal areas, local governments have carried out actions to improve accessibility and provide a beach escort service for people with functional diversity.

In terms of innovation in local social services, actions are being implemented that focus on the digitalisation of these services and the renewal of computer equipment. In addition, a reorganisation of the archive of basic primary care files is being carried out and active ageing is being promoted with a view to delaying dependency through programmes for the active participation of the elderly.

In the area of education, the initiatives are linked, above all, to the Municipal Nursery Schools from 0 to 3 years of age and to the subsidy programmes for the most disadvantaged families and those at risk of social exclusion. Thus, we could highlight, among others, the call for subsidies and subsidies for municipal nursery school fees, the creation of the municipal children's home and child care centres, the processing of social emergency places in nursery education for vulnerable groups or the municipal register of applicants for subsidised housing. Likewise, the creation and improvement of nursery schools is being implemented through the management of Next Generation funds and technical support is being provided by the Provincial Councils for the development of social pricing measures for educational centres for children aged 0 to 3.

To guarantee the educational integration of migrants' children, the actions that have been carried out include monitoring in cases of absenteeism, the promotion of intercultural education, reinforcement classes together with educational inclusion actions aimed at vulnerable families or the call for subsidies for private special education centres, among others. In addition, these actions are reinforced with other lines of action, such as reception, care and training services for new arrivals, direct work with families or support for the creation of migrant support groups.

On the other hand, it is noted that local governments have carried out a series of relevant actions in terms of promoting the digitalisation of education through access to new technologies and the reinforcement of digital skills. In this sense, the actions are aimed above all at promoting the integration of new technologies in educational spaces. In this sense, progress could be highlighted in terms of the provision and use of digital whiteboards, robotics workshops, free computer classrooms, computer courses for children and adolescents, as well as digital classrooms and libraries.

Beyond the educational environment, local authorities have also promoted the improvement of digital skills for adults and vulnerable groups through the implementation of digital literacy workshops, as well as through the promotion of technology transfer between different public-private business sectors, among many other actions.

With regard to the initiatives for the development of the actions in Organic Law 8/2021 on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence, training talks are being given and socio-educational prevention and participation projects have been developed to support minors. These actions have been complemented with local plans for children and adolescents and services for the prevention and treatment of cases of possible child and adolescent violence. In addition, individualised psychological care services have been implemented at local level and the collaboration of the local police with educational centres has been promoted, among other actions.

On the other hand, in the area of e-administration to improve accessibility and citizen service, progress has been made through training talks and courses, as well as by promoting the creation of tutorials on tax systems, transparency portals, improving electronic offices and facilitating information and public interest

queries through mobile applications. In the area of management, digital certificates and electronic signatures have been issued, websites have been updated at municipal level and the use of the data intermediation platform has been promoted. Likewise, programmes, plans and IT projects for file management have been created and the implementation of the so-called Smart City has been promoted. In short, we are committed to improving e-administration, reaching cases of full implementation, with the aim of facilitating access to information for residents in terms of services related to new technologies and subsidising initiatives in the field of transparency and citizen participation.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 7.

ENDING GLOBAL INJUSTICE AND THREATS TO
HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND
THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PLANET

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

1. GLOBAL DIAGNOSIS

As several UN reports have warned in recent years, we can confirm that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in serious danger due to the multiple crises we have been experiencing in recent years. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, climate change and the increase in conflicts in the last year, especially the conflict in Ukraine, have in turn triggered a set of cascading crises in the economy, energy, food and nutrition, health, peace and security and other areas. These multiple and interconnected crises come on top of rising inequalities, democratic regression and the other social, economic and environmental challenges that the 2030 Agenda seeks to address.

It should be noted that even before the pandemic, “approaches to development that are heavily focused on economic growth and pay far less attention to equitable human development have produced stark and growing inequalities and destabilising and dangerous planetary changes”¹³⁸.

The restrictions on mobility, lockdowns and other public health measures needed to address the pandemic quickly produced the biggest crisis in the global economy in more than 100 years. In addition, the war in Ukraine has also caused food, energy, fuel and fertiliser prices to rise and disrupted the supply chain and global trade, having a major impact on financial markets. It is estimated that the war could reduce economic growth by 0.9% in 2022¹³⁹.

In addition, the world today is facing the highest number of active violent conflicts since the creation of the United Nations in 1948. Some 2 billion people live in countries affected by these conflicts. Many of these people are forced to leave their countries in search of safety and protection, so we also have the highest number of refugees since records have been kept, with numbers continuing to grow, especially because of the war in Ukraine. By May 2022, 6.5 million refugees had left Ukraine, especially women and children¹⁴⁰.

All this is taking place in a context of democratic regression. Another victim of the pandemic has been democratic health. In the last decade, the number of countries with democratic systems in decline has doubled, affecting almost a quarter of the world’s population¹⁴¹. This situation has meant a setback in the guarantee and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as a reduction in the space of civil society, whose capacity to act as an agent that accompanies, monitors and demands the fulfilment of rights and fundamental freedoms is becoming increasingly limited in more and more countries.

Against this backdrop we find a context of climate emergency that is acting as a multiplier and accelerator of all these crises. In addition, the pandemic and the Ukraine crisis have reduced the urgency we felt to curb climate change, diverting our efforts and concerns to other issues and thus delaying the necessary and urgent transition to greener economies and lifestyles. But the climate emergency is still on course, and the data is alerting us to the critical situation we are in.

All of this is having a negative impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, reversing decades of progress in development and making concerted action more urgent than ever to promote the structural transformations needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. This action requires a new comprehensive

138 UNDP (2022) *New threats to human security in the Anthropocene call for greater solidarity*. Accessible [here](#).

139 UN (2022) *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. Available [here](#).

140 *Ibid.*

141 International IDEA (2021) *The State of the World’s Democracy 2021: Building Resilience in a Pandemic Era*. Accessible [here](#).

and coherent approach that analyses and takes into account the interrelationships between the crises and, likewise, takes into account the necessary interrelationships that exist between the different public policies in order to take advantage of the synergies between them and at the same time reduce the contradictions that may arise, bearing in mind their impact both domestically and globally

This transition to a new way of doing politics must take into account the different challenges for sustainable development that the context presents us with:

1.1 Socio-economic challenges

If the trend in recent years has been towards slow progress in the indicators for eradicating poverty and hunger and access to employment, the current context has led us to a situation of worrying regression, which distances us from the fulfilment of the goals set in 2015.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll in human lives, and also in the closure of businesses and the loss of many jobs, resulting in the biggest economic crisis in almost a century. Economic activity in 2020 contracted in about 90% of countries. In 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy contracted by about 3%, and global poverty increased for the first time in a generation¹⁴². Poverty rates have soared, and inequality has widened, both between and within countries. Groups that were most vulnerable and therefore already financially resilient have been disproportionately affected.

As the months have gone by, we have seen that the expected economic recovery we imagined after the pandemic has been slowed down, with the emergence of new variants of COVID-19 and the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, increasing pressure on the labour market and unsustainable debt in developing countries and political uncertainty in many countries have slowed indicators of economic recovery.

Moreover, this slow growth is not linear to all countries, given that the impact of the crisis has been stronger in the most economically vulnerable countries. Nor can we forget the impact of the external debt of many of these countries, which have had to increase it to cope with the hardest moments of the crisis. For example, the debt of sub-Saharan countries rose (from 23.4% in 2011 to 43.7% in 2020).

1.1.1. Poverty

In recent decades we have seen global and coordinated efforts to end poverty bear fruit, achieving a continued historic reduction in the rate of people living in extreme poverty. In 2015, the number of people living on less than \$1.90 a day stood at 15.7% of the world's population, reaching 10.1% in 2019 and standing at 8.3% in 2019. But by 2020, the impact of the pandemic has caused this rate to rise again for the first time since 1998, to 9.2%¹⁴³, reversing four years of progress in this area.

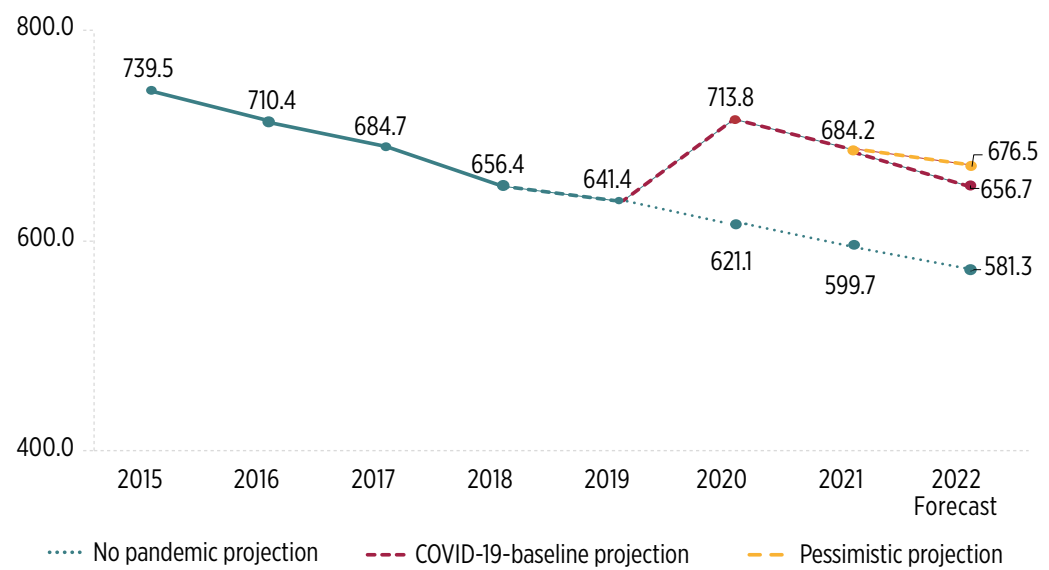
In addition to the pandemic, the impact of the war in Ukraine and rising inflation have altered forecasts. Although many countries have put in place social protection measures to respond to the crises, many of these measures have not yet reached the most vulnerable people. This is why while it was expected before the pandemic that the number of people living in extreme poverty in 2022 would be 581 million, the current projection estimates that this number may range from 657-676 million people, bringing us back to the rate in 2018¹⁴⁴.

142 World Bank Group (2022) *World Development Report. Finance for equitable recovery*. Available [here](#).

143 UN (2022) *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. Available [here](#).

144 *Ibid.*

FIGURE 1: PROJECTED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING ON LESS THAN \$1.9 A DAY (MILLIONS)



Source: Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022

It is noteworthy that those who suffered the greatest loss in the pandemic - women, the poorly educated, the youngest people and those in urban areas - are taking the longest to recover, which is further widening the inequality gap for these groups.

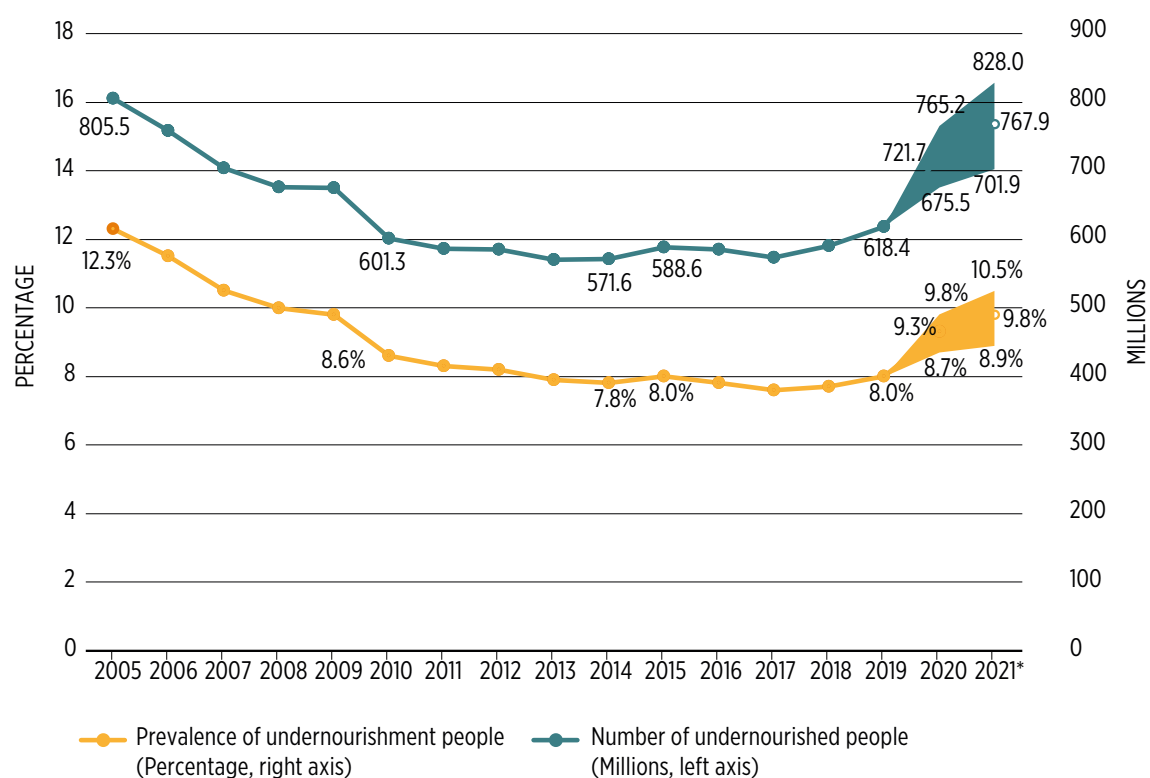
1.1.2 Food insecurity

As we see in other areas, the pandemic and the consequent increase in food prices have highlighted the fragility of national and global agrifood systems which, despite having experienced improvements in recent years, have led to an increase in the figures for hunger and food insecurity in the world in the last two years. In 2020, the increase in food prices affected 47% of countries, a percentage that contrasts with the 16% of countries that had experienced this increase in 2019. This situation meant that in 2020, nearly 1 in 3 people lacked regular access to adequate food and 149.2 million children under 5 years of age were under-nourished¹⁴⁵. After remaining relatively stable since 2015, the prevalence of under-nourishment increased from 8.0% to 9.3% from 2019 to 2020, and grew at a slower pace in 2021 to 9.8%. Furthermore, in 2021, an estimated 702 to 828 million people were suffering from hunger, an increase of 46 million from 2020 figures, which in turn increased this figure by 103 million people from 2019 data¹⁴⁶. It is also important to mention that the gender gap in relation to food insecurity, which had increased in 2020 due to the pandemic, widened further between 2020 and 2021.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ FAO, IFAD, WHO, WFP and UNICEF (2022) *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022*. Available here.

FIGURE 2: EVOLUTION OF MALNUTRITION IN THE WORLD (2005-2021) (PERCENTAGE)



* The expected values for 2021 are shown in dotted lines. The shaded areas indicate the lower and superior limits of estimated range.

Source: FAO.

Moreover, this whole situation is being aggravated by the ongoing war in Ukraine, which is also disrupting supply chains and specifically affecting grain, fertiliser and energy prices, causing us to experience an increase in global food prices in the first half of 2022, thus fuelling the threat of a global food crisis. In addition, the impact of extreme weather events is also affecting the global supply chain, especially in low-income countries. Forecasts suggest that some 670 million people will still be hungry in 2030, or 8% of the world's population, the same as in 2015, when the 2030 Agenda was launched¹⁴⁷.

1.1.3 Access to employment

Labour markets have been severely affected by the two years of the pandemic, in addition to the cascading crises resulting from the war in Ukraine. It should be borne in mind that these two events are affecting different countries unevenly, both because of the different degree of containment of the pandemic, which is largely conditioned by unequal access to vaccines and the emergence of new variants of the virus, and because of each country's dependence on the sectors of the economy that are currently being most affected by the energy and price crises caused by the war in Ukraine.

Similarly, resilience also varies across regions, countries and sectors, which will contribute to an increase in inequality between different countries and regions. We are seeing employment growth trends in richer economies being higher than in low and middle-income countries.

This impact on the labour market is also causing many of the decent work gains made up to the early 2020s to be significantly affected. For example, child labour in 2020 stands at 160 million (1 in 10 children), up for the first time in two decades (160 million in 2020)¹⁴⁸.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ UNICEF and ILO (2021) *Child labour: global estimates 2020, trends and the way forward*. Available [here](#).

Globally, the working poverty rate has risen for the first time in two decades (from 6.7% in 2019 to 7.2% in 2020), putting 8 million workers into poverty¹⁴⁹. Global unemployment is projected to reach 207 million people in 2022, exceeding its 2019 level by some 21 million¹⁵⁰. Moreover, some projections suggest that global unemployment, which soared in 2020 (6.6% in 2020), is set to remain above its pre-pandemic level (5.4% in 2019) until at least 2023¹⁵¹.

While these changes in the labour market have affected the entire population, it is worth noting the greater impact on women, as they were the ones who were working in the sectors most affected by the closures and social distancing measures. According to World Bank data, it is estimated that in the initial phase of the pandemic (up to July 2020), 42% of women lost their jobs, compared to 31% of men; this underlines the unequal impact of the crisis on both sexes¹⁵².

1.1.4 Health and education

The COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to have had a direct or indirect effect on the loss of some 15 million people worldwide. Global health systems have been overwhelmed and many national and local health services and research efforts have had to focus almost exclusively on the pandemic, resulting in the neglect of care and response to other diseases that have been exacerbated¹⁵³. This has also led to a decline in immunisation coverage for the first time in a decade and has increased the death toll from tuberculosis and malaria, among others. The real impact of the pandemic on the quality of health care in the medium term remains to be seen.

In addition, because of the pandemic, an estimated 147 million children are estimated to have lost half of their face-to-face schooling hours in the last two years (2020 and 2021), significantly affecting their education and future opportunities¹⁵⁴.

1.2 The challenge of the climate emergency

The awareness that we have acquired in recent years of the climate emergency that we find ourselves in has been displaced by fear and the urgency of responding to the multiple and severe crises brought on by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. But despite this distraction, the numbers continue to raise alarm: we remain in a situation of existential emergency. Climate change is putting people's livelihoods at risk. Extreme weather events around the world - floods, droughts, forest fires, hurricanes and heat waves - as well as ocean acidification and rising water temperatures are already causing irreparable damage to the ecosystems that sustain and ensure the livelihoods of billions of people around the world. "Even under a moderate mitigation scenario, around 40 million people could die worldwide by the end of the century (mainly in developing countries) as a result of rising temperatures. Climate change will continue to affect people's livelihoods¹⁵⁵."

Moreover, we can say that the context of climate crisis is increasing the severity and impact of the different crises we are suffering (food, energy, health, economic, etc.). It will therefore be strategic to prioritise efforts to mitigate climate change and care for the planet in order to move towards true inclusive and universal sustainable development.

It is important to realise that with each passing day, the window of opportunity we have to avoid climate catastrophe is closing. The facts speak loud and clear: medium to high intensity natural disasters are expected to increase by 40% from 2015 to 2030; droughts are expected to displace 700 million people by 2030 and sea levels are expected to rise by 30 to 60 centimetres by 2100. The oceans, our largest ecosystem on the planet, are at risk from plastic pollution; over-fishing, rising water temperatures and acidification (the oceans absorb a quarter of the world's annual global CO emissions). We are also destroying wetlands, a vital element that helps modulate climate conditions and the hydrological cycle

149 *Ibid.*

150 *ILO (2022) World Employment and Social Outlook 2022. Outlook 2022. Available here.*

151 *UN (2022). Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Available here.*

152 *World Bank Group (2022) World Development Report. Finance for equitable recovery. Available here.*

153 *UN (2022). Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Available here*

154 *Ibid.*

155 *UNDP (2022) New threats to human security in the Anthropocene call for greater solidarity. Accessible here.*

(85% of the planet's wetlands have been wiped out in the last 300 years) and forests (we destroy 10 million hectares of forests every year and 90% of global deforestation is due to agricultural expansion¹⁵⁶).

Our pursuit of development has neglected our integration with nature, resulting in new health threats, greater food insecurity and more frequent natural disasters. The pattern of life, consumption and production that we have given ourselves, in addition to overexploiting natural resources (terrestrial and marine) and destroying biodiversity, leads us to produce a volume of greenhouse gas emissions that makes it unsustainable. Despite all the international agreements and national mitigation measures and climate commitments put in place to reduce CO emissions, the data puts us on track for a global temperature increase of 2.7°C by the end of the century. "That is well above the estimates in the Paris Agreement and would lead to catastrophic changes in the Earth's climate. To keep global warming below 1.5°C this century, and stay on track with the Agreement's targets, the world needs to halve annual greenhouse gas emissions over the next eight years¹⁵⁷."

Furthermore, it is important that we take on this challenge with a vision of common but differentiated responsibilities, given that although it is true that all countries are called upon to implement measures and policies aimed at reducing CO² emissions, the developed countries, being the ones that produce the most emissions due to the consumption of energy related to consumption patterns and major industrial production, are the ones that have to implement the most forceful measures to reduce their own emissions more quickly.

FIGURE 3: CO EMISSIONS₂ BY COUNTRY. 2020



Source: Global Carbon Atlas

156 UN (2022). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. Available [here](#).

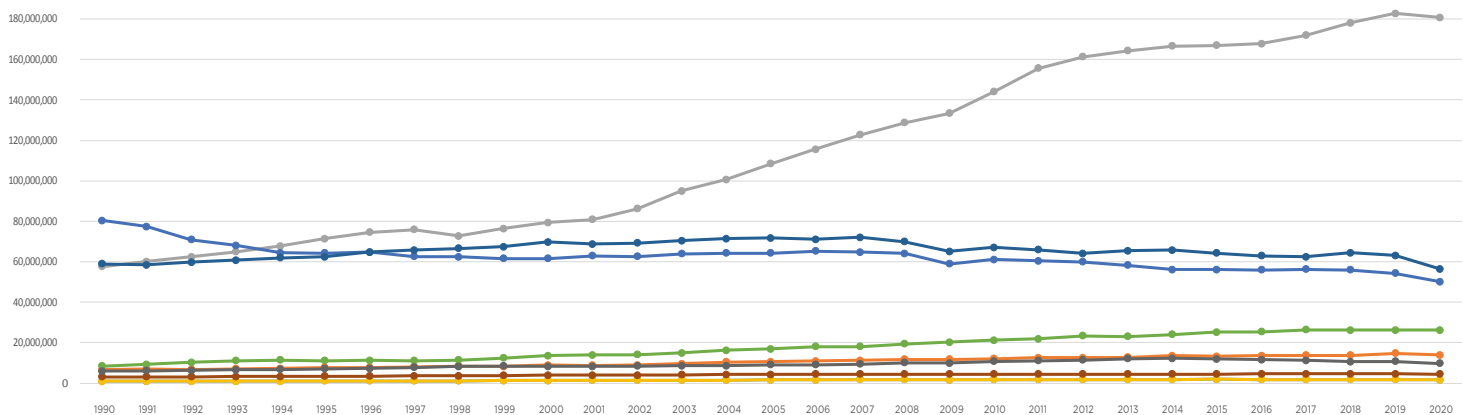
157 UNEP (2021). *Emissions Gap Report 2021. The heat is on. A world of climate commitments yet to be met*. Accessible [here](#).

FIGURE 4: CO₂ EMISSIONS BY REGION. 2020

Range	Country	MtCo2
1	Asia	17.756
2	North America	5.606
3	Europe	4.946
4	Middle East	2.568
5	Africa	1.326
6	South America	994
7	Oceania	438
8	Central America	169

Source: Global Carbon Atlas

FIGURE 5: EVOLUTION OF CO₂ EMISSIONS BY REGION. 1990 - 2020



Source: Global Carbon Atlas

Moreover, populations living in developing countries, mostly in rural areas (84% of the world's multi-dimensionally poor people live in rural areas¹⁵⁸), suffer the most from the consequences of climate change, environmental degradation and natural resource depletion. An example of this is the 9.8 million people who have been displaced from their homes (within their own countries) by natural disasters by 2020¹⁵⁹. This is 1.3 million more than in 2019, when 8.5 million people were internally displaced for this reason.

¹⁵⁸ UNDP (2021). *Multidimensional Poverty and COVID-19*. Available [here](#).

¹⁵⁹ IDMC (2021) *Global Internal Displacement Report 2021*

The pandemic presented us with an opportunity to rethink and reorient our individual lifestyles, and to use the fiscal rescue and pandemic recovery budgets to stimulate the green economy and the ecological transition to reduce greenhouse emissions, but the evidence is showing that we have missed this opportunity¹⁶⁰.

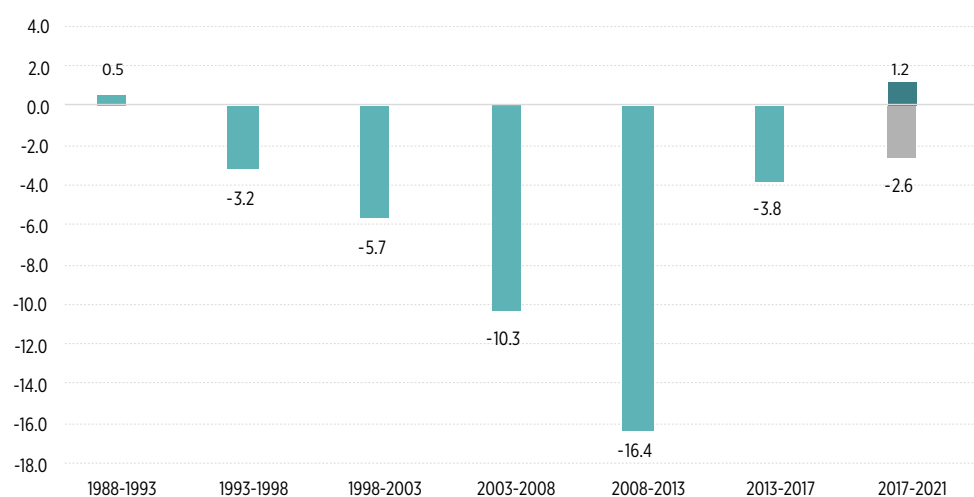
As indicated in the Sustainable Development Strategy, population growth is another cause of the ecological divide. In this regard, it is important to highlight that the world population is expected to reach 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100. Africa plays a key role in this growth, as more than half of the world's population growth between now and 2050 is expected to take place in Africa, while Europe is expected to experience a population reduction of 10-15% by the same year¹⁶¹.

1.3 Leave no one behind.

However, it needs to be said that the multiple crises have had an unequal impact on different countries, with a greater effect on the group of developing countries, whose economies were weaker and whose social protection systems were not sufficiently prepared to face the complex challenges that have arisen. For example, financial support for people made unemployed by the pandemic has been very different from country to country. High-income countries have been able to cover 52.2 per cent of the unemployed, while low-income countries have been able to cover only 0.8 per cent of their unemployed population.

In addition, the unequal distribution of vaccines has created two speeds of urgent recovery, further widening inequalities between countries with the capacity to access immunisation for their populations and those that could not afford the cost of vaccination. As a result, the pandemic is jeopardising the progress made over the past 20 years in reducing global income inequality between countries. Data show that inequality between countries increased by 1.2% between 2017 and 2021, the first such increase in a generation. Before the pandemic, inequality was expected to fall by 2.6% over the same period¹⁶².

FIGURE 6: EVOLUTION OF INCOME INEQUALITY BETWEEN COUNTRIES (1988-2021) (PERCENTAGE)



Source: UN. Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022

This situation is set to continue or worsen in the coming months, as we are talking about structural and systemic inequality in which developing countries and emerging economies are struggling with record inflation, rising interest rates and looming or growing debt burdens.

If there is one thing that all countries had in common during the pandemic, it is that it had a greater impact on the most vulnerable population groups. While people in all income groups suffered losses during the pandemic, the poorest 20% experienced the steepest drop¹⁶³.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ United Nations Population Division.

¹⁶² UN (2022). Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Available [here](#).

¹⁶³ World Bank Group (2022). Summary of the year 2021.

Those who initially suffered the greatest losses from the pandemic (women, younger workers living in urban areas, those with low levels of formal education, those with lower incomes) are the slowest to recover, entrenching, and in some cases widening, the inequality gap (the poorest 40% of the population are estimated to have not yet begun to recover their income losses¹⁶⁴). Moreover, the disruption to education caused by the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on low-income households may condition the future exit from this situation and hinder intergenerational mobility between groups. It should also be noted that high inflation and rising levels of public debt in emerging market and developing countries may hamper countries' ability to support these most vulnerable groups¹⁶⁵. As always, women, children and other vulnerable populations bear the brunt of the crisis.

Men and women have experienced the crisis in very different ways. The data show that women have been particularly affected by the loss of jobs, the increase in unpaid care work and the intensification of domestic violence aggravated by the pandemic. Furthermore, looking at the data on political participation, we see that, if we continue on this path, it is going to take about 40 years to achieve equal representation of men and women in governments and national parliaments (women's participation in national parliaments in 2015 was 22.4%. In 2022 it is 26.2%)¹⁶⁶.

Child labour and child marriage are on the rise (an estimated 110 million girls will marry early in 2030, 10 million more than the pre-pandemic projection). Anxiety and depression among adolescents and young people have also risen sharply.

Furthermore, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people and other sexual minorities face risks of harm in societies where diversity is not tolerated. In 87% of 193 countries, they do not have the right to recognition of their identity and full citizenship.

Moreover, indigenous populations are also among the populations that are most disadvantaged in this situation. For example, in Bolivia, indigenous communities constitute 44% of the population, but account for 75% of people living in multidimensional poverty¹⁶⁷.

Finally, it should be noted that the population in a migration process and in search of international protection has been particularly affected by the impact of the pandemic and the multiple interrelated crises. Many of these people are still outside the reach of social protection systems or have limited access to them, and have therefore faced the pandemic and the economic crisis in a situation of greater vulnerability than the rest of the population. The number of refugees outside their countries of origin has increased by 44% between 2015 and 2021, and 5,985 migrants are estimated to have lost their lives in 2021 in the migration process, the most catastrophic year since 2017¹⁶⁸.

1.4 The challenge of human security

The world is witnessing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1946, with some 1.2 billion people currently living in conflict-affected areas, 560 million of whom do not reside in fragile environments, reflecting the spread of different forms of violent conflict¹⁶⁹. By May 2022, we reached a record 100 million people forcibly displaced from their homes¹⁷⁰.

The cost of war and violent conflict is high and its consequences particularly affect the most vulnerable people and lead to an escalation of human rights violations, as well as an increase in humanitarian needs.

Moreover, in some countries, the exercise of fundamental freedoms in defence of others remains deadly, with 320 fatal attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and/or trade unionists recorded in 35 countries in 2021¹⁷¹. The situation of these people is particularly complex because, depending on the situation, the threat or attack may come from organised illegal groups, from multinational companies that threaten their territory and livelihoods, or sometimes even from the very forces of the state that should

164 *Ibid.*

165 UN (2022). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. Available [here](#).

166 *Ibid.*

167 UNDP (2021). *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index*.

168 UN (2022). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. Available [here](#).

169 UNDP (2022) *New threats to human security in the Anthropocene call for greater solidarity*. Accessible [here](#).

170 UN (2022). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*. Available [here](#).

171 *Ibid.*

protect them. In this sense, we are seeing how the mechanisms for denouncing and protecting these people need to be strengthened and monitored at an international level.

Regarding the impact of violence against women, globally, an estimated 736 million women - around one in three - have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, or sexual violence perpetrated by a non-partner (30% of women aged 15 and over), at some point in their lives. Globally, around 81,000 women and girls were murdered in 2020, some 47,000 of them, or 58%, by intimate partners or family members¹⁷². The data also reveals that the average number of women experiencing intimate partner violence in the least developed countries (22%) is almost double the global average (13%).

In addition, the pandemic and the increase in violent conflicts, especially the one in Ukraine, have made the general population feel more insecure. In this context, it is essential to revisit the concept of Human Security proposed by the UNDP in 1994 and endorsed by the 2030 Agenda in order to update and enhance it. Today we can identify four overlapping threats to human security: the downsides of digital technology, violent conflict, horizontal inequalities and the evolving challenges facing health care systems. While the underlying problem of each threat considered separately is familiar, the threats are new in that we recognise them as interconnected. Current development trajectories have often overlooked this, and have focused on addressing problems in isolation when designing or evaluating policies¹⁷³.

1.5 Policy and governance

As we have seen, we are always talking about global and interrelated problems and, therefore, the best response should be global and coordinated. It is necessary to reinforce global governance systems to guarantee the proper management of information, as well as to offer the best response to meet the challenges. In this sense, it is necessary to support the strengthening of multilateralism, for a system of global governance that provides us with a new joint model of peaceful coexistence and renews the system of values that guide our economic and social relations between people and countries, as well as with the planet.

In addition, and in parallel, it is important to focus on the importance of preserving democracy as a system of state and global governance. We are currently witnessing a "democratic erosion", even in countries where this system was thought to be consolidated. The pandemic has aggravated this situation, justifying the implementation of measures such as a state of alarm or restrictions on mobility which, although justified in most cases on health grounds, have also served to erode the fundamental freedoms of citizens. More than a quarter of the world's population now lives in countries that are backsliding democratically. This has a direct impact on the possibilities for participation and even the existence of organised civil society, whose space is shrinking considerably in more and more countries.

172 UNWOMEN.

173 UNDP (2022) *New threats to human security in the Anthropocene call for greater solidarity*. Accessible [here](#).

2. TOWARDS A GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

As the SDS diagnosis indicates, “the policy for global sustainable development will be that which, in a coherent and coordinated manner, is developed to actively articulate the contribution of the set of public policies of the State and its external action, and of all public and private actors, to the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the commitment to promote the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development¹⁷⁴.”

The international context has made it clear that we live in a globalised world and that, therefore, global crises need global responses. The data previously presented in this diagnosis show the need for an urgent and concerted response to reverse the risks exposed and to return to the already ambitious path of the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, all countries should bear their responsibility in this global action and make all resources available and align all their internal and external policies with the objective of promoting the sustainable development proposed in the 2030 Agenda in order to leave no one behind.

In this sense, Spain took on this challenge in 2021 and approved the Sustainable Development Strategy, which sets out the 8 challenges that we as a country must face in order to advance towards the inclusive, fair and sustainable development that we need. It is an ambitious proposal that, although it may have some improvements, as pointed out in the opinion of the Sustainable Development Council on the Strategy itself, it is undoubtedly a courageous proposal in line with the challenges that the context presents us with.

This is why it is important to analyse the situation of Spanish policies that can contribute to the fulfilment of Challenge 7 of the Sustainable Development Strategy: *International leadership for a just, sustainable, egalitarian, democratic and human rights-based globalisation*.

2.1 Promoting a comprehensive development policy

2.1.1 Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

In order to achieve a true alignment of political management with the objectives of promoting sustainable development, it is necessary to address the management of public administration and government from an expanded whole of governance approach that can identify and enhance the interrelationships between different policies, to strengthen the synergies that exist between them and to be able to manage and correct the contradictions that can be detected in the interests that they represent. In short, it is an approach that will not only lead to an improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of public resources, but will also make it possible to be more effective in the objective of contributing to the 2030 Agenda.

In the 2030 Agenda itself, Target 17.14 proposes: “Improve policy coherence for sustainable development” as a new way of making policy that helps us to promote smart partnerships between the different levels of government and between the different agents responsible for making Sustainable Development a reality. Along these lines, the SDG indicator framework proposes for this target the following elements to be taken into account in advancing policy management with this coherence approach: political and institutional commitment at the highest level, incorporation of a long-term vision, inter-ministerial and inter-sector coordination, participatory processes and stakeholder inclusion, integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, multi-level consultation and coordination, reporting and accountability, and financial resources and tools.

Despite the initiative launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in coordination with the OECD, to measure the global progress of this goal, it has not yet been possible to obtain sufficient data to have a clear notion of the status of this matter¹⁷⁵. However, we can find research such as that of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, which indicates that “rich countries tend to generate the largest negative global spillovers, undermining other countries’ efforts to achieve the SDGs. Although EU member states and many OECD countries top the SDG Index and the World Happiness Report, they are among the worst performers when it comes to international spillovers. Approximately 40% of the EU’s

174 Government of Spain (2021). *Sustainable Development Strategy*

175 OECD (2022). *The short and winding road to 2030*.

carbon footprint related to its consumption of goods and services takes place in other countries"¹⁷⁶ (SDSN et al., 2021).

In any case, it is worth highlighting the efforts made by the OECD to promote recommendations and exchanges of good practices and spaces for mutual learning between countries to facilitate the implementation of governance spaces, as well as processes and systems that allow progress to be made in the coherence of policies for sustainable development.

2.2 Cooperation policy as a catalyst to mobilise all efforts

This objective of promoting Global Sustainable Development includes joint and coordinated development finance initiatives and sustainable development cooperation policies as key roles in demonstrating the commitment of public and private agents to address global challenges.

According to Amina Mohamed, UN Deputy Secretary-General "As we approach the mid-point of financing the Sustainable Development Goals, the results are alarming" "There is no excuse for inaction at this defining moment of collective responsibility, to ensure that hundreds of millions of people are lifted out of hunger and poverty. We must invest in access to decent and green jobs, social protection, health and education, leaving no one behind".

The 2021 data shows that the poorest developing countries are spending 14 per cent of their income on interest payments on their debt, almost four times more than developed countries. In addition, because of the pandemic and successive intertwined crises, many countries have cut their education budgets or basic services. The war in Ukraine does not help us to see a better future in this regard, as we are seeing new challenges added to this situation such as the increasing cost of energy and raw materials, rising inflation and increased volatility of financial markets¹⁷⁷.

