

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2030

A NATIONAL PROJECT TO MAKE THE 2030 AGENDA A REALITY



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PROLOGUE

THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THE COUNTRY

A year and a half after the formation of the coalition government, we have the honour of presenting the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. It is only fair to say that this document was drafted thanks to the commitment and participation we have received from all stakeholders, including regional administrations, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academia and the citizenry I would like, first of all, to acknowledge, and offer my appreciation to, all of those involved. Their work and contributions were essential in allowing us to establish a solid and ambitious strategy that it is up to the level of the challenges we seek to overcome.

In 2015, Spain made a commitment, within the United Nations, to make the 2030 Agenda a reality. Today, more than one third of the way into this term, we must be conscious of the fact that we must redouble our efforts. The time has come to shift from words to actions and implement effective policies that help us define the project of country we want to build, and a fair and sustainable future based on ensuring decent lives for all.

When we set the objective of drafting a Sustainable Development Strategy as soon as possible, no one could image what the immediate future had in store. As we drafted this document, we have experienced an unprecedented crisis as a result of COVID19, which has called into question many of the policies pursued to date and has laid bare the scars and structural problems of the country. However, at the same time, the pandemic has also demonstrated how the challenges of the 2030 Agenda remain more relevant than ever. The future reconstruction of our country must necessarily be based on an ecological transition that protects our planet and its diversity, on the search for social justice in the form of decent working conditions, on ending inequalities and poverty, on achieving real equality between men and women and on the protection and strengthening of the public services proven to be so essential during this crisis. Ultimately, in the future we want to build, the 2030 Agenda will be more important than ever.

Today we celebrate the approval of this Sustainable Development Strategy, which is indispensable, as civil society organisations have claimed for years. However, we now embark on phase that is of similar if not greater importance: the time to implement the policies required to take firm steps towards this future. From the very outset the Spanish Government has been working to progress in this direction, but we now also have a guide that allows us to see if we are meeting this objective effectively.

We have a decade ahead of us to achieve this future, and to do so we need everyone on board: the autonomous communities, local authorities, the business sector, experts and all citizens. We need a shared drive, encompassing the essential work of a civil society that has always defended the essential principles of the 2030 Agenda: sustainability, social justice and human rights. I am convinced that together we can make the 2030 Agenda a reality and, with it, the country our citizens deserve.

Ione Belarra Urteaga
Minister for Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda

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A decade to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality

On 25 September 2015, 193 countries reached an international agreement to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda articulated around 17 goals and 169 targets. Fifteen years to undertake profound transitions to address the great challenges facing humanity, in an increasingly interdependent and complex world, to achieve more just and sustainable societies in which human rights are guaranteed for all. A path laid out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the most ambitious framework for action that Spain and the international community as a whole have set for themselves and which should lead us towards a future based on the protection of our planet and the guarantee of a decent life for all people, ensuring that no one is left behind.

At the start of this Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, I call for renewed ambition, mobilization, leadership and collective action, not just to beat COVID-19 but to recover better, together – winning the race against climate change, decisively tackling poverty and inequality, truly empowering all women and girls and creating more inclusive and equitable societies everywhere.

**António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General¹**

The fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda takes place in a context marked by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global health emergency with unprecedented local challenges, with a high cost in the form of loss of human life that has led to a social and economic crisis unprecedented in its extent and magnitude, the effect of which is even more evident in the most vulnerable countries and groups. The situation created by COVID-19 has challenged the current social and economic model and demonstrated our vulnerability as individuals and as a collective. It is undeniable that the global pandemic has highlighted many of the consequences of the way in which the world has been organised politically and economically, with an unfair and unsustainable distribution of resources and power that generates major social and ecological divide.

Nor can we dissociate the origin of this crisis from the degradation affecting our planet and its ecosystems. Scientific evidence shows that the risk of the emergence and spread of infectious diseases increases as nature is destroyed, as reflected, for example, in IPBES' Global Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Assessment Report 2019,² which also

¹ UN (2020). Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020. Accessible [here](#)

² Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (2019). Global Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Assessment Report. Accessible [here](#)

found that we are currently experiencing an unprecedented biodiversity loss crisis. There are also other factors such as climate change that deteriorate ecosystems and make them less resilient and thus increase the risk of zoonoses. Healthy, complex and well-preserved ecosystems can play an important role in buffering and diluting zoonoses, helping to reduce the risk of spread to humans.

Eco-dependent relationships must lead to an awareness of the limited nature of the biosphere. There are nine planetary boundaries to biophysical processes that are fundamental to ensuring the continuity of natural processes.³ These limits refer to climate change, the rate of biodiversity extinction, nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, stratospheric ozone depletion, ocean acidification, freshwater use, land use changes, aerosol air pollution and chemical pollution.⁴ In 2011, four of these nine limits were identified to have been exceeded, both globally and in our country.⁵ This is in addition to the interdependence between human beings. This second dependency is due to our condition as vulnerable beings, requiring care and material needs to be met throughout our life cycle (housing, healthy food, access to energy, health, education, etc.).

The 2030 Agenda addresses the profound relationship between economic, social and environmental issues and between local, national and global realities and calls on public administrations and the different levels of government, in close collaboration with the other stakeholders involved, to promote coherent, integrated and sustainable actions that are interrelated with each other, that take into account the eco-dependent relationships of human beings and societies with respect to nature, and the links between people and institutions, all in the interest of guaranteeing life and its sustainability. At the same time, it is undeniably committed to a concept of sustainability that is intrinsically linked to the social sphere, in such a way that it understands that the future of our world will only be sustainable if a decent life is also guaranteed for all people without leaving anyone behind.

It is, therefore, a direct call for the transformation of socio-economic models and for the protection of people and nature. To make the 2030 Agenda a reality, we must put in place ambitious, coherent and courageous policies that comprehensively address the guarantee of human rights,

gender equality, social justice and care, as well as the fight against the climate and ecological emergency. We have a unique opportunity as a country and as a society to ensure the well-being of all people, while assuming our global responsibility and that of future generations, and to move towards a more inclusive, fair, territorially cohesive and sustainable development model. Five years have passed, and we cannot wait any longer. The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy will be the political framework and the necessary tool of transformation that will guide and accelerate the action of the Government and all public administrations in Spain, along with all other stakeholders, in the construction of sustainable development for the next ten years.

2020 also marked the start of a Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, ten years to accelerate efforts and promote sustainable solutions that end poverty and inequality, realise gender equality and effectively combat climate change and its worst consequences with full respect for human rights. Within its framework, the United Nations calls on the different levels of government and all sectors of society - universities, civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, the media, etc. - to mobilise their efforts to transform policies, institutions and practices by promoting concerted, aligned and mutually supportive global and local solutions that leave no one behind.

These solutions cannot be separated from an analysis of the root causes of the worst effects of the global pandemic, of the vulnerabilities that already existed but have now become more evident and intensified. Nor can they be disassociated from interactions between public policies, which in some cases can lead to unintended effects that need to be addressed and mitigated. In this vein, the UN has added to the Decade for Action a Call for the revitalisation of Human Rights⁶ as the framework that should guide the response to the pandemic, so that people and their rights are placed at the core of recovery and reconstruction efforts. This call highlights the close interrelationship and mutually reinforcing dynamics between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the International Human Rights Framework, which imposes obligations on States to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

³ Rockström, Johan (2009): "Planetary boundaries: exploring a safe operating space for Humanity" in *Ecology and Society*, vol.14, num 2.

⁴ Rockström, Johan (2009) *ibid.*

⁵ *Ecosystems Evaluation of the Millennium in Spain*. Accessible [here](#)

⁶ UN (2020). *The Highest Aspiration. A Call to Action for Human Rights*. Accessible [here](#)

The call by the United Nations to accelerate efforts within the framework of the Decade for Action comes before the global crisis generated by COVID-19, in the face of evidence of uneven and insufficient progress to meet the 2030 Agenda, with climate change and the crisis of biodiversity loss among the main and closely related challenges that, as already noted, will have catastrophic and irreversible effects on ecosystems, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people, causing more poverty and inequality, as well as unprecedented population displacement, increasing territorial inequalities and the urban-rural divide. This challenge comes on top of pre-existing structural problems in many countries in the form of growing inequality both within and between countries, and social protection which, far from being universal, only benefited 45% of the world's population in 2019.⁷

Despite some progress, the United Nations warned in its 2019 SDG Report that the results of global progress on the 2030 Agenda were not sufficient and that there were still many areas that required urgent collective attention, such as inequality, which continued to affect women and girls most critically. Women bear a disproportionate share of unpaid care work, are under-represented in political decision-making spaces and in access to economic resources and remain unable to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights in many countries.⁸ In short, even before the outbreak of the global, multidimensional crisis in the wake of COVID-19, the world was not on track to deliver on its commitment to people and planet.

Even before the pandemic, according to ILO estimates, one billion men and women were unemployed, underemployed or working poor.⁹ One hundred and twenty million migrant workers and their families had left their country of origin in the hope of finding work elsewhere. All this in a demographic context in which 30 to 40 million young people become new job seekers every year, with half a billion new jobs needed over the next decade to absorb this demand. The employment impacts of COVID-19 have been devastating: in 2020 8.8% of working hours were lost, equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs; and global labour income fell by 8.3%, equivalent to USD 3.7 trillion and 4.4% of global GDP.¹⁰

It is precisely these structural and upstream vulnerabilities that explain the enormous impact the global pandemic is having on the health, economic situation and living conditions of millions of people around the world. A threat that has not been the same for all people and all countries, and which is closely related to the quality and robustness of public services and the social protection systems. The United Nations

estimates that the pandemic could push 71 million people into extreme poverty by 2020, the first increase since 1998,¹¹ a figure that, according to most recent World Bank projections, could rise to between 88 and 115 million people.¹² The worst reflection of this reality is the food insecurity crisis that affects one out of ten human beings.¹³

The impact projected by these estimates is largely explained by a reality in which around 1.6 billion people – half of the world's labour force – have insecure jobs in the black economy¹⁴ that cannot be developed in situations of confinement or restricted mobility. This generates, especially in countries with insufficient or even non-existent social protection standards, a dynamic of vulnerability and exposure that feeds back on itself.

The outbreak of this crisis has, moreover, occurred in a context of growing polarisation and weakening of multilateralism, which paradoxically coincides with the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. This questioning aims to weaken consensus such as the defence of gender equality, the protection of human rights and the sustainability of our economic and productive model, in connection with the proposals of the 2030 Agenda. To deliver the urgent transformations that the current context demands, we need a global governance based on a strengthened and democratic multilateralism as an instrument to achieve a coordinated and lasting solution. The pandemic has shown once again that countries need to work together to manage the global problems that affect us all. It is time to work for a joint and coordinated response to the major social and environmental challenges, with the abandonment of failed positions and the rejection of discourses of hatred and exclusion at the heart of its action, with the aim of continuing to promote sustainability, inclusion, well-being and solidarity.

In short, only with a strengthened social and sustainable global governance will we be able to reverse the social, territorial, economic and access to knowledge and existing resource asymmetries between and within countries, including equal access to vaccination against COVID-19 in equality of conditions as the principal instrument to initiate the recovery. These asymmetries keep us from achieving the 2030 Agenda and are at the root of the most devastating effects the pandemic is having around the world. Therefore, the United Nations urges governments and sectors of society to renew their commitment to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the International Human Rights Framework, to enable a reconstruction based on the principles upon

⁷ UN (2019). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*. Accessible [here](#)

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ ILO (2019). *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2019* Accessible [here](#)

¹⁰ ILO (2021). *ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Seventh edition* Accessible [here](#)

¹¹ UN (2020). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020*. Accessible [here](#)

¹² World Bank (2020). *A change of fortune. Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune* Accessible [here](#)

¹³ Joint statement by ILO, FAO, IFAD and WHO (2020). *Impact of COVID-19 on people's livelihoods, their health and our food systems* Accessible [here](#)

¹⁴ UN (2020). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020*. Accessible [here](#)

which the SDGs were established and allows us to prepare to prevent the effects of an even greater crisis, such as climate change, based on the lessons learned during the management of this pandemic.

From these premises, the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) -the most important global mechanism to review the commitments made by countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals - which is scheduled to take place between 6 and 15 July 2021, will focus on how to address a sustainable, fair and resilient recovery from the global pandemic, from the promotion of the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic) capable of building an inclusive and effective path to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda in the context of the Decade for Action. Under this premise, the global status of the SDGs will be explored in depth, including SDG1: "End Poverty", SDG2: "Zero Hunger", SDG3: "Health and Well-being", SDG8: "Decent Work and Economic Growth", SDG10: "Reducing inequalities", SDG12: "Sustainable Consumption and Production", SDG13: "Climate Action", SDG16: "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" and SDG17: "Partnerships to achieve the goals", based on the principles of interrelatedness and indivisibility of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Within its framework, 44 countries will undergo the Voluntary National Review (VNR), including Spain, which will participate in this exercise for the second time, presenting the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and the Progress Report as our country's contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the international efforts within the framework of the Decade for Action. The HLPF and, specifically, ENV 2021 represents an opportunity to strengthen Spain's political commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to show that we have moved from words to actions by defining the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, which sets out the actions to be taken by Spain to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that no one is left behind.

The year 2021 is also a key year for international climate action. The 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-26), which was postponed in 2020 as a result of the international health situation, will be held in Glasgow in November. COP-26 is a key summit since the Paris Agreement was signed in December 2015, as countries must present their new climate change plans or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which must be consistent with the recommendations of science and the commitment to increase ambition to achieve

the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Under existing emission reduction plans, the planet would increase its temperature by up to 3.2°C, with catastrophic consequences for the planet and for people.

A key international biodiversity milestone is also scheduled for 2021. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biodiversity Conservation, which was postponed because of the pandemic, will be held in the Chinese city of Kunming. The next global biodiversity framework is due to be adopted at this meeting, which should define new global goals and targets to help halt biodiversity loss and restore degraded ecosystems over the next decade. A unique opportunity to respond decisively and urgently through multilateral action to the alarming biodiversity crisis, thereby contributing to progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, the implementation of recovery plans to rebuild the global economies affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic offers an unprecedented opportunity to drive a true green and digital transition towards the goal of climate neutrality by the middle of the century. It is therefore urgent to ensure that the economic and financial stimulus measures, which are generating an unprecedented mobilisation of public resources, promote the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, both domestically and globally, and are clearly aligned with the commitment to a just ecological transition, which lays the foundations for a fair, sustainable, inclusive and supportive future development model for all people everywhere in the world. This is envisaged in Spain's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, which has aligned the reforms and investments it contains with the SDGs.

The European Union and its commitment to the 2030 Agenda

Since its adoption in 2015, the European Union (EU) has conveyed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda through different strategic and declaratory frameworks. In November 2016, the European Commission presented the Communication Next steps for a sustainable European future. European Action for Sustainability¹⁵, in which it sets out for the first time its strategic approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An approach that commits to the inclusion of the SDGs in all EU policies and initiatives, both present and future, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development as the articulating axes, as well as through the establishment of a governance framework aimed at fostering their implementation with the participation of all European institutions, and in partnership with international organisations and civil society.

This Communication is part of a package of actions that included the review of the European Consensus on Development,¹⁶ as a collective vision and action plan of the EU and its Member States that adapts European international development policy to the new framework for action provided by the 2030 Agenda. The European Commission's vision for this period is completed in the Reflection Paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030',¹⁷ of February 2019, aimed at inspiring the debate on the future of Europe and the preparation of the EU's Strategic Agenda for the 2019-2024 cycle. Finally, it is important to highlight the creation, in 2017 and with the impetus of the European Commission, of a High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Platform to follow up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the EU, made up of representatives of the business sector, civil society organisations and the academic world, with a mandate to contribute to the reflection on the implementation of this Agenda through European policies. His mandate, considered insufficient by broad sectors of civil society, expires in December 2019.

For its part, the Council of the European Union, in successive resolutions of June 2017,¹⁸ April 2019¹⁹ and December 2019,²⁰ has

urged the European Commission to draw up an implementation strategy defining the time frame, objectives and concrete measures for the integration of the 2030 Agenda into all of its internal and external policies, taking into account the external impact of domestic policies. A strategy that should be based on a clear vision of how EU policies will contribute to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda, which in turn identifies the gaps in terms of policies, regulatory frameworks, means of implementation and governance structure to be deployed to ensure horizontal and sustainable development coherence of the actions to be undertaken. This strategic framework has also been called for by the European Parliament and organised civil society.²¹

The response to this demand by the European Commission was the November 2020 Staff Working Document Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals - A comprehensive approach²², the basis for the Council Conclusions on a comprehensive approach to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda adopted during the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2021.

Both documents are based on the conviction that the COVID-19 crisis means it is no longer an option but a necessity to accelerate joint action and align investments towards the achievement of the SDGs, through urgent structural reforms. It is recognised that further progress is needed on an integrated, strategic, ambitious and comprehensive EU approach to the implementation of the SDGs.

In its conclusions, the Council of the European Union reaffirms that the European Union and its member states strongly support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which continue to guide the actions taken by the Union and its member states, both internally and externally, stressing that it provides the blueprint for ensuring a sustainable recovery that is inclusive, socially just, resilient and green.

Some of the most important developments include the call for the European Commission to integrate the SDGs into the European Semester, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Next Generation EU Recovery Facility, the call to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development and the promotion of the involvement of civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, as well as follow-up and monitoring through regular reporting of its internal and external actions.

The European Semester is the mechanism for coordinating economic, fiscal and employment policies within the EU and is a central element of the EU's economic governance framework.

¹⁵ European Commission (2016). Next steps for a sustainable European future. European action for sustainability. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁶ Council of the European Union (2017). New European Consensus on Development. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁷ European Commission (2019). Reflection Paper 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030'. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁸ Council of the European Union (2017). 10370/17. A sustainable European future: The EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as adopted by the Council at its 3552nd meeting held on 20 June 2017. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁹ Council of the European Union (2019). 8286/19 Council conclusions "Towards an ever more sustainable Union by 2030", as adopted by the Council at its 3685th meeting held on 9 April 2019 Accessible [here](#)

²⁰ Council of the European Union (2019). 14835/19 Building a sustainable Europe by 2030 - Progress thus far and next steps - Council conclusions, adopted by the Council at its 3739th meeting on 10 December 2019. Accessible [here](#)

²¹ SDG Watch Europe (2019). Letter to the President of the Government of Spain. Accessible [here](#)

²² Commission Staff Working Document. Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. A comprehensive approach. Accessible [here](#).

The Council of the European Union has recalled the need for integration of the SDGs into the Semester, through the addition of a chapter on environmental sustainability in the national reports and a specific annex reporting on Member States' SDG performance.

Implementing the SDGs is a shared responsibility, requiring action at national, sub-national, regional and local levels. The EU has urged Member States to raise their level of ambition in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by accelerating its integration into National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDSs), to which this document is a response.

The EU's push for the SDGs is based on its six strategic priorities for the period 2019–2024 and, in particular, on the promotion of the green and digital transition of the European economy, with an approach that did not give sufficient prominence to the social transition and the strengthening of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

In its Conclusions, the EU Council addressed this issue by reaffirming the importance of strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development to promote inclusion, human development, social cohesion and equality in all its forms, including gender equality, as well as social dialogue and decent work. At the Porto Social Summit in May 2021, European leaders endorsed the Action Plan for the coming years to realise the European Pillar of Social Rights whose proposed 2030 headline targets are in line with and support the goals and targets of the SDGs, albeit to a somewhat less ambitious degree.

It is therefore necessary to continue to incorporate the social issue into the debates on sustainable development in Europe. The strengthening of the European Union and the construction of sustainability as a fundamental pillar of the future will not be achieved if it is not accompanied by the consolidation of a Social Europe that protects and extends social rights, establishing minimum European social standards in many areas, and incorporating social issues into current debates in a transversal manner. There is no doubt that promoting the ecological and digital transition will require addressing the structural causes that generate multiple inequalities, which is an inexorable condition for moving efficiently and effectively towards inclusive economic and social development that respects the limits of the planet.

Furthermore, the implementation of a new economic governance scheme to guarantee the coherence of all efforts with sustainable development and the specific role of the different bodies that make up the European institutions, including the role that the European Parliament, the institution that most essentially

represents European democracy, will play in this objective, is still pending.

In its Conclusions, the Council also recalled the important role played by civil society in the Multi-stakeholder Platform and urged the Commission to re-establish it with inclusive and representative participation and to seek good cooperation with initiatives such as the European Climate Pact and the Conference on the Future of Europe. The innovative and positive proposal remains to be defined that this new and improved Platform should also be involved in monitoring the implementation of the objectives and be consulted in sustainability impact assessments of new initiatives.

The EU, as the world's largest provider of official development assistance, is called upon to play a leading role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and also at the global level through its external action. Development aid policy and international partnerships are an important part of the response of the EU and its Member States to the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the new financial instrument Global Europe – agreed within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027 – to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in partner countries; and, on the other hand, the Team Europe approach, initially developed as part of the EU's global response to COVID-19, which seeks to combine the efforts of the Member States and the Commission to strengthen coordination, including through joint programming, and where Spanish Cooperation has been actively involved. Moreover, the EU has always been a natural ally of the United Nations and its agencies and has played a leading role in supporting and promoting effective multilateralism and a rules-based international order with the UN at its centre. In this regard, the commitments to this organisation to ensure that the EU and its Member States are represented at the highest level and with broad stakeholder participation in its forums, especially in the annual High Level Political Forum for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, stand out.

The emergence of COVID-19 in the context of the European Union and its response

The COVID-19 pandemic, in its threefold dimension, has shaken the foundations of Europe, as the European Commission itself has acknowledged. According to the Economic Forecasts Report published in February 2021²³, the euro area economy will contract by 6.8% in 2020, before growing by 3.8% in 2021. Efforts to protect employment, inject liquidity into companies and to strengthen health care and social protection for the population require an extraordinary investment of resources for Member States at a time when fiscal revenues (tax revenues, social and/or other contributions) are declining as a result of the same economic slowdown. This will inevitably lead to budget deficits and an increase in debt that could rise to 102% of GDP in the euro area.

Against this background, the European Council on 21 July 2020 agreed, in an historic decision, on a far-reaching package of measures combining the launch of a European Recovery Facility, Next Generation EU, worth EUR 750 billion, financed by EU debt issuance, plus the 1.074 trillion euros of the reinforced Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, which will lay the foundations for an enhanced further convergence, resilience and productive transformation of the EU from the core of digitalisation and tackling the green transition with a view to delivering on the commitments of the European Green Pact. This decision is also an acceptance that the only way to rebuild is through solidarity and joint work by all European countries, leaving behind the policies of austerity adopted in response to the financial crisis of 2008, which generated a significant social cost in the form of suffering and pain for millions of people, as well as the weakening of public services and social protection.

The implementation of these measures will mean that our country will be able to count on 140 billion euros, of which 72 billion will come in the form of direct transfers and 68 billion in low-interest repayable loans. The mobilisation of such a significant volume of resources represents an opportunity to reinforce the path laid

²³ European Commission (2021). *European Economic Forecast. Winter 2021 Institutional Paper 144*. February 2020. Accessible [here](#)

out by the Government to tackle a recovery driven by public investment, which will make it possible to strengthen social rights, and an economic reactivation whose central objective is to advance in the ecological transition of our productive and social model and supported by connectivity and digitalisation. The Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan for Spain will enable the modernisation of the Spanish economy, the recovery of economic growth and job creation for a strong, inclusive and resilient economic reconstruction after the COVID-19 crisis and will be a major step forward in responding to the challenges of the next decade. The Plan does not start from scratch but, on the contrary, is inspired by and builds on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and will therefore be integrated as part of the more global actions set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Plan addresses ecological transition, digital transformation, gender equality and social and territorial cohesion, with just transition criteria and leaving no one behind. The role of just transition is crucial. We are at a crucial moment when political decisions will have decisive consequences on the economy and society for present and future generations. It is therefore essential to orient transformations with criteria of social justice, which will simultaneously address the main challenges of our time that require urgent attention, such as the strengthening of health, education and care systems, the protection of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems, the demographic challenge, migratory integration and youth employment, among others. Moreover, this will help our country to play an ambitious role in the international arena, helping other societies to make progress in achieving these transformations. This process requires not only policies that are equal to the challenges, but also a great social agreement to sustain this process of economic, social and environmental reconstruction that will determine the future of our country for generations to come.

The European Union has also shown solidarity with the rest of the world in articulating a comprehensive and robust response, as part of Europe's core values. The pandemic is hitting hardest those groups that find themselves in a situation of poverty, exclusion and greater vulnerability, and this also includes the most vulnerable countries. A global pandemic means collaborating and helping other countries, as no one is safe until we all are safe. On this premise, the EU has supported cooperation and coordinated action by the international community, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, to address the impact of the crisis and to promote a sustainable and inclusive recovery. To this end, the European response has been articulated from the Team Europe approach, to enable a coordinated response - Member States and European Institutions - as a contribution

to the global fight against the pandemic. The European response focuses on the humanitarian, social, economic and health consequences of the crisis. An example of this is the contribution to the Accelerating Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT-A) initiative, including the COVAX pillar, which will facilitate access to vaccines for developing countries, co-led by Spain and deployed with support from Team Europe. For its part, in the context of the G20, the EU, with the support of Spain, has supported joint negotiations with the Paris Club to offer debt relief to the poorest countries, through the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and the establishment of a common framework for the coordinated negotiation of additional debt relief treatments.

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2 ZERO HUNGER



Laying the foundations for the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030

The impetus that the Action Plan has provided for the 2030 Agenda, approved in June 2018, has been assumed by the new Executive formed after elections of 10 November 2019 with the renewed commitment to place the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of government action. This is evidenced in the definition of an architecture that grants a prominent role to the 2030 Agenda, elevating its range to the level of Ministry and creating a Secretary of State with executive competencies and a mandate for the design, drafting, development and assessment of the plans and strategies necessary for Spain's compliance with the 2030 Agenda and, specifically, the Sustainable Development Strategy, in collaboration with the competent authorities of the General State Administration, with the rest of the competent public administrations, with organised civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and society as a whole²⁴.