To respond to this situation, the Official Development Aid of OECD members increased in 2021 by 3.3% in real terms, when compared to the 2020 data, representing 0.33% on average of the Gross National Income of all the countries, which is still far from the commitment to reach the 0.7% necessary needed to respond to global needs and to advance at the appropriate speed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals¹⁷⁸.

Furthermore, if we focus on the figures related to humanitarian crises, what is clear is that in recent years needs have continued to grow (reaching 37,637 million dollars in 2021, of which only 54% were covered, leaving the remaining 46% unattended to). In September 2022, this figure rose to US\$49.462 billion, of which only 36% has been met so far¹⁷⁹.

With regard to Spain, we can see how the coalition government agreement included a commitment to allocate 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Aid (ODA) by the end of the legislature. Although it is true that since 2015 the budgetary effort allocated to ODA has been slowly increasing, the intermediate target of 0.5% has not yet been reached as a way to reach the international commitment of 0.7%. However, in relation to GNI, and taking into account the fact that GNI has fallen, the efforts made in ODA represented a 0.23%, an increase of 2 percentage points over the previous year (0.21%)¹⁸⁰.

176 SDSN et al. (2021)

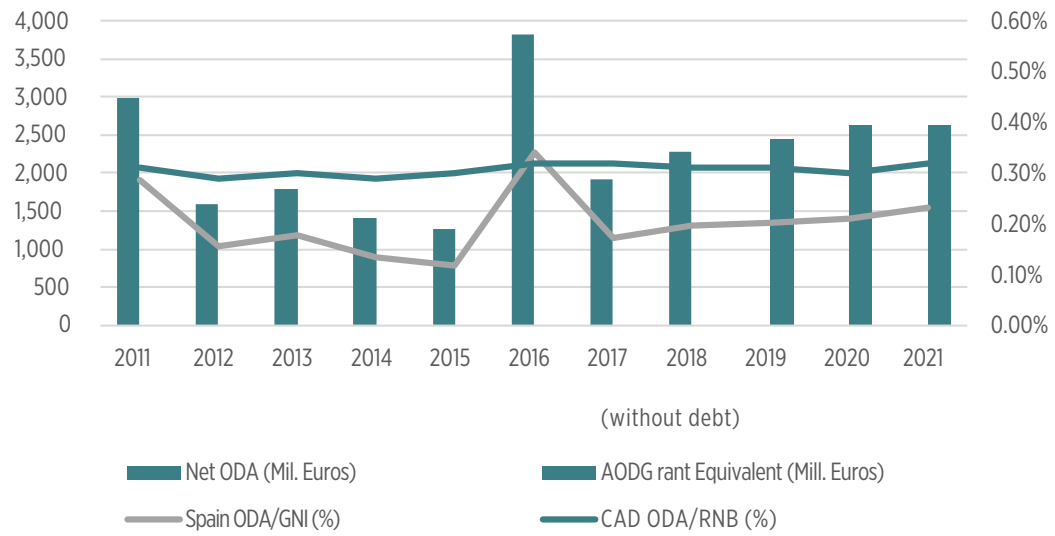
177 UN (2022). Sustainable Development Report 2022: Closing the Great Divide in Financing. Available here

178 UN (2022). Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Available here.

179 OCHA (2022). Appeals and response plans 2022. Available here.

180 InfoAOD

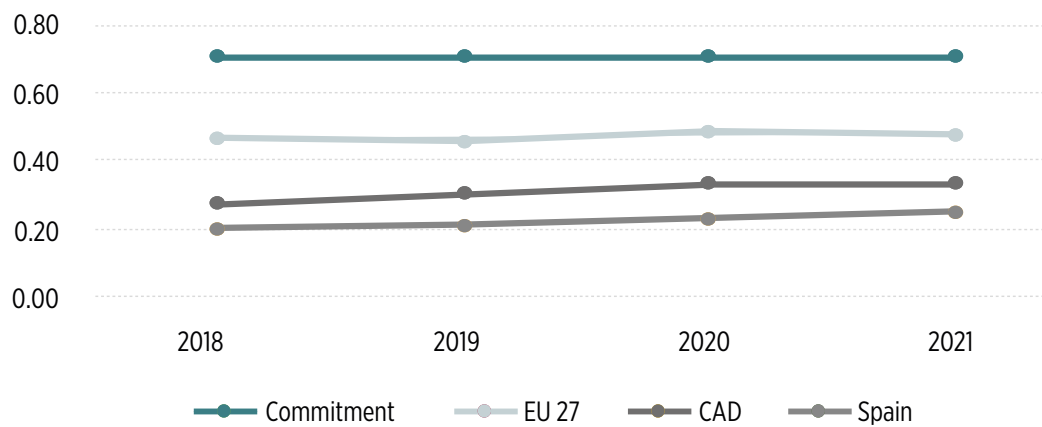
FIGURE 7: EVOLUTION OF SPANISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ODA 2011-2020



Source: ODA 2020 Report. State Secretariat for International Cooperation.

If the data of the provisional advance of the ODA monitoring in 2021 is taken into account, there is a slight increase once again, reaching a volume of Spanish ODA of €2,995.06 million, which represents an increase of 14.26% with respect to the total volume allocated in 2020. If this analysed in relation to GNI in 2021, 0.25% was been allocated to ODA. This increase was mainly due to the commitments made by the Spanish government to cooperate in the fight against COVID-19 and the investment in vaccines.

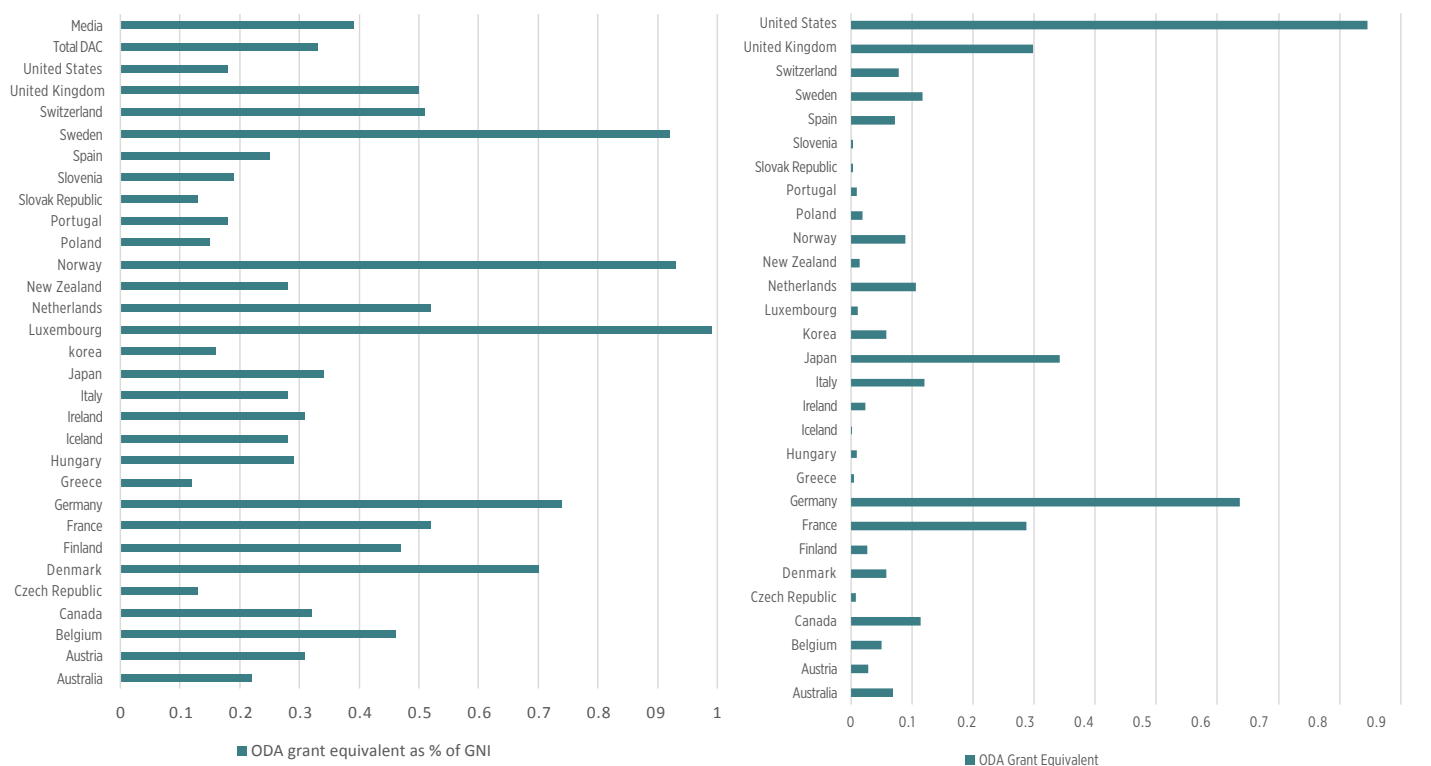
FIGURE 8: COMPARISON OF ODA EVOLUTION SPAIN, DAC AND EU27 (2018-2021) (PERCENTAGE OF GNI)



Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of Spain's ODA Progress Report 2021 (provisional data), the OECD DAC's Official Development Assistance preliminary figures 2021 and the Publication of preliminary figures on 2021 Official Development Assistance of the European Union's DGINTPA.

It is important to highlight that, with these figures Spain shows itself to still be far from the average of the DAC and EU countries in this area, although it has moved up one position to 12th place in terms of economic volume allocated to ODA and 20th place in terms of ODA as a percentage of GNI.

FIGURE 9: COMPARATIVE LIST OF ODA DAC COUNTRIES 2021 (PERCENTAGE)



Source: Official Development Aid preliminary figures for 2021 of the OECD DAC.

Focusing on the ODA funding institutions, we see that in 2020 there is a very similar distribution to that of 2019, with a very slight increase in the General State Administration and a slight decrease in the other three funding bodies (Autonomous Communities, Local Entities and Universities). This contrasts with the major increase in 2019 in the contribution of Local Entities to ODA (30% more than in 2018). The 2021 interim pre-view data point to an increase in all institutions.

Within the General State Administration, the Ministry that contributes most to the system continues to be the Ministry of Finance, whose ODA volume represents 46.39% of the total provided by the National Government. In second place is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, which contributes 19.94% of the GSA total (including the contribution of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), which contributes 12.24% of the GSA total), and in third place is the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transition, which contributes 18.40% of the total donated by the GSA.

It is worth highlighting the effort that decentralised cooperation continues to make in its contribution to ODA in 2020. The Basque Country, with 47.2 million euros, is the Autonomous Community that contributes the most, followed by Catalonia, with 45.4 million euros (which considerably increased its contribution in 2019 (29.50 million euros), the Valencian Community with 32.1 million euros (which also increased its contribution from 28.6 million euros in 2019), and the Autonomous Community of Valencia with 32.1 million euros (which also increased its contribution from 28.6 million euros in 2019) and, in fourth place, Andalusia, with 23.1 million Euros (which drastically reduced its contribution from 57.4 million euros in 2019, when it occupied first place in that year). By contrast, the weak contribution of Murcia (475,000 €) and Castile-La Mancha (517,612 €) should be mentioned.

TABLE 1: ODA CONTRIBUTION OF AUTONOMOUS REGIONS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND UNIVERSITIES IN 2020

AGENTS	Amount AOD GE Disbursed			Total AOD GE Disbursed (€)	Total AOD GE Reimbursed (€)	Total AOD Grant Equivalent (€)	Total AOD Disbursed %
	Bilateral (€)	Multilateral (€)	Multilateral (€)				
Autonomous communities	204,315,510	9,222,266	0	213,537,776	-7,821,669.21	205,716,107	8
Andalusia	27,589,020	3,200,000	0	30,789,020	-7,729,452.44	23,059,568	1.1
Aragon	4,177,323	0	0	4,177,323	0	4,177,323	0.1
Asturias	4,029,794	100,000	0	4,129,794	0	4,129,794	0.1
Balearic Islands	4,759,836	557,055	0	5,316,891	0	5,316,891	0.2
Canary Islands	2,209,442	0	0	2,209,442	0	2,209,442	0
Cantabria	1,608,717	0	0	1,608,717	0	1,608,717	0
Castile - La Mancha	517,612	0	0	517,612	0	517,612	0
Castile and Leon	4,384,650	0	0	4,384,650	0	4,384,650	0.1
Catalonia	40,924,470	4,496,211	0	45,420,681	0	45,420,681	1.7
Extremadura	7,943,899	400,000	0	8,343,899	-92,216.77	8,251,682	0.3
Galicia	6,978,818	0	0	6,978,818	0	6,978,818	0.2
La Rioja	2,055,866	0	0	2,055,866	0	2,055,866	0
Madrid	4,567,238	0	0	4,567,238	0	4,567,238	0.1
Murcia	355,000	120,000	0	475,000	0	475,000	0
Navarre	13,234,922	0	0	13,234,922	0	13,234,922	0.5
Basque Country	46,885,466	349,000	0	47,234,466	0	47,234,466	1.7
Valencian Community	32,093,436	0	0	32,093,436	0	32,093,436	1.2
Autonomous City of Ceuta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Autonomous City of Melilla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Entities	100,221,599	175,900	0	100,397,498	0	100,397,498	3
Universities	9,760,597	0	0	9,760,597	-11,026.90	9,749,570	0

Source: Data from the Directorate General for Development Policies (DGPOLDES) of the Secretary of State for International Cooperation.

In 2020, multilateral cooperation (€1,757.95 million, representing 65.98% of ODA) will continue to account for a larger share than bilateral cooperation (€863.28 million, representing 34.02%). This gap has widened in 2020, given that in 2019 this distribution was 64% multilateral cooperation and 36% bilateral cooperation). This represents a challenge that needs to be corrected in the coming years, given that "it is not so much the result of a strategic decision to increase the prominence of multilateral action as the result of the fall in the bilateral and multi-bilateral components of aid, which suffered a two-thirds reduction between 2009 and 2019. The fact that the bulk of multilateral cooperation is oriented towards fulfilling the obligatory quotas that Spain must make to the organisations to which it is a party is additional evidence that confirms this interpretation"¹⁸¹. This is why it is important to recover the weight of strategic commitment from Spanish cooperation, both through the reinforcement of bilateral cooperation and through voluntary contributions to multilateral organisations that position us in their participation and strategic decision-making.

The data for 2020 are similar to those for 2019 in terms of the income level of the countries to which ODA is allocated. Although we can observe in 2020 an increase in the volume allocated to Lower Middle-Income countries, in general the proportion of allocating more than 79% of geographically classified ODA to Middle Income countries is maintained, compared to 21% allocated to Least Developed Countries. This trend is linked to the prioritisation of Latin America as a priority continent for Spanish Development Cooperation, to the detriment of other continents such as Africa, which have a greater number of least developed countries. This commitment is coherent with Spanish foreign policy priorities, as well as necessary due to the loss of support that Latin America has received from other donors, such as the European Union.

We can therefore see that in 2020 the SDGs to which Spain contributed most with its ODA contribution were 17, 10, 16 and 3. The first three were also a priority in 2019, but not SDG 3, which gained strength in 2020 due to the international response to the pandemic that took place in this year.

Finally, given the situation caused by the crisis in Ukraine, it is important to highlight that in 2020 Spain allocated 3.74% (€97.94m) of ODA to Humanitarian Action, which implies the need to continue to increase resources to reach the recommended 10% necessary to respond to the growing humanitarian crises in the context. Even so, it should be noted that this figure is an increase over the previous year's amount, which represented 2.36% (€61.99m) of ODA in 2019.

181 Development Cooperation Council (2021). *Opinion on the Monitoring Report on ODA and other official flows to Sustainable Development 2019*.

FIGURE 10: SPANISH ODA CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGS IN 2020



Source: Data from the General Directorate for Development Policies -DGPOLDES- of the State Secretariat for International Cooperation.

2.2.1. Reviewing financial co-operation, strengthening and modernising it

The financial cooperation system in Spain is extensive, encompassing several funds (FIEM, FONPRODE, FIEIX and FOMPYME) and involving several institutions in its management (consisting of at least the AECID, the State Secretariat for Trade, ICO and COFIDES). If we analyse the system carefully, some challenges can be detected that need to be addressed to make it a useful instrument for promoting sustainable development in line with global challenges. In this regard, this section is based on the reflections provided by the Development Cooperation Council in its document, *The Future of Financial Cooperation in Spain: Proposal for Reform. Report of the Council's Working Group on Capacities and Resources*¹⁸².

On the one hand, it is worth mentioning the scarcity of resources available for this instrument, both financial and human. For example, at the end of 2020, the FONPRODE portfolio had 72 operations representing a total of 1,244 million euros, of which only 59 were formalised operations (916 million euros) and current operations accounted for only 516 million euros. In addition, 52.1% of this portfolio were operations carried out through other institutions (such as the World Bank, the IDB, etc.). In terms of human resources, the FONPRODE office has barely ten staff members, which is clearly insufficient for the volume of funds managed.

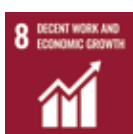
In addition, we are faced with “a highly fragmented system”, contrary to the international trend in this area, which makes the system inefficient and confusing for international agents and prevents each institution from making the most of its capacities to coordinate its work and respond in a joint and effective manner.

Another weakness of the system is the system’s excessive and non-operational regulation, coupled with a very complex decision-making and approval system that slows down the approval of operations, which has led to significant missed opportunities in recent years.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the lack of coordination of this instrument with the priorities set by the Development Cooperation Policy, especially in terms of geographical priorities (among the countries that received most support through this instrument in 2020 were Cambodia, South Africa and Bangladesh, which were not priority countries for Spanish cooperation at the time). This lack of coordination is also reflected in the lack of (or very limited) presence of the financial cooperation instrument in the field, disconnected from the Technical Cooperation Offices that coordinate the system’s non-reimbursable instruments.

All these circumstances will have to be taken into account in the imminent process of reforming the cooperation system and, therefore, also in the process of reforming Spanish financial cooperation.

182 Accessible here.



ACCELERATING POLICY 7.

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR A JUST, SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE, DEMOCRATIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS- BASED GLOBALISATION

The main objective of the Sustainable Development Accelerating Policy *International Leadership for a just, sustainable, egalitarian, democratic and human rights-based globalisation* is to address the challenges we are currently facing as humanity. Thus, the recent crises caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, or the even more recent Russian aggression against Ukraine, show the interconnectedness of the challenges of our time and the need to strengthen multilateralism, solidarity and international cooperation as the main tools in the search for joint, inclusive and just solutions for all people, guaranteeing a gender and human rights-based perspective.

Therefore, much of the progress made in this accelerating policy has to do, firstly, with **Spain's participation in the multilateral governance** that guides current decisions on the international agenda in the search for a fairer and more egalitarian world, and secondly, with the **strengthening of the Spanish cooperation system**, in line with the Government's priority of promoting a policy for sustainable global development through planning and budget allocations via Official Development Aid (ODA) and Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD). This development cooperation policy is deployed, in turn, as will be seen throughout this analysis, in a series of material spheres and through a heterogeneous range of actors that are fundamental for its effective implementation.

In line with the above, the advances that will be highlighted first are those that have to do with contributing through leadership to building a peaceful, safe, just, inclusive and sustainable world based on active and effective multilateralism, as defined in the accelerating policy of this country challenge of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS 2030), Spain stands out for its proactive approach to European and multilateral policy through the promotion of all international forums that make it possible to address the transformations necessary to advance the 2030 Agenda and thus place it at the centre of our country's identity in its global projection.

As a leading country in supporting and promoting the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, Spain actively participates in all United Nations forums in this field, including the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the Forum on Financing for Development, without forgetting the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which is of great importance and a strategic priority.

Likewise, Spain is a faithful defender of the importance of a coordinated response under the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) and his vision of *building back better*, as well as of the efforts in favour of the reform of the UN development system and full compliance with the 2030 Agenda in the so-called **Decade of Action**, especially in a series of differentiated areas. Firstly, in the area of financing for development, Spain has been part of the *Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond* initiative, convened by the UNSG in 2020, and actively contributes to the annual meetings of the Financing for Development Forum, in the framework of which central aspects linked to the SDG17 targets are discussed. Furthermore, Spain is the second largest contributor in the world to the United Nations **SDG Joint Fund**, which is conceived as a strategic fund of the Spanish Cooperation given its relevance in the reform of the system and in the launch of specific SDG programmes through the leadership of the Resident Coordinators (RCs), having committed to a contribution of 100 million euros and actively participating in its Strategic Advisory Group. Finally, as a member of its Executive Boards, Spain has actively participated in the design and approval of the 2022-2023 Strategic Plans of two of the main UN funds and programmes, such as UNDP and UNFPA, in addition to having provided support to those of **UNICEF and UN Women**, all of which are priority agencies of Spanish cooperation.

On the other hand, Spain is part of the *Group of Friends of the Secretary-General's Report on Our Common Agenda* (NAC/OCA)¹⁸³, of September 2021, which aims to revitalise multilateralism, considering the United Nations as the centre of all efforts with the objective of the effective fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. Among its most noteworthy measures are the launch of a new Social Pact and the convening of the Summit of the Future to be held in 2023. Spain's commitment to multilateralism also took material form with the launch in November 2020 in Madrid, together with nine other countries, of the initiative *Together for a strengthened multilateralism*¹⁸⁴, with a view to making progress on specific actions in the areas of peace, security and justice, human rights, the environment and climate change, and global health. This initiative has been continued through meetings of the platform of leaders (PG) in subsequent years.

Within this multilateral framework, Spain is working hard to promote human rights both in international resolutions and decisions and in the actions of UN agencies. Spain supports a combined and responsible management of global public goods, within which, following the G20 Leaders' Declaration, the deployment by our country since August 2021 of an ambitious **campaign to donate vaccines** stands out, **with more than 55 million doses donated until April 2022**, which places us as the **seventh largest donor worldwide**. More than 90% of donations have been made through the COVAX multilateral mechanism. This last line of action is also in line with the central role acquired by the strengthening of public health systems within the framework of Spanish international action after the outbreak of the pandemic, an issue that is also expressed through the **Spanish Cooperation Response Strategy to COVID-19**¹⁸⁵.

The approach of multilateralism based on Human Rights is also expressed in Spain with the **2nd Human Rights Plan**, which is expected to be approved in the coming months. With this, Spain accepts the recommendation derived from the last Universal Periodic Review (UPR), to which Spain submitted within the framework of the Human Rights Council held in 2020.

Finally, and within the framework of the lines of action of the **External Action Strategy**, the presence of Spaniards in the UN has also been promoted, as another axis of Spain's commitment to multilateralism, both in terms of elective posts (Spanish candidacies) and of civil servants and young people (JPOs and UNV). This reinforcement between the national and international levels has also taken shape in the consolidation of the UN base in Quart de Poblet (Valencia) as a technological hub for the UN system as a whole, in addition to the increased presence of agencies such as UNICEF.

At the same time, the advances that have been outlined for the strengthening of multilateral governance requires national translation through a series of tools and instruments in the regulatory, financial and institutional spheres. Thus, following this logic, another of the priorities for action committed to in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy has to do with the in-depth reform of Spanish cooperation, whose main advance and manifestation is the **new Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity**, approved by the Council of Ministers on 31 May and currently undergoing parliamentary procedures with a view to final ratification this year.

183 Document accessible [here](#).

184 Document accessible [here](#).

185 Document accessible [here](#).

This draft regulation seeks, precisely, to provide a greater volume of resources and to reinforce the strategic and operational capacities of cooperation in order to generate a favourable environment for the effective contribution of different agents at all levels. The future regulation thus responds to the sector's demand and the Government's commitment to renew the legal framework of Spanish Cooperation in the face of the changes in global and European development, and is therefore fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris climate change agreements and other international instruments.

Furthermore, given the cross-cutting nature of the actions included in the regulation, special attention is paid to achieving alliances, **promoting policy coherence for sustainable development**, and strengthening decentralised cooperation with the participation of all public administrations, which means that, as will be analysed, many of its measures are closely related to other priorities for action of this country's challenge 7 of the ESD 2030. It is precisely this multi-stakeholder approach that has led to the participation of all the agents in the system within the new Law, making it a regulatory project with a high degree of consensus. The definitive approval of this regulation is therefore a first step towards the reform of the Spanish Cooperation system, and also allows for the fulfilment of another of the priorities for action included in the SDS 2030, namely the existence of a regulatory framework that recognises the relevance of a reinforced articulation of decentralised cooperation in the system as a whole and promotes it.

Within this process of regulatory reform, three lines of action stand out in particular. Firstly, the **reform of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)** with the fundamental objective of strengthening the institution, optimising its functioning and the provision of its human and technical resources, and paying special attention to its economic and financial management, all of which is promoted through transparency and accountability. Secondly, the approval of a new **Statute for Co-operators** to improve their conditions and thus position them as essential stakeholders in achieving a peaceful, secure and sustainable world. Finally, the **regulatory development of financial cooperation and grant regulations to make** the system more efficient, agile and impactful. These three lines of action will be addressed through a series of regulatory instruments that will give concrete expression to the objectives and provisions set out in the Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity.

It is therefore intended to lay the groundwork for Spanish cooperation's new architecture based on a set of institutions, tools and operating rules, once again providing for a multi-actor approach to further its design, which has led to the creation of several working groups and the relevant channels of communication, participation and consensus with all agents involved through the Cooperation Council, the Cooperation Council's Follow-up Commission and the Inter-Ministerial and Inter-territorial Commissions. The progress and achievement of these regulatory milestones allows for compliance with the reform of its institutional architecture, foreseen as a priority for action in the SDS2030 through the re-foundation of AECID and the simplification and harmonisation of existing structures.

Closely linked to the reinforcement of the Spanish cooperation system, and being in turn an axis encompassed within it, is the priority of action relating to the **increase of the Official Development Aid effort to 0.5% of Gross National Income in 2023 and 0.7% in 2030**, the latter objective of which is included in the future Cooperation Law, thus providing it with a framework of legal guarantees. In this regard, the expenditure forecast for 2022 on international development cooperation for all public administrations and universities amounts to 3,506.59 million euros, which represents 0.28% of Gross National Income and an increase of 93.4% compared to 2015. Likewise, this figure represents an increase of 391.62 million euros in relation to the year 2021, going from 0.26% to 0.28% of the Gross National Income, which is the largest budget increase in a decade in terms of international development cooperation. As for the numerical breakdown by contributing entities, the contribution of the General State Administration amounts to 3,152.76 million euros in 2022, which represents an increase of 13.95% with respect to 2021; regional and local cooperation amounts to 343.13 million euros in 2022, of which 233.13 million correspond to the Autonomous Communities and 110 million to the City Councils; and finally, the contribution of the Universities amounts to 110 million euros.

With regard to **Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)**, it should be noted that in the second half of 2021 and the first months of 2022, the second calculation corresponding to 2020 was carried out. The total volume in 2020 reached 5,422.29 million euros, 0.48% of the Gross National Income, a figure resulting from adding the TOSSD ODA component, 2,621.22 million euros, and the TOSSD non-ODA component, 2,801.07 million euros. TOSSD non-ODA represents 0.25% of GNI, distributed between official flow disbursements, at 2,009.85 million euros, and mobilised private funds at 791.22 million. The disbursements of official flows are divided into other non-ODA official flows at 1,951.48 million euros, and contributions to the general budget (core) of international organisations stands at 58.37 million euros.

Having analysed the framework of multilateralism and the institutional and financial reform of Spanish cooperation, we will now focus on the advances in material areas linked to this country challenge.⁷ Thus, as pointed out in the introduction to this analysis, we are currently witnessing a series of crises at the global level that are shaping major challenges at the international level. Undoubtedly, one of them has to do with **climate and environmental protection**, which is why several advances deserve to be highlighted regarding the strengthening of international alliances to face the climate emergency and advance in the **ecological transition**, the latter being another of the priorities for action of accelerating policy 7 included in the SDS 2030.

In this regard, it is necessary to point out the identification and involvement of Spanish Cooperation in different Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) actions of an environmental nature and in the field of ecological transition, within the joint programming of European cooperation. Of particular note is the commitment and vocation of leadership in the **regional TEI Green Transition**, which will involve 18 countries in Central and South America and another 15 in the Caribbean region. In this way, the alignment of Spanish Cooperation with the European Union's priority policies is reinforced, specifically with the **European Green Deal** and with one of the guiding principles (*green and clean*) of the new paradigm in European development policy provided by the **Global Gateway** initiative.

Likewise, and from the perspective that ecological transition is key to poverty eradication and resource conservation, in the context of the new legislation and budget programming of Spanish development cooperation, value has been placed on those sectors in which Spain is a benchmark, such as ecological transition, the fight against climate change and other environmental crises. Therefore, Spanish cooperation, and the AECID in particular, have prioritised two lines of action. Firstly, adaptation to climate change, disaster prevention and risk management in the agriculture and water sectors, with the aim of preventing food insecurity, droughts, floods and associated coastal risks. To this end, the AECID will continue to strengthen its expertise in water and sanitation. Secondly, climate change mitigation actions for the reduction of greenhouse gases. In the budgetary context, an outstanding feature is the Spanish contribution of 30 million euros to the **Adaptation Fund**, mainly aimed at tackling the harmful effects of climate change in developing countries. This contribution will support these countries in their efforts to fight poverty in all its dimensions and reduce inequalities, especially those related to gender equality and ecological transition. 43.71 million in 2022 to two global climate funds - the **Green Climate Fund** (24 million) and the **Global Environment Facility** (11.71 million) - and to the **High Impact Climate Action Partnership** (8 million) managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The priority for action on climate emergency also reflects the link between climate emergency and other areas such as **health**. In this sense, accelerating policy 7 is also linked to the priority for action based on contributing to global health through support to achieve urgent consensus in the WTO on the proposal for a temporary waiver of trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) in response to COVID-19, and thus move towards a new, more collaborative, transparent and open biomedical research and development system, boosting the increased production of vaccines for global distribution.

Progress along these lines is almost fully developed, as on 17 June 2022 the WTO adopted, as part of the Geneva package, a number of decisions, including a ministerial decision to allow any member to use patents for COVID-19 vaccines without authorisation from the rights holder. However, although the decision is an important precedent, it does not cover patents protecting medicines and vaccines, although it calls for consideration of the exemption within 6 months and asks countries that have the capacity to develop vaccines not to use the exemption and to ensure that they do not allow the re-export of vaccines manufactured under this agreement. Spain has actively contributed to this agreement through, among others, the proposals contained in the *non-paper Vaccines for All Initiative*¹⁸⁶, which includes a call to find balanced and forward-looking solutions to the patent debate.

In addition to these advances in material areas such as the environment or health, **digitalisation**, despite not being a priority for Spanish development cooperation until now, which has traditionally focused on sectors such as water and sanitation, gender equality, health and education, etc., is expected to become increasingly important in the coming years, not only as an end in itself, but also as a means for economic and social transformation that respects human rights. Digitalisation has a significant potential to become a key element of development in areas such as access to health, education, information for agricultural production or financial inclusion, while at the same time the inequality of opportunities that insufficient access to digital media by certain sectors of the population could generate must be addressed. To achieve

186 Document accessible [here](#).

this, in addition to creating a stable group of AECID and FIAPP representatives who are working on defining both the theoretical and practical bases for considering digitalisation as a relevant sector in the 6th Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, in 2022 several technical cooperation projects were financed in Latin America in the areas of digitalisation and cybersecurity for the sum of 2.98 million dollars through Spanish funds in multilateral financial institutions.

In relation to the practical dimension of this new priority, work has been ongoing since spring 2021 on the **D4D Hub** initiative, launched in December 2020 as a strategic platform to foster digital cooperation between Team Europe and its partners. Spain has contributed to the debates that have taken place regarding the improvement of the organisational architecture of this initiative and has expressed its interest in participating, especially in its Latin American branch, which is still in the creation phase, indicating that its preferred sectors will be those related to **digital education for all citizens** and the implementation of **digital government services**. The specific modality of this participation, which is expected to include other actors such as non-governmental organisations, universities, companies and trade unions, among others, will be defined in the coming months.

The achievement of global justice, the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democracy are also related, in addition to a series of material areas that have already been mentioned, to the **actors** involved in their achievement and fulfilment. For this reason, the advances that will be analysed below are related to the priorities for action of the ESD 2030 in terms of the actors involved in this accelerating policy.

Firstly, the 2030 Agenda, by calling for the inclusion of all actors, includes the **private sector**, with a view to advancing the implementation of the SDGs hand in hand with other actors from civil society, academia and government institutions. Therefore, the alignment of business instruments with the 2030 Agenda is included as a priority for action in the SDS 2030.

This approach has continued to be worked on, on the one hand, through the approach to the contents and articles of the aforementioned new Cooperation Law, in addition to the set of development regulations that it will entail, including the 6th Master Plan and the reform of FONPRODE. The current Draft Law expressly proposes the promotion of partnerships and public-private alliances between Spanish cooperation bodies and the private business sector and social economy entities for the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation partner countries, which must be strictly articulated under the principles of sustainable development impact.

The commitment to promoting partnerships and public-private alliances is part of the conclusions and reform proposals contained in the March 2022 opinion of the Cooperation Council on the future of financial cooperation in Spain, in accordance with the report prepared by its Working Group on Capacities and Resources¹⁸⁷. The report recognises the potential contribution of the private sector to sustainable development through the mobilisation of resources, technological capacities and useful management models for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. On the other hand, it identifies **financial cooperation** as a particularly appropriate instrument for promoting this private sector involvement in development investment, while stressing the **need to reform FONPRODE**, as the main instrument of Spanish financial cooperation currently in place, an issue that has been contemplated in the Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity.

On the other hand, the recent scenario posed by the Global Gateway in the context of EU development cooperation will become a reality through the **Team Europe** approach, in which Spanish cooperation is actively involved, aiming to also intensively mobilise the private sector in order to boost investments to achieve a transformative impact. It is also based on the new financial instruments of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2021-2027), specifically the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI - Global Europe) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Aid (IPA), but also *Interreg*, *InvestEU* and Horizon Europe, which show the growing inclusion of the private sector as a relevant actor by the European Commission.

Between 2021 and 2022, Spain has presented six lots in the framework of Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) and has shown interest in participating in more than 60 TEI initiatives, as well as leading those of greatest interest to our country. With this, the progressive inclusion of the private sector in an integrated planning approach together with the rest of the public administrations is foreseen.

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187 Document accessible [here](#).

In addition to the integration of financial cooperation with the objectives of cooperation for sustainable development, the SDS 2030 also includes as a priority for action the adoption of a regulatory framework on due diligence that reinforces the image of Spain as a country committed to socially and environmentally responsible business action within and beyond our borders. In this regard, the new Draft Law on the Protection of Human Rights, Sustainability and Due Diligence in Business Activities is currently being processed. This law seeks to regulate the obligations of Spanish companies, or those with activities in Spain, in terms of respect for domestic and international regulations on human and environmental rights, establishing measures to guarantee, where appropriate, the right of victims to access to justice and due compensation. This new regulation aims to provide solutions to avoid human rights violations and environmental damage arising from the aforementioned situations, providing the Spanish legal system with an effective regulatory framework, in terms of both prevention and penalties, which puts the business sector on an equal footing with its obligations, thus correcting unfair competition practices that may affect companies that have voluntarily incorporated mechanisms to prevent and mitigate environmental and human rights impacts in their business activities. Spain will thus become an international benchmark in the adoption of a standard of this nature, ahead of the future European Directive on the matter currently under negotiation.

Finally, with regard to the role of the private sector in this accelerating policy, mention should be made of the priority for action set out in the SDS 2030 regarding the **commitment to open, rules-based, just and sustainable international trade, committed to respecting and promoting human rights** and the most ambitious international labour and environmental standards. In this area, the European Commission's Communication *Trade Policy Review. An open, sustainable and strong trade policy*, of 18 February 2021¹⁸⁸ has set the tone for the development of the current European trade policy strategy in its entirety, aiming at setting global rules for a fairer and more sustainable globalisation, in line with the economic and environmental challenges facing the global community. Within this framework, the EU has been proactive in calling for the need for a reformed World Trade Organisation (WTO) as the backbone of the multilateral system (explicit statement at MC12). Secondly, the boost to ongoing bilateral trade negotiations, such as the adoption of increasing autonomous measures (revision of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), adoption of the carbon adjustment mechanism at borders, the approach of a mechanism to combat deforestation, etc.). Thirdly, the need to promote a digital transition supported by a holistic and assertive approach to digital diplomacy has been stressed. Fourthly, the enhancement of the EU's regulatory impact at global level, through the promotion of international standards (ISO) and the adoption of a strategic approach to international regulatory cooperation. Fifth, increasing the focus of trade instruments with third parties on promoting economic prosperity and social welfare. Finally, strengthening the effective implementation of commitments undertaken in trade agreements, including environmental and social sustainability aspects, through the consolidation of the figure of the Chief Enforcement Officer.

However, in June 2022 the European Commission published the Communication *The Power of Trade Partnerships: Together for green and just economic growth*¹⁸⁹. It expresses a commitment to ensure that such agreements promote sustainability through a proactive approach, including the establishment of indicators and monitoring measures tailored to each agreement, as well as a possible sanctioning regime.