The definition of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, therefore, constitutes a central priority of the Spanish Government, which has received from the very outset, the support and collaboration of the autonomous communities, autonomous cities, local authorities, civil society organisations, the organisations and bodies of the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and other key stakeholders for the achievement of the SDGs. A clear commitment that is focussed on a fundamental task: turning words into actions and declarations into policies.

This collaboration has been essential to ensure the Strategy is configured as a country strategy with a lasting vocation that generates the broadest political and social consensus possible and that guarantees continuity on the basis of the structural transformations our economic and social model must undertake so that the 2030 Agenda is a reality not only in Spain but beyond our borders too. It is a commitment that makes it possible for our country to become an international leader in compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

Spain must take advantage of the 2030 Agenda momentum to build a shared vision of the country, a transformative and mobilising project capable of focusing the efforts of all stakeholders and, especially, the citizenry as a whole, towards a new model of sustainable development that ensures the full exercise of human rights. A model that urgently tackles the

social and ecological transition that ends inequalities, fosters inclusion assuming the limits of our planet.

The 2030 Agenda is a broad agenda whose capacity to transform the reality depends on being articulated through public policies capable of placing justice, sustainability and equality at the centre of decision-making and doing so from a multidimensional and policy coherence approach. The Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 is therefore the maximum expression of Spain's political and social commitment to defining its contribution to sustainable development as a country.

This comprehensive nature of the 2030 Agenda required, prior to the drafting of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, the implementation of a solid and stable system of governance, capable of articulating the drive, from different levels of the public administration, to the achievement of 2030 Agenda, promoting at the same time a broad and ongoing dialogue with social, economic and environmental stakeholders in Spain.

On the basis of the road travelled after the approval of the Action Plan, a reinforced structural and permanent system of governance of the 2030 Agenda has been established, adapted to the ministerial design defined during the current legislature, which seeks to respond to the need to reinforce the institutional mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation that the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda demands. This system of governance establishes three functional levels of articulation, with mechanisms activated to ensure their interrelation and their executive and working capacity, thus making an integrated and integrating vision of the efforts possible:

→ **Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda**, bringing together fifteen ministries. Its competencies have been defined in the scope of the study, promotion, coordination and participation in the design, drafting, implementation and assessment of the plans and strategies for Spain's compliance with the 2030 Agenda. This body enables the creation of a broad inter-ministerial coordination and is assisted by a technical working group, whose composition is open to participation of all the ministries that make up the Government, consistent with the recommendations handed down from the United Nations on the integration of all efforts using an intersectoral and multisectoral approach. To date, a number of meetings of the Government Delegated Committee and its working group have been held and it has taken a lead role in monitoring performance framed within the 2018 Action Plan and the process of defining the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

²⁴ Royal Decree 452/2020, of 10 March, developing the basic organic structure of the Ministry of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda, and amending Royal Decree 139/2020, of 28 January, establishing the basic organic structure of the ministerial departments.

→ **Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda**, a cooperative body among the General State Administration, the autonomous communities, the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla and the local administration through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is a cooperation based on dialogue, exchange of experiences and fostering joint efforts to maximise the knowledge accumulated by the different levels of administration, from the exercise of competencies attributed in the Constitution and in the regional Statutes of Autonomy. Its operating regulation provides for the creation of the Sectoral Commission for the 2030 Agenda as the support and assessment body. Both bodies, the Sectoral Conference and the Sectoral Commission for the 2030 Agenda, have developed a working schedule that allows them to gather contributions from all levels of decentralised government, and the priority commitments up to the year 2030, contained in this Sustainable Development Strategy, from the regional and local perspective.

→ **Sustainable Development Council**²⁵, whose composition and functioning has been reviewed in the current legislature, setting up an advisory body for collaboration and a source of participation, bringing together a total of sixty representatives from 34 platforms and entities, representing academia, the business sector, trade unions, ecological, social and human rights and peace organisations and international cooperation bodies, along with 13 consultative councils of state scope. This last aspect enables the necessary articulation of the work to be conducted within the framework of the Sustainable Development Council with those generated in other sectoral consultative bodies. In terms of functioning, the Council has the capacity to act in Plenary Session and in Permanent Commission and to constitute committees and working groups for the purpose of studying and articulating proposals on matters specifically assigned to it. To date, plenary sessions and sessions of the Permanent Commission have been held. Furthermore, three working groups (Sustainable Development Strategy, Gender Equality and the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development) have been launched with a central role in the process of definition of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030

Finally, as part of the commitment to accountability to all citizens, it is important to refer to the role played by the Congress of Deputies and the Senate, as the depository bodies

of popular sovereignty and the expression of different political sensitivities. In February 2019, the **Joint Commission for the coordination and monitoring of the Spanish Strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals** was constituted. It was reconstituted under the current legislature in February 2021²⁶, as a parliamentary support body as proof of the efforts to make the 2030 Agenda a reality in Spain.

This Joint Commission maintains a periodic calendar of meetings and has, hosted a total of twenty-one appearances²⁷ of representatives of national government, regional and local authorities and representatives from universities, research institutions, civil society platforms, trade unions and the business sector during the period between February 2020 and March 2021. Many of these appearances are framed within the process of delivering an Opinion to inform and guide the National Government in the process of defining the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, through specific guidelines and recommendations. These appearances involved civil society organisations, experts and academics, private sector representatives and regional and local administrations. The Opinion was approved on 19 April, evidencing the consensus generated by the 2030 Agenda and the opportunity it represents to respond to the great challengers of our time²⁸.

Ultimately, as it can be seen in the graphic below, the 2030 Agenda Governance System in Spain offers a solid structure articulated on different levels, with mechanisms activated to ensure the coordination, interrelation and executive capacity of work, thus making it possible for an integrated and integrating vision of the efforts and boosting the efficiency and effectiveness of the results and achievements from a shared and participative vision:

²⁵ Order DSA/819/2020, regulating the composition and functioning of the Sustainable Development Council. Published in the Official State Gazette (BOE), No. 239, of 7 September 2020. Article Five establishes that "The Council may act in Plenary session or in Permanent Commission".

²⁶ Information accessible [here](#)

²⁷ Information accessible [here](#)

²⁸ Information accessible [here](#)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL RIGHTS AND THE 2030 AGENDA

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

GOVERNMENT DELEGATE COMMISSION FOR THE 2030 AGENDA	SECTORAL CONFERENCE FOR THE 2030 AGENDA	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
<p>MEMBERS:</p> <p>Chair: <i>Second Vice President of the Government and Minister for Employment and Social Economy</i></p> <p>Vice Chair <i>Minister for Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation</i></p> <p><i>16 Ministries, represented by 15 Ministers and 5 State Secretaries.</i></p> <p>FUNCTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>_ To foster, coordinate and participate in the design, drafting, implementation and assessment of the plans and strategies.</i> <i>_ To submit the Sustainable Development Strategy to the Council of Ministers.</i> <i>_ To agree lever policies and measures for transformation.</i> <i>_ To agree and promote the mechanisms of impact analysis.</i> <i>_ To proceed with the study of issues relating to the main challenges and needs of the implementation of 2030 Agenda.</i> 	<p>MEMBERS:</p> <p>Chair: <i>Minister of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda</i></p> <p>Vice Chair <i>Minister of Territorial Policy</i></p> <p>Representatives: <i>Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda, Regional Ministers of the Autonomous Communities and Cities and a representative of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces.</i></p> <p>FUNCTIONS:</p> <p><i>To develop a coordinated action in matters relating to compliance with the 2030 Agenda, and the achievement of the SDGs, in accordance with the principles of institutional loyalty, cooperation and reciprocal respect in the exercise of the competencies attributed in the Constitution and the Statutes of Autonomy.</i></p>	<p>MEMBERS:</p> <p>Chair: <i>Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda</i></p> <p>Vice Chair <i>Representative of the Tertiary Sector.</i></p> <p>Representatives: <i>Representatives of the business sector, trade unions, universities, social representatives and experts.</i></p> <p>FUNCTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>_To advise the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda on the drafting of plans and strategies. To generate documents and analysis.</i> <i>_To contribute to the dissemination and communication of the 2030 Agenda, foster dialogue and coordination.</i>
<p>GOVERNMENT DELEGATE COMMISSION</p> <p>Working Group supporting the Government Delegated Committee for the 2030 Agenda</p>	<p>SECTORAL COMMISSION</p> <p>Chair: <i>Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda</i></p> <p>Members: <i>Representatives of the Autonomous Communities and Cities and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces.</i></p> <p>Presidencia: <i>Secretario de Estado para la Agenda 2030.</i></p> <p>Función: <i>Support and advisory body for the Sectoral Conference, acting in plenary sessions and through commission and technical working groups.</i></p> <p>Función: <i>Órgano de apoyo y asesoramiento de la Conferencia Sectorial, pudiendo actuar en Pleno y a través de comisiones y grupos técnicos de trabajo.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PLENARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Chair: <i>Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda</i></p> <p>Vice Chair <i>Representative of the Tertiary Sector.</i></p> <p>Representatives: <i>Representatives of the business sector, trade unions, universities, social representatives and experts</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">PERMANENT COMMISSION</p> <p>Chair: <i>Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda</i></p> <p>Members: <i>15 representatives of stakeholder groups.</i></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMISSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS</p> <p><i>Sustainable Development Strategy Working Group</i></p> <p><i>Gender Equality Working Group</i></p> <p><i>Working Group for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.</i></p>
<p>THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES AND THE SENATE Joint Commission for the coordination and monitoring of the Spanish Strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals</p>		

The road travelled: the process of drafting the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030

The objectives committed to in the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (SDS 2030) required the articulation of a working process to make it possible to generate a broad dialogue implicating different structures of government and stakeholder representation across the three mechanisms implemented in the current legislature, comprising the System of Governance for the 2030 Agenda: the Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda, the Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Council. In addition to these spaces, we count on the involvement of the Parliament through the Joint Commission for the coordination and monitoring of the Spanish Strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Complementarily, different consultation and social dialogue spaces have been articulated addressed towards involving more visions in the process, from a multidimensional and multi-stakeholder approach.

The result of this collaborative effort will be the submission of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 within the framework of the Voluntary National Review, which Spain will undergo for the second time during the next United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, scheduled in July 2021. With a view towards the preparation of this exercise in accordance with the guidelines established by the United Nations, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has been actively participating since October 2020 in a number of different workshops hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) with the aim of helping countries to draft their progress reports through the exchange of experiences and good practices, lessons learned, progress, result and identification of challenges. This participation is being developed jointly with other relevant bodies such as the National Statistics Institute (INE) and the Ministry of Finance, through the Secretary of State or Budgets and Spending, and coordinated by the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations.

Within this framework, the principal elements configured in each of the principal phases are presented below, on the basis of which the roadmap has been developed for the definition of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030²⁹.

²⁹ Ministry of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda (2020). Roadmap to define the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. Accessible [here](#)

PHASE 1

Identification of the strategic challenges, accelerating policies and priority actions for the country we want to be in 2030.

This first phase commenced in July 2020 with the principal objective of identifying the strategic challenges the future Strategy would face to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, both home and abroad. To achieve this, the involvement, vision and contributions of the three 2030 Agenda governance bodies_ the Government Delegated Committee, the Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Council, were key. Three specific public consultation processes were also held with other stakeholders and key groups for sustainable development.

A public **Consultation process with Business Sector, was** co-organised with United Nations Global Compact Network Spain, between July and November 2020, with the participation of more than 1,900 companies of different sizes and sectors, with most of all productive sectors represented. The process was built around an initial online consultation which has a dual objective. In the one hand, to ascertain the degree of implementation of the SDGs in business sector as a whole and to recognize the contributions and commitments of companies with respect to the priorities to be considered within the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. The information gathered was debated and analysed in a series of seminars structured on the basis of the size of the companies to identify different concerns based on the criteria, revealing the specific needs of SMEs, social economy enterprises and the self-employed workers. The outcomes of the process were collated in the Report on the Contribution of Spanish Companies to the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030³⁰, and were presented publicly on 4th November 2020.

Social movements were another stakeholder consulted in the first phase of the process for the definition of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. Between the months of September and October, a participation process was conducted, aimed at gathering contributions, as stakeholders and fundamental drivers of change and transformation. The process was structured around the following thematic pillars identified as key for the social stakeholders: decent housing and sustainable communities; activation of a new productive model based on the guarantee of employment rights; fiscal justice and the ecological transition; the reconstruction of the common based on the reorganisation of the care system. The work was completed through four themed panels with prominent speakers linked to social movements, after which four working groups were formed, with members from organisations linked to each of the themes for the purpose of drafting proposals relating to the public policies and actions needed in each area. The result of this work³¹, with contributions from more than 200 entities and platforms, was presented as part of a public event held on 29 October 2020.