Another of the priorities for action included in the SDS 2030 is the **promotion of the transformative role of an active, critical citizenship committed to social change through the reinforcement of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESD&GC)**. In this regard, it should be noted firstly that the Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship places ESD&GC as one of its priority areas, recognising its role as an instrument for the eco-social transformation of our society and for strengthening its commitment to sustainable development based on a *concept of solidarity based on the assumption of obligations to the whole of humanity, particularly to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, to the planet and to future generations*. This approach is specified in two of its articles, which also commit the public authorities to support the inclusion of the ESD&CSDG in educational plans and programmes in compulsory education, university education, vocational training and teacher training, as well as through the media, for which purpose budgetary objectives will be incorporated into the multiannual indicative planning that will accompany the development of this regulation.

However, Spanish development cooperation has already been developing several actions in this field, such as the Education for Development Plan in the formal sphere of education, which in turn includes the **Tea-**

188 Document accessible [here](#).

189 Document accessible [here](#).

chers for Development Programme, aimed at supporting teacher training in Spanish schools, thus valuing the important role of teachers as agents of social change and opinion generators. Also noteworthy is the **Programme in the informal sphere of Education for Development: Generating global citizenship in social networks**, within which it is worth mentioning the specific space created on the AECID website¹⁹⁰ dedicated to this subject.

Another related line of action is to ensure **coherence in development education among all actors involved in this field**, establishing areas of coordination and complementarity within the framework of their competencies and strengthening existing coordination structures. The most important aspect that has been achieved in recent years is the consolidation of the Development Education Working Group of the Cooperation Council. Likewise, collaboration continues to be maintained with the departments in charge of this area in city councils, provincial councils and autonomous communities, given the importance of decentralised cooperation in promoting a more informed, committed and active citizenry that encourages and accompanies development action.

It has also participated in **international forums** on the subject, such as the European forum Global Education Network Europe (GENE), a network formed by European representatives of agencies and ministries with competencies in education for sustainable development, in addition to having coordinated actions for the fulfilment of target 4.7 of SDG 4 with the different countries in which the Spanish Cooperation works, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this line, the Project led by UNESCO/OREALC and UNESCO San José stands out, as well as the South-South Cooperation Programme, Ibero-American Cooperation Initiative (PIPA): *Global Citizenship for Sustainable Development, with the aim of creating an Ibero-American network of education for development*.

Finally, this policy to accelerate sustainable development includes as a priority for action the **development of the commitments of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** in migration governance, in order to respond, in terms of international protection and migration, to the commitments established in the 2030 Agenda, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Law. This implies, among other aspects, promoting a just and supportive national, European and international migration policy, through the articulation of legal and safe channels, the strengthening of cooperation with countries of origin and transit to accompany their efforts in sustainable development.

In this regard, Spain has been actively participating in its various monitoring forums since 2019. At the national level, a sustained dialogue has been maintained both with the United Nations Migration Network in Spain and with civil society in application of the *whole-of-society* approach, including follow-up workshops. The *“whole-of-government”* principle has also been applied to ensure coordination between the different competent departments of the National Government, and between this level and regional and local administrations, a task that will be reinforced in the next 2022-2027 cycle.





Progress in the development of the commitments of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration crosses both the internal and international dimensions. Given that the main measures adopted for its implementation in Spain have already been extensively reported in the chapter corresponding to accelerating policy number six, this section will address the actions related to its external dimension.

In this regard, the first of these is the consideration of the **area of migration and development** as a priority for Spanish cooperation. Central America, West Africa and North Africa are Spain's preferred geographical areas of action for its humanitarian, development cooperation and institution-building projects in the area of migration. This has resulted in a very significant number of projects being deployed by Spanish cooperation agents, such as the design and development of the Immigrant Care Centre (CAIM) on Costa Rica's northern border with Nicaragua; the project to promote youth employment and prevent migration in Honduras within the framework of the European EURO-LABOR programme; the programme to support educational experiences with migrant children and adolescents in schools and shelters in Mexico of the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OEI); the project to improve the response of vulnerable populations to nutritional and food crises in northeast Senegal; and the project to promote employment and improve the living conditions of young artisan fishermen and women involved in fishing transformation processes in protected natural areas in northern Mauritania. Spain is also leading the Team Europe *Comprehensive Migration Approach - Western Mediterranean Route* Initiative, the *Comprehensive Migration Approach - Central Mediterranean Route* Initiative, and is also participating in the *Afghan Displacement Situation* Initiative in Asia.

190 Accessible here.

Finally, Spain has assumed, in November 2021 and until November 2022, the **annual Presidency of the Rabat Process**, the main forum for intergovernmental dialogue on migration in the areas of the Atlantic, Western Mediterranean and Central Mediterranean migratory routes. In addition, and in the framework of the European Union's External Investment Plan, the **InclusiFI Initiative** seeks to encourage the channelling of migrant remittances to the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa through formal, efficient and just channels to activities aligned with the SDGs. The programme contributes to the generation of youth and female employment in both regions, as well as to the promotion of a stronger link between diasporas based in Europe and the sustainable development of their countries of origin.

For its part, the focus on the dissemination of information on migration has been maintained in 2022, with several reports planned: (1) Analysis of migration routes to the EU since 2015; (2) Contingency planning and preparedness of Member States of the European Migration Network; (3) Cooperation on migration and development; (4) Integration policies implemented since 2015: Priorities and strategies adopted in EU Member States; (5) Enhancing protection and perspectives in transit regions; (6) Climate migration and EU external action and (7) The role of migration in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU¹⁹¹.

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
<p>By 2030, meet the commitment to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Aid (ODA), reaching 0.5% by 2023 and allocating at least 10% to Humanitarian Action, and 3% to Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.</p>	<p>Progressive increase in ODA investment to reach 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) by the end of the legislature and 0.7% in 2030, with at least 10% of resources allocated to Humanitarian Action.</p> <p>Boosting the policy for global sustainable development to be implemented through Official Development Aid (ODA).</p>	<p>Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity in parliamentary procedure.</p>	
<p>By 2022, approve a new Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development, aligned with the principles and commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the International Human Rights Framework, from which a new architecture of the Spanish cooperation system will emerge.</p>	<p>A new Sustainable Development Cooperation Act that responds to today's challenges, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, to enable the full implementation of SDG17.</p> <p>Promoting the transformative role of an active, critical citizenship committed to social change through the reinforcement of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.</p> <p>Promoting ecological transition at the multilateral level, as well as in the countries and communities with which we cooperate, as one of the hallmarks of global sustainable development policy, and thus also of international cooperation.</p>	<p>Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity in parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>Education for Development Plan in the formal education sector, which in turn contains the Teachers for Development Programme.</p> <p>Programme in the informal sphere of Development Education: Generating global citizenship in social networks.</p> <p>Development Education Working Group of the Cooperation Council.</p> <p>Participation in international forums: GENE; INICIATIVA de Cooperación Iberoamericana (PIPA). Two lines of action have been prioritised: adaptation to climate change and climate change mitigation actions to reduce greenhouse gases.</p> <p>TEI regional Green transition.</p> <p>Global Gateway.</p> <p>Adaptation Fund.</p>	
<p>By 2025, the Spanish cooperation system will be based on a solid, high-level, integrated and integrating institutional architecture that allows it to develop on the basis of efficiency, excellence and coherence.</p>	<p>Reform of the institutional architecture through the re-foundation of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the articulation of a new Spanish development cooperation system.</p>	<p>Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity in parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>Royal Decree on the new statute of the AECID.</p>	
<p>In 2025, decentralised cooperation has a consolidated enabling environment, in institutional, administrative and financial terms, capable of boosting its differential contribution to Spanish cooperation as a whole.</p> <p>By 2030, contribute to ensuring that access to financing from international financial institutions and external debt management is linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, including by promoting coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, particularly for HIPCs.</p>	<p>A new Sustainable Development Cooperation Law that responds to today's challenges, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, to enable the full implementation of SDG17.</p>	<p>Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity in parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>Active participation in the establishment of the International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Fund (RST). This fund is expected to start providing financial Aid before the end of the year.</p>	

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
<p>In 2030, Spain's external action and bilateral relations are fully aligned and articulated from the principles of the 2030 Agenda and Human Rights, and the orientation towards their achievement in partner countries.</p>	<p>Spain's External Action Strategy 2021-2024</p> <p>Development of the commitments of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in migration governance, in order to respond, in terms of international protection and migration, to the commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law.</p>	<p>Development of Spain's External Action Strategy 2021-2024 (MC of 27 April 2021).</p> <p>Participation in the "Group of Friends" of the Secretary General's Report on "Our Common Agenda" (NAC/OCA), September 2021.</p> <p>Participation in follow-up forums to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: summits of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Quito (2019) and under the UAE Presidency (2021).</p>	
<p>Contribute to global health, through support for an urgent consensus within the WTO on the proposal for a temporary waiver of trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) in response to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Contribute to global health, through support for an urgent consensus within the WTO on the proposal for a temporary waiver of trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) in response to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Presentation of the non-paper "Vaccines for All Initiative" by the Prime Minister at the Oporto Summit in May 2022.</p> <p>Development of the Spanish Cooperation Response Strategy to COVID-19 (MC of 21 July 2020).</p>	
<p>By 2030, actively promote a rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and just multilateral trading system that contributes to the SDGs.</p>	<p>It is committed to open, rules-based, just and sustainable international trade, committed to respecting and promoting human rights and the highest international labour and environmental standards.</p>	<p>Development of Spain's External Action Strategy 2021-2024 (MC of 27 April 2021).</p>	
<p>By 2030, ensure the positive contribution of Spanish companies beyond our borders, through the alignment of financial cooperation and other business instruments with the principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda, as well as through the adoption of a regulatory framework on human rights due diligence.</p>	<p>Aligning the company's instruments with the 2030 Agenda and integrating financial cooperation with the sustainable development cooperation objectives of fighting poverty and inequality, promoting sustainability and decent work.</p> <p>Business and Human Rights Due Diligence Act, which translates, in practical terms, the responsibility of companies to prevent and remedy the potential human rights impact of their business activities.</p>	<p>Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity in parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>Draft Law on the Protection of Human Rights, Sustainability and Due Diligence in Business Activities in the pipeline.</p>	
<p>By 2030, mainstream the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as a human development indicator and a characteriser of progress as an alternative to per capita income in measuring partner countries' efforts on the 2030 Agenda.</p>	<p>A new Sustainable Development Cooperation Act that responds to today's challenges, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, to enable the full implementation of SDG17.</p>	<p>Draft Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity in parliamentary process.</p> <p>6th Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation in the pipeline.</p>	

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Design and implementation of the Technical Cooperation instrument.
- Cooperation Council (including FAMSÍ), Cooperation Commission and RADCA.
- Protocol for the coordination of emergencies and humanitarian action.
- Management Plan 2020-2023.
- Direct cooperation aid to NGOs, universities and humanitarian action organisations.
- Space for reflection on decentralised cooperation with the Cooperation Council: multi-stakeholder approach.

Since its creation, the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation (AACID) has promoted technical cooperation actions in which important achievements have been made. However, the challenge remained of structurally inserting the capacities of Andalusia's public administrations into cooperation policy. To this end, AACID has set up this cooperation modality as a vehicle for making the experience and knowledge of the different levels of Andalusian public administration available to our partner countries, and even to other cooperation agents. To this end, a Technical Cooperation Strategy of the Regional Government of Andalusia has been drawn up.

Andalusian technical cooperation aims to facilitate and enhance the exchange of this knowledge of public sector staff, in many cases contrasted by numerous successful experiences in areas of government in which Andalusia has been and continues to be at the forefront. The transfer of this public value should constitute an essential part of Andalusia's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and to the development of an International Cooperation strategy in and with partner countries.

In order to adapt the Andalusian cooperation participation and consultation bodies to the 2030 Agenda, a new Decree is being processed to regulate the composition and operating regime of the Andalusian Council for International Development Cooperation and the Commission for Development Cooperation and the Register of International Development Cooperation Agents.

Andalusia has joined the agreement between Decentralised Cooperation and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation for joint and coordinated action in humanitarian action. This accession incorporates Andalusia within the group of autonomous communities that participate, together with the

Humanitarian Action Office of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), in joint humanitarian action interventions aimed at the most vulnerable populations in the world.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda involves evolving from purely sector-based development policies to comprehensive policies that have a territorial, multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach that encompasses both vertical and horizontal perspectives and allows working towards the implementation of effective and coherent development policies. To this end, the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation has initiated a programme to implement comprehensive public policies and cross-sectoral development programmes that coordinate the different actions of all actors at all levels of action, mobilising the participation of its actors as a whole and adapting to the changes and characteristics of each context of intervention.

Along these lines, Andalusia as a region has launched an SDG localisation programme in the Dominican Republic, Senegal and Mozambique, which is creating spaces for in-depth dialogue between Andalusia as an innovative territory and the multilateral sphere, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the national governments of these countries.

Through this programme we are promoting the coherence of public policies for development and working together with the actors in the territory towards a sustainable development strategy, which is the letter of presentation in the national, European and global sphere, positioning our local potential as a territory in the global dialogues of sustainable development. Furthermore, together with the UNDP Latin America Governance Hub, we are working on a strategy to support Andalusia and Latin America and the Caribbean in the identification of a strategy for the region for the localisation of the SDGs, including actions with: Andalusian institutions, Andalusian private sector, universities and academia.

ARAGON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Pact for Cooperation in Aragon, which is committed to an annual budget increase.



The Government of Aragon has approved the Annual Cooperation Plan 2022, focused on the protection of human rights and equality between men and women, within the framework of the Master Plan for Aragonese development cooperation 2020-2023, which aligns its action around the Sustainable Development Goals. This roadmap for Aragonese cooperation, which has received the approval of the Aragonese Council for Development Cooperation and was submitted to a public participation process, will focus on four cross-cutting areas: equality between men and women, environmental protection, strengthening civil society and the protection and defence of human rights.

In addition to the aforementioned transversal axes, the Annual Cooperation Plan establishes geographical priorities for action, which must take into account the human development index, as well as the UN's designation of "least developed countries". Specifically, Aragon is working, and will continue to do so this year, in Ibero-America, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Philippines, India, and with the Palestinian and Sahrawi populations, among others. In the case of Ibero-America, specific projects are planned in Bolivia, where action is being taken to strengthen the public health system, the primary sector, responsible tourism and food sovereignty in rural departments in the La Paz area (Cochabamba, Oruro and Potosí, among others).

CANARY ISLANDS



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Canary Islands Development Cooperation Strategy 2021-2030.
- Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2021-2023.
- Implementation of Responsible Public Procurement measures.
- Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Publicly Traded Companies
- Certification Body and CO₂ Bank (securitisation and monetisation of CO₂ capture by farmers in the Canary Islands).

The recently approved International Development Cooperation Strategy of the Government of the Canary Islands seeks to promote and consolidate the Canarian government's commitment to achieving the SDGs both within and outside the Canary Islands, as well as to provide a common working framework for the agents involved in this work, which provides a certain clarity to the development of their activity and allows them to take advantage of the synergies of the different actors.

In addition to this strategic framework, in October 2021 the Second Master Plan for Cooperation 2021-2024 was approved, which not only reaffirms the Canary Islands Government's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, but also reactivates the Advisory Council for External Cooperation and aspires to considerably increase the funding associated with cooperation and its effectiveness.

The Government of the Canary Islands, in addition to developing training and capacity building actions on responsible or sustainable public procurement, is preparing a technical manual on Responsible Public Procurement, with the aim of disseminating and transferring existing knowledge in this area. This document is expected to be published by the end of 2022, both in digital and paper format.

In addition, and in accordance with regional powers, the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands is facing the approval of a Public Procurement Law applicable to the entire Canary Islands public sector, with the aim of promoting socially responsible and environmentally sustainable public procurement that reinforces transparency, integrity and supervision at all stages of procurement. For this reason, the Preliminary Draft Public Procurement Law of the Canary Islands has been in the pipeline since the 2021 financial year.

With a view to promoting social responsibility in public companies, in April 2022 a Guide to Social Responsibility for Canary Islands Public Companies was presented, the aim of which is to guide all those with responsibilities in the public companies of the Canary Islands towards good governance. It is a document that contains recommendations and proposals for very practical action, which serve as guidance for those who manage the policies of action of the public sector, under the premise of the contents of the Canary Islands Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, in addition to the experience of the good practices of some of the companies analysed.

Finally, the Government of the Canary Islands proposes the CO₂ Bank and Certification Body as a mechanism for generating complementary income to the primary sector and as a contribution to an emission-neutral tourist destination. All this is achieved through the securitisation and monetisation of CO₂ capture carried out by people in the primary sector in the Canary Islands. The technical feasibility of the CO₂ Securities Bank is currently being analysed in order to define the design of its architecture. In a second phase, progress will be made in the evaluation of the existing potential for fixation in crops, on the one hand, and in the identification of the reference standards, the agents involved and the definition of their roles and functions, on the other.

CANTABRIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- 3rd Master Plan for Development Cooperation and revision of the Strategy for Education for Development and Social Transformation. Commitment to increase ODA to 0.4% of GNI by 2023. (*)
- Collaboration with civil society as the main agent of cooperation.
- Coordinated work with entities in the field of migration and refugee issues.
- Social and labour integration programmes for migrant women.
- Providing SMEs with tools to manage their social impact (*).
- Promotion of the Solidarity and Social Economy through the implementation of projects at local level as a viable and sustainable alternative for the satisfaction of global needs.
- Promotion of women and LGTBIQ groups as a cross-cutting priority in Cooperation policy. Abolitionist policies and policies for the protection of women in the context of prostitution (*).



(*) Measure in progress

In the second half of 2021, the Government of Cantabria carried out the evaluation of the 2nd Master Plan for Development Cooperation (2018-2021) and the Biennial Plan 2020-2021. From this evaluation, a firm commitment has been made to a series of priority lines of action, including the promotion of gender equality, both a cross-cutting and sector priority, generally encompassing LGTBI groups, with special emphasis on the empowerment and defence of women's rights; local democratic governance; sustainable economic and social development; and the environment. The first phase of the drafting process of the 3rd Master Plan for the period 2023-2026 is currently underway.

Dialogue and collaboration with civil society has been maintained and strengthened, especially through the Cantabria Cooperation Council, and coordinated work with organisations in the field of migration and refugee issues has also been strengthened. Due to the armed conflict in Ukraine, the Refugee Aid Plan was activated, and the Humanitarian Aid and Refugee Coordination Committee was convened periodically to address support for Ukraine and the arrival of refugees, which it has been proposed to make permanent, on a weekly basis through a technical follow-up meeting.

In the field of the social and solidarity economy, various actions have been implemented, including a call for grants to finance pilot projects in the social and solidarity economy sector in Cantabria, the constitution of the Cantabrian Social Economy Council, policies to support the creation of cooperatives and labour companies and the incorporation of members through an annual call for grants, and support for two new insertion companies.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Castile-La Mancha Agenda 2030 Strategy.
- Development cooperation programme.
- Humanitarian Action and Emergency Programme.
- Programme of care for refugees.
- Regional development cooperation strategy. (*)
- Law on support, aid and recognition of victims of terrorism in Castile-La Mancha. (*)

(*) Measure in progress

The actions of the Government of Castile-La Mancha are fundamentally framed within the Regional Strategy for International Development Cooperation. The Strategy is currently undergoing a public consultation process with the aim of carrying out a diagnosis of the reality of international development cooperation in Castile-La Mancha, identifying the objectives and priorities to which it must respond and establishing the mechanisms that will enable it to be addressed, defining tools and outlining procedures for its development, monitoring and evaluation. The Strategy is drafted within the Regional Council for Development Cooperation, an associate consultative body made up of 21 representatives of the regional and local administrations, economic and social agents, as well as social entities active in the field of development cooperation.

However, the instruments for financing cooperation projects are maintained, which are articulated through three calls for proposals: one for International Cooperation for Development, one for Humanitarian and Emergency Action projects and one for Education for Development projects. The overall budget for these calls for proposals amounts to 2.9 million euros in 2022, nearly 14% more than in 2019, when 2.5 million euros were allocated. The call for International Cooperation for Development has increased from 2 million euros in 2019 to 2.3 million euros in 2022, an increase of 11.5%; the call for Humanitarian Action has been increased by 45%, going from 115,990 euros in 2019 to more than 370,000 euros in 2022; finally, the call for Education for Development maintains its allocation at 217,000 euros. To the previous calls we must add the contribution of Castile-La Mancha to the COVAX Mechanism for vaccination in impoverished countries, which consisted of 150,000 euros to deliver the vaccine against COVID-19 to Bolivia through UNICEF.

Taking into consideration the context of the war in Ukraine, the Government of Castile-La Mancha has set up the Regional Commission for Comprehensive Emergency Response in Ukraine (CRRIMU), as well as the Provincial Coordination Committees, with the aim of coordinating all necessary aid, the reorganisation of resources and refugees arriving in Castile-La Mancha through the different institutions, in collaboration with the Ministry and also with the local councils, provincial councils and organisations providing humanitarian aid.

CASTILE AND LEON

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strengthening the application of the human rights-based approach, environmental sustainability and gender and sexual diversity in the Master Plan for Development Cooperation.
- Reform of the Law on Cooperation to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Direct aid to organisations specialising in Humanitarian Action.



The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) has been one of the pillars of Castile and Leon's cooperation master plans since 2017, so that all projects submitted to calls for grants must be formulated with this methodology in order to be eligible for funding. In the 2014-2017 period, the use of the methodology was already included, although it was not an exclusive criterion for funding.

In order to facilitate the entities' understanding and appropriation of this methodology, annual training sessions are offered to all interested agents. In the case of environmental sustainability and the gender approach, these are also cross-cutting priorities, but they are not exclusive criteria to be eligible for funding, although it is difficult for projects to be beneficiaries without these approaches applied.

The push for multi-stakeholder partnerships is being worked on from the end of 2021 and throughout 2022, with new budget lines and programmes being included in the draft 2023 budget.

Direct aid to entities specialising in humanitarian action has been increased; in 2021, 10 grants were awarded to address humanitarian crises; however, it should be noted that Castile and Leon only grants this aid to actors specialising in humanitarian action, and the form of funding is through direct aid, which means that this initiative was already being implemented even before the SDGs were approved.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- 2019-2022 Master Plan for Development Cooperation.
- Grants from the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation to support initiatives for social transformation that respond to a gender and human rights-based approach, in contribution to the priorities of the DD and to improve the situation caused by COVID-19.
- Study on the external impact of the textile public procurement of the Government of Catalonia and its public sector.
- Leadership of Action 5 of UNESCO's Kazan Action Plan.



The Government contributed 14.87 million euros to a total of 56 development cooperation and development education projects in 2021, within the framework of the 2021-2022 call for development and development education project grants managed by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD).

The call allowed 49 Catalan cooperation organisations to initiate actions for the financial year 2021-2022. The implementation of the projects is concentrated, on the one hand, in the priority countries of Catalan cooperation, such as Mozambique, Morocco, Senegal and Colombia, with a total of 28 projects; and, on the other hand, in the area of education for development in Catalonia, with 28 more projects.

The call for proposals covered two lines of subsidies: one aimed at priority countries for Catalan cooperation and the other at education for development projects in Catalonia. The first has supported 28 projects worth 8.83 million euros in Mozambique (4 projects), Morocco (3), Palestine (3), Bolivia (2), Colombia (2), Senegal

(2) and El Salvador, Ecuador, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritania, Mexico and Peru, with one project in each of these countries. Finally, 4 projects are carried out in more than one country simultaneously, mainly in Central America.

In Catalonia, the second line of subsidies has financed 28 projects worth 6 million euros, including actions to raise awareness of health and climate justice, the prevention of gender violence, and the promotion of sustainable alternatives for human rights defenders.

In June 2022, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation initiated a series of sessions to promote dialogue on the needs, challenges and opportunities of the Government's public cooperation policy. The aim of this participatory process was to contribute knowledge for the drafting of the new Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2023-2026.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Alliance of Cities for Sustainable Development of the Valencian Community.
- Valencian Law for the Promotion of Peace and the Defence of Human Rights.
- Instruments for Humanitarian Action and human rights defenders, through the constitution of a Technical Committee within the framework of the Valencian Cooperation Council.
- 5th Master Plan for Valencian Cooperation.
- Funding line for actions to raise awareness of human rights activists.

The actions of the Government of the Valencian Community within the framework of the accelerating policy 7 have been articulated around the approval of the 5th Master Plan for Valencian Cooperation 2021-2024 in March 2022 and published on 11 April 2022. The 5th Master Plan aims to further deepen the opportunities that the 2030 Agenda brings to cooperation policies in order to increase their scope and capacity for transformation, especially in:

- Opportunity to advance in coherence of public policies for development, and from the multidimensional logic provided by the SDGs, to strengthen intra- and inter-institutional links around the perspective of sustainable human development.
- Opportunity to deepen the human rights-based approach as a central axis of cooperation policies, based on an inclusive vision of sustainable development where no one is left behind.
- It is also an opportunity to deepen a local-global approach to development cooperation that contributes to overcoming the North-South dichotomy, to better connect development cooperation actions with the local reality and to generate a critical and ethically committed citizenship with sustainable development.
- Opportunity to further broaden the social base of cooperation, by involving more people and other social, institutional and economic actors, on the basis of partnerships for sustainable human development.

In 2021, the Regional Ministry announced grants for the implementation and dissemination of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, aimed at the municipalities of the Valencian Community and within the framework of the Alliance of Cities for Sustainable Development, created by agreement of the Regional Council in January 2016. These grants, whose assessment, prior to the award, included as a positive assessment criterion belonging to the aforementioned Alliance, have led to a considerable increase in the number of Valencian municipalities that participate and form part of the Alliance, so that there are currently more than 65 municipalities that have signed the aforementioned commitment to the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

One of the priority axes of the accelerating policy is the reinforcement of human rights as a means to face the challenges faced at a global level. In this sense, the Valencian Law for the Promotion of Peace and the

Defence of Human Rights is a key instrument. The prior consultation process of the Law is being carried out through three instruments: the organisation of a Conference on Peace, Human Rights and Global Justice, the opening of a prior consultation process through the GVA Participa platform and the development of the research "Contributions of a Law for the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights". A total of 267 people participated in the set of activities and instruments programmed. With the information gathered, the regulatory document has been drawn up, which is currently in the report phase. It deals with subjects such as education for peace and human rights, research for peace, communication for peace and new technologies

Finally, in this same line of action, a line of funding has been provided for actions to raise awareness of human rights activists. The Government of the Valencian Community continues to support the strengthening of this line of action, which allows projects to be carried out that contribute to raising awareness, making visible and denouncing to Valencian citizens the situation of threat suffered by organisations that work in defence of human rights and the people who are part of them, as well as their demands in this area, by carrying out activities in municipalities of the Valencian Community, promoting peace and human rights through the presentation of experiences and first-person accounts of human rights defenders.

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Euskadi-Basque Country 2025 Internationalisation Strategy.
- Humanitarian Action Strategy of the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation 2018-2023.
- HABIAN 2030 Education Strategy for Social Transformation.
- Basque Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (*)
- Framework Programme on Education and Human Rights (*)
- Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2018-2021. 5th Master Plan for Development Cooperation.
- Gogora Action Plan 2021-2024 (Institute for Historical Memory). Moved from Challenge 6.
- Policy Coherence Framework for Sustainable Development (*)



(*): In preparation

In the field of human rights and memory, it is worth highlighting the approval of the Draft Law on Historical and Democratic Memory. Likewise, on 21 September, the Udaberri 2024 strategy, a comprehensive strategy in favour of human rights, was approved.

On the other hand, the Gogora Action Plan 2021-2024 reinforces and deepens the lines of work planned and developed in the previous Plan 2017-2020, while incorporating some new initiatives that enable the Institute to fulfil its founding mission and objectives. In accordance with these, the Plan will be deployed applied to the concepts and historical periods that we conventionally call "historical memory" (1936-1960) and "recent memory" (1960-2011).

HABIAN 2030 is the Basque Strategy for Education for Social Transformation. The strategy is a direct heir of the Education for Development (ED) that, for decades, has been promoted by public organisations and institutions in order to promote: (i) a critical citizenship aware of injustice and inequality on the planet; and (ii) equitable and supportive practices that generate individual and collective changes.

Aligned with the HABIAN 2030 strategy is the Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2018-2021, which aims to promote sustainable human development and fight poverty and inequalities. To this end, strategies of different actors from the South and the North have been promoted and accompanied, with an emphasis on coordination, coherence and the generation of knowledge and mutual learning. Special emphasis has been placed on gender equity, ecological sustainability, a rights-based approach, capacity building, participation and organisation, and the local-global link.

The Basque Government assumes that Policy Coherence for Development must be a basic reference for government action, both in terms of internal development strategies and in terms of external action or the relationship between both issues. It therefore endorsed the Policy Coherence for Development reference framework to be taken into account in public policy thinking and policy making.

EXTREMADURA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- General Cooperation Plan 2018-2021 of the Regional Government of Extremadura.
- Strengthening of Extremadura's cooperation agents.
- Analysis and design of the new regulatory framework for cooperation in Extremadura, which aims to strengthen public cooperation policy.

The Government of Extremadura's strategic instrument for action is the General Cooperation Plan, which expired in 2021 and has been extended for another year. The last measure of the plan included the renewal of the regulatory framework with a new cooperation law that is currently being processed. The overlapping of the new law and the creation of a plan that is obsolete made it necessary to extend the plan, and therefore, despite receiving a very favourable overall assessment, it does not have an evaluation at the moment.

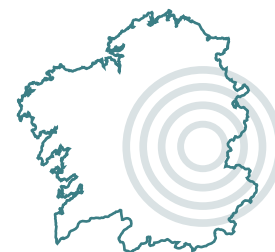
In addition, throughout 2021 and 2022 a participatory construction process was developed that allowed the Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation (Aexcid) to develop 5 specialised lines to receive contributions and discuss a new Extremadura cooperation law: from the seventeen counties of the region, including the rural perspective, from the University of Extremadura, incorporating the feminist approach with the group "Feministas Cooperando", the professionalised sector of the Autonomous Coordination and the strategic areas themselves. As a result, there is already a Preliminary Draft Law on Cooperation and International Solidarity of Extremadura which has the approval of the Governing Council to obtain the reports and follow the administrative process until it enters the Assembly of Extremadura.

However, this regulatory and strategic review has not paralysed the actions of the Government of Extremadura, which has promoted the strengthening of local cooperation agents. The 10.5 per cent increase in the budget has led to an increase in the number of projects approved in the calls for proposals, which has made it possible to improve the very structures of Extremadura's cooperation agents. The training sessions generated and the thematic specialisations of the three strategic areas of the Cooperation Agency confirm an improvement and strengthening of the sector in general terms.

GALICIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Law 10/2021, regulating external action and development cooperation.
- 4th Master Plan for Galician Cooperation 2018- 2021.
- Galician COVID response strategy, complementary to the 4th Master Plan currently in force.
- Collaboration with Agenda 2030 actors: universities, the Galician NGDO Coordinating Committee, the Galician Fund and a consortium of NGDOs in support of the Proxecta Plan.
- Implementation in Galicia with the EMAS₂ system.
- Resources from the State Pact against Gender Violence to finance projects to assist refugees in the area of gender violence.



The country challenge 7 aims to put an end to global injustice and threats to human rights, and promote democratic principles and the sustainability of the planet. In this regard, it is important to highlight that Galicia has a homicide and murder rate lower than the Spanish average (0.6 compared to 2.5 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019).

On the other hand, it should be noted that the Government of Galicia carries out actions within the framework of Sector Priority 2: Specific and complementary attention to the factors of social exclusion presented by certain vulnerable people or groups in order to achieve their full social inclusion and providing information, guidance and legal advice to immigrants, of the Galician Social Inclusion Strategy.

BALEARIC ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- 4th Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2020-2023.
- Comprehensive protocol for the health care of transgender people.
- Aid for development cooperation and international solidarity.
- Education for Social Transformation Strategy 2021-2023.



The draft Law on Cooperation for Global Transformation, approved in May 2022 by the Regional Government Council, will be the future new regulation on cooperation. It is currently being processed in the Parliament of the Balearic Islands and aims to define a new model of cooperation based on debate and participation with the sector and citizens, incorporating new agents and new approaches to create new alliances with other social movements and mainstream development cooperation policies.

A second line of action of the Cooperation Law is the updating of the importance of development education in public development cooperation policies and the approaches of Education for Social Transformation, adjusting the regulations to the new realities and existing demands.

From a budgetary point of view, the aim is to achieve a budgetary output equivalent to 0.7% of available resources from 2030 onwards. In 2022, €3,140,000 has been allocated to NGOs for international cooperation projects, with priority for action in sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, the Andean region and the Mediterranean region. 600,000 has also been earmarked for post-emergency humanitarian aid. For the financial year 2022, €6.8 million has been earmarked for international cooperation, which represents an increase of 7.6% over the previous year.



LA RIOJA

In the field of human rights, the Government of La Rioja has developed different initiatives

A diagnosis of trafficking and sexual exploitation in La Rioja has been carried out. In this line, various conferences or actions have been held on the subject of trafficking to raise awareness, training in this area aimed at social services, health services and local police. Likewise, mention should be made of the 1st Congress on trafficking and sexual exploitation in La Rioja. The contracting of a mobile unit to assist potential women victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation is currently being processed.

On the other hand, the University of La Rioja has carried out different studies on Human Rights and the rural environment, conciliation and sexual violence. There have been studies on sexual violence to find out more about the perception of women in La Rioja, as well as the elaboration of a protocol for crisis centres.

Actions have also been carried out in the field of democratic memory: courses for teachers, awareness-raising workshops, the exhibition Women with History, funding for research and life stories, and the purchase of books.

NAFARROA-COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- 3rd Master Plan for Cooperation in Navarre.
- New line of cooperation with UN international organisations.
- New results framework with simpler and more realistic indicators for action monitoring.

During the monitoring period of this report, the Government of the Autonomous Community of Navarre has worked on the implementation of the measures of the 3rd Master Plan for Cooperation with Navarre. Specifically, and with the aim of improving the impact of interventions, a greater geographical specialisation is being pursued according to the needs of the countries (82% of the funds have been earmarked for priority countries and regions, 27% specifically for Least Developed Countries). Likewise, sector-based specialisation is encouraged, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established in the 2030 Agenda, and although 100% of the interventions have an impact on some of the goals contained in the SDGs, 87% are earmarked for projects in prioritised sectors.

Official Development Aid in Navarre in 2021 amounted to 13,620,561 euros, of which 13,324,310 euros (96.75%) went to subsidise a total of 144 interventions in the different instruments and modalities of development cooperation and 296,251 euros (2.18%) represented administrative expenses. In 2022 there is a budget of more than 16 million euros.

In the field of humanitarian action, the axis has been reformulated by putting in place different instruments:

- Support for interventions to provide an immediate response to humanitarian crises, which has been used to provide funding for the Ukraine war crisis.
- Agreements with the United Nations international organisations present in Navarre (UNWRA, UNICEF and UNHCR), for the development of humanitarian action projects in Palestine, Mali and the DR Congo, from a focus on linking emergency, rehabilitation and development (LRRD).

At the institutional level, inter-administrative coordination has been maintained with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the AECID, participating in the regular meetings of the Interterritorial Council in which issues relating to the COVID-19 Response Strategy have been dealt with, and the process of debate and contributions to the Draft Bill on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity has begun. Likewise, inter-institutional coordination with the decentralised cooperation of the autonomous communities has been maintained, taking an active part in meetings, participating in the 14th decentralised

cooperation meeting held in Extremadura in November and promoting the initiatives that are emerging. In this regard, the joint commitment of all the autonomous communities to advance in inter-institutional coordination, to seek tools to improve our cooperation, to involve citizens in achieving fairer societies and to advance in the budgetary commitment that provides cooperation with the financial capacity to face the challenges it faces. Furthermore, in 2021 the autonomous communities committed to supporting the international vaccination process.

In addition, contacts have been initiated for the involvement of other areas of the administration through technical cooperation, in collaboration with the Basque Cooperation Agency, specifically in the field of water and sanitation (SDG 6), which will result in Policy Coherence for Development.

Finally, work has been carried out to standardise the monitoring and evaluation system for cooperation interventions, aimed at monitoring and evaluation, in order to be able to systematise the information, report on progress, generate learning and be accountable for cooperation policy in Navarre.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Sector strategies related to education for development, gender, indigenous peoples and human rights for alignment with the 2030 Agenda.
- Financial reinforcement of development cooperation instruments.
- Promote women's participation in peace-building, through the instruments of development cooperation.



The Principality of Asturias has a Master Plan for Asturian Cooperation that aims to contribute to the eradication of structural poverty and sustainable development, with a human rights-based approach and in line with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, based on a commitment to solidarity and responsibility. Hence its role in financing areas such as humanitarian aid, education for development and strengthening civil society. The instruments used for this are technical Aid, grants, humanitarian action programmes and education and social awareness.

For all of the above reasons, development cooperation funds have been increased and a special effort has been made to address the situations arising from the COVID-19 in less developed countries, as well as the invasion of Ukraine. The initiatives promoted are thus focused on facilitating access to basic services for the citizens of these countries and reducing inequalities, with special attention to women and girls, reserving a percentage for actions aimed exclusively at women's organisations in order to favour their empowerment and improve levels of equity, as well as for projects and micro-actions to accompany processes for the promotion of indigenous peoples and nations. Also noteworthy are the initiatives aimed at strengthening the human rights of young, rural, indigenous and lesbian women; sexual and reproductive rights, as well as initiatives focused on preventing gender-based violence against women and girls. It is worth noting that initiatives linked to gender empowerment or equity and indigenous peoples are particularly important.