³⁰ Spanish Global Compact Network (2020) Contribution of Spanish companies to the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. Final report of the consultation. Accessible [here](#)

³¹ Final report of the social movement participation and consultation process. Accessible [here](#)

The 2030 Agenda is also an intergenerational commitments agenda. With this key element in mind, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda, jointly with UNICEF Spain, undertook a **consultation with children and adolescents** to know their concerns and include them into the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. In October 2020, a number of working sessions were hosted within the framework of the 6th Local Participation Councils National Meeting, in which 192 children and adolescents aged between 8 and 17 participated on behalf of 74 local councils of participation from 16 autonomous communities. The Manifesto of Childhood and Adolescence 2020³², main outcome of the working session, contains their voices and proposals for the Government to make the 17 Sustainable Development Goals a reality. The report was presented publicly on 11 November 2020.

Finally, the contributions of the different working groups within the Sustainable Development Council must be highlighted. One of the main outcomes is the document National Challenges for the Sustainable Development Strategy³³ which was formally submitted to the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda on 4 February 2021.

As a result of this first part of the process, on 2nd March the Council of Ministers approved the **General Guidelines for the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030** document, with the aim of identifying, and building consensus on the strategic challenges the Sustainable Development Strategy must tackle to become the 2030 Agenda a reality, and defining the accelerating policies that will enable us to tackle the aforementioned challenges to comply with the Sustainable Development Goals, the priorities for action, that is the specific areas of the accelerating policy to respond to the specific aspects of each country challenge.

PHASE 2

Identification of priority policies for the country we want to be in 2030.

The second phase of the process has focussed on the development of country challenges and the prioritized accelerating policies in the General Guidelines for Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 document, specifying and defining priorities in actions, public policies and regulatory reforms for each of the eight sustainable development accelerating policies that have been defined in response to the country challenges. It implies a level of specification that includes the definition of precise targets to achieve by 2030, and a monitoring and assessment framework with the active involvement of the different bodies of the Agenda 2030 System of Governance: the Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda and its extended working group of ministries, the Sectoral

³² Manifesto of Childhood 2020. Conclusions of the Sixth State Meeting of Children and Adolescents Local Participation Councils on the Sustainable Development Goals. Accessible [here](#)

³³ Accessible [here](#).

Conference for the 2030 Agenda and its sectoral commission and the Sustainable Development Council through its three working groups and permanent commission.

In parallel, three additional public consultation processes were held. The first one was aimed at gathering the contributions from the **cultural sector** to incorporate the voice of professionals from cultural institutions and cultural management – creators, programmers, curators and technical staff among others – from diverse sectors of the performing and visual arts, architecture and design, the creative industries and the tangible and intangible cultural heritage sectors. This was organised jointly with the Spanish Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Secretary of State for 2030 Agenda with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Sport, emphasising the strong links between culture and sustainable development and the contribution and key role of culture in the social change required by the 2030 Agenda³⁴.

The second public consultation process was focussed on the situation and demands of **young people**. Under the leadership of the Spanish Youth Institute (INJUVE), an online survey channelled through the Spanish Youth Council and its associations, regional directorates general for Youth and other young social organizations. A face-to-face forum was also held, which explored the quantitative results obtained from the online survey, structuring a series of debates around five central themes: employment and entrepreneurship, housing and emancipation, feminism, environmentalism and education. It is expected that this reflection will generate a joint Youth Manifesto which will feed into the future Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

The third public consultation process was with **local entities**, organised jointly with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and divided in two phases. The first of these was used to compile quantitative information through an online questionnaire to find out the degree of knowledge of the 2030 Agenda within the municipal sphere, and to establish the vision of local authorities in relation to the priorities to face to make the 2030 Agenda a reality in Spain. The second phase was centred on the qualitative analysis of the results obtained from a workshop with the participation of different local entities representatives throughout the country³⁵.

Furthermore, the vision of the Joint Commission for the coordination and monitoring of the Spanish Strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals was gathered through the Opinion approved on 19 April, which offers a perspective of legislative power on the priority challenges and actions to be tackled by our country to make the 2030 Agenda a reality and stressing the importance of this international agenda as a guide to foster the transformations necessary for recovery and reconstruction after the impact of the global pandemic, leaving no one behind. Another Opinion was approved by the Sustainable Development Council, providing the vision of this

advisory body and channel of civil society participation, on the priority elements and actions that the Sustainable Development Strategy must contain.

Finally, the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 held in May, brought together representatives of all the stakeholders involved in the definition process of the Strategy, with the aim of generating a dialogue and sharing of the different visions on their respective role in accelerating the structural transformation necessary to make the 2030 Agenda a reality and to drive the social and ecological transition that places sustainability and people's rights at the centre of the recovery efforts after the impact caused by COVID-19 within our borders and beyond.

Ultimately, this Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 is the result of a broad, plural and participative dialogue process that allowed us to take stock of the main consensuses and learnings we can take from this crisis, to enable us to tackle the principal challenges we face as a society and as a country and, above all, to prepare ourselves for the future we want to build.

³⁴ Report with the contributions to the Sustainable Development Strategy Accessible [here](#)

³⁵ Final Report, Consultation process with local entities on the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. Accessible [here](#)

Reaching the Sustainable Development Goals: Country Challenges, Accelerating Policies and Action Priorities

One of the key aspects of the participation and dialogue process to draft the Sustainable Development Strategy is precisely the identification of those challenges our country faces to achieve the SDGs, and the solutions we need to implement to tackle them, from the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. Thereby, it is necessary to identify firstly a broad framework of action, an accelerating policy itself composed of specific actions that serve to tackle the necessary measures from a general and specific approach.

The consultations process with the different governance bodies, civil society, academia and the private sector allowed for a comprehensive identification of those challenges and leveraging policies to accelerate over the next decade, the compliance with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Such identification gave shape to the content and approach of the General Guidelines for the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, approved by the Council of Ministers on 2 March 2021.

The Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 has been structured on this basis, adhering to a basic common structure: first, the identification of the challenge and its diagnosis, indicating all its features; then the accelerating policy is identified, encompassing the framework of actions that will allow for a qualitative leap in the solution to this challenge and in the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Finally, the action priorities within this policy are detailed specifically, collating all the measures, strategies, action plans and/or reforms and regulatory frameworks included in the Strategy domains. Nevertheless, as we attempt to stress over the coming pages, we should not forget the deep interrelation between the challenges and the accelerating policies and even the public policies, so that an accelerating policy can, and should, contribute substantially to several challenges at a time. Logically, this responds to both the fundamental role of an accelerating policy and the interdependence that exists between all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

So, by way of definition, these three constituent elements of the Sustainable Development Strategy are detailed below.

COUNTRY CHALLENGE: the country challenges are the challenges we currently face and must tackle and resolve to comply with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It consists, therefore, of a characterisation of the current situation, identifying the principal problems facing the country at present. The country challenges share two fundamental characteristics: they are structural rather than circumstantial (although a specific situation may exacerbate them) and they have a significant impact on the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATING POLICIES: the accelerating policies are those that are useful to draw the horizon in our country indicated by 2030 Agenda, resolving the main challenges identified. By their very definition, therefore, they are not specific policies that tackle some of the problems of each challenge but the broad framework of actions that respond to the challenge in all of its complexity. Moreover, these accelerating policies have a medium and long-term vision and must have great transformative capacity and multiple impacts, affecting several targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda.

ACTION PRIORITIES: the action priorities correspond to those specific areas within the accelerating policy that respond to the specific aspects of a country challenge through the rollout and implementation of different strategic frameworks, reforms and new regulations, action plans and other measures. These priorities focus on actions that must be carried out and must be fostered and developed from the public sphere, taking into account the essential role of the other stakeholders involved (civil society, private sector, academia, etc.).

The action priorities are articulated in close proximity with the reforms committed to Spain's Recovery and Resilience Plan, geared towards achieving sustainable and inclusive growth through a consistent and coordinated strategy, from a temporal perspective and also in relation to the set of national and European economic policy instruments. A plan that is structured around thirty elements and ten levers that allow for the articulation of the investment and reform programmes up to the year 2023. Investments and reforms that, to a

great extent, are contained in each of the eight sustainable development accelerator policies of this Strategy, broadening the temporal horizon and scope of the commitments up to 2030, especially reinforcing those aimed at promoting social, ecological and digital transition to ensure no one is left behind.

To end, it is important to point out that all of the commitments arising from the application of this Strategy shall be adapted to the budgets availabilities at each moment and ensuring that the targets and policies are executed according to the human resources available and in line with the basic rules of personnel costs of the Budget Acts each year, all in accordance with the guidelines defined by the Government for the fulfilment of the SDGs.

In the case of actions where the Regional and local authorities are responsible for, the Strategy requires the corresponding administrative and budgetary execution standard dictated in the sphere of competency of each competent public administration.

COUNTRY CHALLENGE 1. END POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

2 ZERO HUNGER



Diagnosis

Before the global financial crisis caused the recessions of 2009 and 2011-2013, Spain already had a high percentage of the population at risk of poverty and social exclusion, at 23.8%. This was, and remains, a structural phenomenon linked primarily to the weakness of the productive sector to create stable and quality employment, and a comparatively low social spend compared to other countries.

This structural weakness, together with the adoption of fiscal austerity and salary adjustments, made the crisis affected Spain with particular virulence, reflected in the **increased poverty and inequality between 2008 and 2015**, striking specially hard some sectors of the population, leaving them more excluded and disadvantaged.

Before the COVID-19 health crisis, Spain was in **the process of a strong recovery in terms of GDP growth and creation of employment**, allowing for a certain improvement in the performance of poverty and inequality indicators, although with major doubts around their true permeation through the most vulnerable sectors of society. The improvement observed proves insufficient, largely explained by the low quality of employment created, scant growth in salaries – particularly at the lower end – and the insufficiency of our social protection system unable to protect lower income earners from structural poverty and social exclusion. In addition, we found the effect of the application of social spending austerity measures, which had the effect of keeping spending comparatively low compared to neighbouring European countries. In this context, the latest data available on the situation of risk of poverty and/or social exclusion underline once again how **economic growth, in and of itself, is insufficient to end structural inequality and poverty**, and how last year's economic recovery is not reaching everyone.

All of this has served not only to slow down Spain's progress on the path to meeting targets for the reduction of poverty and social exclusion, but it has made the existing gaps more evident: compared to the European Union (EU), between territories, among in the population based on sex, age, nationality, ethnic origin or disability.

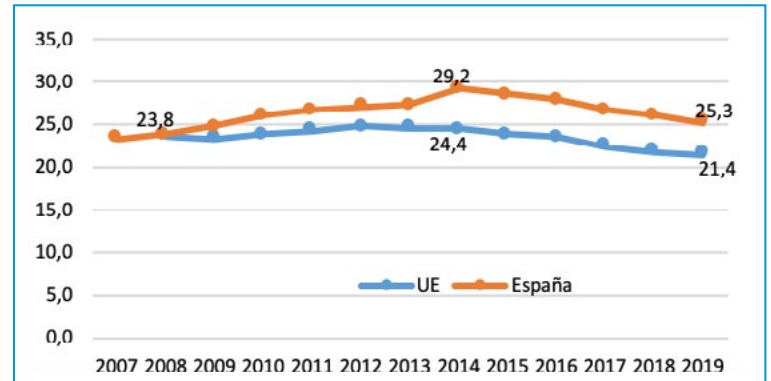
Nevertheless, it is important to start with the premise that 2019 data provide a snapshot of the social situation before the outbreak of the global pandemic, so until the results of the Living Conditions Survey (LCS) for 2020 are available, we cannot know the **effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the risk of poverty and inequality**. However, the starting conditions and the reality observed during the latest crisis are concerning and reveal the urgent need to implement structural adjustments and strengthen our social protection system. Not only to cushion the devastating effects of the pandemic but to prepare and push forward with a rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery. We have a unique opportunity to resolve the major social, economic and environmental problems in Spain, putting people at the centre of policy and ensuring no one is left behind. We can only do this with political commitments translated into measures and resources in line with the 2030 Agenda.

A structural vulnerability that was exacerbated by the devastating impact of the crisis and an insufficient and unequal recovery

According to data from Eurostat³⁶, in 2008 Spain's percentage of the population at **risk of poverty and social exclusion** was already too high – at 23.8% of people – albeit practically the same as that recorded throughout the EU. Since then, however, this figure grew rapidly to reach 29.2% in 2014. Spain moved from tenth to seventh place among the European countries with the highest risk of poverty and/or social exclusion (AROPE), and the second after Greece for the increase in poverty and social exclusion. From 2014, the recovery in terms of GDP growth and employment creation has allowed for a certain improvement in poverty and exclusion indicators for the whole population. Nevertheless, the gap between Spain and the rest of the EU has not been narrowed in any significant manner. In 2019, the latest data available, while the EU as a whole registered levels of poverty and exclusion below 2008 levels, this phenomenon affected more than a quarter of the population (25.3%) in Spain, almost four points above the European average, and a point and a half above the pre-crisis values, equivalent to almost one million people.