The criterion that determines the focus of cooperation policies in Asturias is the Human Development Index (HDI), with most of Asturias' development aid concentrated in Latin America and Africa. Development education and awareness-raising activities are also carried out within the Principality of Asturias.

All this work has an impact on 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 5, which aims to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and SDG 3 linked to health and well-being.

REGION OF MURCIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Regulatory developments to regulate the Register of NGDOs in the Region of Murcia, and the composition and functioning of the Regional Council for International Development Cooperation.
- Grants for development cooperation, humanitarian aid and education for sustainable development and global citizenship.
- Regulatory framework for humanitarian action and participation in the AECID-CCAA common fund.

The Government of the Region of Murcia has promoted a series of regulatory developments: firstly, for the regulation of the NGDO Registry of the Region of Murcia. In July 2021, Decree no. 131/2021 of 1 July 2021 was published in the BORM, which regulates the organisation and operation of the Registry of Non-Governmental Organisations for Development of the Region of Murcia, in development of article 43 of Law 12/2007 of 27 December, on International Cooperation for Development of the Region of Murcia. The registration of the entities will provide an overview of the existing associative network in the Region, as well as an insight into the areas and sectors of intervention, which will have a favourable impact on better planning of development cooperation policies and more effective management.

The second regulatory development is related to the regulation of the composition and functioning of the Regional Council for International Development Cooperation. To this end, a working group has been set up with the participation of the Administration and NGDOs to prepare a draft decree in order to make it more representative of the associative sector and to make the sessions of this social participation body more agile and operative.

A third regulatory development was the publication in July 2021 of the Order approving the regulatory bases for competitive grants for international development cooperation agents in the Region of Murcia, for the implementation of humanitarian aid projects. This is the first regulation of its kind for the management of humanitarian aid subsidies, which favours intervention in this field by cooperation agents with a presence in the Region of Murcia and greater competition and transparency in the management of aid. The impact of the new regulation on the development of cooperation subsidies has been clear, as it has simplified the presentation of documentation and procedures and improved the criteria for assessing projects, as well as the justification systems.

From a strategic planning perspective, a technical group has been set up within the Advisory Council for Development Cooperation, with representation from the Regional Administration and cooperation agents and experts, to prepare a draft of the Second Master Plan for Cooperation in Murcia, 2023-2027. Its approval will lay the foundations for the transformation of this public policy in our Region, in accordance with the new development paradigm set by the 2030 Agenda.

CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

With regard to initiatives in the area of **international cooperation**, local entities are carrying out actions centred on calls for subsidies to NGOs and the drafting of bases for cooperation aid. Likewise, lines of emergency and post-emergency humanitarian aid and access to services for displaced populations have been created. Likewise, the principles and values of development education have been promoted among the population as a whole.

On the other hand, we also find local entities that are promoting cooperation projects on the ground, such as the “Inclusive Territorial Economic Development (DETI)” project, the “Development of border regions in Central America” project, the “Economic development and attention to vulnerable groups” project in Ecuador or the “EqualMED” project in Morocco on the promotion of gender equality at the local level.

In relation to the **promotion of human rights and the culture of peace**, the actions that have been carried out focus on promoting spaces for collaboration with the city’s associative fabric for the development of their own activities or the drafting of guides for the introduction of the Human Rights approach in the school curriculum. Likewise, from an awareness-raising approach, local governments have promoted projects such as “cities that defend human rights”, or the dissemination of awareness-raising campaigns on this subject.

Finally, with regard to the actions being carried out on **reception and care programmes for people requesting and benefiting from international or temporary protection**, local entities have collaborated with social organisations to set up various projects, including “VACACIONES EN PAZ”, which has as its main objective the reception of children from Western Sahara during the summer months. Likewise, in the current context, the war in Ukraine has marked the local agenda in terms of its actions in terms of reception and international and temporary protection, for which shelters have been created for immigrants, comprehensive programmes for their care, as well as the provision of legal services for foreigners. In addition, local governments are subsidising entities and NGOs such as the Red Cross, UNHCR and UNICEF, among many others, to facilitate the reception of refugees, which is currently oriented almost entirely towards the Ukrainian population. The situations mentioned in this challenge, such as depopulation of rural areas, overpopulation in large cities, the ageing population and inequality in access to social services are being addressed at different levels of government and the EU. The *Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan*, approved by the Spanish government in 2020, will guide the implementation of European funds until 2026. The first policy driver, the *Urban and Rural Agenda: the fight against depopulation and the development of agriculture*, takes into account the relevance of the challenge and focuses precisely on tackling some of these problems. The European Commission has also created a Vice-Presidency for Democracy and Demography, with the main objective of responding to European demographic change, relating it to rural territories and their ageing population, which shows that the problem not only exists in Spain but in all EU Member States. In 2021 it launched the *Green Paper on ageing. Promoting solidarity and responsibility between generations*, which is to serve as an inspiration for the public policies of the Member States and which ties in with some of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.



COUNTRY CHALLENGE 8.

REVITALISING OUR RURAL AREAS AND TACKLING
THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

In order to have a contextualised approach for Spain, it is worth mentioning that for decades, Spain has been immersed in a context of broad decentralisation, derived from the territorial model emanating from the 1978 Constitution, where the territories develop different production models, as well as having different models of social protection. This implies not only migratory movements between autonomous communities and provinces, but also within them, always from less dynamic territories to other more economically attractive areas. Furthermore, the different impacts of the pandemic from 2020 onwards should be borne in mind, as should the different measures put in place to deal with it, whose medium-term impact has yet to be assessed.

All these territorial complexities make differentiation between urban and rural obsolete. On the one hand, cities have become metropolitan regions or peri-urban areas. At the same time, rural areas have diversified their economic activities, establishing new relationships with urban centres thanks to increasingly efficient land and virtual communication networks. These spatial changes are happening on top of demographic changes, ageing populations and vegetative stagnation, all of which add up to a process of progressive depopulation of certain territories as opposed to others, differing considerations as what is generally considered rural or urban. Therefore, the urban/rural dichotomy goes beyond the size of the municipality, as it also includes demographic contiguity, density and population thresholds.

We should point out one of the factors that has the greatest impact on the problem in this diagnosis: the unsustainable concentration of population in Spain's large cities, particularly in its capital, Madrid, where political institutions are centralised, as well as a large part of the economic, cultural, communication and travel institutions. Such disproportionate growth of large cities evidently takes place at the cost of other territories, which are losing population, as we will see in this report, as well as quality and access to social services, mainly health, education, but also care, particularly for elderly and dependent people or those with functional diversity, communication opportunities, as well as quality employment, regulated and with the possibility of balancing work and family life.

In this diagnostic study on Country Challenge 8 for territorial analysis, we are guided by the Eurostat proposal, which determines three spatial models: densely populated, intermediate and sparsely populated areas. We use more conventional sources of studies, but we take into consideration the correlation between territory and population density, presence of uses and services. For this, we situate rural areas as territories with very low density and low complexity of uses and services, which is quite the opposite of the characterisation of urban areas.

The diagnosis analyses the impact of poverty from a territorial point of view, as well as how this affects it differently according to population density. We also apply the thermometer to depopulation in areas characterised as rural and take into consideration the impetus of ageing and masculinisation as elements to identify the situation of the demographic transition in Spain, something that was already identified in the diagnosis of the Country 8 Challenge prepared in 2021.

The diagnosis begins with a brief x-ray of the situation of social exclusion in the territory, i.e., the focus is on situations in which deprivation accumulates and reinforces itself. For this analysis we will use, in part, the so-called AROPE rate¹⁹², which is made up of three sub-indicators (risk of poverty; severe material and

192 The AROPE indicator (At Risk Of Poverty and/or Exclusion) is an indicator created by Eurostat in 2010 to measure relative poverty in Europe within the Europe 2020 Strategy and whose data sources come from the Spanish National Statistics Institute's Living Conditions Survey. It is used to verify compliance with Spain's commitments to poverty reduction and to extend the concept of the at-risk-of-poverty rate (which only includes income).

social deprivation; and low intensity of employment in the household¹⁹³). In addition, the information provided by the National Statistics Institute is the fundamental element on which our diagnostic report is based.

1. Risk of poverty and social exclusion in the territory

As is the case in many other countries, the place of residence within Spain determines the possibility of falling into poverty, vulnerability and/or social exclusion. Although it is not exclusive to areas with low population density, many of them suffer, as has been pointed out, from a weakening of the production fabric, or the progressive loss of basic social services, such as public transport, education and quality health care. This progressive decline in stable jobs and services hinders opportunities to consolidate lasting life projects. These barriers are one of the main causes of poverty and/or social exclusion in these territories, and they therefore encourage the continuity of migratory processes, feeding back into depopulation, towards areas with a high population density that offer more opportunities.

The analysis of the AROPE rate by Autonomous Community reveals significant territorial differences for the reference period analysed (2015-2021) in terms of both magnitudes and trends. These differences, which maintain a certain historical coherence, have multiple causes, including the productive structure, the structure of the labour market, taxation and the distribution of wealth in each region in reference to the margin on taxes assigned by the Treasury, and related to this, the actions and policies of the regional governments (with profiles that are more or less guarantors of social rights linked to the Welfare State). Most of the territories¹⁹⁴ increased their rate in 2021 compared to the previous year, with the exception of Melilla¹⁹⁵, Asturias, Galicia, Catalonia and Cantabria.

This means that income distribution policies between territories have not achieved convergence in terms of full eradication of poverty. Progress has been made at the national level, while at the same time regions still have structural poverty indicators that have not been reversed, despite the current deployment of state protection policies, unprecedented in Spain, which are proving so important in tackling the most harmful effects of the pandemic and the crisis generated by the current context of international confrontation.

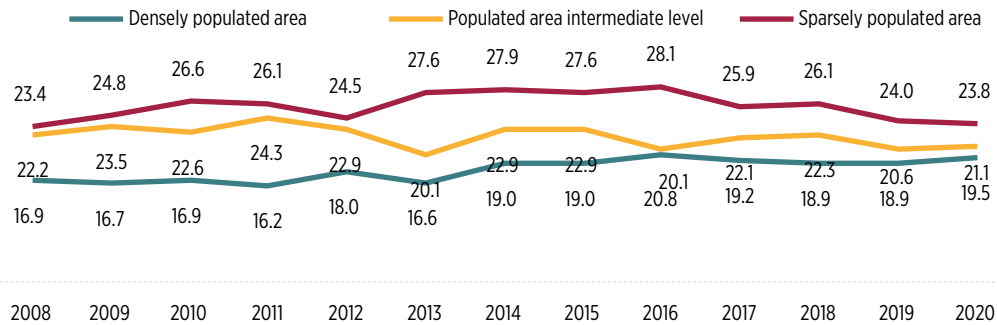
With regard to the analysis of severe material deprivation, there are also important regional differences. In this respect, the National Statistics Institute data are clear: sparsely populated areas continue to be the areas with the highest risk of poverty after social transfers.

193 Definitions updated according to the latest methodological change of 2021 (National Statistics Institute - ECV 2022). The 2nd and 3rd indicators were retouched.

194 With respect to the 17 Autonomous Communities and the two Autonomous Cities, the AROPE rate, for the last reporting year (2021), ranges from 14 to more than 40 points. According to the most recent data, the autonomous city of Ceuta is the territory with the highest at-risk-of-poverty and/or social exclusion rate, with 43% of its population. It is followed by the communities of Extremadura (38.7%) and Andalusia (38.7%).

195 From a population density point of view, both Ceuta and Melilla do not fit the pattern, breaking the conclusions mentioned above. This is probably due to exceptional causes, more related to their administrative status as Autonomous Cities, which are not the object of this diagnosis.

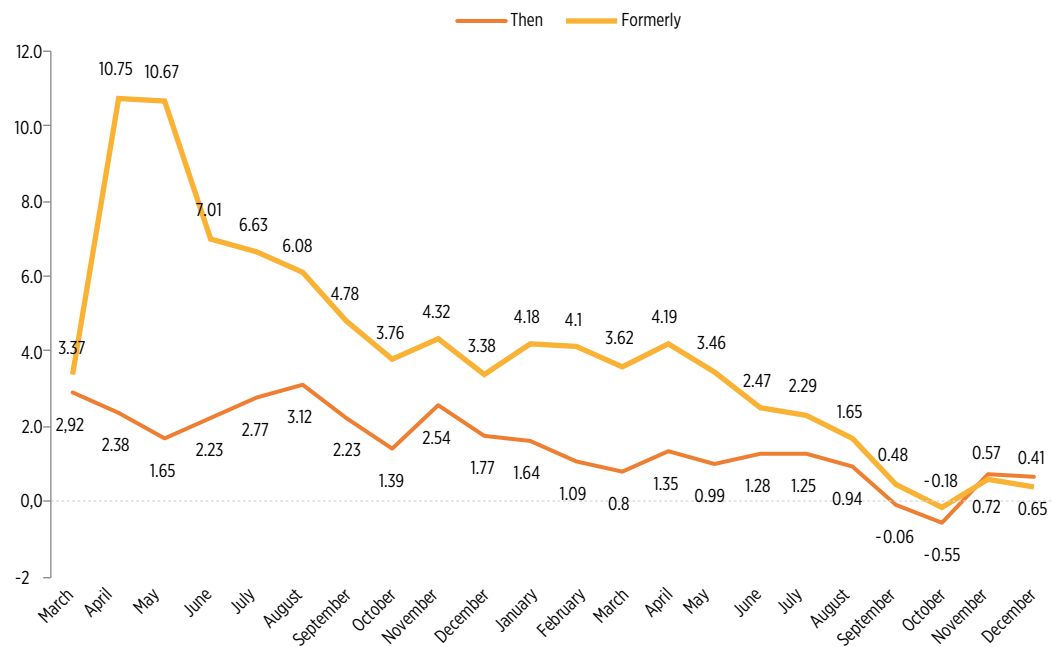
FIGURE 1. AT-RISK-OF-POVERTY RATE AFTER SOCIAL TRANSFERS BY DEGREE OF URBANISATION



Source: Own preparation with National Statistics Institute data (LCS 2021).

Despite this, there is research that is not disaggregated at the territorial level and is unofficial¹⁹⁶ which shows the redistributive effect of traditional monetary transfers (such as pensions) and newly created ones, such as the Minimum Vital Income, with current coverage close to 50% of the target (850,000 households with more than 2.3 million people); as well as the new modality of coverage for temporary cessation of activity, the Temporary Redundancy Regulations. This highlights the importance of the social shield policies implemented by the current central government in a context particularly marked by the effects of the pandemic.

FIGURE 2. CHANGE IN THE GINI INDEX FROM FEBRUARY 2020 BEFORE AND AFTER PUBLIC TRANSFERS



Source: Prepared by CaixaBank Research, based on internal CaixaBank data.

As the figure shows, after the impact of the first wave of the pandemic, the GI increased by more than 10% per month, reflecting the major impact of the economic slowdown caused by the lockdown and the associated cessation of activity. According to these data, the peak in inequality that occurred in March (the start of national lockdown) began to reverse only three months later, with June being the first month in which inco-

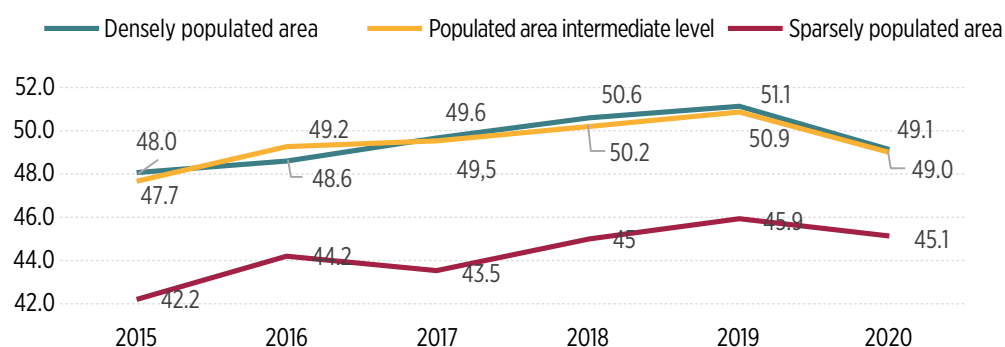
me transfer policies are clearly visible. By September, the data suggest that cash transfers even managed to reverse inequality as measured by the GI.

In relation to children, and as expressed in the diagnosis of Country Challenge 1, the proportion of the child poverty rate has increased in large population centres or densely populated territories. However, while the gap between the rates of the territories previously showed differences of 15 points (in 2013), being higher in sparsely populated areas, by 2020 it was reduced to two points. This is due to a process of what is called re-urbanisation of child poverty, since, according to the source consulted¹⁹⁷, child poverty increases according to the degree of urbanisation¹⁹⁸. Nevertheless, if we compare the poverty rate by degree of urbanisation, we find that child poverty in 2020 was still higher in sparsely populated areas (almost 30%) than in highly populated areas (27.6%), with the lowest rate in intermediate areas (25%).

According to Eurostat, **the employment rate in rural areas** is lower than in urban areas. The employment rate in rural areas is 44.5%, three points below the urban employment rate. The activity rate is also lower, at 52.2% compared to 57.1% in urban areas. The lower intensity of employment in sparsely populated areas is characterised both by its low pay and by its gradual precariousness, associated with low value-added sectors (agriculture, livestock farming, construction, tourism), the small size of businesses (often family-run) and difficulties in accessing information¹⁹⁹. If we consider the unemployment rate, however, despite being incomparable magnitudes, it is slightly lower in rural areas (14.7% by 2020) compared to 15.2% in cities.

Between 2015 and 2020, occupancy had a sustained growth in the territorial variables of the DEGURBA variable with the advent of the pandemic, except in rural areas where it had a small decrease of 0.7% in 2017 compared to 2016 and 0.8% in 2020 compared to 2019²⁰⁰, lower in any case than at the national level (1.9%) and in the other two DEGURBA areas (1.9% in the areas populated at the intermediate level and 2.0% in the densely populated areas).

FIGURE 3 . EMPLOYMENT RATE BY DEGREE OF URBANISATION



Source: Prepared by the authors based on National Statistics Institute (EPA 2020).

197 Spanish Government. High Commissioner for the Fight against Child Poverty in Spain. July 2021.

198 The DEGURBA (Degree of urbanisation) has been developed by Eurostat.

199 Escribano, J. and Valero, D. (2018). The rural-territorial dimension in the processes of social exclusion. Family Farming Yearbook 2018 in Spain.

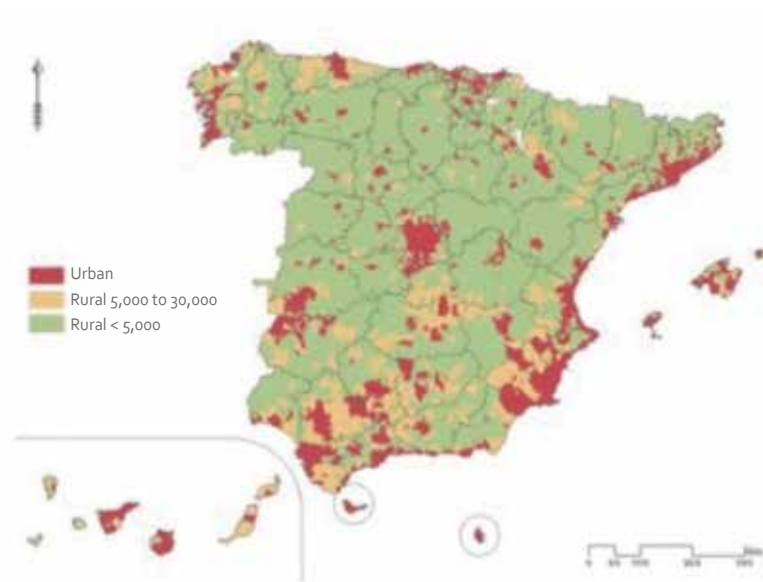
200 National Statistics Institute. Labour Force Survey 2020 (the series goes back to 2006). The last publication of the LFS was in July 2022, but the data are not disaggregated according to the DEGURBA variable.

2. Territorial depopulation

Like other neighbouring countries, Spain's population has been growing for decades. Focusing the timeframe on the last two decades, in 2001 Spain had 40,847,371 inhabitants, according to the National Statistics Institute, reaching 46,818,216 a decade later, in 2011 (an increase of 14.61%). However, by 2021, the last year for which official data is available, the population increase was much less marked: 47,435,597 people (an increase of 1.31% or 617,381 people). In any case, this increase was not homogeneous in all territories.

As mentioned above, according to the National Statistics Institute, the total number of people resident in Spain²⁰¹ on 1 January 2022 was 47,435,597 inhabitants, which represents an increase of 50,490 people (0.1%) with respect to 2021. Considering the national geographical extension of 504,745 km², the average density in Spain was 94 inhabitants (93.97%) per square kilometre. However, rural municipalities (6,671) occupy an area of 424,220 km², where only 7,538,929 people live (average density of less than 18 inhabitants per km²). Continuing with this analysis, small rural municipalities²⁰² (less than 5,000 inhabitants) make up the vast majority of rural municipalities (78%) and cover 70% of the national territory, but contain less than 10% of the population. These municipalities are mostly located in the northern half of the country.

FIGURE 4. MAP OF POPULATION DENSITY IN SPAIN (2021)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) (2021)

In stark contrast to the above, urban population centres are home to at least 84% of the census population in Spain, extending over 16% of the national territory.

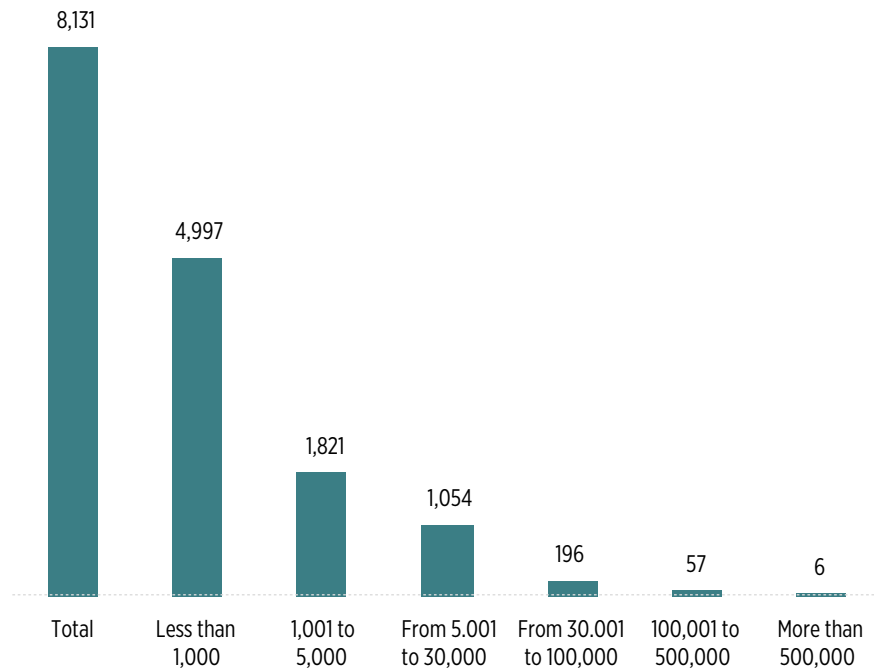
Spain, which has 8,131 municipalities, is characterised by an enormous number of municipalities with a very low population density (almost 5,000 municipalities have less than 1,000²⁰³ inhabitants), while it has only six urban centres with more than half a million inhabitants (figure 5). The Autonomous Communities where the largest number of these municipalities with very low population density are located are: Castile and Leon (2 011), Castile-La Mancha (637) and Aragon (627). In contrast, those with the fewest are: Canary Islands (1), Region of Murcia (2) and Balearic Islands (6).

²⁰¹ National Statistics Institute. Advance of the Continuous Census Statistics (does not include absent resident population).

²⁰² Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (2020).

²⁰³ In municipalities with less than 1,000 inhabitants, almost 7% of the population is of foreign nationality. However, in large urban centres (more than 100,000), the foreign population exceeds 12%. Spain has 253 municipalities with a percentage of foreign population above 25%, and of these, 20 exceed 50%.

FIGURE 5. NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES BY SIZE (2021)

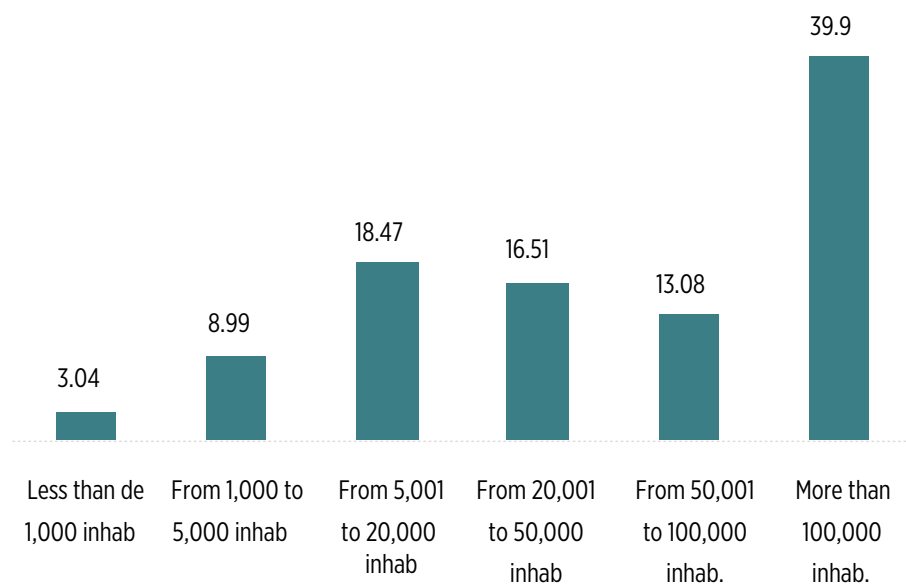


Source: Own preparation based on National Statistics Institute data (Population figures 1 January 2022).

The population in category 1 municipalities (low population density) has declined by more than 7% in the decade from 2011 to 2020, in a national context of an average population growth of 0.6%. If we compare larger rural municipalities with smaller ones, we see that the loss of population has been greater, in relative terms, in the larger ones (-8.6%) than in the smaller ones (-6.1%), compared to urban areas, which have gained 2.1% in population.

The most densely populated municipalities (category 3 and above), i.e., those with more than 100,000 inhabitants, are home to almost 40% of the Spanish population (figure 6). The highest percentage is that of the Community of Madrid, with 71% of its population residing in municipalities of this size.

FIGURE 6. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION BY SIZE OF MUNICIPALITY (2021)



Source: Own preparation based on National Statistics Institute data (Population figures 2021).

In terms of population density by Autonomous Community, by 2022 the most densely populated ones will be Andalusia, Catalonia and Madrid, compared with the least populated: La Rioja, Cantabria and Navarre. In 2021, the registered population increased in nine regions and decreased in eight, with the largest increases in Valencia, Andalusia and Catalonia, compared with the largest decreases in absolute terms in Castile and Leon, Asturias, Madrid and the Basque Country. As mentioned above, the weight of the population in rural areas is greater in the northern and western regions, with Extremadura, Castile-La Mancha, Castile and Leon and Aragon being the Communities with the greatest relative population importance in rural municipalities. In contrast, those that concentrate most of their inhabitants in urban areas are Catalonia, the Basque Country and Madrid.

According to the Bank of Spain²⁰⁴, the outbreak of the pandemic accelerated the process of structural change in two areas linked to the population's geographical location decisions: **digitalisation and teleworking**. Although the extent to which the effects of the pandemic have been sustained is not yet known, some evidence suggests that a timid territorial relocation has begun. In this respect, it is worth mentioning the growth of housing transactions in rural areas (which increased by 4% in 2020 compared to 2019), as well as some migratory flows, traditionally in the rural-urban direction, reversed, as was the case in Madrid, with a negative inter-provincial migratory balance in the first half of 2020, for the first time since the 2008 crisis.

In this context, it seems unquestionable that broadband coverage will be a key factor in the generation of economic and social opportunities that have an impact on depopulation through the generation of businesses with virtualised management components, attracting the population associated with the new regulations on the extension of teleworking, as well as facilitating administrative procedures with public administrations (and other services), all within the framework of the so-called digital revolution.

In this regard, it should be noted that broadband coverage (over 100 Mbps) currently reaches 88% of households in Spain²⁰⁵. In rural areas, the existing gap with respect to urban areas has been reduced to approximately 20% (68% as of June 2021). Towns with less than 500 inhabitants are still lagging furthest behind in the implementation of this technology²⁰⁶.

3. The ageing population in the territory

Spain is the country with the highest life expectancy at birth²⁰⁷ in the European Union and the fifth highest in the world. According to the National Statistics Institute²⁰⁸ the figure is 83.06 for both sexes, although there is a clear gender gap between the two: 80.24 years for men and 85.83 for women. The difference in years of life expectancy at birth in favour of women grew or remained stable in Spain until the mid-1990s, as a result of higher male mortality due to biological factors, lifestyles and risky behaviour, although it has been narrowing in the last two decades thanks to improved health care and the adoption of a healthier lifestyle by many men. As can be seen in the figure, the overall trend has also been upward, with sustained growth until the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the National Statistics Institute²⁰⁹, there were over 75,000 more deaths in 2020 than in the previous year (16.4% due to COVID-19).

204 *The spatial distribution of the population in Spain and its economic implications*. Annual Report 2020 (Chapter 4). Bank of Spain

205 Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation: *Report on broadband coverage in Spain in 2021*. July 2021.

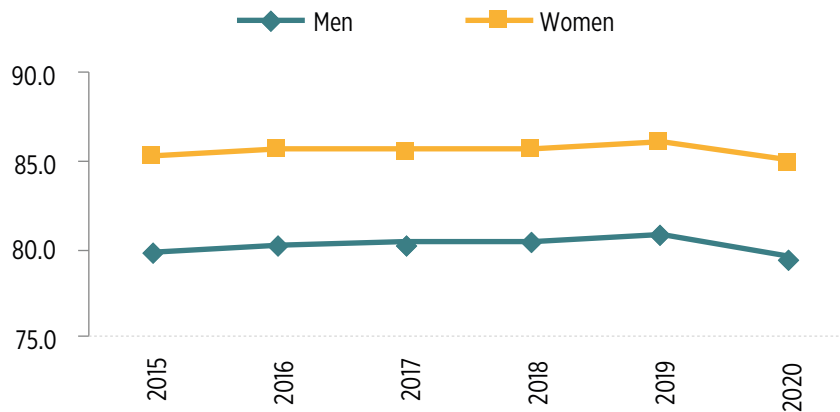
206 According to the same source, it is expected to reduce by 50% by the end of 2022 and by 2025 it is expected that the digital divide will completely disappear, which will undoubtedly have a favourable impact on the connection of the most underdeveloped areas, favouring economic, commercial and socio-cultural activities in these territories and discouraging the exodus.

207 Life expectancy is the most widely used indicator for making comparisons on the incidence of mortality in different populations and, on that basis, on the health conditions and level of development of a population.

208 National Statistics Institute: *Basic Demographic Indicators 2020*.

209 *Deaths by Cause of Death (2020)*.

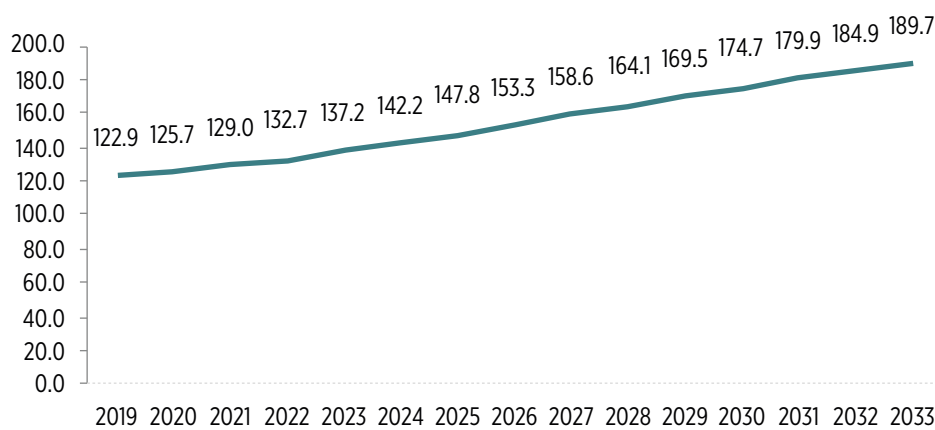
FIGURE 7. EVOLUTION OF LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (2015-2020)



Source: National Statistics Institute (National Statistics)

The ageing index, which is the percentage that the population over 64 years of age represents in comparison to the population under 16 years of age, is another indicator in which Spain has one of the highest rates in the world. According to the latest data from the National Statistics Institute, in 2022 Spain recorded a new maximum ageing rate of 133.5% (133 people over 64 for every 100 under 16). This figure represents the highest growth since 1999 and is 4.4% higher than in 2021. With these data, one in five people in Spain is over 65 years old, and this correspondence, in rural areas, is one in four. In the following figure we can observe the growth of the index and its projection until 2033, when, according to the National Statistics Institute, Spain would have a rate of almost 190 people over 64 years old for every 100 under 16 (figure 8).

FIGURE 8. PROJECTION OF THE AGEING INDEX YEAR (2019-2033)



Source: Own preparation based on National Statistics Institute data (population figures).

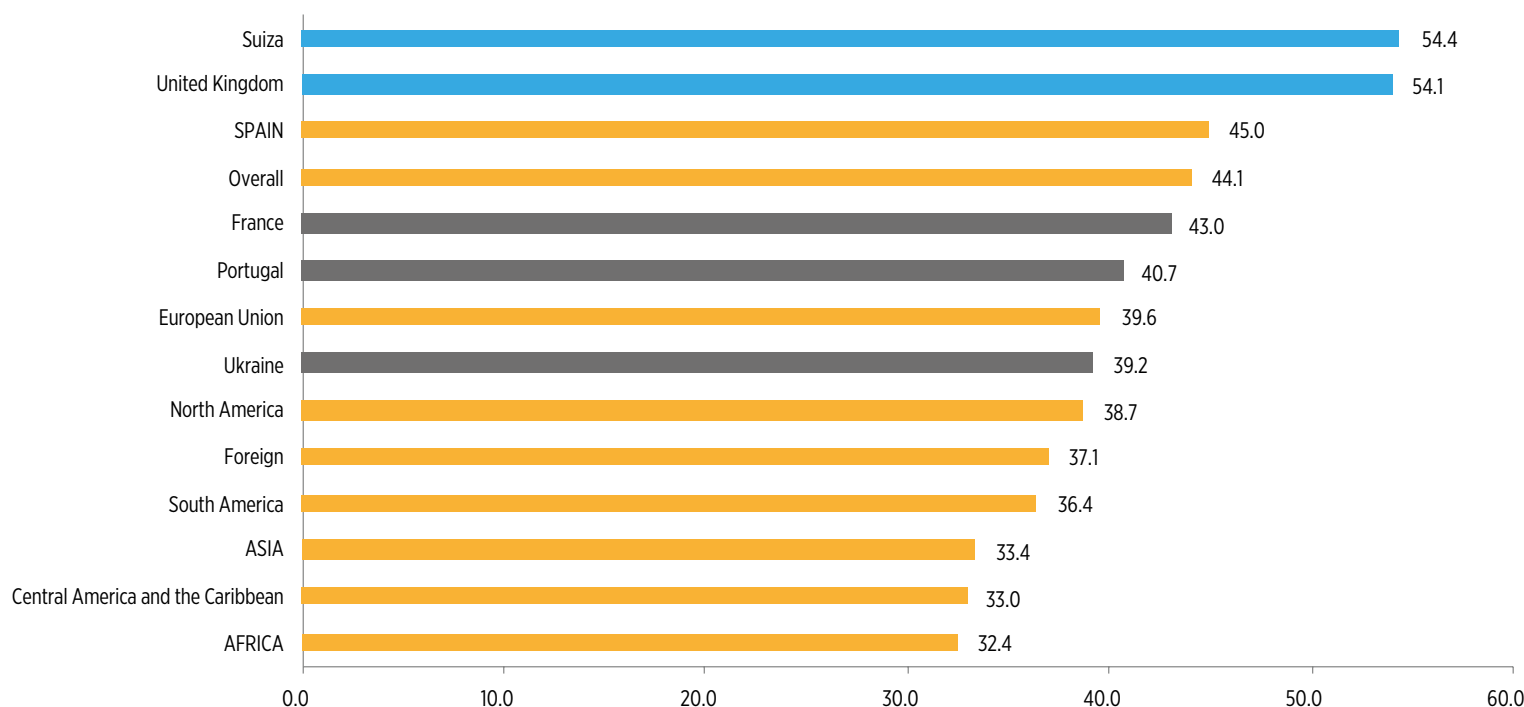
While the birth rate stagnated from 2010 onwards, after a few years of growth, it became negative in the hardest years of the crisis (Great Recession), between 2012 and 2015. From the following year, 2016, the birth rate increased again to 8 per thousand inhabitants by 2019, although the arrival of the pandemic brought the rate down to 1.3 per thousand inhabitants by the last year for which data are available (2021). A comparison of birth rate data for the last seven years (2015-2021) indicates a generalised decrease for nearly all the Autonomous Communities, except for five, which had a positive balance in 2021 (with respect to 2020): Aragon: 0.37; Asturias: 0.04; Balearic Islands: 0.02; Murcia: 0.01 and Navarre: 0.12.

On the other hand, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food²¹⁰, in 2020 in category 1 municipalities, the **rate of young people**²¹¹ was more than 51 young people for every 100 over 65 years of age, whereas in urban municipalities it rises to almost 80. Moreover, the presence of young people decreases proportionally with the size of the municipality, reaching 28 young people for every 100 older people in municipalities with less than 1,000 inhabitants.

According to the same source, the degree of youthfulness of the population census decreased by 9.1% in rural municipalities from 2011 to 2020, being higher in the larger ones. The rate in small rural municipalities decreased by 6.5% when compared to large ones (12.4%).

Overall, Spain has a population under 16 years of age that barely reaches 15%, while the population between 16 and 44 years of age is 30%. In terms of average age, the Spanish population is 45 years old, compared to 37 for foreigners. The highest average ages of the foreign population are those of the United Kingdom (54), Germany (50) and France (43), while the lowest are those of Honduras (30), Pakistan (31) and Morocco (32).

FIGURE 9. AVERAGE AGE OF POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF MAIN NATIONALITIES



Source: Own preparation based on National Statistics Institute data (Population figures 2021).

The most updated population data for Spain²¹² indicate that in 2021 the resident population increased by 0.1%, equivalent to 50,490 people, in relation to the previous year, reaching, as mentioned above, a total of 47,435,597 people. Of these, 88.4% are Spanish compared to 11.6%, who have another nationality. It should be noted that, of this population with Spanish nationality, 6% were born outside Spain, i.e., they are people who had the status of immigrants and over the years of residence have obtained nationality. It also shows that in 2021 the number of Spanish people has decreased by 21,921 people compared to the previous year, while the number of foreigners increased by 72,410, with more non-EU than EU citizens, which announces an upturn in the migratory phenomenon after the toughest years of the pandemic.

²¹⁰ Demographics of the rural population in 2020. AgrolInfo 31 October 2021

²¹¹ This rate quantifies the residence of young people under 16 versus over 64.

²¹² Advance of the Continuous Register statistics at 1 January 2022. Provisional data. Spanish National Statistics Institute.

All these data allow us to conclude that **migratory movements**, as many studies have shown, contribute to the rejuvenation of the Spanish population, since, according to official data, most of the people arriving from abroad are younger on average than the Spanish population (figure 1).

TABLE 1: CHANGE IN THE SPANISH POPULATION 2020-2021 BY NATIONALITY AND SEX

Population by nationality	2020	% of total	2021	% of total	Absolute Variation	Relative % change
National Total	47,450,795	100.0	47,385,107	100.0	-65,688	-0.1
Spaniards	42,016,642	88.5	41,944,959	88.5	-71,683	-0.2
Foreigners	5,434,153	11.5	5,440,148	11.5	5,995	0.1
Men	23,255,590	49.0	23,222,953	49.0	-32,637	-0.1
Spaniards	20,535,713	88.3	20,497,801	88.3	-37,912	-0.2
Foreigners	2,719,877	11.7	2,725,152	11.7	5,275	0.2
Women	24,195,205	51.0	24,162,154	51.0	-33,051	-0.1
Spaniards	21,480,929	88.8	21,447,158	88.8	-33,771	-0.2
Foreigners	2,714,276	11.2	2,714,996	11.2	720	0.0

Source: Own preparation with National Statistics Institute data (Population 2021).

With regard to the foreign population resident in Autonomous Communities, according to the National Statistics Institute²¹³, those with the highest proportion are the Balearic Islands (18.8%), Catalonia (16.2%) and Valencia (15.3%). On the other hand, those with the least are Extremadura (3.3%), Galicia (4.4%) and Asturias (4.5%). It should be considered that, by 2021, the foreign population increased in all the Communities except in two, in addition to Ceuta and Melilla (the two Autonomous Cities having the most significant population reduction in Spain). The Communities with the largest increases were Valencia, Andalusia and Catalonia.

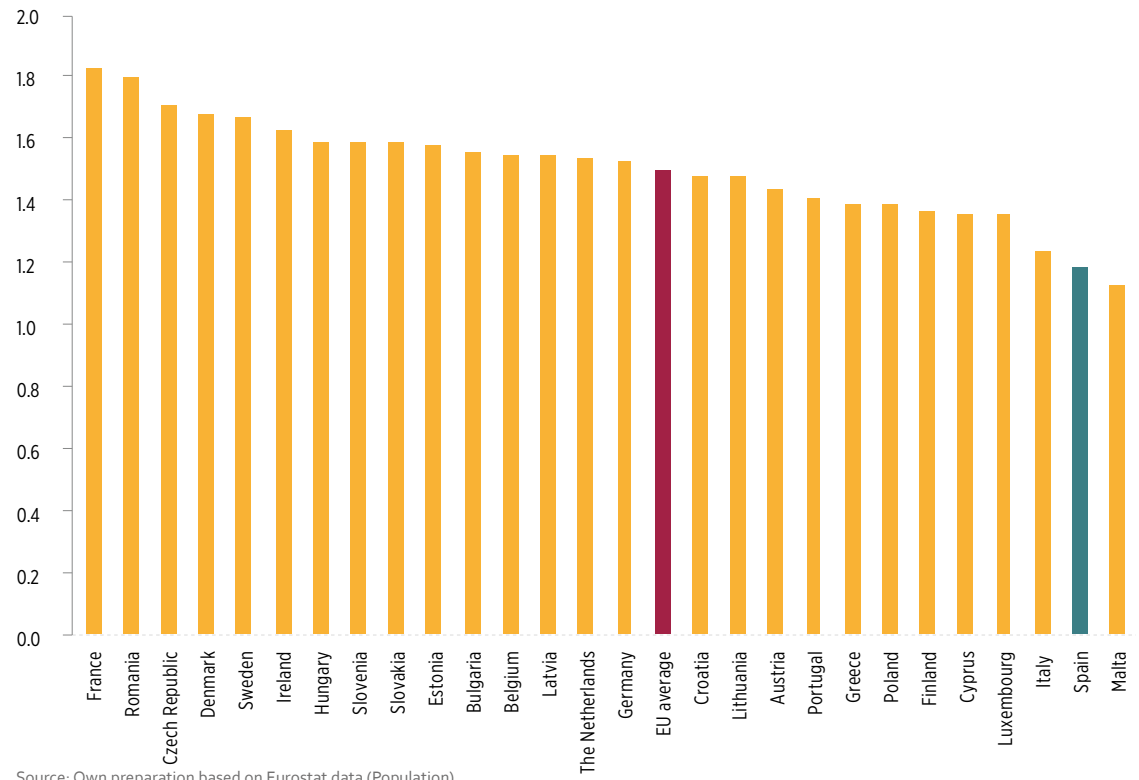
The largest foreign population in the whole country is Moroccan, followed by Romanian and Colombian. According to official data (Municipal Register), by nationality, those with the largest increases in 2021 were Colombian and Venezuelan; while Romanian, Chinese and Brazilian nationalities suffered the largest decreases.

On the other hand, the progressive ageing of the Spanish population is aggravated by low **fertility** figures (figure 10). The number of children per woman in 2021 stood at 1.19, the same as in 2020 according to National Statistics Institute²¹⁴. This keeps Spain in the penultimate position in the EU-27 for more than a decade (only ahead of Malta, which joined it in this position in the same period).

213 Preview of the Continuous Register Statistics at 1 January 2022. Provisional data. National Statistics Institute.

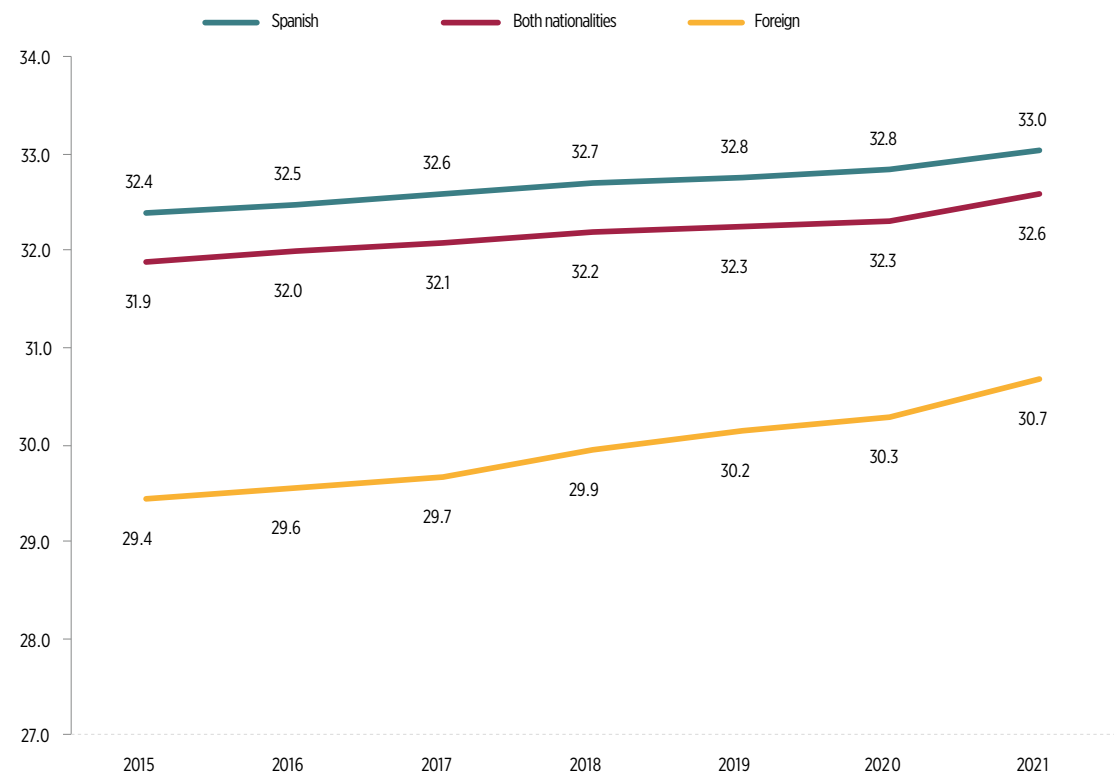
214 National Statistics Institute. Press release on the Natural Movement of the Population (published in June 2022)

FIGURE 10. EU-27 FERTILITY RATE (2020)



Source: Own preparation based on Eurostat data (Population).

FIGURE 11. CHANGE IN THE AVERAGE AGE AT CHILDBEARING (2015-2021)



Source: Own preparation based on National Statistics Institute data (Population figures 2021).

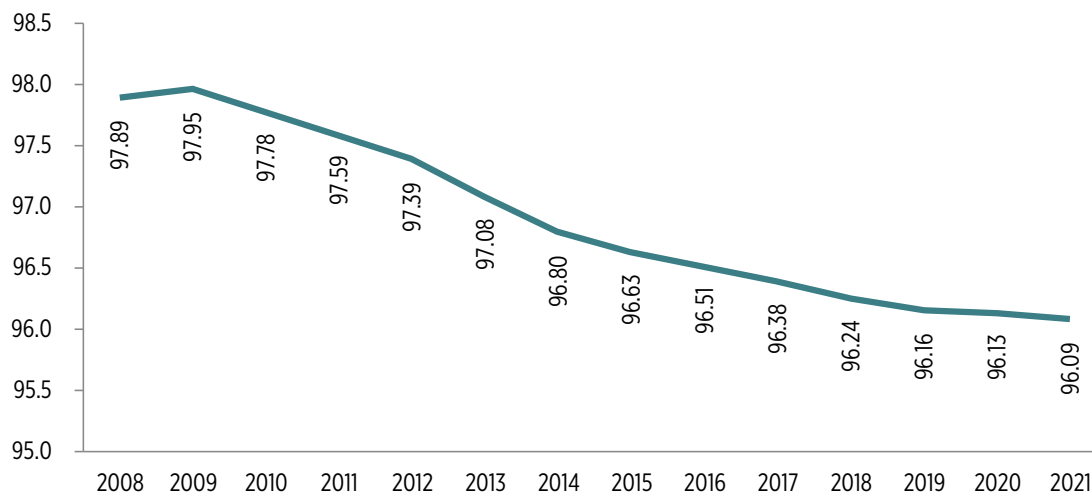
Motherhood in Spain therefore took place at an average age of 32.6 years in 2021 (an increase of 1.8 years since 2002, in a sustained upward trend, the year in which data disaggregated by nationality is available), with the average age of the Spanish population being 33 years, while the average age of foreigners is 30.7 years (figure 11). This highlights the importance of implementing policies that encourage birth rates by ensuring socio-economic opportunities and work-life balance for women who wish to become mothers and generate specific protection for single-parent families and large families.

4. Masculinisation of less populated territories

As identified in last year's Country Challenge 8 diagnosis, there is a clear trend towards masculinisation in the least populated territories, which goes hand in hand with the ageing of their population. The analysis of these variables (masculinisation and ageing) allows us to appreciate a continued trend of growth in these parameters by 2021 in areas of low population density compared to areas of high urbanisation. The most depopulated areas consolidate this double trend, generating a multiplier effect for future depopulation.

In this sense, ageing and masculinisation are two processes that help to explain rural demographics with respect to urban areas. The masculinity index²¹⁵ (figure 12) in rural municipalities is 103.5 men for every 100 women, while in urban areas it is 94.8%, i.e., the number of men is lower in urban areas and higher in rural areas, since, if we consider the index in municipalities with less than 5,000 inhabitants, it rises to 106 men per 100 women and scales up to almost 113 in those with less than 1,000 inhabitants. Thus, the smaller the size of the municipality, the greater the masculinisation of the territory.

FIGURE 12. RATIO OF MATE TO FEMALE POPULATION (2008-2021) (PERCENTAGE)



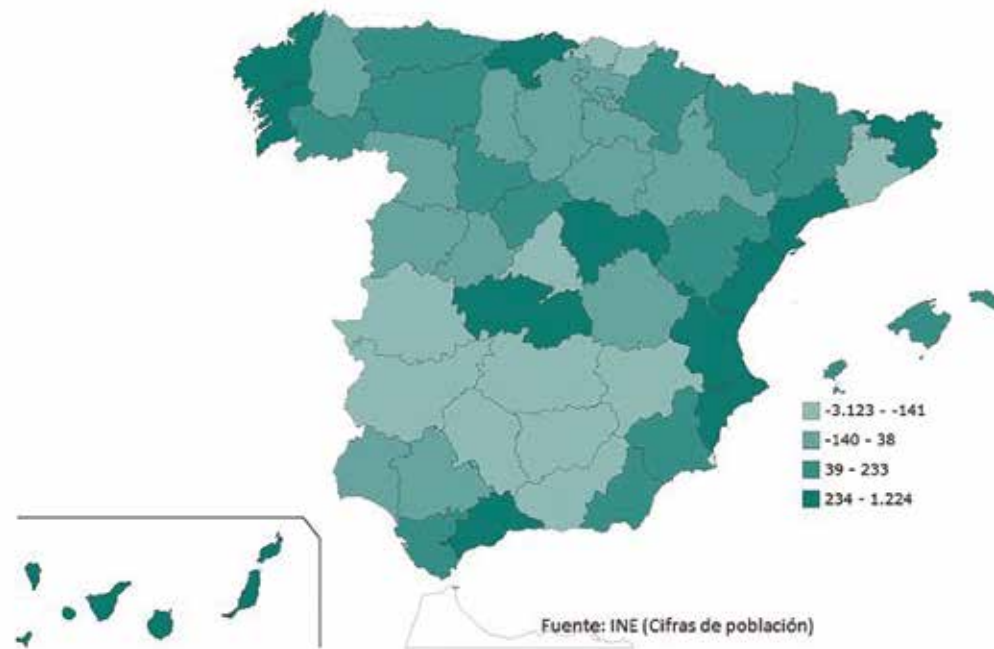
Source: Own preparation based on National Statistics Institute data (Population figures 2021).

According to the latest available data²¹⁶, 94,302 women left rural municipalities for urban areas in the last decade. The following figure, based on National Statistics Institute data, shows these population transfer balances visually.

215 It is a demographic indicator that quantifies the relative presence of men compared to women in a given territory and in a given period.

216 National Statistics Institute Residential Variation Statistics (2021)

FIGURE 13. MAP OF THE INTER-PROVINCIAL MIGRATION BALANCE OF WOMEN (Q2-2021)



Source: MAP

These two demographic phenomena (masculinisation and ageing) in rural areas are also conditioned by the progressive fall in the birth rate that the country has experienced in recent decades and by the lack of access to quality public services (education, health, transport), issues to which we have already referred, which hinders opportunities to build and consolidate lasting life projects for the rural population, resulting in the permanent emigration of the younger and mainly female population from these areas to urban areas.

5. Conclusions

The high disparities observed in the demographic dynamics of a large part of Spain mean that the challenges pointed out in the diagnosis of the Country Challenge 2021 continue their trend one year later: depopulation of a large part of the rural territory, low or very low intensity and dispersion of the population, general ageing with particular intensity in rural areas, where masculinisation is also taking hold. In addition to these phenomena, there are others such as the decline in quality and access to public services (including the impossibility of travelling by public transport) in some territories due to the trend (which at the time of the diagnosis seems to be consolidating) in privatisation policies and the elimination of taxes on high incomes in some autonomous governments, and, on the other hand, the effects of the seasonal nature of holidays in certain geographical areas and, of course, the ambivalent effects of the pandemic on the territories, which has modified trends for which we do not yet have sufficient data to establish if they will continue or are temporary.

The economic standstill caused by the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown led to a huge increase (10 points) in inequality that has also had an impact in terms of demography and population balance, but the transfer of economic resources designed by the national government was not only able to control it and start to reduce it from the 3rd month (June), but also to reverse it in the following 3 months. These data prove not only the effectiveness but also the efficiency of public policies aimed at income solidarity, a key element to address demographic issues in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

The demographic challenge will put the robustness of the Welfare State to the test. The population dynamics that we have outlined here, together with the ageing and masculinisation of the territories that will most likely consolidate in the coming years, will require a path of strengthening public policies and income balance, both at national and territorial level, so that the territorial gaps that exist today and have been identified in this and other diagnoses do not widen.

The vicious circle that maintains territorial depopulation and the masculinisation of rural populations once again highlights the importance of generating, through public policies, “opportunities for attraction” on a social, economic and cultural level in rural and less populated areas. All of this needs to take place in order to encourage the permanence, return or even the arrival of new populations not initially linked to the territory. In this way, and from a perspective of solidarity and in line with the 2030 Agenda, the important demographic challenges facing our country will be addressed.



ACCELERATING POLICY 8.

SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION. A RURAL ENVIRONMENT WITH EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Accelerating Policy for Sustainable Development *Social and territorial cohesion. A rural environment with equal rights and opportunities* has the priority of tackling the demographic challenge, understanding it as a transversal challenge linked to phenomena such as depopulation, ageing, territorial dispersion or the gap in socio-economic opportunities between urban and rural areas. Therefore, its priorities for action are aimed, on the one hand, at the socio-economic stimulation of rural areas and small towns, taking into account the gender approach, and, on the other hand, at improving the functionality of the rural environment, guaranteeing access to quality public services based on equity and promoting the integration of the urban population with rural areas. This heterogeneity of actions makes the achievement of social and territorial cohesion an essential requirement for the effective fulfilment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as it makes it possible to guarantee something as essential as equal rights and opportunities throughout the territory.

Within this framework, compliance and progress in achieving this accelerating policy are fundamentally linked to the adoption, in March 2021, by the Government's Delegate Commission for the Demographic Challenge of the **Plan of Measures to Meet the Demographic Challenge**, comprising 130 measures aligned with the previous **National Strategy to Meet the Demographic Challenge**, 90% of which are already in the process of being implemented. In terms of funding, the General State Budget for 2022 includes an investment of more than 4,200 million euros to tackle the demographic challenge, although 82% of the Plan's funding corresponds to investments in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan through its social and territorial cohesion axis, thus guaranteeing the effective participation of small municipalities and rural areas in the development of the green, digital and inclusive agenda that currently guides the design and implementation of public policies at both national and international level.

The Plan and its 130 measures therefore involve the development of a cross-cutting action programme on the demographic challenge and the fight against depopulation to promote a structural transformation of the rural environment and small municipalities through **10 lines of action based on 4 major vectors** that are the inspiration behind the Plan's axes: the promotion of **digital connectivity** and rural **mobility**; the consolidation of the **provision of essential services** in all territories; the **diversification of economic activity and job creation**; and the promotion of **urban transformation** by deploying measures in the field of **housing** in areas in demographic decline.

Likewise, this Plan consolidates governance in the institutional architecture foreseen to achieve effective implementation, which has meant that, to date, 77% of the investments included in the document have been carried out through the territorialisation of credits in the corresponding Sector Conferences. This percentage, over the three years of the Plan, will be around 80%.

The priorities for action set out in Country Challenge 8 are then aligned with the different lines of action of the Plan that reinforce the current strategic framework for the achievement of social and territorial cohesion in our country.

Within the framework of **Axis 1** of the Plan, to **promote Ecological Transition**, actions are being implemented to revitalise small municipalities and the rural environment in terms of sustainability under criteria of justice and social inclusion, thus guaranteeing a Just Transition that contributes, in turn, to the fight against depopulation. Thus, in 2021, a set of **aid programmes** has been launched for the so-called “**demographic challenge municipalities**”, which are defined as municipalities with up to 5,000 inhabitants and non-urban municipalities with up to 20,000 inhabitants in which all their single population entities have up to 5,000 inhabitants.

The first of these programmes consisted of a direct grant of aid for investments in specific local clean energy projects in municipalities facing demographic challenges (**DUS 5000 PROGRAMME, RD 692/2021** of 3 August) within the framework of the **Regeneration and Demographic Challenge Programme** of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan for energy rehabilitation, self-consumption, renewable air conditioning, public lighting and sustainable mobility. The initial allocation of 75 million euros was increased to 325 million euros, with a total of 3,366 actions requested, totalling more than 942 million euros in 1,720 municipalities.

The second programme is called the **Energy Rehabilitation Programme for Buildings in Municipalities of the Demographic Challenge (PREE 5000) (RD 691/2021, of 3 August)** for the energy refurbishment of buildings in municipalities with demographic challenges, also within the framework of the aforementioned Regeneration and Demographic Challenge Programme, aimed at financing actions such as the improvement of the thermal envelope, efficient air conditioning systems and lighting, etc.

This Axis 1 has also included the promotion of a **Local Bioeconomy Programme** with investments in the field of sustainable forest management to finance bioeconomy projects in areas in demographic decline. It is endowed with 120 million euros for 2022, of which 40 million were distributed to the Autonomous Communities in September 2022, and 80 million will be allocated to subsidies to Local Entities and companies on a competitive basis.

Axis 2 of the Plan focuses on the **Digital Transition and full Territorial Connectivity**. The **Plan for the Connectivity and Digital Infrastructures of Society, the Economy and Territories**, which will continue to extend high-speed broadband coverage to 100% of the population, and the development and implementation of the **2nd Action Plan of the Strategy for the Digitalisation of the Agri-food and Rural Sector**. This 2nd Action Plan 2021-2023, currently in force, includes 21 measures and a budget of 64 million euros with the aim of executing and financing measures that favour the digital transformation of the agri-food sector and allow all agents that form part of the value chain of this sector to participate in this transition process.

The content of this 2nd Plan is aligned with the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, the Agri-Food PERTE and the new CAP 2023-2027 through its national strategic plan.

In addition, the **Programme for the Universalisation of Digital Infrastructures for Cohesion (UNICO Programme)** has launched a **call for aid**, by Resolution of 18 November 2021, for a total amount of 250 million euros. These are grants for the extension of ultra-fast broadband in areas of 4,516 municipalities, mostly “white areas” that do not have network coverage at speeds of at least 30 Mbps, and “grey areas” with limited connection to new generation broadband coverage. After the implementation of the projects, network coverage with speeds above 100 Mbps will reach 95% of the population by 2023, consistent with SDG9 target 9.c.

In addition, by agreement of the Sector Conference on Digital Transformation of 6 October 2021, **aid** has been agreed **for the reinforcement of connectivity** in public reference centres, industrial estates and logistics centres, as well as in telecommunications infrastructures in buildings.

The set of measures described above are therefore aimed at universalising broadband coverage in mobility at 30 Mbps and intensifying the extension of ultra-fast broadband at 100 Mbps in order to guarantee adequate connectivity for 100% of the population in 100% of the territory, thus aligning with the **European Digital Agenda** and the Spanish Government’s **Digital Agenda 2026**. In this area, legislative progress has been made with Law 11/2022, of 28 June, General Telecommunications Law, which includes the objective of 10 Mbps within the universal broadband internet service and the universalisation of internet access at a minimum speed of 100 Mbit per second within one year, with the objectives of promoting social and territorial cohesion, strengthening social and territorial structuring, and addressing the demographic challenge and helping to keep the population in the territory, thus combating rural depopulation.

Although it is too early to know the extent of all the measures deployed in terms of digital connectivity, as they are still in the implementation phase, a positive path of improvement in rural areas can be glimpsed. Thus, according to the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2021, 92% of Spanish households have very high-capacity fixed network coverage (≥ 100 Mbps), a percentage that, while falling to 64% in rural areas, has nevertheless improved by 12 percentage points in the last year, well above the European average.

With regard to innovative territorial connectivity, the objective is the design and promotion of collective transport and collaborative economy proposals to increase the offer of new forms of sustainable mobility within the framework of the Government's **Safe, Sustainable and Connected Mobility Strategy**, which contemplates the articulation of the "**Rural Mobility Board**" that was constituted in February 2022 with the participation of the Autonomous Communities and Local Entities. This creates a stable forum for cooperation between the different Public Administrations and civil society in the field of rural mobility. Among the measures of the Work Programme of this Round Table in 2022 and 2023, we can highlight the preparation of an accessibility map, the design of supply and demand indicators for rural mobility, the creation of an informative and participative web page, or the drafting of a Guide of Good Practices. On 6 July 2022, the first meeting of the Indicators Working Group took place within the framework of this Rural Mobility Round Table, at which some existing initiatives were presented, such as the SIDAMUN application, the INSISTE Indicator, currently under development, or the State Road Accessibility Map developed by the National Geographic Institute.

Next, the main purpose of **Axis 3 of Development and Innovation in the territory** is the promotion of innovative rural ecosystems from an economic, but also social approach, thereby promoting a territorial transformation capable of generating new opportunities and strengthening socio-economic and digital inclusion in these areas. Within this axis, there are several measures that deserve to be highlighted for the achievement of country challenge 8. Firstly, the approval of the **aid programme for the financing of innovative projects for territorial transformation and the fight against depopulation**, whose bases have been approved by **Order TED/1358/2021**, of 1 December, with which the aim is to promote innovative projects for territorial transformation so that, from an economic, social, environmental and gender perspective, the social and economic reactivation of areas with depopulation problems are promoted and rural areas are revaluated, consolidating a local administrative, social and entrepreneurial ecosystem that fosters endogenous economic initiatives and enhances their transformative capacity. To this end, the first calls for proposals, published on 4 May 2022, are aimed at three types of essential agents in the territory, namely local bodies, non-profit organisations and companies, with special attention to women's and young people's projects.

Secondly, it is worth highlighting the deployment of the **Network of Territorial Innovation Centres**, implemented through **agreements between the General Secretariat for the Demographic Challenge and the Local Bodies** (Provincial Councils) for the development of centres to promote innovation and stimulate rural areas, facilitating the joint efforts of the Public Administrations and the private sector. These first centres are being set up, with innovation projects already underway in the Pyrenees (Lleida and Huesca), Cuenca, Soria, Teruel and Leon, and an agreement is currently being signed for the network to be deployed in Castellon.

Axis 4 focuses on the **promotion of Sustainable Tourism**, promoting measures that continue to reactivate tourism as a catalyst for, on the one hand, diversifying the economic activity of rural areas through innovation and digitalisation and, on the other, revitalising rural centres and their traditional activities, such as trade, personal services or local industrial and craft activities through the attraction of the visiting population. Among the most notable advances we can highlight the **Tourism Sustainability Plans in Destinations**, which include rural territories among their recipients, both in the ordinary call agreed at the Tourism Sector Conference of 28 July 2021, and especially in the extraordinary call approved on 21 December 2021. With these investments of around 190 million euros in the Demographic Challenge area, the aim is for the development of tourist activities to boost the local economy, exerting its driving force on other sectors, such as the agri-food sector, thereby generating employment and maintaining the population.

Axis 5 of the Plan of Measures addresses **equal rights and opportunities for women and young people**, given that the socio-economic dynamics of rural areas and areas affected by depopulation generates an inequality gap with both women and young people who encounter serious difficulties in developing their personal, professional and family projects in conditions of equity, despite their qualifications and competence. The Plan aims to attract and keep the talent of women and young people, offer training, and create opportunities for entrepreneurship, opening up new perspectives and contributing to the socio-economic development of these territories.

In this regard, the Government's commitment to guaranteeing equal opportunities and rights for rural women, with specific measures to support women within the Spanish Strategic Plan for the CAP 2023-2027, subsidies for national rural women's associations, the review of the law on shared ownership, a new line of support for farms under shared ownership, the excellence awards for rural women and the national cycle of cinema and rural women, etc., are worthy of note. Likewise, within the framework of this commitment, several activities of interest have been developed to make visible and strengthen the role of women in the agri-food sector and in the rural environment, which also deserve to be highlighted for their contribution to target 5.a. of SDG 5.

Firstly, the integration of the gender perspective objective in the framework of the future CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 with specific measures and interventions for women in the sector through the support of the two pillars of this policy, such as the supplementary payment for young women farmers and livestock farmers who are entering farming for the first time. Secondly, the consolidation of the objectives of Law 35/2011 on shared ownership of farms, though, among other activities and actions, direct aid to jointly owned farms, approved by Royal Decree 819/2021 of 28 September. 1.5 million euros have been earmarked for the call for this aid in 2022.

Thirdly, the call for a subsidy to rural women's organisations at national level for the development of collaboration and representation activities before the General State Administration, and for carrying out activities of special interest to promote the role of women in rural development, which is granted every year for an amount of 400,000 euros. Its regulatory bases are set out in Royal Decree 146/2019, of 15 March. Fourthly, the annual call for the Excellence Awards for innovation for rural women, with a financial endowment of 150,000 euros. Fifthly, the organisation of the National Cycle of Cinema and Rural Women, which was held for the fourth time in 2021, and which was created in 2018 as a new complementary proposal that would give greater visibility and projection to the annual celebration of the awards for excellence in innovation for rural women. Finally, the updating in 2021 of the "**Diagnosis of Gender Equality in the Rural Environment**" with the aim of knowing more about the current situation of the rural environment from a gender perspective and thus discover the evolution of this process over the last decade.

With regard to equal opportunities for young people in rural areas, a large part of the measures are linked to the educational environment. Thus, Article 82 of Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education (**LOMLOE**) stipulates that the education authorities must pay special attention to schools in rural areas, taking into account their peculiarities and the need to encourage students from rural areas to remain in the education system beyond basic education. To this end, this regulation includes measures relating to schooling conditions, the improvement and diversification of the educational offer (especially post-compulsory education in baccalaureate and vocational training cycles), the promotion of complementary transport services and school canteens, Internet access and the provision of the human and material resources necessary to guarantee quality education in rural areas.

Likewise, Article 9 of the LOMLOE includes the **territorial cooperation programmes (PCT)** as a strategic line of action to promote, among other things, the strengthening of rural schools, with the criteria for the territorial distribution of economic resources in the PCT being, among others, rural areas, depopulation or demographic dispersion. In 2021, and in accordance with this line, several programmes with an impact on rural schools were promoted, including the Territorial Cooperation Programme for Guidance, Advancement and Educational Enrichment in Centres of Special Educational Complexity (**PROA+** programme); the **Programme of personal and family accompaniment and guidance units** for educationally vulnerable students in educational or psycho-pedagogical services located in school areas/sectors and grouped rural centres; the Programme to boost schooling in the first cycle of Infant Education; the **Programme** for the **digitalisation** of the educational system; and the programme for the improvement of educational digital skills called #CompDigEdu.

In addition to the aforementioned regulatory measures, other actions have been carried out to promote equal opportunities for young people in rural areas. Firstly, measures have been taken to improve territorial connectivity through the "**Connected Schools**" programme, the aim of which is to provide ultra-fast broadband and internal connectivity to primary and secondary schools. It will affect more than 5.25 million pupils and more than 16,500 publicly funded non-university schools in Spain. More than 60% of the schools connected so far are located in municipalities with less than 20,000 inhabitants.

Secondly, there are measures in the field of teacher training. Within the permanent teacher training offered by the **National Institute of Educational Technologies and Teacher Training (INTEF)**, it is worth highlighting the importance of online training for rural areas, offering three types of training: a) "microtraining"

through the EduPills app; b) massive open online courses (MOOCs, NOOCs and SPOOCs); and c) tutored online courses. Thirdly, collaborative actions have been carried out between two or more Spanish or European schools in different countries that promote rural schools. One of the specific priorities of the **eTwinning platform** is to further impact on schools in rural areas and to increase participation in the programme.

In addition, a call has been published for groups of educational centres in different Autonomous Communities with aid for centres, including those in rural areas, to promote innovation projects, favouring communication and mobility of their educational communities and promoting networks of rural educational centres.

On the other hand, the establishment of **Mentor Classrooms** in rural areas and areas at risk of depopulation has been promoted. These classrooms bring non-formal training, but with reference to the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications, to rural areas and/or those at risk of depopulation. They also give priority to the training of women in rural areas, opening up new learning and job creation opportunities, thereby contributing to the maintenance of the population and the reduction of the gender gap. In the June 2021 call for applications, this programme included aid worth 2 million euros to promote the provision of personalised, flexible and quality training in municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants. In addition, and for the current financial year, this type of classrooms will be completed with approximately 300 **specific Mentor UOP Classrooms** (professional guidance units), which aim to bring guidance to rural areas so that citizens have a professional team that can inform and guide them on learning opportunities in the field of vocational training, the accreditation of professional skills and the lifelong learning process.

It is also worth highlighting the launch and promotion of the **Rural Campus Programme** for university internships in rural areas and small municipalities. In this first edition, launched on 1 June 2022, more than 350 students from 37 different universities are participating, thereby promoting a rural immersion model that aims to reconnect young people with the territory and favour the generation of opportunities for the reactivation of rural areas.

Lastly, apart from the Plan, it is worth highlighting the support provided in the Strategic Plan for the CAP 2023-2027 (PEPAC) for young people working in the agri-food sector and, therefore, in rural areas. Along these lines, the PEPAC includes a series of interventions to encourage generational change in the national agricultural sector, given that this generational change has been diagnosed as a need in the sector during the PEPAC drafting phase. The PEPAC includes specific aid for young people, through the supplementary payment of direct aid and rural development funds aimed at encouraging the first installation on farms, in addition to the intervention focused on encouraging cooperation for the succession of farms.

Axis 6 of the Plan, which focuses on **entrepreneurship and business activity**, directs its actions in favour of employment and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, opening up a range of opportunities for rural areas and small municipalities. In this way, through the Plan it promotes the re-adaptation of the most traditional economic activities towards the ecological transition and digital transformation, favouring both the improvement of the competitiveness of these sectors and a greater resilience in the territory. There are two main priorities for action in this area.

Firstly, aid for **Sustainable Rural Markets**, with specific investments in municipalities with less than 5,000 inhabitants to support the implementation, modernisation and promotion of commercial activity in rural areas. The line of aid for sustainable markets and sustainable markets in rural areas were first announced in September 2021 with funding of 5 million euros, with a total of 78 beneficiary Local Bodies distributed throughout the country (62 in sustainable markets and 16 in sustainable markets in rural areas in 8 Autonomous Communities), which are in the execution phase of their projects following the publication of the Resolution of concession. Likewise, in 2022, the new call for applications was published on 5 July, with a budget of 15 million euros.

Secondly, there are measures to **finance and call for training actions for the qualification and re-qualification of the active population** aimed at companies, organisations and entities, bringing non-formal training, but with reference to the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications, to rural population environments and/or those at risk of depopulation, opening up new learning and job creation opportunities. Specifically, more than 175 million euros were invested in 2021 and 2022 for actions promoted by the Autonomous Communities. In addition, a national call has been made for 24.5 million euros. This funding will enable the training of a total of 363,752 people out of the 700,000 expected by 2024.

Finally, **Axis 7** on **strengthening public services and decentralisation** includes measures aimed at strengthening public welfare coverage and promoting the **decentralisation of public infrastructures throughout**


















the country, favouring the tractor effect of public institutions and services in areas of demographic decline. With regard to the latter point, the first initiatives in this area have consisted of installing several public institutions and bodies in locations throughout the country, such as the **Social Security Data Processing Centre** in Soria; the **RENFE Digital Skills Centres** in Miranda de Ebro (Burgos), in Alcázar de San Juan (Ciudad Real), in Teruel, in Mérida and in Linares (Jaen), or the decentralisation of the **UNED Centres** in Ponferrada (Leon) and Alcañiz (Teruel). The decision made on this institutional decentralisation is a process in a period of consolidation that has been formalised through **Royal Decree 209/2022**, of 22 March, which establishes the procedure for determining the physical headquarters of the entities belonging to the state public institutional sector and which creates the Consultative Commission for the determination of the headquarters. Thus, within this rationalised election procedure, essential criteria are included, including territorial cohesion.