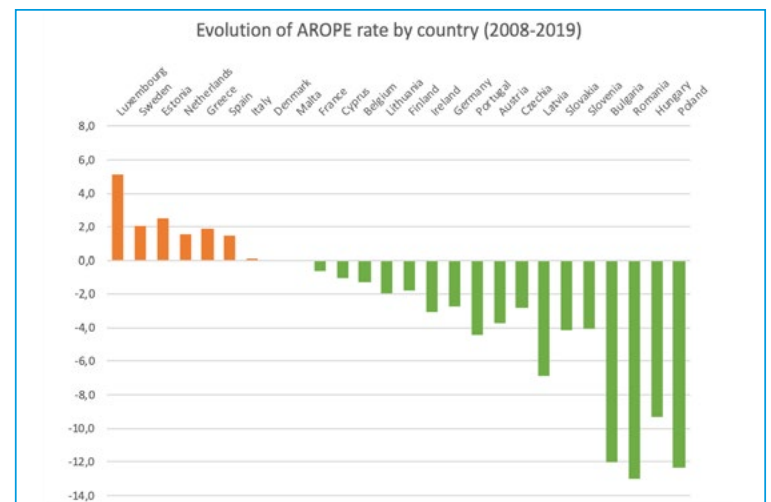
At the same time, Spain is one of the countries where material conditions of households have worsened the most. In 2019, 4.7% of the population, –2.2 million people– were affected by situations of severe material deprivation, that is, unable to afford access to the basic goods required for a life in dignified conditions. According to the latest LCS data, in 2019 almost half the population (49.3%) said they had difficulties in making ends meet and more than one in three people (33.9%) were unable to meet unexpected expenses, a percentage that rises to 71.5% in the case of homes with the lowest income. All of these percentages are high, reflecting the helplessness and vulnerability of broad strata of society, even in contexts of economic growth and employment creation. Added to this, the number of households with no income remained above 565 thousand in the last quarter of 2019, that is, 3% of the total, and almost 100 thousand more than the same quarter in 2008, before the start of the crisis³⁷.

Graphic 01: AROPE Rate. Evolution in Spain and EU27, 2007-2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

Graphic 02: Evolution of AROPE rate in the period 2008-2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

Note: The orange columns indicate an increase in the AROPE rate (higher in 2019 than in 2008) while the green columns indicate a reduction. No data available for Croatia.

³⁶ The poverty and social exclusion data referred to in this document have been obtained from the European Survey of Life Conditions (EU-SILC) which contains, for Spain, the Life Conditions Survey (LCS) of the National Statistics Institute.

³⁷ INE - Encuesta de Población Activa (EPA 2019). Accessible [here](#)

Poverty in Spain is not only more extensive but more intense and persistent.

In 2019, Spain had the four highest rate of severe poverty,³⁸ affecting 9.2% of Spaniards compared to 5.9% overall in the EU, and the third highest poverty gap,³⁹ understood as the difference between the income of the poorest households and the poverty line. The intensity of the poverty has grown further in Spain as a result of the financial crisis, and we are the country with the second highest increase in severe poverty rate and with the fifth biggest increase in the poverty gap over the period 2008–2015. At the same time, the following expansionary phase of the economy has become into a partial recovery, but it has not allowed us to return to the pre-crisis levels, making our country poorer and more unequal, and falling further behind the European standards. One of the worst negative consequences of the crisis, therefore, is that poverty becomes more widespread and more severe.

The intensity of poverty and scant capacity of the labour market and fiscal policies to break and reverse the circle of poverty and exclusion means that this phenomenon is also more persistent. In 2018, long-term poverty⁴⁰ affected 14% of the Spanish population, the sixth-highest rate in Europe while more than one in ten Spaniards (10.6%) had suffered monetary poverty continuously over the last four years.

All of the wealth distribution indicators point out that Spain is one of the most unequal countries in the EU and the country where inequality grew most in the recessionary phase while it has hardly been reduced or maintained in the expansionary phase, in which the highest incomes have recovered at a much greater paces than low incomes. This increasing income inequality was especially sharp in the case of the poorest families, with 10% of the lowest income households suffering an accumulated loss of almost a third of their incomes in 2014, deepening social gaps and aggravating the life conditions of those who were worse off even before the crisis.

According to the data from 2019, the total incomes of the richest 20% of the population were close to six times those of the poorest 20% (80/20 ratio⁴¹), making Spain the sixth most unequal country in the EU in the distribution of income. Between 2007 and 2014, that grew 1.3 points while the value for the EU as a whole remained more or less stable. The same situation can be observed with respect to the Gini index⁴². According to this indicator, Spain had the fourth highest increase in inequality between 2007 and 2014 going from 11th place in the European ranking to 7th in 2014 and 5th in 2019. Once again it has been observed that the pace of the reduction of inequality in the expansionary economic phase was not

³⁸ Severe poverty is defined as persons whose disposable income is below 40% of the national average.

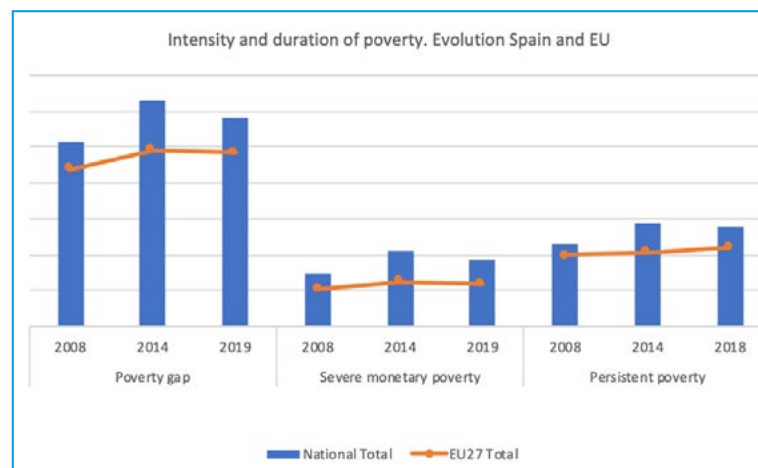
³⁹ The relative poverty gap is an indicator of the intensity of poverty that measures the average distance between the incomes of the poor persons above the poverty threshold, established at 60% of the national median income.

⁴⁰ We refer to the risk of persistent poverty, or the percentage of the persons whose equivalent incomes fall below the poverty threshold in the current year and in at least the previous 3 years.

⁴¹ The S80/S20 ratio is interpreted as the relationship between average income of the 20% of the population with the highest income (the highest quintile) in relation to the average income obtained by the 20% of the population with the lowest income (lowest quintile).

⁴² The Gini coefficient is a measure of inequality in the distribution of equivalent incomes of the population, with 0 representing perfect equality and 100 perfect inequality.

Graphic 03: Intensity and persistence of poverty. Spain and EU evolution.



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

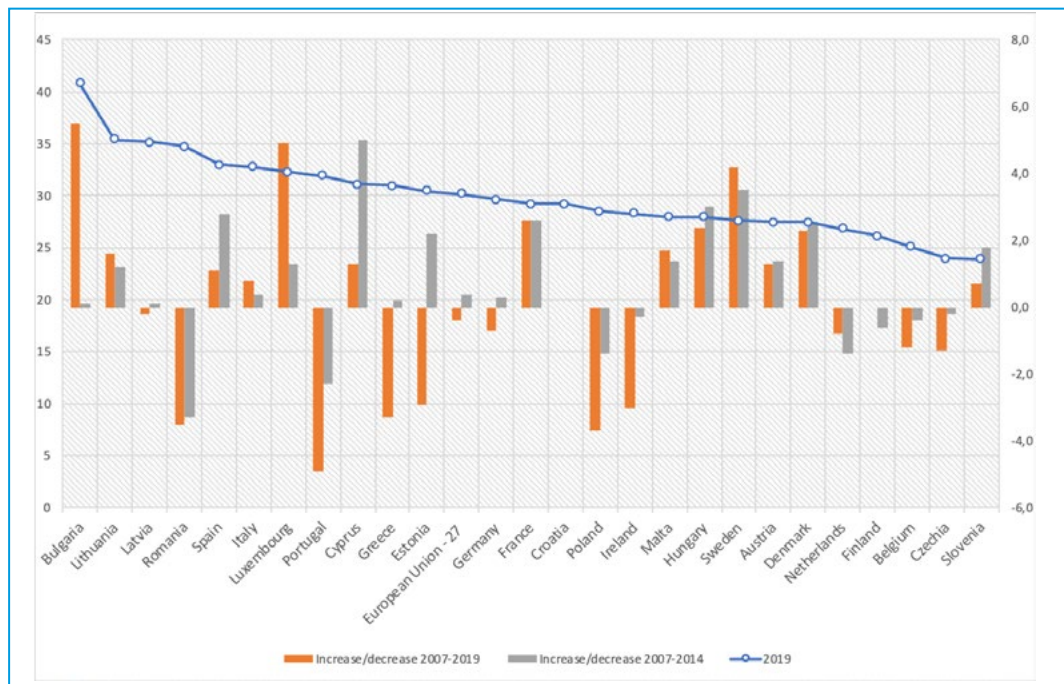
enough to return to pre-crisis levels, which has translated into a rise in inequality in the period 2007–2019.

Access to housing is one of the main social problems our country is facing, a generating factor of inequality and a key element in the analysis of the risk of poverty of the population and the way to tackle it. Therefore, in 2005, a little over 5% of the population – less than half of the European average – faced a housing cost overburden, that is at least 40% of their total disposable income. This percentage almost doubled in just four years, affecting 10.4% of the population in 2009, far above the European average which has fallen for the same period. While there has been a certain degree of improvement in this indicator since 2015, housing constituted an excessive level of spending in 2019 for 8.5% of the population, uprisng to 52.3% of income in the case of groups of people in the lowest income decile. In fact, the augmentation in this indicator is primarily explained by what we observe at the lower end of the income distribution, that is, the increase in housing cost overburden has been concentrated exclusively in the lower income population, while the level of spending has remained stable and below the European average for the rest of the population⁴³.

In terms of types of households, this situation particularly affects persons living alone and single-parent households with dependent children, mostly headed by women. 24.1% of these households have a housing cost overburden. Nationality is also a factor that raises the risk of housing cost overburden. In 2019, 32.1% of foreign residents not born in the EU were in such a situation.

⁴³ Eurostat (EU-SILC) – Housing cost overburden rate. Accessible [here](#)

Graph 04: Gini index by country, 2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

Note: The orange columns indicate the increase or decrease in the Gini Index in the period 2007-2019, while the grey columns do the same for the period 2007-2014, the years when the crisis was felt most acutely.

Excessive Housing cost impacts particularly on those living in rented housing as a result of the upward trend in rents over recent years. Between 2015 and 2019, the percentage of monthly salary spent on rent has grown 11.5 points on average in Spain. So, of 28% of that income was spent on housing in 2015, the percentage had risen to 40% in 2019⁴⁴, when 15.4% of the population was living in housing rented at market prices.

Moreover, the content of the right to decent housing cannot be uncoupled from **access to certain essential services** to live a life in dignified conditions, such as water and electricity. In 2019, 7.6% of the population were unable to maintain their home at an adequate temperature⁴⁵, a percentage that rises to 19.8% among the unemployed, and up to 25% in the case of homes in the lowest income decile⁴⁶, revealing the evidence and persistence of situations of vulnerability and **energy poverty**. Once again, the gap between the poorest households and the rest of the population has deeply widened since 2014, revealing the rise in inequality and vulnerability of the most disadvantaged sectors of society in a manner much more marked than in the rest of the EU. Thus, the same indicator has risen by almost 11 points in the lowest income deciles, from 14.2% to 25% - with a peak of 29.7% in 2015 - while it has remained practically stable for the high and middle deciles.

⁴⁴ Study "incomes and housing rent ratio in 2019" according to data from the Fotocasa Property Index and the InfoJobs employment platform.

⁴⁵ MITERD (2020) Update of National Energy poverty Strategy indicators. Accessible [here](#)

⁴⁶ ECV-INE (2020). Persons with material deprivation by income decile per consumption unit. Accessible [here](#)

The reforms introduced in the electricity market introduced over the last two years, linked to the progressive incorporation of renewable technologies in our energy system with variable or close to zero costs is an important factor when it comes to reducing the price of electricity, producing certain reductions such as that observed in the first semester of 2020. Despite that, Spain had the fifth most expensive electricity bill in the EU⁴⁷, which is why it is fundamental to continue to develop measures to reduce the electricity bill for all consumers.

The most serious expression of the impossibility of accessing the right to housing is, without doubt, **the homelessness**. The absence of recent statistics prevents us from exploring the scope of this problem in depth, although according to the latest data available, almost 23,000 people could be in this situation in Spain⁴⁸, forced to live in the streets or in collective accommodation, mostly conceived as temporary or emergency solutions and not as permanent ones. Not having a home also makes it difficult to access other basic rights like health, social provisions and even the right to vote. The vicious circle homeless people find themselves in can only be broken by guaranteeing access to housing in normalised neighbourhoods and environment.

The traditional structural weaknesses of the Spanish labour market and the strong increase in unemployment in Spain are surely two of the factors that contribute to the high

⁴⁷ Eurostat (2020) Electricity prices (including taxes) for household consumers. Accessible [here](#)

⁴⁸ INE (2012) Survey on homeless people. Accessible [here](#)

incidence of poverty. Nevertheless, successive salary cuts and the increased precariousness of socio-labour conditions mean that, today, for part of the population, being part of the labour market is not enough to avoid or escape poverty.