Axis 7 also includes measures aimed at improving the services provided by the National Government, which are implemented through the **Plan 40 measures for a National Government in the Territory at the service of citizens**, approved in December 2020, with a budget of 103 million euros. It is estimated that 36% of this programme has an impact on the demographic challenge, a percentage that corresponds to the weight of NSA services staff in the Government Delegations of those territories with the greatest risk of depopulation and the greatest difficulty in attracting and retaining staff at this level of public administration: Aragon (5%), Asturias (2%), Galicia (8%), Cantabria (2%), Castile and Leon (10%), Castile-La Mancha (5%), Extremadura (3%) and La Rioja (1%).





Among the actions carried out in 2021 were improvements in coordination, analysis of human resources needs, decentralisation of economic management, increase in electronic procedures, implementation of the Electronic Services Charter and development of pilot projects for offshoring. In addition, a project has been launched to bring the digital administration closer to citizens living in areas far from physical offices, with the aim of making the NSA a proactive administration. To this end, government delegations have been asked to provide information on the most popular services that are difficult to access in rural areas. Lastly, a protocol is expected to be signed with the State Post Office to define a framework for collaboration to alleviate depopulation and attract new residents to municipalities at risk of depopulation.



Finally, with regard to the set of advances linked to the measures envisaged in Axes 8, 9 and 10 of the 130 Action Plan, it is worth mentioning that they are included in the priorities for action of other country challenges committed to in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and are therefore included in this Progress Report.








In short, thanks to the implementation of the measures that have been mentioned in this country challenge 8, progress is being made in the development of opportunities for the rural environment, as well as in the empowerment of the communities in these areas to make these areas more resilient, sustainable and inclusive, thus enabling them to face the demographic challenge and the fight against depopulation in the national territory as a whole, thus strengthening social and territorial cohesion.

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
<p>By 2030, guarantee health care, especially Primary Care, as well as access to other rights such as education, care, social protection and other services in areas identified as difficult to cover due to their demographic and geographic characteristics, through optimal proximity ratios in terms of accessibility to health centres, education centres, judicial services, waste management services, sanitation and purification systems, water supply, electricity, banking services, cultural centres and sports centres, providing optimal coverage to 100% of the population.</p>	<p>Demographic Challenge Action Plan, which is aligned with the framework of the National Strategy for the Demographic Challenge and the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Development of actions in favour of improving equal opportunities in education in rural areas, articulated in the LOMLOE (art. 82).</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan of Measures to Address the Demographic Challenge (Government Delegate Commission for the Demographic Challenge on 16 March 2021).</p> <p>Territorial cooperation programmes (PCT) as a strategic line of action to promote, among others, the strengthening of rural schools.</p>	    
<p>Until 2030, take advantage of the opportunities of the ecological transition for the revitalisation of small municipalities and rural areas, through the development of a model that takes into account the specific characteristics of these areas and takes advantage of endogenous resources to generate quality employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Demographic Challenge Action Plan, which is aligned with the framework of the National Strategy for the Demographic Challenge and the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.</p> <p>Sustainable Markets Facility, which will earmark part of its budget specifically for rural areas.</p> <p>Actions to promote a just and beneficial ecological transition for rural areas.</p>	<p>Development of the Plan of Measures to Address the Demographic Challenge (Government Delegate Commission for the Demographic Challenge on 16 March 2021).</p> <p>Resolution of the Secretary of State for Trade of 30 June 2022, announcing the line of aid for the support of commercial activity in rural areas.</p> <p>Programme for the direct granting of aid for investments in unique local clean energy projects in municipalities with demographic challenges (DUS 5000 Programme) and the PREE 5000 Programme for the energy refurbishment of buildings in municipalities with demographic challenges.</p>	      
<p>By 2030, promote the digitisation of the rural environment as a mechanism to reduce the digital divide and generate sustainable socio-economic development opportunities, and accompany the ecological transition of the agri-food and forestry sector.</p>	<p>Digitalisation strategy for the agri-food and forestry sector and the rural environment.</p> <p>Plan for the Connectivity and Digital Infrastructures of society, the economy and the territories and the development and implementation of the 2nd Action Plan of the Digitalisation Strategy for the Rural Environment.</p>	<p>The Second Action Plan (2021-2023) was published on 10 December 2021.</p> <p>Component 15 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (CM 16 June 2021)</p> <p>Law 11/2022 of 28 June, General Telecommunications Law.</p>	    

Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
<p>Until 2030, support women's entrepreneurship and their presence in different economic sectors by promoting, among other measures, the increase of shared ownership of farms and their participation in fishing activities, in order to ensure equal opportunities and reverse the gender gap in rural areas.</p>	<p>Measures in favour of rural womens</p>	<p>Consolidation of the objectives of Law 35/2011 on shared ownership of agricultural holdings through direct aid to jointly owned agricultural holdings, approved by Royal Decree 819/2021 of 28 September.</p> <p>Annual subsidy to rural women's organisations at national level for the development of collaboration and representation activities before the General State Administration (Royal Decree 146/2019, of 15 March).</p> <p>Annual call for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Excellence Awards for innovation for rural women.</p> <p>Update of the Diagnosis of equality in rural areas.</p> <p>National Film Series and Rural Women.</p> <p>CULTIVA programme of training placements on model farms.</p>	    

<p>Until 2030, favour youth entrepreneurship, promoting digital training, vocational training adapted to the opportunities of the territory, and favouring programmes such as Erasmus Rural, as mechanisms to help generate economic and employment opportunities in rural areas for young people.</p>	<p>Development of actions in favour of improving equal opportunities in education in rural areas, articulated in the LOMLOE (art. 82).</p>	<p>Resolution of 29 March 2022 of the General Secretariat for Vocational Training, which calls for grants to local territorial entities and public entities for the creation of open, flexible and distance training classrooms using information technologies. Mentor Classrooms Programme.</p> <p>Resolution of 9 December 2021, of the Undersecretary's Office, publishing the Agreement between the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, the Ministry of Universities and CRUE Spanish Universities, for the development and coordination of the Rural Campus Programme for university internships in rural areas.</p>	   
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<p>By 2030, to promote sustainable and cultural tourism as a catalyst for economic activity in rural areas and an element of territorial cohesion, through the enhancement of heritage resources in the territory.</p>	<p>To turn the rural environment into an area of opportunities, through the economic revitalisation of the territory and the generation of activity and employment, such as sustainable tourism and the promotion of culture.</p>	<p>Plan for the modernisation and competitiveness of the tourism sector (PMCT) is component 14 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (CM of 16 June 2021).</p>	    
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Targets	Priorities for action	Measures	ODS
<p>Until 2025, promote Smart Territories/Smart Cities initiatives with the aim of facilitating the smart delivery of public services, particularly in rural areas, taking advantage of the Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS 3).</p>	<p>Promoting access to mobility in rural areas through local public transport services.</p>	<p>In February 2022, the Rural Mobility Table was launched in the framework of the Safe, Sustainable and Connected Mobility Strategy 2030 (CM of 10 December 2021).</p>	    
<p>By 2025, facilitate the development of entrepreneurship initiatives through the development of a network of territorial innovation centres or interconnected rural Hubs, to generate new economic opportunities and quality employment.</p>	<p>Innovation in the territory, promoting the collective development of territorial intelligence, identifying local talent and launching actions that generate new economic activities.</p>	<p>Order TED/1358/2021, of 1 December, establishing the regulatory bases for the granting of subsidies for the financing of innovative projects for territorial transformation and the fight against depopulation.</p> <p>Network of Centres for Business Networking, Cooperation and Teleworking - CONECT Network in the framework of Axis 3 of the Plan of 130 Measures to face the Demographic Challenge (8 October 2021).</p>	 

CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND AUTONOMOUS CITIES

ANDALUSIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Regulation and subsidies for the promotion of urban and rural regeneration and renewal.
- Map of Opportunities for Entrepreneurship in rural areas of Andalusia linked to innovation, digital transformation and circular economy.
- Strengthening of collaboration networks between entrepreneurs and public and private entities for projects in rural areas.
- Law on the Statute of Rural and Marine Women of Andalusia (*).
- 2nd Plan for Equal Opportunities between women and men in agriculture, fishing and environmental activity in Andalusia Horizon 2027. (*)
- Andalucía Rural Connection Programme.



(*) Measure in progress

The Government of Andalusia has developed a wide range of public policies related to the accelerating policy, highlighting those that promote entrepreneurial activities in order to fix population by offering opportunities for access to the labour market from the rural environment and those that promote digitalisation and transport in rural areas.

Firstly, it is important to highlight the strengthening of collaboration networks between entrepreneurs and public and private entities for projects in rural areas. In this sense, Andalucía Emprende has deployed a whole network of entrepreneurship centres that cover the Andalusian territory and bring to rural areas all the instruments, aid and support services for entrepreneurship that are available to them to make their business projects a reality, with the knowledge and experience of the entire Andalucía Emprende network and mentors, entrepreneurs and references that help them; collaborating with the Andalusian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FAMP), the Union of Self-Employed Workers and Professionals (UPTA) and at a business level with private companies in different initiatives that focus on the promotion of entrepreneurship in women and in rural areas.

Among the different actions carried out to contribute to the population fixation in rural areas, it is worth highlighting the work of the Andalucía Emprende Foundation in structuring the territory, which in 2021 participated in the creation of 1,117 companies that generated 1,719 direct jobs in municipalities in rural areas.

Linked to this axis are the actions related to the improvement of connectivity in the region, especially in rural areas. The Strategy for the Economic Transformation of Andalusia (ETEA) Horizon 2027, approved in May 2022, contemplates as an objective the promotion of digital connectivity as a priority, among others, in rural areas and areas of low population density through actions such as: favouring the extension of very high-speed broadband and 5G coverage in rural areas and areas of low population density, thus boosting territorial cohesion and its digital transformation. It also advises local entities on projects for the deployment of next-generation broadband networks and the adoption of Smart Territory strategies.

These actions are complemented by the Andalucía Rural Connection Programme, which works to promote transport in areas with low demand for public transport, making it unfeasible for public transport concessionary companies to provide services. For this reason, the Directorate General of Mobility promotes the Andalucía Rural Connection Programme, a modern, dynamic, sustainable solution for interurban transport connections to respond to the demand in areas with low traffic that uses private vehicles for their journeys (taxi, etc.) and offers the following advantages: more competitive costs per kilometre than by bus, fuel savings compared to the bus which leads to a lower environmental impact, better commercial speed on journeys which means a shorter journey time, higher level of comfort. In addition, it offers support to the occasional transport sector in rural areas with low demand for mobility, rationalising transport and bringing supply closer to demand.

ARAGON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Consolidation of basic services in rural areas, and creation of sustainable growth and employment, attracting investment through partnerships and sector policies.
- Establishment of differentiated taxation in the areas of the territory affected by depopulation.
- Measures to enable older people to remain in their environment, to promote their dignity and autonomy.
- Solutions for Cuencas Mineras in line with the Opinion of the Special Study Commission on criteria for energy transition in Aragon and a strategy for alternative socio-economic development.

The Government of Aragon has approved the draft Law for the Revitalisation of the Rural Environment, a comprehensive and pioneering legal framework to combat depopulation in Aragon. It will be the legal framework that will bring together all the actions undertaken to revitalise the least populated areas. Among other measures, the legislation provides for differentiated taxation for the most affected areas of Aragon and incorporates the so-called Rural Guarantee Mechanism as a guiding principle in the Autonomous Community. For the first time, a deduction of 600 euros is included in the personal income tax quota for residents of settlements at extreme risk of depopulation.

The law regulates, protects and strengthens the ways of acting in rural areas by establishing formulas for cooperation and coordination and, at the same time, promotes initiatives that promote sustainable and effective rural development. The aim is to generate a development that manages to increase the presence of production and business centres, commercial and service activities and thus consolidate and increase the population in these demographically diminished territories, as well as wealth and employment. The Law for the Revitalisation of the Rural Environment stands out for its cross-cutting nature, with the participation of all the departments of the Government of Aragon and a special treatment of aspects related to women, young people and the social sphere in general, the implementation of technological advances, environmental aspects and the observation of community guidelines and global documents such as Agenda 2030.

Among the new features, mention should be made of the Rural Guarantee Mechanism, designed to ensure that the regional administration promotes, encourages and systematically reviews all sector and socio-economic development policies by observing the perspective of demographic change. This guiding principle will also apply to subsidies and their regulatory bases, which must incorporate positive discrimination cri-

teria to promote actions to revitalise, develop and combat depopulation in rural areas, provided that the measures are compatible with the object and purpose of the aid. Furthermore, administrative decentralisation is also envisaged as an instrument for revitalising rural areas.

The delimitation and zoning of Aragonese municipalities and settlements will be established by law, which will make it possible to visualise the territorial and rural reality of all the settlements in Zaragoza, Huesca and Teruel. A Territorial Management Programme will also be drawn up for the economic revitalisation of the rural environment, by homogeneous and regionalised blocks. Settlements are understood to be all the population centres that make up the Aragonese municipalities.

In terms of entrepreneurial culture, the law envisages the implementation, through the Aragonese Development Institute, of an online platform for the provision of information services and comprehensive advice on the initiatives that arise. An Aragonese Network of Entrepreneurship Centres (ARCE Network) is also foreseen as an instrument to coordinate business incubators, co-working or incubators; a Generational Relay Programme for the transmission and stability of intergenerational businesses, or the creation of a Rural Digital Academy for training in rural areas.

The greatest novelty lies in the differentiated taxation implemented in two types of areas based on the classification of settlements established in Article 28: rural settlements with a high risk of depopulation and settlements at extreme risk, provided they have a synthetic index of territorial development (ISDT) of less than 100. The ISDT is a variable that numerically expresses the territorial development of the settlements and municipalities of Aragon in relation to an average value established at 100 points. These two categories cover 1,026 of the 1,553 settlements in Aragon (66%), where 70,700 Aragonese (5% of the total population) live. In both areas, the law provides for tax rebates on personal income tax in the regional quota in order to contribute to the revitalisation of the rural economy and the fixation of the population in the rural areas of the Community. In addition, the inhabitants of areas at extreme risk of depopulation - and, once again, with a low ISDT, less than 100 - will have an additional benefit, as they will be able to deduct 600 euros per year from the full amount of their regional income tax.

CANARY ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Strategic Care Plan.
- Irrigation Plan.
- Food Sovereignty Plan.



In the area of promoting a care system from a gender perspective, the Government of the Canary Islands has developed the Canarias Te Cuida 2021-2027 Plan, which is based on four fundamental pillars: The Caring Home, The Home Outside the Home, Caring Institutions and Caring Territories. The Plan seeks to develop care centred on people's autonomy, under the premise of a co-responsible work-life balance and with the construction of a society based on the principles of intergenerational solidarity, gender equality and universality as a pillar. It will be developed with 218 million euros from European funds.

As part of the Irrigation Plan, work is currently continuing on the study of water needs by type of crop and area on each island, with the aim of capturing it in a GIS layer. This is based on data from the agro-climatic stations and the crop map.

Existing infrastructures are being evaluated and there is ongoing consultation with irrigation communities and public administrations to assess these needs, using the island hydrological plans as a reference document.

At the same time, different projects are being carried out and programmed on the islands, which respond to the previously established needs, with a series of projects whose execution is expected to last 5 years (2021-2026), and whose general objective is to improve the efficiency of irrigation, allowing only the neces-

sary water to be collected, regulated and distributed, saving on this resource and on the associated energy expenditure before the end of 2026.

With regard to the Strategy for Food Sovereignty in the Canary Islands, an initial participatory diagnosis of the regional agri-food system has been carried out based on the analysis of statistical information collected by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Canary Islands Statistics Institute, the National Statistics Institute, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and sector meetings have been held with a base document for an agri-food transition strategy through two meetings: the first phase of meetings aimed at analysis and the second phase of meetings aimed at action planning. This has made it possible to establish a proposal for actions that will enable a first draft of the Strategy to be drawn up, which will also be worked on by a panel of experts, continuing over the coming months with the necessary procedures for its final approval in 2022.

CANTABRIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Facilitate residence in municipalities at risk of depopulation and the development of economic activities in them by means of tax rebates in the autonomous community's personal income tax bracket.
- Information and comprehensive care services accessible in rural areas and specific actions (reduction of the digital divide, reduction of gender violence, campaigns to raise awareness and promote women in rural areas, aid to promote the birth rate, etc.) aimed at women in rural areas.
- Citizen participation in rural environments and, specifically, with older women for the development of new public policies (*).
- Regional Strategy against the Demographic Challenge.
- Positive discrimination measures in favour of economic activity and employment in rural areas (*).
- Actions and aid in support of the primary sector.
- Ensuring mobility and connectivity especially in municipalities at risk of depopulation.
- Sustainable, green, nature and rural tourism policy and Tourism Quality Plan.

(*) Measure in progress.

The Cantabrian government's action is based on the development of the Strategy against the Demographic Challenge and the Fight against Rural Depopulation 2021-2027. Specific measures amount to 70 and involve a budget investment of 182.1 million euros. Its objective, in line with the National Strategy against the Demographic Challenge, is to achieve equal opportunities and the free exercise of citizens' rights throughout the territory in order to tackle the threat of depopulation of rural areas, which affects 56 Cantabrian municipalities. Among the measures promoted in the period under analysis, the Rural Housing Programme, the provision of school places in rural areas with low population density and keeping village schools open to maintain the population, the development of internet and broadband through the Connect Programme, the improvement of internet communications and the Programme for digital training in rural areas and the digitalisation of road transport, the improvement of communications in medical offices, with the promotion of telemedicine and telehealth, among others, should be highlighted.

In the implementation of the Strategy, notable features include the work carried out by the Depopulation Advisory Council, the body in charge of designing, coordinating and developing the measures aimed at tackling depopulation in Cantabria.

The region already has a map delimiting the municipalities at risk of depopulation, and work is well underway to have a draft bill on Cantabria's response to the demographic challenge and the fight against depopulation before the end of the current legislature.

Actions are being promoted to support the production sectors in rural areas, especially in the agri-food sector, aimed at promoting investment and development of the industrial agri-food sector in Cantabria and the creation of new businesses or production activities. Likewise, two Tourism Sustainability Plans are in execution, in ordinary calls, for the Region of Liébana-Peñarrubia and for the Paruria Region of Alto Asón, and in an extraordinary call of 2021, the Saja Nansa rural development association in the rural category.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Castile-La Mancha Agenda 2030 Strategy.
- Pact against depopulation in Castile-La Mancha.
- Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.
- Law 2/2021, of 7 May, on economic, social and tax measures to combat depopulation and for the development of the rural environment in Castile-La Mancha.
- 2nd Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2019-2024 (Axis 7. Equal opportunities in rural areas).
- Regional strategy against depopulation 2021-2031.



The Government of Castile-La Mancha has developed a wide range of policies and regulations to combat the demographic challenge in the region. Among the measures promoted, it is worth highlighting the Castile-La Mancha Pact against Depopulation with 16 points to combat ageing and territorial depopulation, which was signed with the region's social agents. The Pact addresses the need to draw up a regional strategy for the demographic challenge. A strategy that needs to be collaborative, with the aim of halting depopulation and favouring the reverse dynamics of population fixation and attracting new settlers. The main lines of action focus on sustainable development, the promotion of economic activities, the guarantee of infrastructures and basic public services in rural areas, favouring equal opportunities and improving taxation and financing. Almost two years later, this strategy has been implemented.

Consequently, the Regional Strategy against Depopulation in Castile-La Mancha, approved by the Agreement of 14/12/2021 of the Governing Council, is the public policy instrument of reference. It has more than 200 measures to be developed in four areas of action: the guarantee of access to public services in social, educational and health matters; the promotion of economic activity and entrepreneurship; territorial cohesion; and equal opportunities with the aim of maintaining the population in rural areas. Its general objective is that those people who want to stay and live in their village can do so and do so with guarantees, with opportunities and find a dignified life, with employment and quality public services; improving the quality of life of those who have decided to live in rural areas, our elderly, whom we cannot forget; favouring equality between all people regardless of where they live, and also equality between women and men because it is essential to keep women in rural areas if we believe that rural areas are to have a future. It will be in force for ten years, with reviews every four years, to analyse the results of the actions that are carried out. For this year, it is complemented by a budget of 449 million euros for its development.

In addition, the Government of Castile-La Mancha has passed the Law on Economic, Social and Tax Measures to Combat Depopulation and Rural Development in the region, a pioneering law in the country, which sets out the path in the fight to halt demographic loss. The Law is a participatory, pioneering and cross-cutting regulation, and includes tax policy to curb depopulation. Thus, in the section of personal income tax ceded to the autonomous communities, a tax relief of up to 25 percent of the autonomous community tax is proposed for people who actually live in rural areas, as well as a tax relief of up to 15 percent for the purchase or renovation of a home for those who live or wish to live in rural areas. In addition, the text includes incentives of up to 40 percent for companies that want to set up in areas affected by depopulation and a commitment to demand-sensitive transport. It provides for a 500-euro tax relief on the full amount of the regional section of personal income tax for moving to a sparsely populated area for work purposes, which applies in the year of the move and the following year, amounting to a total of 1,000 euros. This regulation, structured in seven titles and 77 articles, guarantees access to public services and equal opportunities for the inhabitants of rural areas, as well as promoting the economic and social development of our rural areas.

in order to achieve social and territorial cohesion, and aims to lay the foundations for citizens to be able to decide where to live.

Finally, with regard to equal opportunities in rural areas, the need has been detected to adapt the protection and care measures for women survivors of male violence to the specific circumstances of rural areas, so that they have full access to these rights, and progress continues to be made in the implementation of the Statute for Rural Women, both in terms of training in the Regional Agricultural Offices (OCAS) and with specific campaigns to disseminate the regulatory text.

CASTILE AND LEON



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Incorporation of the demographic perspective in the design and development of all public policies.
- Regional Strategy for Demographic Stimulation (*).
- Recruitment of Equal Opportunities and Rural Development Agents.
- More efficient management of public services. Subsidies and transfers to local entities to reactivate the economy (*).

(*) Measure in progress

A line of subsidies (€10m, extendable) has been launched for the improvement, creation or extension of industrial land by local entities.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Preparation of the Catalan Rural Agenda.
- Development of the Strategic Food Plan for Catalonia (PEAC) 2021-2026.
- Promotion of the Plan for the Promotion of Housing in the rural world.
- Launch of "El Planter", a new virtual office dedicated to young people entering farming.
- Implementation of the Rural and Maritime Women's Programme 2016-2020.

The Rural Agenda of Catalonia was approved on 24 May 2022 and will be deployed through an action plan to be approved in the coming months. It identifies the needs and challenges of the rural territory in order to guarantee its living conditions and development. The drafting of the Agenda is an initiative of the Interdepartmental Commission on Rural Depopulation. It was drafted by a commission formed by the Association of Rural Initiatives of Catalonia (ARCA), the Catalan Association of Municipalities (ACM), the Association of Microvillages of Catalonia and the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (CADS), and was piloted by a Steering Committee made up of more than 35 organisations representing the territory. The participatory process promoted to draw up the Rural Agenda made it possible to gather the opinions of more than 1,200 people and draw up a document with 892 actions (of which 277 are priorities and 59 are strategic), organised around 7 major challenges: people, wellbeing and the demographic challenge; ecological transition; connected territory; agri-food system; forest management; innovation; forest management; innovation and social and economic stimulation, and governance.

On the other hand, among the different actions promoted to develop the Strategic Plan for Food, a Guide of Good Practices for gender equality in the agri-food industry has been published. Although it is pending publication, a guide has also been drawn up to accompany companies in the agri-food industry in integrating the SDGs into their business activity.

In relation to the promotion of housing in the rural setting, in June 2022 the new programme for the rehabilitation of empty housing in rural areas was presented, which aims to promote forestation in rural and mountainous areas of Catalonia, increasing the financial endowment with respect to previous calls and making the uses to which the housing can be put more flexible, including other forms of tenure such as sharecropping, temporary ownership and conventional ownership, with the aim of expanding the possibilities of mobilising housing. The programme has a budget of 5 million euros, 3 million of which are provided by the Department of the Vice-Presidency and Digital Policies and Territory and 2 million by the Housing Agency of Catalonia, attached to the Department of Social Rights. To access the programme, the empty residential buildings, public or private, must be located in municipalities with less than 1,000 inhabitants anywhere in Catalonia or in municipalities with less than 3,500 inhabitants in the following mountain regions: Alta Ribagorça, Alt Urgell, Berguedà, Cerdanya, Garrotxa, Pallars Jussà, Pallars Sobirà, Ripollès, Solsonès and Val d'Aran. In total there are 515 municipalities that could benefit from this call.

Finally, in March 2022, the government announced the launch of a pilot test of the project to strengthen the roots of the population and guarantee territorial equity in small municipalities and rural areas of Catalonia, which aims to work towards equal opportunities, respond to the needs of the population in these areas and attract new residents. The pilot test will be carried out in 7 municipalities in Les Garrigues Altes (Les Garrigues region, Lleida), with a population of 2,256 people, which represents a population loss of 24.1% in the last 20 years. The actions consist, among others, of (1) prioritising the deployment of fibre (amounting to 2.3 million euros), (2) the refurbishment of buildings for the installation of housing or equipment (amounting to 315,000 euros) and (3) the review of the possibilities and priorities of public transport, as well as (4) the preparation of a joint POUM for the 7 municipalities.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA-VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- ALCEM-NOS social agreement.
- Digitaliza Telemwork (aid to promote teleworking).
- Valencian Agency for the Protection of the Territory (AVPT).
- New concession map for public road passenger transport services.

In relation to the *Alcem-Nos* Social Agreement, the first evaluation carried out at the end of 2021 gave the following results: 77% of the 357 proposed actions are under implementation and a total of 41 actions have already been finalised, having achieved their expected objectives. However, 12% of the proposed actions are currently awaiting start-up.

The degree of execution of the proposed actions has been high in the four sector roundtables in which the work carried out for the implementation of the Social Agreement was organised, with more than 80% of the actions proposed in each roundtable in a state of execution or finalised. In this regard, the Green Policies roundtable stands out, where 29% of the actions have already been implemented, while in the Public Policies and Social Recovery roundtables 94% and 92% of the proposed actions are currently being implemented.

With regard to the analysis of the budgets allocated to the implementation of the proposed actions, the Social Agreement has mobilised approximately 4,524 million euros, mainly concentrated in the Public Policies Roundtable (41%) and the Social Recovery Roundtable (39%).

Finally, the analysis by strategic lines also shows a high degree of implementation of the actions proposed in the *Alcem-Nos* Social Agreement. 64 of the 90 strategic lines show that all the actions are being imple-



mented or have been completed, while only 4 of the strategic lines have less than half of their actions implemented or completed. Within the Sector Committees, the Social Recovery and Public Policies Committees stand out, with more than 90% of their strategic lines maintaining all the actions in execution or finalised.

It is also reported that work has begun on a second evaluation of the degree of compliance with the *Al-cem-Nos* agreement and its effects from a quantitative point of view and fundamentally on the qualitative and social improvement aspects that it has entailed; it is hoped that in the last quarter of 2022 we will be able to offer concrete results.

With regard to the Digitaliza Programme, subsidies have been granted to finance Digitalisation projects in SMEs (DIGITALIZA-CV) with 8 million euros.

On the other hand, the Valencian Agency for the Protection of the Territory (AVPT), constituted in August 2021, aims to exercise the administrative powers of urban planning discipline over serious or very serious infractions on undeveloped land in the municipalities that adhere to it, making it the Agency that initiates the proceedings for the restoration of urban planning legality and penalties in these cases. As of June 2022, some 250 municipalities in the Valencian Community have already joined the Agency.

Finally, a new public road passenger transport service concession map has been developed, and since November 2021 the first public road passenger transport service concession has been in service: CV-002. Vinaròs-Benicarló-Peñíscola.

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- OSOA Integral Rural Development Programme (*).
- Gaztenek Plan for the incorporation and maintenance of young people in the agricultural sector (*).
- Organic Farming Plan 2020-2023.
- Integral Plan of Attention to Temporary Work 2021-2024.
- Rural Development Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy (*).
- Operational Plan for the European Maritime Fisheries Fund for the Basque Country (FEMP 2021-2027).

(*): In preparation.

The Basque Government considers rural development and the incorporation of young people into the rural and agricultural sector to be a necessity for its subsistence and has therefore developed specific policies focused on these objectives.

Among others, the Gaztenek Plan has been launched with the aim of facilitating the incorporation of suitably trained young people into the agricultural sector and thus guaranteeing generational replacement. In line with this Plan, we would highlight the OSOA programme, a fundamental instrument for rural development in our Autonomous Community, in which both the Basque Government and the Provincial Councils of Alava, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa participate, co-financing the programme together with the EAFRD European Fund. Within the framework of the OSOA, these four institutions work together to tackle the main challenges facing the primary sector and the rural environment in the Basque Country, such as: generational replacement, modernisation of the primary sector, development of ideas for innovation and competitiveness, training in the agricultural field, support for the agri-food industry, reinforcement of the multi-channel strategy, enhancement of the added value of quality labels, protection of the natural landscape and sustainability of forests, provision of basic services in rural areas and diversification and job creation in rural areas.

On the other hand, and with the support of different agents in the sector, the Plan for the Promotion of Organic Production in the Basque Country is being developed with the aim of increasing organic production, developing the processing and marketing chain and strengthening the demand for local organic produce. Until now, organic production in the Basque Country has experienced limited development in comparison with other regions in Europe. Understanding society's growing interest in the production and consumption of organic products and the opportunity for sustainable economic growth that this would represent for our country, the Basque Government has developed the Plan for the Promotion of Organic Production 2020-2023.

ArgazkiPAC has also been launched with the aim of facilitating the exchange of information between CAP applicants in the framework of Common Agricultural Policy aid.

In addition, the Operational Plan for the European Maritime Fisheries Fund for the Basque Country (FEMP 2021-2027) and the Comprehensive Plan for Temporary Work 2021-2024 are currently being drawn up.

EXTREMADURA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Support for the development of smart villages.
- Professionalisation of rural inhabitants in the services they can provide to the hunting and fishing sector.
- Digitalisation of tourist destinations.
- Innovation in sustainable and responsible tourism products.
- Provision of basic and advanced telecare devices.



In Extremadura, priority has been given to the implementation of three Tourism Sustainability Plans in Destinations, two in the province of Caceres and one in the province of Badajoz. These plans are implemented through agreements between the Secretary of State for Tourism, the Department of Culture, Tourism and Sports of the Regional Government of Extremadura and the corresponding local authority and are co-financed by the three administrations. They have a beneficial tourist impact on a total of 61,496 inhabitants divided into 64 municipalities.

The regional government has also promoted aid for the development of smart cities. This is an aid programme to promote the implementation of intelligent digital services in the field of "smart cities", but aimed at smaller localities. In the first call for applications, grants were awarded to 124 local entities for an amount of 2,198,482.14 euros, while the second call for applications was published in May 2022 and has a budget of 4 million euros. With respect to the first call for proposals, the scope of eligible services has been expanded. Thus, technological solutions in the following areas are now eligible:

1. Smart Tourism Destinations and Cultural Heritage.
2. Smart mobility.
3. Quality of life and wellbeing.
4. Smart administration and citizen participation.
5. Energy efficiency.
6. Urban environment, environmental monitoring systems and circular economy.

The two calls for proposals, with a total budget of 6.5 million euros, are expected to grant aid to more than 250 municipalities with less than 20,000 inhabitants.

GALICIA



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Programme of Rural Development 2014-2020 of Galicia.
- Creation of “nest houses”: childcare resources for children 0-3 in municipalities with less than 5,000 inhabitants.
- Promotion of socio-economic stimulation processes in rural areas and small towns.
- Programme for the articulation of the urban population for the settlement of rural areas that generate activity and employment in the territory.

The Government of Galicia has set up the Land Bank, an instrument for the revitalisation of the rural environment which regulates the use of plots of land with an agricultural vocation, with the dual aim of preventing their abandonment and making them available to all those who need land for agriculture, livestock, forestry, nature conservation, heritage or other uses of social interest.

Within the objective of revitalising the rural environment, it has also created the Model Villages Programme, a type of agricultural land recovery instrument that aims to bring into production, in a sustainable manner, abandoned land of high productive capacity surrounding population centres, thus contributing to the creation of agricultural and livestock activity and to the reduction of the risk of fires. It is a completely voluntary instrument, the plots are leased to the owners through the Land Bank, so that they retain their ownership, special attention is paid to the maintenance, conservation and recovery of agricultural infrastructures and it is a respectful and sustainable action, fundamentally linked to traditional and preferably ecological production.

Related to this challenge of revitalising the rural environment, it is worth highlighting the proportion of forest area with sustainable management instruments in force, which in Galicia has increased by 18% since 2015.

On the other hand, the proportion of female farm owners, with respect to the total number of female workers in agriculture in Galicia is 59.0%. The proportion of female farm owners in relation to the total number of farm owners is 54.8% in Galicia. The proportion of women farm owners as a proportion of the total number of farm owners is 56.6% and the proportion of women farm owners as a proportion of the total number of farm owners is 45.8%.

Finally, as a recent instrument that seeks social and territorial cohesion beyond the Galician territory itself, which values the natural and cultural heritage of Galicia, is the Master and Strategic Plan of the Way of St. James (2015-2021) whose objective is to protect and preserve the Jacobean Route, respond to the needs of the pilgrim of the 21st century, promote social cohesion and territorial balance and continue to constitute the universal identity of Galicia and Europe.

ILLES BALEARS - BALEARIC ISLANDS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- 3rd Aid Plan for the Primary Sector.
- Restructuring Plan for the nut sector (increase in surface area and value of production).
- Creation of the Local Product Round Table to encourage its marketing, promotion and improve its positioning in the food chain.
- Law 3/2019 of 31 January 2019 on agriculture.
- "Reversible" campaign: co-responsibility to move towards real equality in the primary sector.
- Livestock Strategic Plan 2020-2023.
- Forestry Plan of the Balearic Islands 2015-2035.



The Balearic regional government has supported the rural environment of the Balearic Islands with a budget of 185 million euros in this legislature, with the year 2020 being the year that had the most funds with 64 million euros.

These funds have enabled the development of the Primary Sector Aid Plan with an increase of 3 million euros for the creation of young farmers' companies. The Balearic Islands are the fourth autonomous community in Spain with the largest area of usable agricultural land devoted to organic farming (16.4%), continuing its upward growth trend with the goal of reaching 25% by 2030. There has also been an increase in the number of shops selling organic products. 23.3% of organic farm owners are young people.

An Irrigation Plan has been drawn up using reclaimed water on all the islands to stop exploiting aquifers and improve production in the sector. The Balearic Islands are the first territory in Spain to make it compulsory by law for tourist establishments to offer a minimum of local produce (estimated impact of around 20 million euros). Recognition of insularity in the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been achieved, which will mean compensation for additional costs. The foundations have been prepared to promote the first Agricultural Park in the Balearic Islands.

In relation to the Forestry Plan, it allows for integration both in agricultural policy and the sustainable development of the rural environment, as well as in environmental protection policy and land-use planning, and in other sector policies involved in forestry areas and resources on the island, especially in relation to industry and energy, education and tourism.

LA RIOJA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Actions to eliminate gender gaps arising from the demographic challenge.
- "Travelling suitcases" for equality" programme designed to promote a gender perspective aimed at various social agents in the region, especially in rural areas.



The Autonomous Community of La Rioja has promoted laws on tax and administrative measures that are approved annually, establishing autonomous deductions that promote benefits to revitalise the rural environment. Specifically, Law 10/2017, of 27 October, which consolidates the legal provisions of the Autonomous Community of La Rioja in terms of its own taxes and assigned taxes establishes the following deductions in personal income tax (data referring to 2020):

1. Deduction for the acquisition/rehabilitation of second homes in rural areas (Transitory Provision 1c) Law 10/2017): a tax saving of 112,107 euros was obtained and 467 beneficiaries.
2. Deduction for the acquisition, construction or refurbishment of primary residence in small municipalities as of 01/01/2017 (Art. 32.2 Law 10/2017): a tax saving of 46,605 euros was obtained and there were 201 beneficiaries.
3. Deduction for nursery school expenses for childcare for children aged 0 to 3 years old for taxpayers with habitual residence in small municipalities (Art. 32.3 Law 10/2017): a saving of 1,493 euros was obtained and there were 17 beneficiaries.
4. Deduction for each child from 0 to 3 years of age of taxpayers residing or moving to small municipalities (Art. 32.5 Law 10/2017): a tax saving of €60,450 was obtained and there were 102 beneficiaries.
5. Deduction for each child from 0 to 3 years of age attending nursery schools in any municipality in La Rioja (Art. 32.6 Law 10/2017): a tax saving of 88,851 euros was obtained and there were 828 beneficiaries.

NAFARROA-COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE



INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- COMUNAL, Social Innovation for the Common Good of Navarre, for the implementation of three ecosystems of entrepreneurship and social innovation.
- Maximise the effect of digitalisation and teleworking as a mechanism to attract and fix the population in rural areas.

The Government of the Autonomous Community of Navarre is developing the COMUNAL programme, which is a network of entrepreneurship and social innovation ecosystems in rural areas of Navarre. It aims to promote a balanced socio-economic development of the territory as a whole. The ecosystems of the region of Sangüesa, Allo Social Services Area, Aragon Valley and Falces generate, through participatory actions, a community of people linked to the territory, creators of projects capable of responding to the challenges of the area.