Before 2008, the rate of unemployment in Spain was high, but similar to the EU27 average. From 2008 on there was exponential growth in unemployment in Spain, more than tripling due to the effects of the financial crisis, rising from 8.2% in 2007 to 26.1% in 2013, compared to an EU average of 11.4%. In the same period, a percentage of the working age population that lived in unemployed households, where no adult was working, has grown by more than 150%, from 6.3%, below the EU average, to 15.9%, that is, the second highest rate of the EU27⁴⁹.

Unemployment in Spain has grown at a higher rate than the rest of the EU, and Spain has recorded the third highest increase, after Cyprus and Greece. While the expansionary phase has seen Spain register a recovery in employment above the EU average, unlike most European countries, this is not sufficient to recover the pre-crisis levels of employment. In 2019, the unemployment rate in Spain remained at 14.1%, far above 2007, and the second highest in Europe after Greece, and more than double the EU average of 6.7%.

The AROPE rate considers the absence of scarcity of employment in the households – very low work intensity⁵⁰ – as one of the three principal components, recognising work as a determining factor of economic support and social inclusion. The importance of employment as a protection against poverty is confirmed by its high incidence on households with low work intensity, which reached 76.6% in 2019, multiplying nine fold that in homes where all active members are employed (9%).

In 2008, Spaniards who lived in homes with a low work intensity were 6.6% of the total, less than the EU average but this increased dramatically to 17.1% in 2014, six points above the EU. Five years later, in 2019, Spain retained levels below the European average for this indicator (10.8% compared to 8.3%) and had not recovered to pre-crisis levels of employment.

Nevertheless, the presence of employment, in and of itself, is not enough to protect against the risk of falling into poverty or to ensure escaping poverty, as the efficacy of work as an instrument of protection against poverty depends on the quality of that work. In Spain, employment has historically been characterised by low salaries and precariousness, which translates into a limited capacity for protection against the risk of poverty, and lower than the rest of Europe. Therefore, the in-work poverty⁵¹ rate in Spain has, ever since this indicator has been calculated, higher than in the rest of the EU, and the distance has widened increasingly over the last 7 years. In 2019, the latest data, the risk of poverty among working people was 12.7% compared to 9% for the EU overall, which seems to confirm that the recovery

of employment over recent years has not only been insufficient but has not represented a very effective factor for defending households at risk of poverty.

Finally, eradicating poverty and social exclusion requires reform and reinforcement of a social protection system that has traditionally been insufficient and weakly redistributive, characterised by comparatively low social spending compared to other European countries, and by the limited capacity of social benefits to reduce poverty.⁵²

Poverty and inequality are not indifferent to public policies; their extension and evolution depend closely on the design and protection capacity of fiscal policy and social spending. Since the data has been ascertained, Spain has been characterised by social spending well below the average of neighbouring countries. It is a gap that, after the initial phase of progressive reduction, has been broadened by the introduction of severe fiscal adjustment measures that have characterised the last recession, especially from 2012 on. In 2018, the latest data available, total spending on social protection was 23.5% of GDP compared to 27.6% for the average of the EU 27, and 28.7% of the average for the Eurozone countries (EU19)⁵³.

In addition to scarcity of resources invested, there is the weak efficacy of social benefits which, in 2019, helped to reduce poverty 53%, compared to 62% on average for the EU. Spain was the sixth poorest country in terms of capacity to reduce poverty through social transfers.

⁴⁹ Eurostat – European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS). Population in jobless households. Accessible [here](#)

⁵⁰ Persons aged 0 to 59 who live in households where the members of working age worked less than 20% of the total working potential in the year prior to the interview (income period of reference).

⁵¹ The rate of in-work poverty, the percentage of the population with an equivalent disposable income below the poverty threshold and had worked for at least six months in the last year.

⁵² UNICEF España (2014). Public policies to reduce child poverty in Spain. Executive Summary. Accessible [here](#)

⁵³ Eurostat – European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS). Accessible [here](#)

Poverty and social exclusion in the autonomous communities and cities⁵⁴

There are significant territorial differences in poverty and social exclusion in Spain, mainly as far as two primary aspects: on the one hand, an evident gap in poverty between urban and rural areas and, on the other hand, great regional inequality that makes place of residence a relevant factor in determining people's life conditions.

In terms of place of residence, according to the intensity of the area of residence⁵⁵, population living in rural areas have a lower income and face a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion and this gap is greater in Spain than in the EU as a whole. In 2019, the average household income in rural areas was 24% lower than more populated areas, and 12% lower in intermediate areas. Furthermore, the risk of poverty and social exclusion (AROPE) affects 28.8% of the population in rural areas compared to 23.3% in urban area, a gap that in the case of monetary poverty is double that observed in the EU.

By regions, this inequality is translated into great differences observed in practically all the indicators analysed in this section and is confirmed by both the differential impact of the global crisis on different regions and different recovery capacity in this expansionary phase.

In general, an increase in the incidence of poverty and exclusion in the recessionary phase is confirmed, and a reduction in the expansionary phase⁵⁶, while this recovery very rarely has been translated into a real recovery of people's life conditions prior to the 2008 financial crisis.

The AROPE rate grew in 11 of the 17 autonomous communities and in both of the autonomous cities, just as each one of its components did: poverty grew in 12 of them, severe material deprivation in 14 and low employment intensity in the household in 16. The housing cost overburden of households also grew in 10 territories, and 11 of them saw an increase in inequality in income distribution (80/20 ratio).

The data show us that some regions, particularly those in the south of the country, are characterised by levels of poverty and exclusion far above the national average, being also the regions that suffered most the effects of the crisis and have the weakest capacity for recovery. Others, primarily regions in the north of the country and the Illes Balears-Balearic Islands register an incidence below the national rated and even below the EU average. These same regions suffered less from the crisis and were able to recover sooner. There was a difference of more than 34 percentage points between the two extremes in the territorial distribution of the AROPE rate.

The autonomous communities with the highest percentage of population affected in the year 2019 were Andalusia and Extremadura, with 37.7% of their population in this situation, followed by the Canary Islands at 35% and Murcia with 31.9%. Nevertheless, the risk of poverty and exclusion is particularly acute in the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, where 45.9% and 38.5% of the population respectively are affected by this situation. Ceuta y Melilla also present the highest levels of inequality in income distribution, with the difference between the richest 20% and the poorest 20% more than double the national average, and greater than it was in 2008. The Community of Madrid, Asturias and Andalusia also featured among the regions with the highest levels of inequality, all with levels above the national average.

At the other end of the spectrum we find, primarily, the autonomous communities located in the mid-north of the country and the Illes Balears-Balearic Islands, with an incidence that, in all cases, is lower than the national average, especially in the case of Nafarroa-Community of Navarre and Euskadi-Basque Country, whose percentage of poverty and social exclusion fall to 11.7% and 14.4% respectively.

The territories in a better relative position are those that have managed to best contain the impact of the crisis and/or reduce poverty and exclusion rates in the expansionary phase. There are only three autonomous communities in this group, who have managed to significantly reduce the AROPE rate over the last decade: Illes Balears-Balearic Islands, La Rioja and Castile and León.

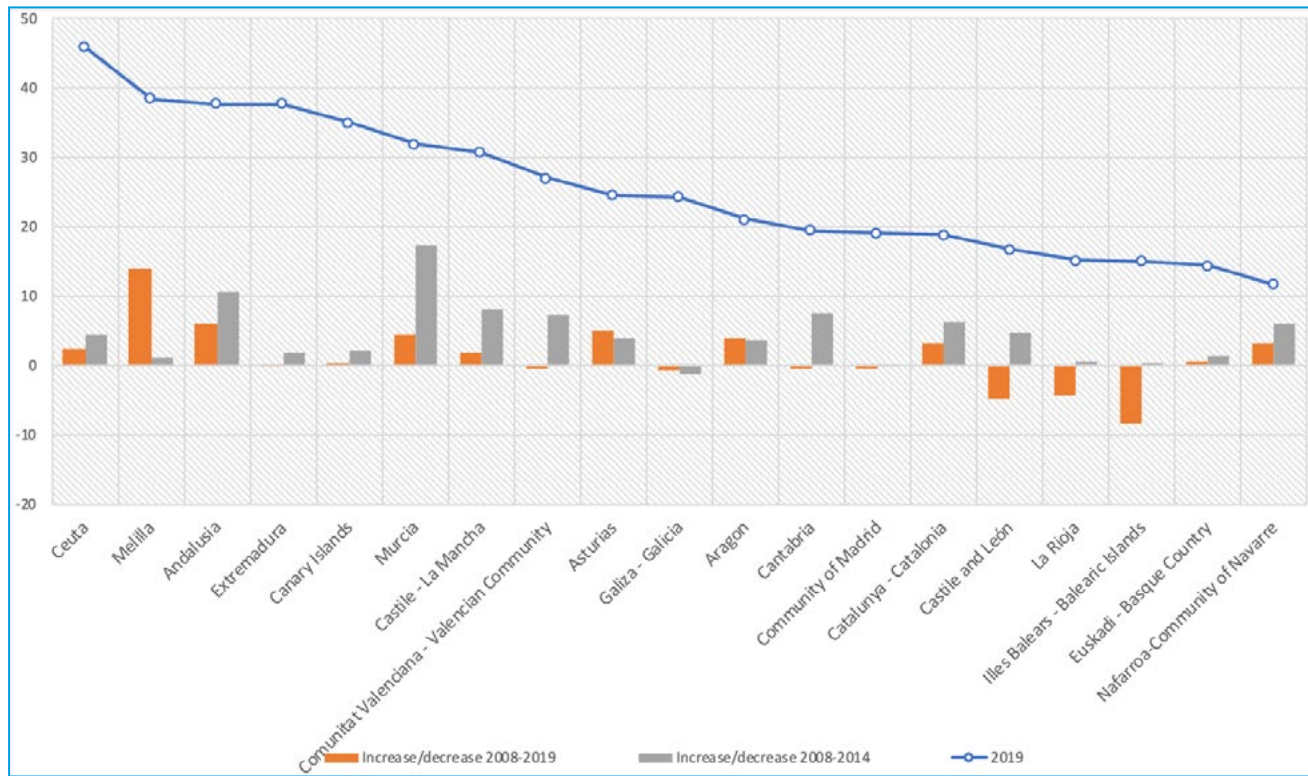
On the other hand, a larger group of autonomous communities and cities have registered poverty and exclusion rates rise, in some cases exponentially. The most evident case is that of Melilla, where the risk of poverty and social exclusion rose 14 points between 2008 and 2019, which, together with its still high levels of poverty and exclusion even before the crisis, explains the city's position at the top of the chart. Among the autonomous communities with the highest incidence of the AROPE rate, Andalusia and Murcia also registered significant increases in total numbers. Nevertheless, there are some autonomous communities from the lower end of the graphic that saw increases in poverty and exclusion because they were starting from comparatively low

⁵⁴In the attached table (Annex), the principal poverty and exclusion indicators used in this report are presented, broken down by habitat and by Autonomous Community or Autonomous City.

⁵⁵EUROSTAT. Classification of degree of Urbanisation [DEGURBA](#)

⁵⁶The only autonomous communities where poverty and exclusion rates have continued to grow during the expansionary phase (2015-2019) are Melilla, Asturias and Aragón.

Graphic 05: AROPE rate in Autonomous Communities and Cities, 2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from INE (ECV).

Note: The autonomous communities are ordered according to the AROPE rate for 2019. The columns in orange indicate the increase or decrease in the AROPE rate in the period 2007-2019 in percentage points, while the columns in grey do the same for the period 2007-2014, when the crisis was suffered most acutely.

levels. They include Nafarroa-Community of Navarre, Asturias, Aragon and Catalunya-Catalonia, all with increases of between 3 and 5 points.

The unequal impact of poverty and exclusion. Differences by gender, age, nationality, ethnic origin or disability.

In addition to significant differences by region, the risk of poverty and social exclusion is skewed by gender, age, nationality, ethnic origin, disability and impact very particularly on the Roma population.

Once again, the data reveal a structural inequality in Spain that is comparatively greater than in the rest of Europe, leaving entire sectors of the population in situations of vulnerability and exclusion. For these regions, life conditions have worsened more than for the rest of population during the crisis, and they have benefited to a much lesser extent from the economic recovery of recent years.

Women continue to suffer a higher risk of poverty and exclusion, _26% compared to 24.6% of men in 2019 _ a gap that has widened since 2016. So, in 2008 the risk of poverty for women in Spain was aligned with the European average. Since then, the distance has grown to imply an additional risk for women of 4.2 points in 2018 and 3.7 in 2019. A more in-depth analysis of the inequalities affecting women will be seen in the diagnosis of Country Challenge 3.

In the case of **persons with disabilities**, the risk is even higher. One in three of this group - 32.5% - were in this situation in 2019, a value that rises to 36.5% in case of severe disability⁵⁷, compared to 22.5% of persons without disabilities. It is also a figure that has been on the rise in recent years, an average of 2.4 points higher than in 2015, contrary to the trend observed in the rest of the population, showing how the economic recovery has not helped to improve the life conditions of persons with disabilities in Spain. This greater risk of poverty is a result of the multidimensionality of the phenomenon, which reflects, among other questions, the greater difficulty in accessing the labour market and the additional overall cost incurred by a person with disabilities in their daily life.

⁵⁷ According to the methodology used by Eurostat the degree of difficulty is defined on the basis of the presence of long-term limitations to activities, that is the difficulty in execution daily actions and tasks.

Looking at AROPE's components, the higher risk to suffer intense material deprivation for this population, more than double among persons with some form of disability, and up to treble in case of severe disability. Moreover, the difficulties in terms of access to the labour market and work-life balance faced by these people and their families, mean that 34% of people with some form of disability live in households with a very low work intensity. That equates to almost four times more than peoples without disabilities (8.9%), a percentage that rises to 49.2% in the case of severe disability.

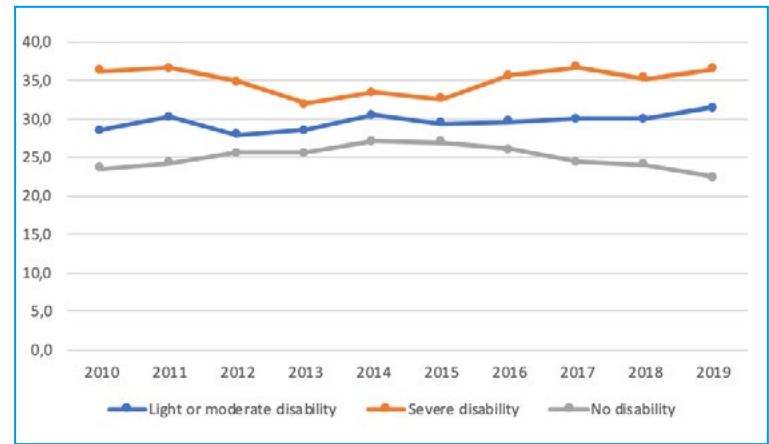
The situation of **foreigners** and, especially non-Europeans is particularly serious, with an AROPE rate that reaches 51.7% - 54.2% among non-European citizens, more than double that for the general population and almost 150% higher than Spanish nationals. That means that one in every two immigrants is at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Moreover, 13.4% to 15.3% in the case of non-European citizens, suffer from severe material deprivation, four times more than the Spaniards.

The foreign population has suffered the effects of the crisis of 2008 to a greater extent, with an increase in this indicator of more than 24 points between 2007 and 2014, compared to an increase of just over 4 points among the Spanish population. Moreover, while the AROPE rate among Spanish nationals was similar in 2019 to the that of 2007, that is, it had returned to pre-crisis levels, the rate for the foreign national population remained some way off this target.

Spain is one of the European countries where the nationality gap is greater and, contrary to the trend in the European Union as a whole, has continued to rise in recent years. In 2019, Spain had the ninth highest AROPE rate among the non-foreign population, while it has the second highest rate among the foreign national population, behind Greece. Moreover, Spain had the highest rate of monetary poverty and the third highest rate of severe material deprivation among the foreign national population, and thirteenth among the non-foreign population, which was even below the European average.

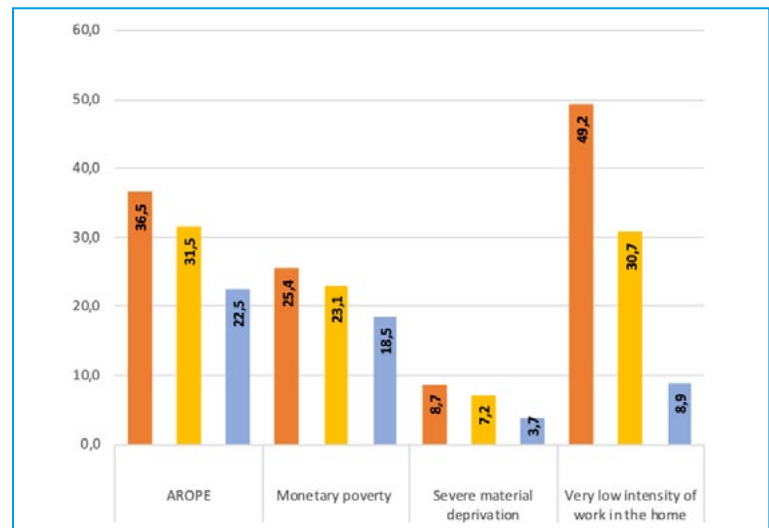
Similarly, the greater risk of poverty faced by the Roma population is noteworthy, linked to the significant discrimination and social stigma. It is calculated that more than 90% of the Roma population would be facing poverty or exclusion, and that 46% are in a situation of extreme poverty (level of income equivalent to under 30% of the national average). This is a situation that would affect women especially, whose rate of employment barely surpasses 15%. Moreover, the majority of the Roma population (76.8%) suffer a situation of extreme material deprivation⁵⁸.

Graphic 06: AROPE rate based on disability condition. Evolution 2010-2019



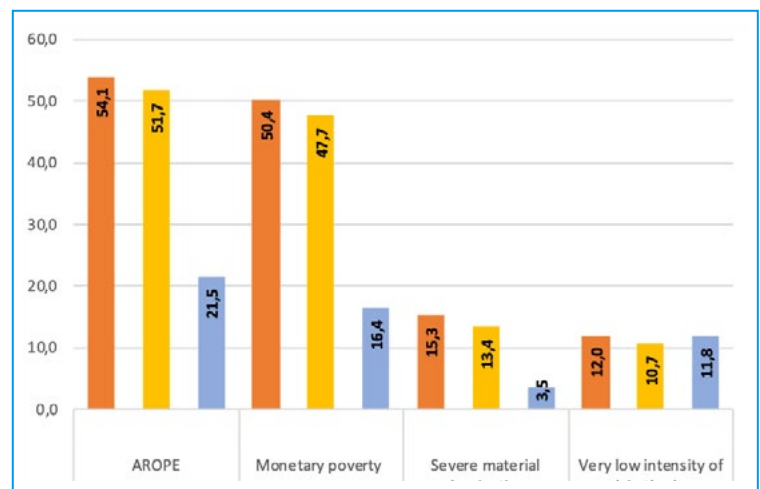
Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC)

Graphic 07: AROPE rate and its components based on disability condition. Spain, 2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

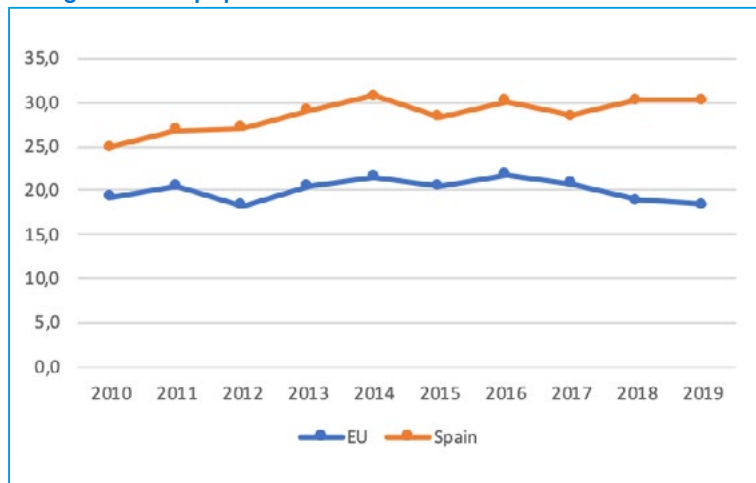
Graphic 08: AROPE rate and its components, by nationality. Spain, 2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

⁵⁸ Fundación Secretariado Gitano (2019), "Comparative Research on the Roma people situation in Spain 2018". Accessible [here](#)

Graphic 09: Additional risk of poverty and exclusion among the foreign national population



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

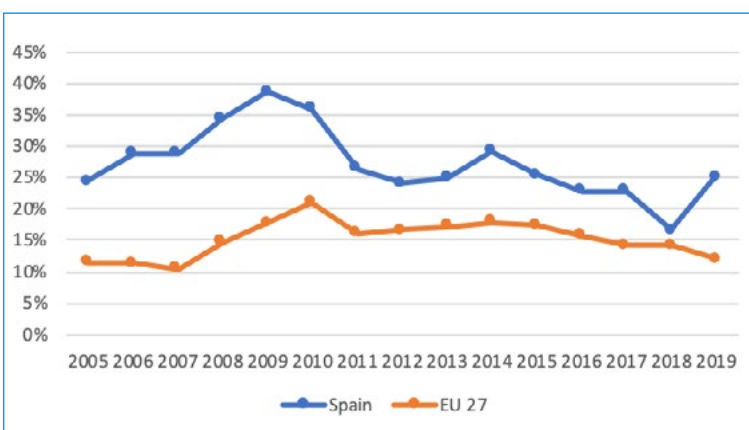
Note: The additional risk is due to the increase in the AROPE rate among the foreign national population expressed as a percentage of the rate among the non-foreign population.

The risk of poverty and/or social exclusion is skewed by age and is especially high among young people and children in Spain.

Young people in Spain are today a group at greater risk of poverty and exclusion. More than a third of the **youth population** are at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion. Moreover, the rate of unemployment between the ages 16–24 rose to 40.5%, a percentage that is more than double the European average⁵⁹. This makes it difficult for the young population to access social protection, given its contributory nature. Employment and housing are two key factors for the emancipation of young people and in 2019, less than 19% of those aged under 30 had managed to become emancipated.

Almost all poverty and exclusion indicators are clearly more extensive and intensive among children than in the rest of the population much more than in the rest of Europe and this is increasingly the case. It also indicates the growing

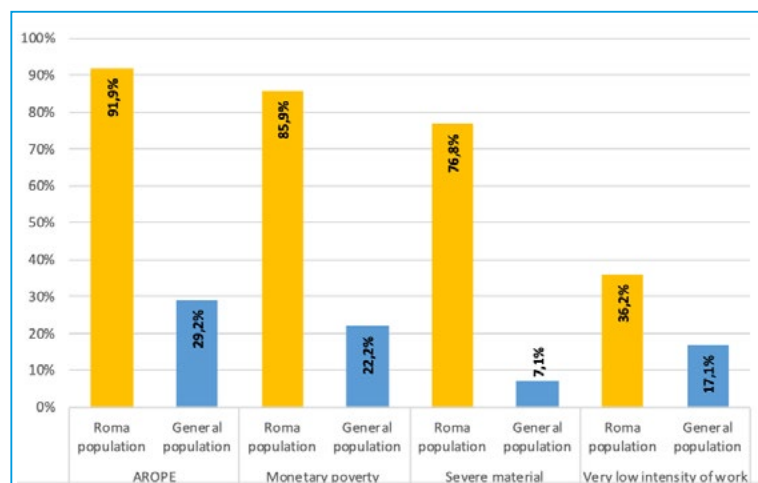
Graphic 11: Differential risk of poverty and exclusion (AROPE) among the child population. Spain and EU27 evolution



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

Note: The additional risk is due to the increase in the AROPE rate among the child population expressed as a percentage of the rate among the adult population.

Graphic 10: AROPE rate and its components Gypsy population, 2018



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from Fundación Secretariado Gitano (2019) and Eurostat (EU-SILC).

inequality that characterises households with children. The crisis has struck these households particularly hard, revealing the insufficiency and limited effectiveness of the social protection systems for families and children.

Poverty in the early stages of life, a fundamental period for personal and social development, conditions present and future well-being of children to an enormous extent, along with their chances of accessing quality employment or being healthy. The shortcomings experienced in the early stages of life compromise the ability of children to fully develop their capacities and is associated with poorer educational performance, and a greater rate of early school dropout among other aspects.

In Spain, the rate of **child poverty** is one of the highest in Europe. According to data from 2019, almost 1 in 3 children under 18 are at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion, that is, 30.3% compared to the European average of 22.2%, making it the third highest in the EU. This means that, in Spain, the incidence of this phenomenon is 25% higher among the children than among the adults (24.2%), while in the EU, this differential risk is less than half.

Poverty and social exclusion among the child population has grown more than in the rest of the EU during the years of recession. Spain is the country with the fourth highest increase in the AROPE rate among children in the period 2007–2014 and, in 2019, it was still at a level above 2007, while most EU countries had managed to reduce this rate in respect of pre-crisis levels. The increase registered in 2019 in respect of the previous year, moreover, interrupted the downward trend of the previous four years, widening even further the gap with the adult population and with our European partners.

Poverty is not just more widespread, but it is also more intense and more persistent among children than in the rest of the population. Severe poverty affects 13.1% of the child population, compared to 8.3% of adults, while in 2019, 20.2% of children had been living in poverty for at least two of the last three years.

⁵⁹ MITES (2020) Youth and Labour market Report December 2020. Accessible [here](#)

In Spain, having children is associated with a higher risk of poverty. If poverty and exclusion affect 22.1% of home with dependent children, a value very similar to the EU average, this percentage rises to 28.6% in the case of families with children. The households most penalised are single-parent households, 81% women, with a rate of 46.8%, which means that almost one in every two families find themselves in this situation. Large families are also hit hard by poverty, with an AROPE incidence of 43.8%, and this is where the gap with the rest of Europe is widest. The concerning data in this regard is severe poverty, a condition common to 6.9% of households without children, slightly above the European average, but that affects one in four large families, almost three times more than in the rest of Europe.