Between June 2021 and June 2022, the first cycle of the Comunal project was monitored, thus overcoming the pilot phase and starting the second cycle of the programme with the incorporation of a new area of action, El Valle del Aragón. In June 2021, the inaugurations of the respective co-working spaces were held in a public event where the project prototypes with proposed solutions worked on during the previous months and the projects incubated after the first edition of the competition were presented. These practices demonstrate themes of interest that define the character of each ecosystem, and set a precedent for future practices.

During the summer months, some of the incubated projects adopted different legal forms, and together with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Navarre, they prepared the October event "Demo Day", to strengthen links with the social entrepreneurial fabric of the Community. In the same month, the second cycle of the programme began with a new edition of the Comunal Starter competition, in which five projects were awarded prizes and incubated over the coming months.

The continuity and scaling up of the four ecosystems were recently approved, starting from a very positive context, with more than 200 people who have participated in the programme, nine project prototypes defined, twelve entrepreneurship and social innovation projects incubated, of which six have been set up. All of them have become benchmarks that show in a practical way, in line with the Country 8 Challenge, that social innovation is an effective tool when proposing alternatives to address social challenges such as depopulation, identifying talent and local opportunities to generate new economic activities with a tractor effect and impact on the territory.

Aware that recent social changes mean that territories must immediately address major challenges to ensure the transition towards the digitalisation of society, the Navarra Digital Strategy 2030 has been approved with the aim of establishing the bases that will guide the region of Navarra through a process of digital immersion. It addresses four axes (people, digital government, companies and infrastructures).

Within this framework, and in relation to the people axis, the Digital Inclusion and Empowerment Plan has been approved to ensure the transition of citizens towards this new digital society by reducing the digital divide in the Autonomous Community of Navarre, acting in two areas. Firstly, through the digital inclusion of citizens, ensuring access to the Internet and ICTs, as well as ensuring that all citizens are digitally literate, understood as minimum digital skills. This digital inclusion starts as an essential process to subsequently acquire, through digital training, the necessary skills to be competent in the use of the Internet, ICTs and other technologies on the road to full digital citizenship. Among the groups at risk of digital exclusion, the rural population has been identified, among other elements, due to limited access to the Internet.

Likewise, the infrastructures axis of the Digital Strategy for Navarre addresses the need to provide the region and the public administration itself with the key infrastructures that, as an enabling element of this entire digital transformation process, will make it possible to overcome the challenges associated with connectivity, cybersecurity, taking advantage of opportunities linked to 5G and supercomputing, boosting all economic sectors to achieve a fully digital Navarre and consolidate it as a smart territory. To this end, work is being carried out along the following lines:

1. Boosting the digitisation of rural areas.
2. Initiatives for territorial knowledge and climate transition based on the use of artificial intelligence and big data.
3. Information platform using advanced digital technologies for the optimisation of agriculture, livestock, fire prevention and wildlife control.
4. Promotion of information and communication tools in real time with groups and people related to the rural environment and the environment.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Eliminate the urban-rural digital gap by ensuring full coverage of broadband services.
- Integration of rural municipalities into the Transport Consortium.
- Rural Communication Plan.
- Support initiatives that develop R&D+i projects in the rural environment.
- Strengthen the backbone of the public services system as a central element of territorial cohesion.
- Regional Law on Sustainable Rural Development.
- Generational replacement plan including youth employment programmes in rural areas, scholarships for work experience in companies and youth housing plans.
- Agri-Food Sector Strategy.
- Tax incentives to combat depopulation and start up business projects in rural areas
- Drafting of the Asturias Urban and Rural Agenda, AURA.



The Government of the Principality of Asturias has articulated its actions within the framework of the accelerating policy 8 through the Demographic Plan of the Principality of Asturias 2017-2027, which constitutes a first-rate instrument for implementing a series of measures aimed at combating the demographic decline suffered by Asturias.

The Demographic Plan establishes aid to promote generational change and the start-up of new farms in rural areas and provides for the creation of a bank of farms to encourage the continuity of activity in rural areas and generational change, favouring access to housing, including the rehabilitation, improvement and adaptation of housing stock to meet the needs of citizens, the mobilisation of empty housing and the universalisation of public housing development, especially for the young population.

Aid has also been established to promote and diversify economic activity in rural areas with Leader projects, collaborating with rural development groups, with subsidies aimed at modernising farms, supporting agri-

food micro-SMEs, productive diversification and agro-forestry improvements, extending the provision of services to local bodies and granting aid to young people for their incorporation into rural economic activity. Aid has also been introduced to promote the birth rate.

Another strategic instrument of the Asturian government is the Agri-food Development Strategy, which is currently being drawn up and aims to increase the regional GDP linked to the primary and agri-food sector, as well as generating employment. It is committed to improving competitiveness, training, promotion, business professionalisation, innovation, modernisation and marketing, strengthening the values of the quality brand *Alimentos del Paraíso*, designations of origin and protected geographical indications.

In the tax area, new benefits have been implemented that seek to define a tax policy aimed at areas at risk of depopulation. The scope of the deduction for transport expenses in these areas has been extended to include a deduction percentage of 10% of the expenses incurred as a result of the travel of children under 25 years of age dependent on the family unit who are studying away from their place of residence. The deduction for the acquisition or renovation of housing in these areas has been improved by extending its application to all types of taxpayers. Lastly, a new reduced rate has been created for the Transfer Tax and Stamp Duty applicable to the purchase of primary residences in rural areas at risk of depopulation. The aim is to fix the population in this type of territory.

In order to contribute to reducing the digital divide between urban and rural areas, the Universalisation of Digital Infrastructures for Cohesion (Unico) programme aims to complete the broadband deployment plans that we have been developing since 2019 and reduce the digital divide, especially in rural areas, acting in more than 9,000 areas in almost all municipalities. The objective is to improve internet access and speed in homes and businesses in Asturias and in localities where there are still white areas (with low connection), exceeding 100 Megabytes of speed and aiming to reach one hundred percent coverage in Asturias.

On the other hand, all existing public transport services have been incorporated into a single network managed by the Asturias Transport Consortium with the collaboration of the local councils through the FACC. This incorporates the needs of users of educational, health and care services, the most recurrent and unavoidable in rural areas, basic to fix population, improving the quality of public transport and creating direct and personalised communication channels with potential users through Local Sustainable Mobility Offices.

Finally, it should be noted that a protocol has been signed with the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda for the Urban and Rural Agenda of Asturias. This document, which reflects our territorial strategy, will include the vision of Asturias for the year 2050, based on the sustainable development of the population settlements of Asturias, both urban and rural, as well as the objectives necessary to achieve this vision through the establishment of a series of indicators that will enable it to be monitored..

REGION OF MURCIA

INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- Public services and income in rural areas.
- Promotion of self-employment and the social economy as a driving force for deeper roots in the territory.
- Promotion of the incorporation of young people into the agricultural sector, with the creation of companies and training aimed at efficient farm management.
- Modernisation of agricultural holdings.
- Network of Greenways, as the backbone of tourism development in inland regions.
- Establishment of tourism and complementary activities in rural areas and areas in demographic decline.



(*) Measure in progress

The actions of the Government of the Region of Murcia in the period under analysis have focused on the approval of the Strategy to combat depopulation and improve the quality of life in rural areas of the Region of Murcia. The Strategy includes a set of cross-cutting measures that aim to respond to the demographic challenge in municipalities or rural areas that are experiencing population loss or have a high percentage of an ageing population. These measures have an impact on taxation, employment, transport, housing, infrastructure, connectivity and digitalisation, health, education and agriculture.

The priority line of the regional government is related to support for the agricultural sector with the aim of enabling the incorporation of young people into the agricultural sector through the creation of companies and training aimed at the efficient management and modernisation of farms.

A total of 292 young people were approved for 2020-2023 at a total of €8,308,500. The percentage of young women in agriculture is significant, with a total of 82, or 28% of the total. The aid consists of a basic module of 22,500 €, which can be increased up to a maximum of 70,000 €: Some average premium increase has been granted to 90% of the young people. The increase for sparsely populated municipalities (230 young people), mountain areas (47 young people), and cooperatives/worker owned companies (72 young people) is noteworthy, which shows the commitment to the economy of depopulated areas and the promotion of associations. By productive orientation, the young people's preferences are for permanent crop farms, a total of 120 (41%) and horticultural crops, a total of 100. The rest is distributed between beekeeping, wine growing and livestock farming.

In the second line of action of the Government of the Region of Murcia, it should be noted that the year 2021 was the last year of payment of aid for the provision of advisory services called in 2019 for the period 2019-2021. The total grant was €2,899,487.04, with 5 advisory bodies providing their services through 13 offices to some 1,921 users including farmers, livestock farmers, forest holders, young farmers, other land managers and SMEs in rural areas. The amount paid in 2021 was €1,202,798.92. For the year 2022 a new call for aid is planned for the period 2022-2024 with an available credit of €3,375,000, corresponding to the year 2022 an amount of €1,152,000. In total there are 5 applicant entities, with an infrastructure of 14 offices, with a capacity for a total of 2,100 service users. The concession order is expected to be published in June 2022.

In the same line of work, the modernisation of agricultural holdings has been promoted. For the 2021 financial year, a total of 108 producers have received aid amounting to 1,778,000, which corresponds to the granting of 6,091,900 million in total to 411 producers, of which 73 are women (18%). With regard to the areas of investment, the acquisition of machinery and equipment (mainly implements, tractors and rural constructions) stands out. A total of 773 applications have been submitted for 2022 for 15,783,181, whose resolution is scheduled for the month of October.

Finally, it should be noted that the regional network of greenways in the Region of Murcia exceeds 220 kilometres in length after the incorporation of the ChicharraYecla route. In 2020, almost half a million users used the routes of Noroeste, Campo de Cartagena, Mazarrón and Almendricos, which will be joined this year 2022 by the Chicharra, in its sections of Cieza and Yecla.

CONTRIBUTION FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The country 8 challenge focus on tackling the demographic challenge has a direct link with the local sphere, as it is the municipalities, especially rural ones, that suffer most from the consequences of depopulation and ageing populations. For this reason, the actions promoted in this country challenge by local governments have to do with the revitalisation of their own municipalities and the socio-economic stimulation of the territories from a cross-cutting approach.

Thus, in terms of boosting **social and economic development for the generation of opportunities in rural areas**, local administrations have implemented actions aimed at promoting sustainable tourism, fostering employment and the reintegration of rural women through specific programmes and projects. It has also promoted advisory services for companies and the facilitation of business initiatives.

Within our production model, the agricultural and livestock sector is the most important in the rural world, so the actions and progress of the municipal governments have also focused on this. Initiatives have been promoted to improve the competitiveness and social, economic and environmental sustainability of the sector through innovation, generational change and intra- and inter-sector cooperation. Some of the most relevant actions are the creation of databases, studies on agricultural revitalisation, promotion of urban vegetable gardens, the commitment to extensive livestock farming by supporting young people and fairs to promote local products. With the same objective in mind, measures have been introduced to promote young farmers, as well as agri-environmental actions through the configuration and stimulation of networks of entities for local development, which have promoted the signing of agreements with local producers.

In order to curb rural depopulation, fibre optics are being promoted in rural municipalities to facilitate and promote teleworking, as well as the adaptation of spaces for candidates who live in rural areas, free child-care and the announcement of economic aid to promote births in rural areas, such as baby cheques and aid for new births. Likewise, programmes have been offered to reconcile work and family life and improvements have been made to infrastructure and to facilitate procedures for settling in the municipality.

Among the most relevant activities being carried out to **provide rural areas with adequate infrastructures and services** to guarantee living conditions comparable to those in urban areas are the improvement and extension of municipal infrastructures and green areas, investments and actions in the road network, the creation of integral technology parks for SMEs, the conservation and maintenance of municipal management computer systems and the maintenance of rural roads, among others.

One of the most important axes related to the endowment of rural areas has to do with digital infrastructures. For this reason, there are many examples at local level that focus on facilitating access to new technologies in places with difficult access to communication as a mechanism to enable entrepreneurship, teleworking or co-working initiatives. Among them, we should mention the improvement of coverage of access to new technologies and connectivity of districts, digital kit aids, the generation of co-working and networking spaces for companies, as well as the call for grants, subsidies and other contributions for business spaces, associations and entities in order to digitise and promote innovative projects within the framework of employment and digital training.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the actions to encourage the participation of municipalities affected by the demographic challenge in the resources of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, which focus on resilience supply and sanitation plans for saving and improving buildings, or the creation of a depopulation criterion for the awarding of subsidies, among which we find subsidies to generate resilient, safe and healthy environments.



IV.

**OTHER
TRANSFORMATIVE
ACTIONS**

IV.

OTHER TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

A. COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda calls for transformative policies aimed at achieving wellbeing and economic and social progress. The multidimensional processes, as well as the multidisciplinary and multilevel approach introduced by the 2030 Agenda, should lead us to rethink the traditional structures and mechanisms of public policy and transcend the logic of “watertight compartments”, according to which each department solely and exclusively manages matters within the scope of its competence, without conceiving the interrelationships existing in other areas. This is already included in the 2030 Agenda itself through SDG 17, target 14, which transfers to governments the obligations to incorporate PCSD as a principle that should guide public policies, and which has been the object of attention of specialised bodies of the United Nations, the European Union and, especially, the OECD, which in 2019 approved its “Recommendation of the Council on Good Institutional Practices for the Promotion of Policy Coherence for Development” (2019).

For the Sustainable Development Strategy to effectively contribute to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within and beyond our borders, progress on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development is needed. The commitment to the gradual implementation of a Comprehensive System of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy ensures coherent implementation with the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the recommendations of the United Nations and the OECD.

It is on the basis of these obligations and recommendations that the commitment to implement the **Comprehensive System of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development** set out in the “Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. A country project to make the 2030 Agenda a reality”, which implies the need to ensure the alignment of public policies with this approach, so that the public policy cycle ensures the generation of positive synergies both domestically and internationally, and serves to address the cross-border and long-term impacts that public policies may have on sustainable development. It is therefore an approach to managing the balance between the different Sustainable Development Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda and a key tool to inform policy decision-making by promoting integrated management of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda is working on the **design of the Integrated PCSD System** for which, based on the OECD Recommendations and the work of the United Nations and the European Union, documentary analysis has been combined with consultations with representatives of the three bodies of the Governance for the 2030 Agenda: Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda, Sector Conference for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Council, through its WG on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, as well as with contributions from other bodies of the General State Administration and representatives of the Joint Commission for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Spanish Strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international organisations. In its preparation, a diagnosis of the situation has been carried out and the lines of work and recommendations have been identified that will enable the Comprehensive System of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development committed to in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy to materialise.

In its conclusions, the **diagnosis shows** that, with regard to the **institutional framework**, a need to reconfigure the existing spaces for participation and coordination is firstly detected. Secondly, to provide public employees with competencies and skills to incorporate the vision of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development in the design of public policies and regulatory frameworks, in order to strengthen their contribution to sustainable development and develop a strategic vision to meet the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which generates leadership and commitment to systematically formulate, implement and monitor the coherence of policies with sustainable development in all sectors. Finally, it identifies the need to make progress on PCSD in policy impact analysis and budget technique to incorporate environmental, social and economic sustainability, as well as long-term and cross-border impacts and the SDGs as a whole, in all policies.

In general terms, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda constitutes a real governance challenge for all countries, as it implies the integration of different territorial levels and including the participation of different agents in public policies, which, at the same time, requires **strengthening coordination mechanisms between sectors and levels of government to identify and mitigate divergences between sector priorities and policies**. As recognised by the OECD in its Recommendation, effective and inclusive institutional mechanisms need to be developed to address policy interactions across sectors and to co-ordinate actions across levels of government. In particular, there is a need to assign responsibilities, build capacity and mobilise adequate resources for the comprehensive system for PCSD to identify policy divergences and conflicts in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda. Ultimately, progress on PCSD requires building capacities in public administrations and aligning strategies and training programmes for public actors with the principles and integrated nature of the SDGs.

The correct execution and management of the application of the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development approach in the processes of design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies entails the need to assume leadership. In this context, the State Secretariat for the 2030 Agenda, without detriment to the competences attributed to other Departments, is working on the creation of a **Division for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Integrated System of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development** integrated into its structure, which accompanies the integration of the PCSD approach in the processes of design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies for sustainable development, monitoring and evaluation of public policies aimed at fulfilling the 2030 Agenda and in the implementation of different tools and processes of interaction analysis, measurement for the evaluation of the impacts of regulation on the dimensions of sustainable development, through the incorporation of sustainable impact reports in the regulatory projects of the General State Administration, budget alignment, as well as the evaluation of public policies and accountability.

With regard to the **analytical framework**, the diagnosis shows that the traditional construction of sector policies is still largely maintained, border and intergenerational impacts are not taken into account, and there is a need to provide methodological tools that allow the participation of different actors in the processes of analysis of multidimensional, inter-sector, cross-border and intergenerational interactions, and to formally incorporate scientific evidence throughout the entire cycle of design and implementation of public policies.

In short, an analytical framework will be needed to promote the introduction of the PCSD and **incorporate methodological tools to detect inconsistencies between public policies**, understand multidimensional and inter-sector interactions, combine qualitative and quantitative approaches from which to carry out studies and analyses and, most importantly, the report on regulatory alignment and alignment of the General State Budgets with the SDGs and their contribution (or not) to the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda, as well as identifying possible cross-border and long-term impacts. This will require interaction between public administrations and multidisciplinary scientific research, establishing mechanisms for establishing and disseminating the results of these analyses, as well as the recommendations derived from them.

Regulatory production, as an integral part of the public policy formulation process, incorporates **regulatory impact assessment** as a fundamental tool to identify the effectiveness and efficiency of the objectives sought with the new regulation. In line with the work being carried out by the OECD and the European Commission²¹⁷, it will be necessary to reorient regulatory management tools in the face of environmental and social challenges, through a new Methodological Guide for the MAIN, to incorporate distributional impacts and trade-offs between environmental, economic and social, intergenerational and trans-national aspects as an essential part of the CPDS system, in line with the general principles of Better Regulation.

With regard to environmental impacts, it is worth highlighting how Law 7/2021 of 20 May on Climate Change and Energy Transition has introduced, as part of the Regulatory Impact, the “assessment of climate change”, on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and reinforced the capacities to monitor environmental regulations in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR), with the creation of a **Division for Monitoring the Application of Environmental Regulations** (Official State Gazette (BOE) no. 294 of 9 December 2021) to advise all departments on the environmental effects of the PRTR management instruments on compliance with the **Do no significant harm (DNSH)** principle and on the labelling of the climate and environmental contribution of investments. To this end, a *Guide of Recommendations for the design and development of actions in accordance with the principle of not causing significant harm to the environment* has been drawn up and published²¹⁸, which includes a catalogue of practices and recommendations for adapting both the design and development of PRTR actions to the DNSH principle, with the aim of serving as a guide for all the Administrations involved in the execution of the Plan. Throughout this period, 307 legal instruments for the execution of the reforms and investments of the PRTR have been reviewed for compliance with the DNSH principle and climate labelling, corresponding to 29 Components and 137 measures of the Plan, and the consultations raised by the different territorial administrations on DNSH regulations have been resolved, including those relating to climate and environmental objectives such as mitigation and adaptation to climate change, protection of water and marine resources, circular economy, prevention and control of pollution and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Finally, the diagnosis concludes by pointing out the shortcomings **in the monitoring and accountability framework in terms of** the measurement of indicators, the absence of an adequate culture and methodologies for the evaluation of public policies and the need to improve accountability and participation processes in order to incorporate the PCSD vision.

Monitoring progress on policy coherence for sustainable development involves analysing the linkages between economic, social and environmental goals, as well as the combined effects of different policies in these three areas, taking into account cross-border and intergenerational interactions and effects. The aim is to generate evidence for better decision-making in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. Taking as a reference the OECD’s work to advance in the construction of a monitoring framework, and based on the diagnosis carried out, it will be necessary to **strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms** to report on the process of policy definition, implementing systems to extract quantitative and qualitative information on the effects of policies, as well as to develop analytical capacities to assess the data collected and establish accountability mechanisms to present the effects of these policies to the public.

The monitoring framework has to consider **measurement** in terms of designing and improving indicators to obtain comparable information about the process of implementing the policy coherence approach, **evaluation**, as a tool that facilitates learning and helps to understand why and how a policy achieves its objectives and generates evidence for better decision-making, and **accountability**, as mechanisms that hold institutions accountable for their activities.

With regard to the evaluation of public policies, the **Draft Law on the Institutionalisation of the Evaluation of Public Policies in the General State Administration**, approved by the Council of Ministers on 24 May 2022, aims to promote a true culture of evaluation by establishing a systematisation of the analysis of the various measures adopted and policies implemented by the Executive.

The aim of the Bill is to reinforce the value of public policy evaluations, advancing in the process of institutionalising the analysis of such policies, promoting a true culture of evaluation in the administration and systematising ex ante evaluations. The regulation introduces a cross-cutting, comprehensive and participatory approach to evaluations and strengthens the capacities of the public system for evaluating public policies in the General State Administration, providing it with tools to analyse their impact on citizens, with a broader approach than a merely budgetary or expenditure-related one. The aim is to improve the formulation of public policies and their implementation. This also complies with the requirements of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Union to advance in the process of institutionalising public policy evaluation and to provide Spain with a regulatory framework to govern the matter.

Finally, for the gradual implementation of the recommendations, lines of work and specific tasks necessary for the adequate and solvent implementation of the Integrated PCSD System, following the diagnosis

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carried out, the Secretariat of State for the 2030 Agenda is working on the introduction of mechanisms that accompany the strengthening of capacities and analysis, conveyed in inter-sector working groups on PCSD, as well as on the generation of training tools and content aimed at public administration staff and on their methodological and instrumental strengthening. Specifically in this last aspect, through the design of methodological proposals for the application of matrices for the identification, qualification and quantification of the multidimensional, cross-sector, cross-border and intergenerational interactions of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, based on the methodologies developed by the OECD and the Stockholm Environment Institute of Sweden. The lines of work also include work to align the monitoring system of the Sustainable Development Strategy with the PCSD approach, as well as the generation and application of innovative tools to improve accountability in terms of PCSD.

B. BUDGET ALIGNMENT

The budget is an essential instrument in public policy planning and a critical tool for the design and implementation of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. The multidimensional impacts of public policies recommend the introduction of new methodologies that allow a more precise calculation of their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and favour the incorporation of the policy coherence approach for sustainable development in budgeting techniques.

The alignment of public budgets with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is one of the key elements for orienting public policies towards Sustainable Development in its triple social, environmental and economic dimension, together with the institutional dimension. In this regard, the introduction of the transformative measure 7 of the *2030 Agenda Action Plan*, approved in 2018, established, under the title “Budgeting for the SDGs”, the mandate to accompany the General State Budget (PGE) with a “Sustainable Development Goals Alignment Report”, which should reflect the relationship between the SDGs and budgetary policies and programmes. As a result of the previous mandate, the General State Budget for 2021 was the first to include a report on the alignment of spending policies with the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, making it possible to measure, from a multidimensional and cross-cutting perspective, the budgetary effort of each spending policy made to achieve the SDGs.

By 2023, work is underway to prepare a new report on the alignment of the SGPs that weighs **the contribution of spending policies and budgetary programmes to the achievement of the SDGs**, and makes it possible to disseminate the most relevant actions that ministerial departments and a representative set of public business sector entities are carrying out in relation to each of the Goals. This third alignment report will consolidate the progress made through two lines of action. Firstly, the integrity of the numerical and textual information that forms the basis of the report will be reinforced. To this end, work is underway to incorporate new methodological improvements that will make it possible to specify the contribution of a budget programme and go down to the identification of targets. Likewise, it is proposed to link qualitative information to expenditure programmes and progress will begin to be made in the development of a taxonomy of alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, through the identification of a set of activities from which budget programmes can be classified, ordered and systematised in one of the dimensions -social, environmental, economic and institutional- of the 2030 Agenda and its corresponding SDGs.

The second line of action is aimed at providing greater transparency and visibility to the results of the report, improving accessibility to the data provided on the website, as well as promoting dissemination activities.

On the other hand, and as envisaged in Component 29, Reform 03, of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, the General State Budget for 2023 will incorporate as a novelty a **report on alignment with the ecological transition in its green dimension**, based on the European taxonomy of sustainable activities, defined in Regulation (EU) 2020/852. A working group has been set up for its preparation, made up of representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration and the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, which is currently analysing all the spending programmes of the entities with a limited budget and developing the methodology and updating the FRIEDA IT tool for the collection of data from the ministerial departments. The new report will incorporate both quantitative information (degree of alignment) and qualitative information (significant actions and measures).

With regard to the **Gender Impact Report and its alignment with the General State Budget**, after the methodological change introduced in 2021, which was specified in the analysis of the variables Reality, Representation and Resources-Results, the approval of the Strategic Plan for Effective Equality between Women and Men (PEIMH)²¹⁹, on 8 March 2022, introduces as an objective the “*Improvement of methodologies to integrate the gender perspective in public budgets*” SO 1 of the Good Governance 1 line of work.³ As indicated in the measures associated with this objective, work is being done to improve the methodology of the Report, not only in relation to the information contained in it, but also in its electronic presentation. Along these lines, a review has been carried out of both the related computer applications and the graphic representation of the main results included on the Report’s website. Finally, and with the aim of establishing the link with the PEIMH, in the next report the budget sections will be instructed to specify the coding assigned in the PEIMH in the event that the descriptive information of a budget programme constitutes a measure included in the PEIMH.

For their part, the **Autonomous Communities** and Local Entities have also initiated processes of budget alignment with the SDGs, ranging from mappings of the actions contained in budget programmes and expenditure statements in relation to the SDGs and associated targets, carried out in Andalusia, or carrying out diagnoses and analyses of the link between the objectives of budget programmes and the priority policies identified in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Valencian Community, to the initiation of processes to align their budgets with the SDGs, as in the case of the Autonomous Community of Navarre. For its part, Galicia has set up a working group to allocate spending programmes according to the logic of the 2030 sustainable development strategy. Other regions, such as Catalonia and La Rioja, have advanced and initiated the processes of budget alignment with the SDGs and the linking of goals, commitments and targets with budgetary programmes. Finally, we also find Autonomous Communities that have methodological tools for analysing budget alignment with the SDGs, which include information on the contribution of the different budget programmes to each of the Goals, such as Castile-La Mancha, or that have begun to link projects and strategies with the SDGs and global goals of the 2030 Agenda, as a preliminary step towards the implementation of the results-oriented budget methodology to promote the SDGs, as is the case of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands. Similarly, the Region of Murcia has published its First Budget Alignment Report, which provides a qualitative overview of the link between the budget axes and the SDGs.

At the local level, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, with the support of the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda, after an initial process of identifying local needs for budget alignment with the 2030 Agenda, within the framework of the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda, is developing a Guide for budget alignment with the 2030 Agenda in the budgets of Local Entities.

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C. SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING

Sustainable public procurement and contracting, as a tool for promoting responsible social, labour, environmental and innovation policies and practices, is itself a target to be achieved in relation to SDG 12 (SDG 12.7), which calls on governments to *promote sustainable public procurement practices in accordance with national policies and priorities*.

Public procurement and purchasing play a key role and are configured as one of the instruments that needs to be used to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, while ensuring a more economically rational use of public funds. This sustainability should be understood in both its social and environmental aspects. Given its horizontal nature and the enormous volume of resources it mobilises, public procurement and purchasing can contribute to the achievement of the objectives of other public policies such as social and labour, environmental, support for SMEs, innovation and development or the defence of competition. This “strategic public procurement” is a novel approach to public procurement, which goes beyond the traditional procurement function of satisfying the needs of the public sector for goods and services, placing the power of public procurement at the service of other policies that are considered strategic, such as social policy. This approach, which is already included in the text of Law 9/2017, of 8 November, on Public Sector Contracts, has been key to the development of the Green Public Procurement Plan (Green Procurement), 2018-2025, and the Plan to Promote Socially Responsible Procurement, 2019, which is expected to be taken into account in the future National Public Procurement Strategy. Although the drafting of the National Strategy is still in progress, work has progressed throughout 2021 and 2022 on the drafting of the proposal by the Cooperation Committee on Public Procurement and it is expected to be approved by OIRESCON in the last months of 2022.

In short, and pending the approval of the **National Public Procurement Strategy**, current legislation already allows the incorporation of social and/or environmental clauses, when they are related to the object of the contract, either in the selection and/or execution phases of public contracts. This authorisation is already used by contracting bodies, as well as in centralised procurement, framework agreements and dynamic systems.

With regard to the advances introduced over the last year, we highlight the incorporation, in Law 7/2021 of 20 May, on climate change and energy transition, of measures related to public procurement, including the inclusion in the contracting specifications, when related to the purpose of the contract, of **award criteria linked to the fight against climate change** and specific technical requirements that establish the necessary reduction of emissions and the carbon footprint.

For its part, the incorporation of the **circular economy in the field of centralised procurement**, measure 2.4 of the First Action Plan 2021-2023, approved in May 2021, which gives shape to the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy 2030 (EECC 2030) of 2 June 2020, is considered to have already been implemented. This has led to the inclusion of circularity criteria among the qualitative award criteria, as well as in the technical and special execution conditions in the Particular Administrative Clauses (PCAP) and Technical Specifications (PPT) of centralised contracts and Framework Agreements. As a result of the commitment of this axis, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITERD) incorporates criteria for selecting companies with approved environmental management systems that include elements of circularity in the administrative specifications.

For its part, the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service, through the Directorate General for the Rationalisation and Centralisation of Procurement, has been promoting social cohesion, environmental sustainability, the acquisition and provision of quality public goods and services, and encouraging the participation of SMEs in the centralised contracts launched. These include cleaning and security, whose social and environmental measures have had a significant impact, affecting 431 and 251 buildings respectively. Under this premise, the same measures have been incorporated into the centralised contracts for notifications, parcels and telecommunications and in the acquisition of zero or low-emission vehicles, as part of the Strategic Plan to Boost the Automotive Industry Value Chain, which consists of the acquisition of 1,767 vehicles from the General State Administration’s vehicle fleet.

The alignment of public procurement and contracting by **state public sector companies and entities** with sustainability in both its social and environmental aspects led to the introduction of clauses that contribute to the maintenance of the environment and sustainability. For example, the State Public Company for

Air Traffic Control (ENAIRES) requires environmental impact assessments to be carried out and introduces clauses aimed at waste management or the management of hazardous substances, based on its Environmental Plan (Flight Plan 2025), as well as compliance with the labour and salary conditions of the applicable collective agreements. Along the same lines, the Spanish mercantile society, AENA, has made progress in establishing selection criteria and requirements in the area of sustainability, which covers both suppliers and lessees. To this end, it has drawn up a "Guide for the technical evaluation of files" as a reference for the selection of criteria for the technical evaluation of files, which incorporates and defines quantified sustainability requirements to be included in all contracts for suppliers as of the current year 2022. In the same dynamic, the Foreign Trade Institute (ICEX) has drawn up a guide for the application of social clauses, gender perspective and environmental aspects in contracting, as part of the objectives of the ICEX Strategic Plan, with which it seeks to incorporate sustainability criteria in all areas of interest, as well as responsible contracting, collecting good practices that act as an incentive to expand and generalise their use.

The inclusion of specific social, environmental, employment stability and occupational health and safety and risk prevention clauses has been a constant feature of the contracts awarded by state public sector entities. Among these, we highlight those of companies such as ISDEFE, the national defence and security company, which ensures that the contracting process includes qualitative, environmental, social and innovative aspects linked to the object of the contract, or those carried out by the State Tourist Paradores Company (Sociedad Mercantil Estatal Paradores de Turismo), which promotes respect for natural and energy resources in the supply chain, as well as the correct management of waste generated during provision of the service.

Finally, it should be noted that some public sector companies are implementing mechanisms to ensure that both bidders and suppliers integrate environmental management systems into their processes, such as EMAS or ISO 14001, which one rail company, ADIF, incorporates, or that the ones awarded public contracts are aware of their Environmental Management Policy and undertake to comply with the provisions of their Suppliers' Charter, as part of the Environmental Management System, which is carried out by the state-owned company Property Equity Management (SEGIPSA).

In short, pending the approval of the National Public Procurement Strategy, the progressive alignment of public procurement and purchasing with sustainable social and environmental criteria is evident.



V.

**GOVERNANCE
AND STRATEGIC
PROGRESS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE 2030 AGENDA BY
THE AUTONOMOUS
COMMUNITIES**

V.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA BY THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a real governance challenge for all countries as it implies the articulation of different territorial levels, as well as including the participation of different agents in public policies, which, at the same time, requires the strengthening of coordination mechanisms between sectors and levels of government to ensure the coherence of the set of efforts with sustainable development. Effective and inclusive institutional mechanisms therefore need to be developed to address policy interactions between sectors and to coordinate actions between different levels of government.

In Spain, the autonomous administrations have a fundamental role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as they have been transferred a large number of competences closely linked to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. Since its conception, the 2030 Agenda has highlighted the importance of its transversal nature by affecting all levels of government and has recognised the role of sub-state actors in planning, execution and accountability in the fulfilment of the SDGs. That is, implementation of the SDGs requires the involvement of all levels of government, as well as the implementation of institutional cooperation and coordination mechanisms.

Mainstreaming the principles of sustainable development into all public actions implies considering them systematically and comprehensively and reorienting them in accordance with the multidimensionality of their objectives, generating leadership and solid and inclusive political commitment and incorporating methodological tools that allow the impacts of public policies to be detected, understanding multidimensional and cross-sector interactions, and combining qualitative and quantitative approaches such as those provided, notably, by the reports on policy alignment and budget alignment with the SDGs to ensure their contribution or otherwise to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

The political commitment of the Autonomous Communities to the 2030 Agenda is evident, as was already shown in the Progress Report, "Rebuilding What is Common. The 2030 Agenda in Spain in 2020" and is confirmed in this report. Taking as a reference the information provided by the vast majority of Autonomous Communities, they have made progress in the institutional framework, in terms of defining strategic documents and establishing coordination mechanisms and governance structures, in the analytical framework with the introduction of elements of budgetary alignment and regulatory alignment with the 2030 Agenda, as well as in the accountability framework, with the preparation of progress reports and progress in the identification and analysis of indicators associated with the SDGs and their targets.

A. PLANNING TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS: STRATEGIES AND REPORTING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Policy design processes based on the needs detected in the territory are a fundamental element in the management, planning and measurement of progress in sustainable development. The **strategic planning** of the actions to be developed to implement the 2030 Agenda as the main tool for providing a consensual and participatory roadmap for the entire process of implementing the 2030 Agenda is one of the mechanisms that has clearly become more prominent in recent years.

Taking the data reflected in the 2020 Progress Report as a reference, we note that a good number of Autonomous Communities have approved plans or strategies that clearly set out the priorities for action and establish specific targets for each of the 17 SDGs, such as the *2030 Canary Islands Agenda for Sustainable Development*, approved in December 2021, with the aspiration of becoming the tool that allows territorial agents to implement their action plans. In the same year 2021, the Autonomous Community of Castile-La Mancha, for its part, approved the *Castile-La Mancha 2030 Agenda Strategy*, whose action plan establishes 4 strategic axes and 31 lines of action for the promotion of public management based on sustainability criteria, the promotion of an economic, social and sustainable model and the establishment of a system of governance and alliances between the public, private and civil society sectors. Another case of clear progress in the design of strategic documents is the Region of Murcia with the approval in December 2020 of the *Action Plan* that calls for the development of the Strategy for the Sustainable Region of Murcia, 2020-2030, which raises the need for an institutional architecture for the promotion, coordination and coherence of sustainable development policies and provides for the creation of a Sustainable Development Council as a body for participation and debate that serves as a channel for the participation of civil society, universities and local authorities in the fulfilment of the SDGs and their targets.

Other regional governments have also laid the foundations to advance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as is the case of the Valencian Community, which has established a roadmap for the adoption of the Valencian Strategy for Sustainable Development (EVDS) 2020-2030. Catalonia, for its part, foresees an update of the National Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2023, coinciding with the mid-term of the 2030 Agenda. In other cases, plans have been deployed in addition to the work already reported in 2020, as in the case of the Governing Council of the Basque Country, which approved in June 2021 the Basque Programme of Priorities of the 2030 Agenda; Castile and Leon, whose Governing Council approved in May 2021 four lines of action for the implementation of the SDGs to ensure adequate cohesion of public policies; Galicia, for its part, has incorporated ten challenges aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda in the Strategic Plan of Galicia 2021-2030.

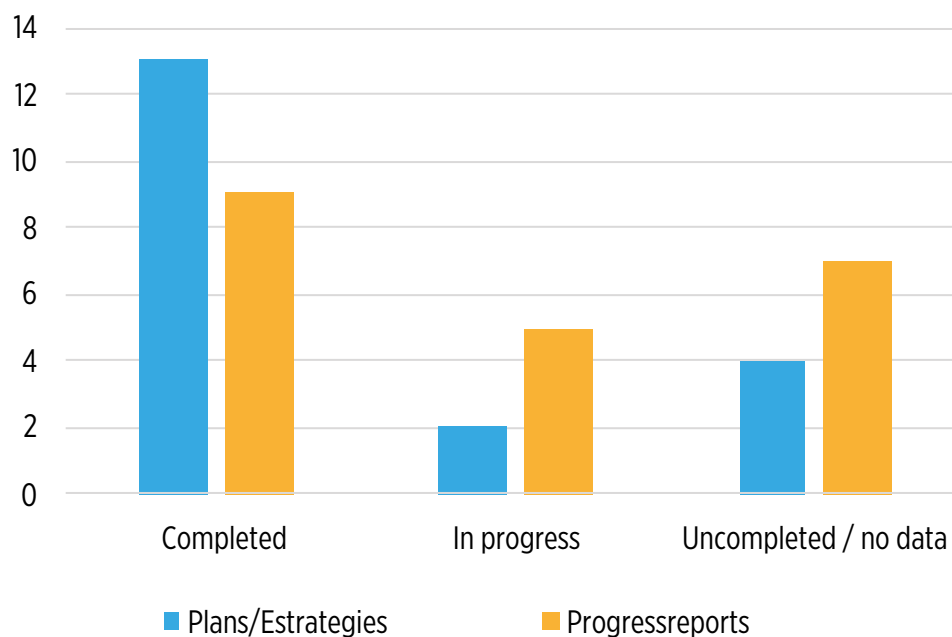
With regard to the **monitoring and accountability framework**, although the preparation of **progress reports** was already established as one of the elements that enabled the evolution in the management of the different goals and policies by a significant number of Autonomous Communities to be monitored, since the date of preparation of the previous report, other Autonomous Communities have begun to prepare documents that measure the progress and results of their policies and their alignment with the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. This is the case of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, which following the approval of the *Canary Islands 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* launched a first Progress Report and a Revitalisation Report, or the Principality of Asturias, which will present its first progress report together with the approval of its *Strategy for the 2030 Agenda of the Principality of Asturias*. The Autonomous Community of Castile and Leon, also participated in accountability with the preparation in January 2021 of a first evaluation report of the Implementation Guidelines of the 2030 Agenda. For its part, other autonomous governments, such as the Autonomous Community of Navarre, following the presentation of its monitoring report on the 2030 Agenda in Navarre in 2020, also presented the Voluntary Regional Report "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Navarre" in 2021. The Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia has published the first SDG 2022 Progress Report and report on compliance with the Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.²²⁰

Overall, the data reported by the Autonomous Communities (figure 1) indicate that 13 of them have plans or strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, a figure that contrasts with

220 Document available [here](#).

the 11 cases reported in the previous 2020 Progress Report. As for the Autonomous Communities that have developed Progress Reports, 8 Autonomous Communities report having done so, compared to the 6 that did so in 2020.

FIGURE 1. AUTONOMOUS REGIONS WITH PLANS/STRATEGIES AND PROGRESS REPORTS



Moving towards a monitoring and evaluation framework requires strengthening existing monitoring mechanisms to inform the policy-making process, and putting in place monitoring systems to collect quantitative and qualitative information on the effects of policies, as well as developing analytical capacities to assess the data collected and to establish tools and mechanisms for accountability for these results.

Following the approval of the 2030 Agenda, and within the framework of the preparation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Autonomous Communities, through the Interterritorial Statistics Commission (CITE), have collaborated with the National Statistics Institute on the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and there has been a working group since 2018 within the CITE to exchange experiences and methodologies regarding the development of indicators of the 2030 Agenda.

For their part, many Autonomous Communities continue to work at the territorial level to further align the indicators of their government programmes with those included in their regional statistical systems, as is the case of the Basque Country with respect to regional statistical (EUSTAT) indicators, or they have developed their own systems of indicators, as is the case of the Canary Islands, which has also established reference values to be achieved in 2025 and 2030, for which it will rely, in part, on the figure of indicators that at the level of global goals have been defined by the different Central Statistical Bodies of the Autonomous Communities (OCECAS). As a whole at the regional level the respective statistical institutes have been working on defining new indicators and analysing those available, in some cases with the aim of establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, as in the case of Valencia and Galicia, which are developing accountability tools based on the information provided by the battery of indicators and the assessment of each one in relation to their evolution and their comparison at the national level. Along the same lines, Catalonia, incorporates into its statistics a system made up of two sets of annual indicators on sustainable development in its community, in accordance with the methodological criteria of Eurostat and the United Nations, and is currently carrying out an evaluation of the progress of these indicators.

As a whole, taking as a reference the information provided by the Autonomous Communities for 2022, a significant number of them have adapted the indicators identified for measuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the territorial reality, both at national and international level. Specifically, 12 of them have

developed their own or adapted systems and 3 are in the process of doing so, a situation similar to that reported for 2020. The vast majority of this work is carried out through the regional statistics institutes, which work together in the Interterritorial Statistics Committee (CITE), covering the needs in their area of competence for the measurement of indicators related to the 2030 Agenda in collaboration with the National Statistics Institute (National Statistics Institute).

B. POLICY COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND INTER- TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE OF THE 2030 AGENDA

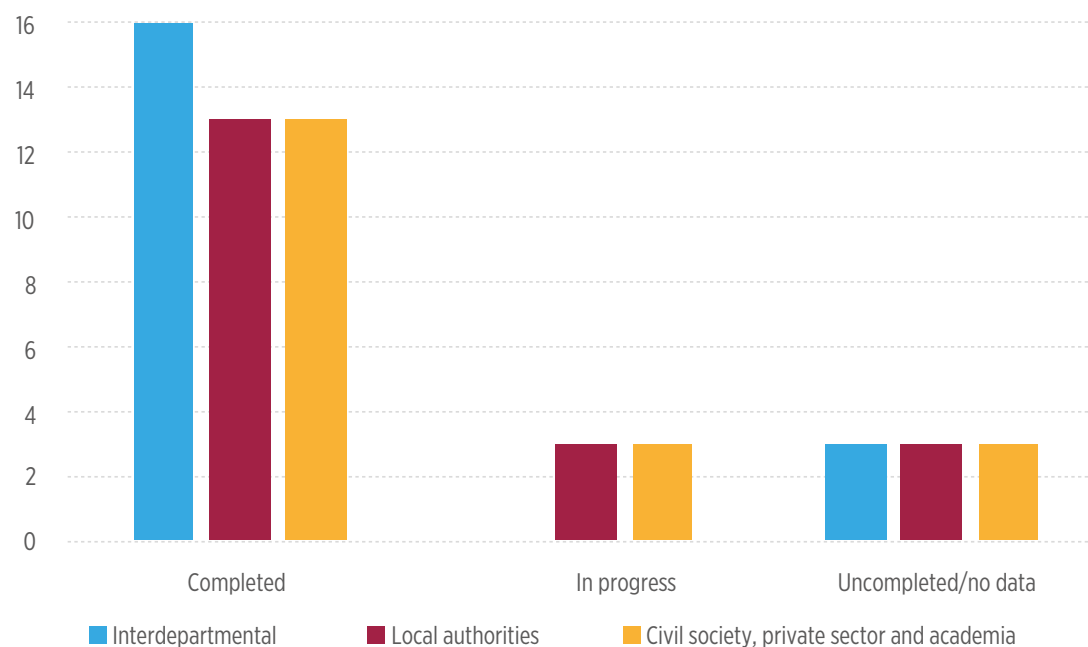
Alliances within the autonomous governments themselves and also at the territorial level with local administrations and joint work with organised civil society, the private sector and academia are central elements of governance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The autonomous communities, within their management, have mostly established regulated and unregulated channels and mechanisms to carry out the necessary dialogue and coordination, with up to 16 cases having been detected.

In addition, there are also many cases of Agenda and SDG governance forums with the participation of different local agents spread throughout the territory, from regional federations of municipalities and provinces to provincial and provincial councils, island councils and councils, regional entities, large cities, councils and town councils of different sizes.

The autonomous communities are also notable for the localisation of the SDGs with the collaboration of private entities and representatives of civil society and academia, in addition to other mechanisms for public participation of all citizens. Local and regional governments recognise the work and key role of social, economic, cultural and environmental agents in the process of defining, promoting and monitoring policies aimed at making the goals of the 2030 Agenda a reality.

In this sense, regulated regional forums and bodies are fairly widespread in all the territories, and in the cases where they have not yet been set up, they are mostly in the process of being established (figure 2).

FIGURE 2. PARTICIPATION OF AGENTS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS IN THE LOCALISATION OF THE SDGS



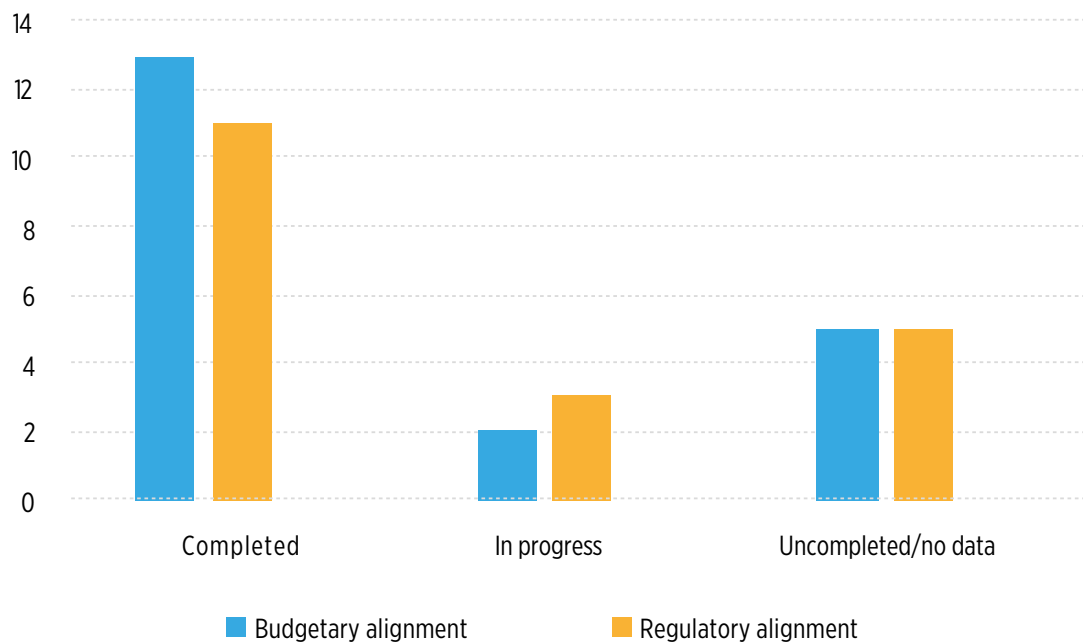
C. REGULATORY AND BUDGETARY ALIGNMENT

Within the process of aligning government action to the 2030 Agenda, both budgetary and policy alignment are two key elements for the achievement of the SDGs, for policy coherence in the deployment of the 2030 Agenda and for understanding the efforts in terms of budgetary resources made for policies to advance sustainable development.

The **alignment of public budgets** with the SDGs is one of the key elements for orienting public policies towards sustainable development. In this framework, it can be seen that the autonomous communities have undertaken a process of boosting the processes of budget alignment with the SDGs, with respect to what was reported in the previous 2020 Progress Report. From the information provided, it can be confirmed that, as a whole, up to 12 autonomous governments, compared to the 6 that did so in 2020, have carried out exercises to align their budgets with the 2030 Agenda. This exercise includes mappings of the actions contained in budget programmes and spending statements in relation to the SDGs and associated targets, such as the one carried out in Andalusia, the diagnosis and analysis of the link between the objectives of budget programmes and the priority policies identified in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in the Valencian Community, and the initiation of processes to align their budgets with the SDGs, as in the case of the Autonomous Community of Navarre. For its part, Galicia has set up a working group to allocate spending programmes in line with the logic of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. Other governments, such as Catalonia and La Rioja, have advanced and initiated the processes of budget alignment with the SDGs and the linking of goals, commitments and targets with budgetary programmes. Finally, we also find communities that have methodological tools for analysing budget alignment with the SDGs, which include information on the contribution of the different budget programmes to each of the goals, such as the Community of Castile-La Mancha, or that have begun to link projects and strategies with the SDGs and global goals of the 2030 Agenda, as a preliminary step towards the implementation of the results-oriented budget methodology to promote the SDGs, as is the case of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands. Similarly, the Region of Murcia has published its first report on the alignment of the general budgets of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia 2022, carried out as an ex-post assessment that offers a qualitative view of progress on the SDGs.

Regulatory alignment is also a key element for the promotion of the comprehensive and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development demanded by the 2030 Agenda. While in the previous 2020 Progress Report, four autonomous communities reported initiatives aimed at aligning their regulations with the SDGs, on this occasion we can see that the process has already begun in others, reaching 11 autonomous governments (figure 3). Among them, we highlight the initiatives launched, for example, in the Region of Murcia, which includes in its Action Plan, approved in December 2020, “*the promotion of the SDG perspective in the mandatory regulatory impact report in the procedures for drafting general provisions*”, which has led to its Plan for Regulatory Improvement and Regulatory Quality contemplating, as one of its lines of action, “*the promotion of the SDG perspective in the mandatory regulatory impact report in the procedures for drafting general provisions*”, As one of its lines of action, this has led to its Plan for Regulatory Improvement and Regulatory Quality, which includes as one of its lines of action the promotion of legal regulations as a means of contributing to the fulfilment of the SDGs and promotes the modification of the methodological guide so that the drafting of the Regulatory Impact Analysis Report (MAIN) accompanying preliminary drafts of laws and draft decrees incorporates the impact of the proposed regulation on the SDGs. For its part, the Canary Islands, following the approval of the Canary Islands 2030 Agenda, has established that all projects, measures or initiatives should be aligned with the SDGs and the goals of the aforementioned Canary Islands Agenda, and be accompanied by an impact report on each of the three critical dimensions of sustainability. Castile-La Mancha, for its part, has incorporated the alignment of regional planning and regulatory initiatives, not only to those drafted from the date on which its Agenda 2030 Strategy was approved, last year 2021, but also to those approved since 2018, in a retrospective exercise.

FIGURE 3. AUTONOMOUS REGIONS WITH BUDGET AND REGULATORY ALIGNMENT MEASURES



ASPECTS OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE 2030 AGENDA AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL	The Autonomous Community has a Plan or Strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda	The Autonomous Community has governance mechanisms in place for the coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	The Autonomous Community has established mechanisms for dialogue and joint work with Local Bodies for the localisation of the 2030 Agenda.	The Autonomous Community has established mechanisms for participation and joint work with organised civil society, the private sector and/or academia.	The Autonomous Community has produced Progress Reports on the fulfilment of the SDGs.	The Autonomous Regions have carried out exercises to align their regional budgets with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.	The Autonomous Community has aligned its regulations with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.	The Autonomous Community has designed or adapted indicators to measure the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda.
ANDALUSIA	Completed	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
ARAGON	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
BALEARIC	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
CANARY ISLANDS	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
CANTABRIA	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Completed	In progress	In progress	In progress
CASTILE-LA MANCHA	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
CASTILE AND LEON	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
CATALONIA	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
NAVARRRE	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Completed	In progress
VALENCIAN COMMUNITY	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Completed	In progress	In progress	In progress
EXTREMADURA	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	In progress	Completed	Completed
GALICIA	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
BASQUE COUNTRY	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Completed	In progress	In progress
ASTURIAS	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
MURCIA	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
LA RIOJA	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress
MELILLA	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed

Key	
Completed	Completed
In progress	In progress
Uncompleted	Uncompleted



VI.

**CONTRIBUTIONS BY
OTHER AGENTS**

VI.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTHER AGENTS

A. THE ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL ENTITIES IN THE LOCALISATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

One of the key elements in the process of adoption and implementation of the 2030 Agenda is its multilevel nature, which requires the involvement and participation of the different governmental spheres for the achievement of the goals included in the SDGs as a whole. In this sense, local governments are an essential agent as they are at the closest level to citizens and have fundamental competences and responsibilities for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, especially with regard to the provision of basic public services and the socio-economic promotion of the territories of our country. Therefore, local government is the clearest reflection of the “think global, act local” spirit of the 2030 Agenda, as it represents the materialisation of an ambitious universal agenda in specific measures with tangible results.

Recognition of local entities in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals has been given both at international and national level. Thus, both the United Nations and the European Commission have highlighted the strategic role of the local sphere in the promotion of the 2030 Agenda, as well as in the adoption of spaces for accountability on the public policies implemented to achieve sustainable development. As pointed out by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, around 70% of the Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved at local level.

At the state level, the importance of local administration is even more noteworthy due to the decentralised nature of our territorial model, an issue that is also reflected in the current Reinforced System for the Governance of the 2030 Agenda and in the Sustainable Development Strategy itself, giving a prominent place to local entities in the planning and implementation of the SDGs in our country. This “bottom-up” approach in the territorialisation of the measures for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda also enables the relevance of small municipalities in this process, as in our country municipalities with less than 20,000 inhabitants account for 95% of the national total.

One of the key agents in promoting the participation of local governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), the state organisation with the highest representation of local administration that joins forces in the development of a shared work agenda to enable the localisation of the 2030 Agenda. In this line, one of the most outstanding advances has been the progressive expansion of the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda, constituted in October 2020, which currently has 478 member entities representing more than 26 million inhabitants²²¹.

221 Information as of September 2022. Complete list of adhered entities. Accessible [here](#).

Along these lines, one of the most noteworthy efforts in advancing the localisation of the 2030 Agenda has been the implementation and consolidation of spaces for institutional collaboration with the FEMP for the coordination of joint actions in the effective implementation of the SDGs. Thus, it is worth highlighting the adoption, as a continuation of the Framework Collaboration Agreement signed between the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda and the FEMP in February 2021, of the specific Agreement between both parties in November 2021 for the strengthening of the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda with a view to the adoption of a joint work agenda in the identification of needs and exchange of experiences and good practices for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Strategy at the local level. In this context, the most important objectives proposed are aimed at establishing a knowledge bank on existing local needs in budget alignment with the 2030 Agenda, as an essential dimension for its localisation, as well as the definition of a set of SDG indicators for monitoring, measurement and accountability.

Together with these measures, the boost to the localisation process of the 2030 Agenda has led to the implementation of other notable advances that materialise the institutional and multilevel commitment to the achievement of the SDGs at local level, in the framework of which the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has granted a nominative subsidy to the FEMP, in the 2022 General State Budget, for the strengthening of the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda. With an allocation of 600,000 euros to strengthen the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda and the development of strategies and plans to promote the localisation of the 2030 Agenda, work is being carried out on the development of a Guide for the budgetary alignment of the 2030 Agenda in the budgets of Local Entities. This document is based on the work of the Working Group on the alignment of projects and budgets formed with technical and political representatives of the Local Bodies of the Network, where the problems and difficulties that exist at local level in this process are being identified, while possible solutions are being proposed.

Likewise, work continues on the development of resources and the generation of knowledge for the alignment of the public policies of Local Entities with the Sustainable Development Goals, paying special attention to the definition of the set of local indicators for the monitoring of the SDGs, taking as a starting point the National Statistics Institute indicators, for their adaptation to the local level, which will enable progress in the fulfilment of the goals to be ascertained, according to the reality of each municipality. Its results will be the basis for a specific Guide to help local governments identify their indicators and for the creation of a platform of local SDG indicators, as well as minimum models for the preparation of voluntary reports by Local Bodies. This will be complemented by the implementation of a Training of Trainers programme and the support of a team of experts, under the supervision of the FEMP, to provide technical advisory services to Local Bodies in the process of localisation and local implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to the networking and coordination actions carried out by the FEMP, the city councils, provincial councils, town councils and island councils are also making significant efforts to localise and implement the 2030 Agenda in their respective spheres of action. In this sense, another of the great advances has been the call by the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda, in August 2022, for competitive grants for actions to promote the 2030 Agenda in Local Entities. With a maximum budget of 4,800,000 euros to be distributed among local entities, the aim is to finance projects or initiatives related to the development and/or adaptation of municipal strategic plans for the 2030 Agenda, awareness-raising and sensitisation actions aimed at citizens and local actors, as well as all initiatives that enable the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. The FEMP has also been designated as a collaborating entity for the management of this grant.

All in all, the progress that has been made on the role of local entities in the localisation of the 2030 Agenda within the reinforced system of governance foreseen for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Strategy allows, on the one hand, to promote knowledge, awareness and implementation of the SDGs in Spanish local entities, while at the same time attending to institutional strengthening and the effective participation of local actors in decision-making processes.

These advances have strengthened and legitimised the strategic role played by local governments in the development of the 2030 Agenda in Spain, promoting networking and the search for alliances to promote sustainable development policies at the local level and to articulate a true multi-stakeholder and multi-level institutional architecture that has inspired the 2030 Agenda itself since its adoption.

B. THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the role played by organised civil society has been decisive in raising public awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Organised civil society is a lever for change that contributes, as a transformative agent and catalyst for society's participation and awareness-raising in the public policy cycle, to the implementation of concrete and innovative solutions. It is, therefore, a key player in reaching consensus for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

Civil society organisations are key actors in conveying citizens' concerns and promoting initiatives in favour of sustainable development. In this regard, the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy itself proposes the development of actions aimed at supporting and strengthening initiatives and actions by organisations, platforms and social movements in defence of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its alignment with the SDGs, while establishing commitments to promote their participation, through governance structures, in the progress towards the implementation of the 2030 SDS.

In this context, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has promoted actions to strengthen the **Sustainable Development Council**, as a privileged space for collaboration and a channel for civil society participation, in which working groups have been set up based on the priorities of its work plan and a technical secretariat will be activated to facilitate its internal functioning and which will be a key agent in the process of accountability for progress on the goals set in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and the establishment of the Comprehensive System of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

On the other hand, the Sustainable Development Strategy integrates actions and initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain through **the promotion of the activities and contributions of organised civil society**, the private sector and other agents committed to it from a multilevel and multi-stakeholder perspective, involving academia, economic and social agents and citizens as a whole. Along these lines, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has launched a line of **grants aimed at financing projects and activities carried out by platforms, civil society organisations and non-profit associations, entities in the field of social economy, universities and public research bodies** that favour the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the priorities for action of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

With an annual budget of 10 million euros, the call finances projects and initiatives aimed at boosting, promoting and aligning public policies with the 2030 Agenda.

With a high percentage of actions that promote political and social advocacy, awareness-raising, technological innovation applied to public policies and social intervention in care services, as well as the establishment of multi-stakeholder alliances and networking and social intervention and entrepreneurship, the 2021 call for proposals has managed to finance 58 projects that affect one or more of the challenges set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

Specifically, within the scope of accelerating policy 1. *Redistributing wealth and guaranteeing rights*, projects have been undertaken aimed at people at risk of social exclusion, addressing, among others, the problem of access to housing, the eradication of shantytowns and intercultural mediation. For its part, Challenge 2 *Addressing the climate and environmental emergency* and its accelerating policy *A country that respects the limits of the planet* are addressed through projects aimed at tackling the challenges of climate change and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energies, with initiatives that contribute to promoting the use of renewable energies in final energy consumption and which, in turn, help to mitigate the impacts of climate change on inequality and poverty, or initiatives for the implementation of sustainable communities.

The initiatives aimed at *Closing the gender inequality gap and ending discrimination* and promoting accelerating policy 3 *"Free and equal lives for all"* focus their actions on projects aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, including those of migrant origin, through actions in the field of feminism and women's rights, including proposals aimed at redistributing care work, as well as projects for the empowerment and establishment of support networks for migrant women. In line with the goal of eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, the call for

grants has also made it possible to finance social intervention actions aimed at victims of gender-based violence and its prevention.

With regard to challenge 4, which calls for *Overcoming the inefficiencies of an excessively concentrated and dependent economic system* through its accelerating policy *A new green, digital and just economic and productive model*, circular economy projects have been financed to promote the eco-design and reuse of products, fostering, on the other hand, the social inclusion of vulnerable groups, as well as social impact projects that are committed to innovative models of sustainable and responsible production and consumption, which help to reduce the generation of food waste along the food chain. For their part, the social economy and the business fabric are the protagonists of several of the projects launched within the framework of the call for proposals. These projects address the implementation of the SDGs in the business fabric and the social footprint of this business activity, as well as the strengthening of social economy enterprises and ethical finance.

Job training and integration of the unemployed, especially women and young people, as well as the promotion of youth entrepreneurship and the modernisation of active employment policies are at the basis of some of the projects launched that address country challenge 5, *Putting an end to job insecurity* and its accelerating policy *Quality and stability in employment*. In this area, initiatives have been undertaken through the call for proposals for the prevention and eradication of labour exploitation in the Spanish food system.

The public services crisis posed by challenge 6 is addressed through projects to improve the health and quality of life of vulnerable groups by means of initiatives aimed at promoting public policies that guarantee the effective right to health, especially for people in vulnerable situations. Specifically, in the field of health, it has been possible to develop psychosocial care projects for people with disabilities, pilot projects for advanced and proximity care in the field of mental health aimed at people with difficulties in accessing the care network, or interventions to care for the prison population over 65 years of age. The call for proposals also financed initiatives to support groups and people in a situation of severe exclusion in order to gain access to the electricity and thermal social voucher.

The call for grants has also made it possible to develop advocacy initiatives aimed at encouraging the participation of civil society in the promotion of migration policies that enable progress to be made in fulfilling the commitments of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in line with the action priorities of Challenge 7, *End global injustice and threats to human rights, democratic principles and the sustainability of the planet* and its accelerating policy *“International leadership for a just and sustainable, egalitarian, democratic and human rights-based globalisation”*.

Finally, in relation to country challenge 8, *Revitalising our rural environment and facing the demographic challenge* and its accelerating policy *Social and territorial cohesion. A rural environment with equal rights and opportunities*, there are several projects that address it, highlighting those aimed at combating depopulation and favouring the maintenance of the population and the settlement of entrepreneurs in rural areas, through initiatives aimed at offering economic opportunities and employment, particularly to young people and women, or the generation of social entrepreneurship networks in rural areas.

In short, the launch by the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda, of the line of subsidies for projects and initiatives for the promotion and alignment of public policies, as well as the implementation of activities for the strengthening and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is consolidated as a fundamental tool for social entities and civil society organisations to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. Consequently, for the year 2022 a new call for proposals has been launched with a budget of 10 million euros, which will be resolved during the last quarter of the year.

The role of culture in sustainable development

Culture, the basis of human societies and the vehicle for shaping and transmitting their identity, permeates each of the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, although no specific SDG was established for culture, it is present in a cross-cutting manner in goals related to education, the achievement of sustainable cities, food security, environmental protection, sustainable economic growth and the strengthening of inclusive and peaceful societies.

The fact is that the relationship between sustainable development and culture has multiple antecedents in national and multilateral political agendas. Thus, the integration of culture in the world view of the 2030 Agenda is a firm commitment to cultural development and its role in achieving fairer and more democratic societies. Therefore, it is clear that the 2030 Agenda embraces the challenge of preserving and protecting the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of our societies, as well as the promotion of cultural and creative industries.

In this sense, the cultural sector, through its multiple channels of expression, has a fundamental role in the dissemination of the 2030 Agenda, raising awareness and helping citizens to understand the great challenges facing humanity and raising awareness of the collective responsibility we have as a society to transform our immediate reality. On the other hand, the cultural sector is also a relevant agent in the achievement of sustainable cultural practices, as the SDGs invite cultural agents to reflect, reinvent themselves, innovate and identify new potential audiences and audiences.

With the aim of increasing the presence of the cultural sector in sustainable development narratives based on a multi-level approach, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda signed several agreements between 2021 and 2022 with the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development (REDS). Specifically, a Framework Agreement and a specific Agreement were signed to provide a cooperation framework to raise awareness and raise the awareness of Spanish society to the Sustainable Development Goals and promote the participation of the academic and cultural sectors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, incorporating the contributions of culture to the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). Likewise, in June 2022, a new agreement was signed for the development of activities to promote the cultural dimension of the 2030 Agenda, giving continuity to the line of work that has been carried out since the creation of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

One of the first advances and actions in the framework of these collaboration agreements was the organisation of the multi-stakeholder workshop "Contributing to the Sustainable Development Strategy from Culture", a meeting that brought together almost a hundred people in the field of culture and experts in Agenda 2030. The main objective of the workshop was to raise a multilevel dialogue around several central issues identified by the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda and by REDS in the process of defining the SDS, with a special focus on the role and contributions of cultural actors for the promotion and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The results of the workshop were expressed in a document/report of the rapporteur with the conclusions and contributions gathered during the workshop, as well as the creation of a database with the key agents that could form a future network of experts from the sector for the promotion of Culture and the 2030 Agenda.

Other notable advances were the holding of the fourth Public Day on Culture and Sustainable Development, which included the presentation of the publication "Guide to getting started with the SDGs in culture", as well as a training programme for cultural stakeholders on the 2030 Agenda and the publication "Sustainable Development Goals and their targets from a cultural perspective". The latter is an analysis document that interprets the SDGs and their targets from a cultural approach, serving also as a basis for the multi-stakeholder process mentioned above. The development of the "Methodological Guide to present evidence of the impacts of culture on sustainable development in the Voluntary National Review" can also be noted, which focuses on developing a set of materials such as indicators, protocols and systems for assessing the impacts of culture on sustainable development and providing a manual for cultural managers to use in order to increase the visibility of their results and impacts.

Ultimately, the very conception of the 2030 Agenda and the progress that has been made reveal the importance of the cultural sector and its enormous social value. Culture must be respected and guaranteed as a right, and at the same time it should be promoted as a tool in the achievement of equitable, supportive and resilient societies. Culture helps to build a critical and empowered mass of citizens through knowledge and creativity to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Moreover, from the point of view of the cultural sector, the 2030 Agenda is a unique opportunity to promote a responsible and globally engaged culture, more responsive and sensitive to social needs, becoming an agent of change and social transformation.

C. THE BUSINESS SECTOR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2030

The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, in line with the United Nations mandate, recognises the fundamental role of business in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and shows a willingness to work together with those companies that take co-responsibility for the achievement of the SDGs and human rights for all people within and beyond our borders.

In this sense, the business sector in Spain is gradually taking on board the 2030 Agenda as a guide for integrating sustainable development into its activities, as shown by the results of the consultations carried out since 2018 by the Spanish Global Compact Network. The last of these²²², carried out in March and April 2022, and open to a wide range of types of companies -social economy, private enterprise and public enterprise-, of all sizes and sectors, has served to **assess progress and make a diagnosis of the state of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the business sector** in Spain, analysing progress in the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in our country.

In general terms, there is a progressive awareness of the 2030 Agenda. 86% of the 2,507 participating companies say they are aware of this international agenda. Evolution has been constant in recent years and practically all large companies, social economy enterprises and public enterprises, as well as a large majority of SMEs, micro-enterprises and self-employed workers say they are aware of it, in line with society's growing concern for social and environmental issues, although it is true that there is still room for improvement in the case of self-employed workers.

The increase in participation is related to the recognition that the integration of sustainability and the SDGs brings greater competitive advantages and positively impacts the company's economic performance (49% of respondents). In fact, 32 per cent of participating companies acknowledge that they have developed a sustainability strategy aligned with the SDGs and 57 per cent have a person or department working on sustainability.

The consultation shows that the percentage of companies that are aware of the UN framework continues to increase and that there is greater awareness of the **need to train and educate** stakeholders on sustainability and SDGs, especially employees, with the aim of achieving an organisational culture around the 2030 Agenda. The results show that around 30% of the companies carry out these training courses, with those aimed at management (33%), middle management (29%) and employees (30%) standing out for their importance. On the other hand, only 8% of companies carry out training for suppliers (8%), a percentage that is expected to increase in the coming years as a result of the approval of the European Directive on sustainability due diligence.

With regard to the measurement and evaluation of the contribution of companies to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, it can be seen that practically half of the sample, 49%, do not carry out any measurement or evaluation and only 20% have **indicators to measure and evaluate their contribution to the 2030 Agenda**, specifically the integration of sustainability, having set measurable and time-bound targets. It should be noted that in this last group there is a slight reduction in the percentage of companies that have established measurable commitments, which, although it has evolved since 2018, when it stood at 13%, has decreased by one point compared to 2021, now standing at 20%, possibly due to the uncertainty scenario resulting from the COVID-19 crisis or the supply crisis. The remaining 31% report having performance indicators to measure and assess their contribution to sustainability without having set public and measurable targets.

Among the measures related to corporate sustainability, the increase in those related to gender equality, through work-life balance plans and equality plans, and those related to the environment, renewable energies and emissions measurement are positively highlighted. However, the results indicate that barely 10% of companies assess their impact on human rights.

Of the priority areas to which Spanish companies are contributing the most, it is worth noting that although the SDGs related to gender equality (SDG5) and decent work (SDG8) continue to be the ones that are traditionally most addressed, an increasing number of companies are incorporating the areas of responsible

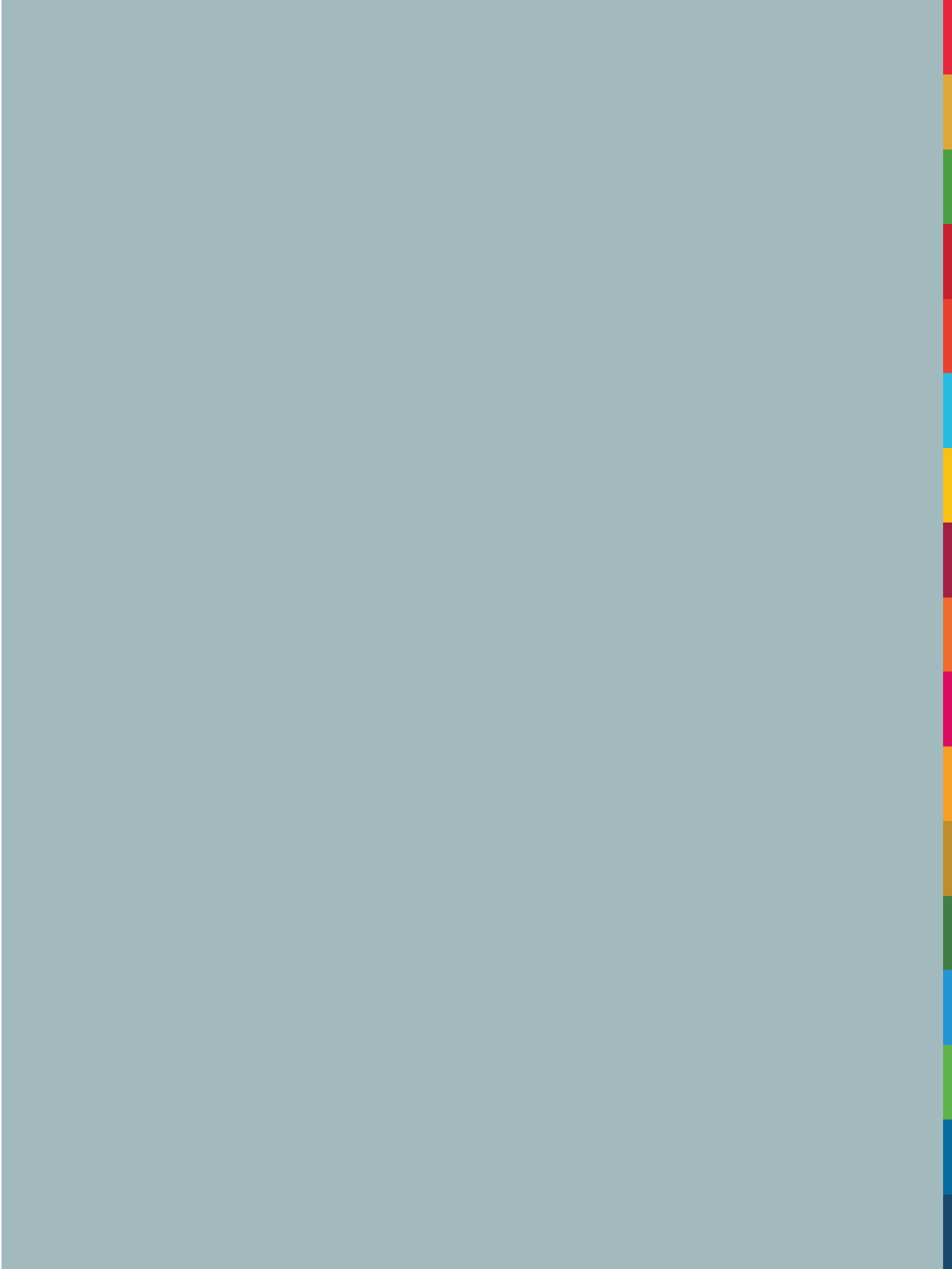
222 Documentation available [here](#).

production and consumption (SDG12) and affordable and clean energy (SDG7), which shows a growing awareness of aspects of the circular economy and climate action (SDG13).

However, despite the fact that most corporate sustainability policies and measures have increased in comparison to previous years, there are still significant challenges to making an impact on people and the planet. Achieving this will require time-bound, measurable targets and effective sustainability implementation, thus bridging the gap between sustainable development policies and the corresponding measures to implement them, as while many companies have sustainability policies in place, not all are able to translate them into effective action.

The Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda is working to promote initiatives that enable companies to progressively incorporate the SDGs into their business practices and that respond to the priority actions set out in the Sustainable Development Strategy. In this context, we highlight the role that the call for grants to civil society organisations and social economy enterprises can play. Specifically, and as a result of the call for grants made in 2021, which had a global allocation of 10 million euros, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has financed projects such as the consultation with the business sector, which provides us with starting elements to facilitate the identification of lines of work aimed at increasing the commitment of the business sector to the 2030 Agenda.

Likewise, and more specifically aimed at social economy entities, projects aimed at promoting policies consistent with sustainable development, as well as strengthening and consolidating social economy entrepreneurship projects have also been subsidised. Other types of projects are aimed at generating knowledge on the adoption of sustainable practices in companies and investment funds, as well as strengthening social economy enterprises through training and support. As regards SMEs, the call for grants is enabling a pilot project to develop tools to measure the social impact of companies (social footprint) and their contribution to the SDGs.



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