In Spain, the number of households without income with children had multiplied threefold in 2013, at the highest point of the crisis with respect to 2008. Although from this moment on, a downward trend is observed, in 2019 we were still at double pre-crisis levels. Moreover, the reduction in the years of recovery is significantly lower than that observed in homes without dependent children.⁶⁰

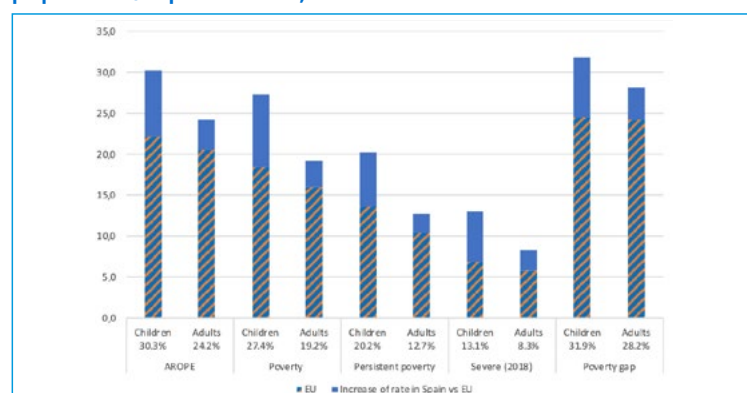
This situation is slightly aggravated depending on those socio-demographic factors already mentioned, due to the high impact on risk of poverty and exclusion of nationality, ethnic origin or place of residence.

Almost 60% (58.6%) of children who live in families of foreign origin - where at least one of their parents was born outside Spain - is poor, which makes Spain the EU country with the highest rate of child poverty among foreign origin households. These households also registered greater inequality in the distribution of income, and a greater concentration of the population in the poorest income deciles.

Once again, child poverty severely affects the **Roma population**, among whom it reaches levels of almost 90%.⁶¹ To this phenomenon we must add the fact that for many Roma students, schools are de facto segregated.

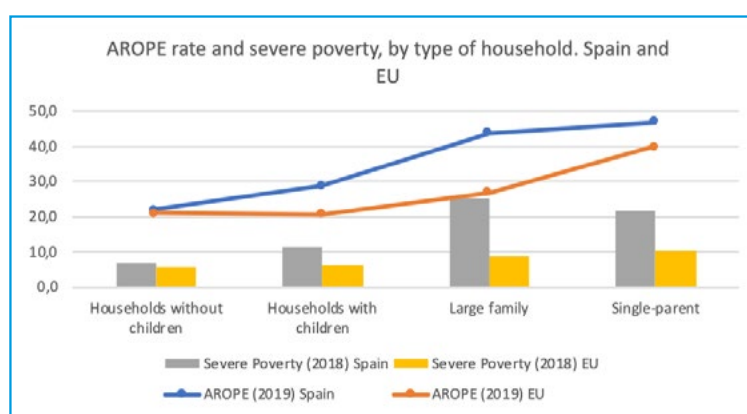
Moreover, child poverty is greater in less populated areas, where almost one in every three homes with dependent children is at risk of poverty, and on in every four in the case of intermediate zones, compared to 23.1% in cities.

Graphic 12: Indicators of poverty and exclusion by age (child and adult population). Spain and EU, 2019



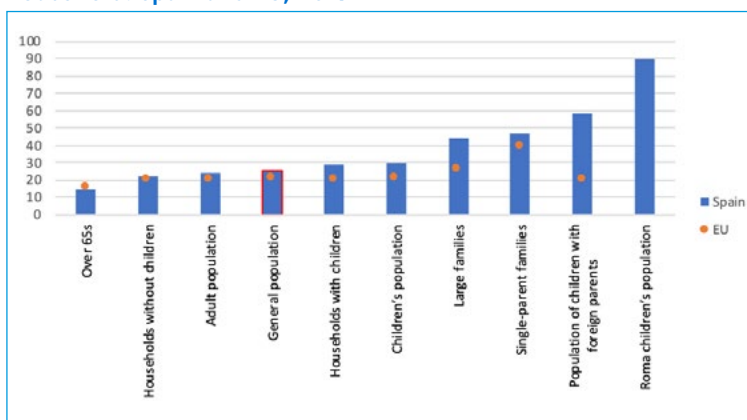
Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC)

Graphic 13: AROPE rate and severe poverty, by type of household Spain and EU



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC).

Graphic 14: Poverty and exclusion (AROE) by age and type of household. Spain and EU, 2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT (EU-SILC), INE (ECV) and Fundación Secretariado Gitano (2019)

⁶⁰ High Commissioner for the Fight against Child Poverty, available [here](#)

⁶¹ Fundación Secretariado Gitano (2019). "Comparative study on Roma population in Spain regarding to employment and poverty 2018". Accessible [here](#)

Despite having child poverty levels among the highest in Europe, Spain invests almost half the European average in social protection of children and families and also spends less than half the European average on education. The cuts to investment in childhood during the crisis have been especially evident, while the partial recovery of recent years has not been sufficient to compensate for the fall.

While in the years prior to the crisis we spoke of a certain phase of expansionary spending, the financial crisis and the implementation of severe fiscal adjustment measures abruptly reverse this gradual trend, widening the gap with EU again. This reduction of investment in social protection in childhood has not been compensated in the subsequent expansionary economic phase. In 2018, the latest data available, spending on Families and Children in Spain represented 1.3% of GDP compared to 2.2% of the European average, making it one of the countries with the lowest investment in childhood⁶².

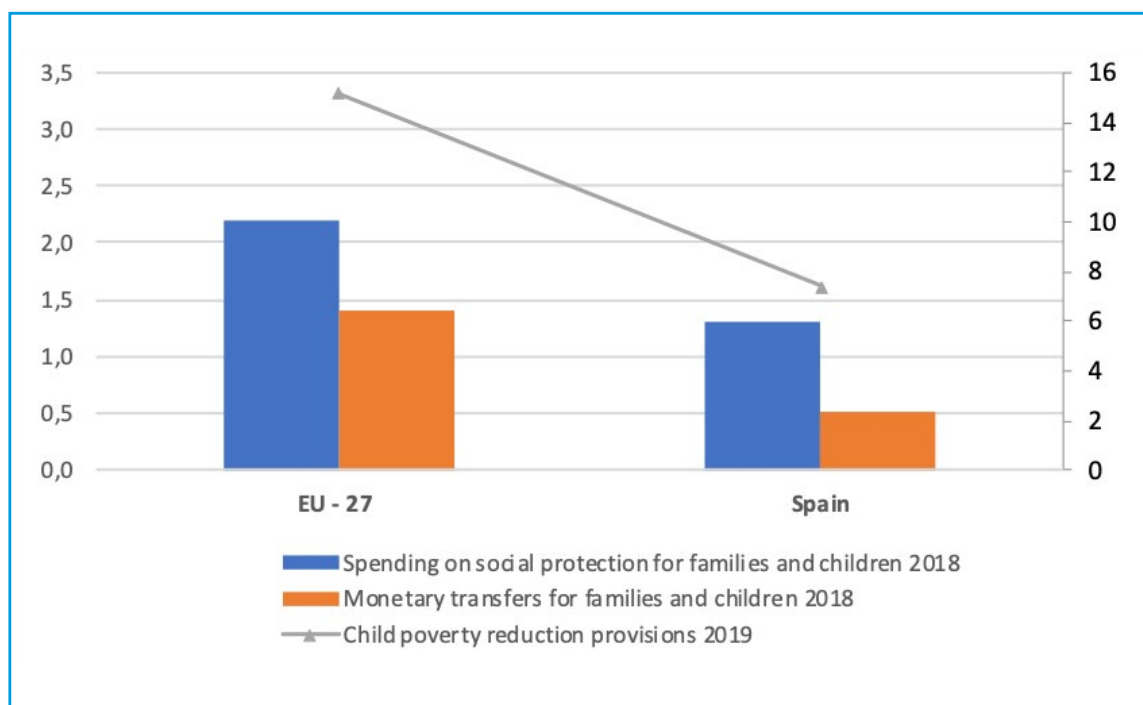
Nevertheless, while educational spending in 2019 was 4.26% of GDP compared to 4.64% of the European average,⁶³ the educational authorities has attempted to mitigate, in the school sphere, some of the manifestations of child poverty through school canteen allowance. The number of beneficiaries of this assistance rose 54.4% in the period 2009–2019, which saw the level of funds allocated practically double.

In any case, the investment gap in social protection in childhood compared to the EU is explained, to a great extent, by the lower spend on monetary provisions, representing approximately one third of the European measure (0.5% of GDP compared to 1.4%). We know that monetary transfer policies to families play a key role – albeit not exclusively – in the fight against child poverty, especially in the material dimension, and that they depend largely, on the efficiency of the childhood social protection system.

Due to the insufficiency of the resources invested, Spain is characterised by a particularly limited capacity to reduce child poverty through social provisions.

In 2019, child poverty in Spain fell by 7.4 points due to the effect of transfers, that is, 21% while adult poverty has fallen three times more, plus 27 points (almost 60%). So, while the reducer effect on the adult population is not very different from the rest of the European countries – 31% being the EU average – social transfers reduce child poverty less than half of the rest of the EU (15.2 points, 45%).

Graphic 15: Social protection spending on Family and Children (%GDP) and effect of social transfers on child poverty (right axis)



Source: Drafted by the authors in based on data from EUROSTAT (ESSPROSS and EUSILC).

Note: The left axis indicates the percentage of GDP allocated to social protection, while the right axis indicates the difference in the rate of poverty calculated before and after the social transfers, expressed in percentage points.

⁶² Eurostat – European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROSS). Accessible [here](#)

⁶³ Data corresponding to the year 2019.

ACCELERATING POLICY 1:

The social transition redistribute wealth and guarantee rights



a. Accelerating Policy Orientation:

The 2030 Agenda identifies the enormous disparities in opportunities, wealth and power as one of the greater challenges for sustainable development. Poverty and inequality are the result of the political decision-making. Hence the importance of alternative robust and progressive public policies that help efficiently distribute wealth and end inequality. Therefore, it is crucial that we eradicate poverty and bolster a social transition that ends situations of monetary exclusion, social discrimination and the rights violation. In this context, it is essential to strengthen the social protection system, improve redistributive capacity, and update the regulatory frameworks so that it reaches, and is accessible to, everyone, especially those persons and groups within society in a position of greater vulnerability. To efficiently and promptly foster public policies that guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights is the best way to leave no one behind.

Therefore, the fight against poverty and social exclusion must be aligned with the relevant policies at European and international level that are inspired by intelligent, sustainable and integrated growth and in consonance with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which establishes the goal of taking 15 million people, 5 million children and adolescents, out of poverty in the European Union, before 2030, as well as target 1.2 of SDG 1 which calls on countries to reduce by at least half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages who are living in poverty.

In this regard, a new social right, the **Minimum Vital Income** (IMV) has been implemented. This is a non-contributory benefit, configured as a permanent subjective right to guarantee a safety net throughout the country for those persons without the sufficient income for a life in conditions of dignity and, therefore, its scope contributes to a number of different targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG1 and SDG10. It is a true public policy for inclusion and to fight social exclusion on the basis of a benefits policy, as revealed by aspects like employment stimulus and the establishment of inclusion pathways.

The minimum protection salary is placed near the severe poverty threshold for a single adult, and the benefit received is calculated as the difference between the monthly income of a person or household and the guaranteed income in each case. Therefore, the benefit is compatible with other sources of income, including employment income, which allows for the coverage in cases of working poverty. According to the latest data available⁶⁴, 260,000 households, encompassing more than 680,000 people are already covered by this benefit. 70% of those households are led by women and 61% are households with children. Therefore, the IMV also constitutes a tool to fight against child poverty.

The protection of the IMV, currently in process as a draft bill, should be extended to all persons who need it to move forward a model of personalised and focussed inclusion, facilitating at the same time the articulation and consistency of the regional income guarantee system with the IMV, ensuring overall coherence.

⁶⁴ Data corresponding to May 2021. Accessible [here](#)

Among the many cross-cutting policies to be implemented are those addressed to strengthen services for vulnerable families to extend the social protection of children and reducing child poverty. Along these lines, the social intervention and economic benefit and/or benefit in kind that contributes to improving the social and employment situation of families with children who suffer from severe material deprivation or risk of poverty and exclusion, must be one of the mechanisms, thus strengthening the initiatives being carried out in the autonomous communities and local authorities. To mitigate the most extreme situations of vulnerability, free food delivery programmes are organized together with accompanying measures aimed at fostering the social inclusion of food aid recipients.

Other actions are geared as specific and comprehensive measures aimed at all **persons with disabilities** from a gender and children's rights perspective and at people living in rural areas, the elderly, their families and carers - which are also addressed in accelerating policy 6- as well as **family diversity** services to promote the social protection and legal recognition of the diversity of family structures, with a special focus on single-parent families.

Due to the development of non-contributory social benefits, it is necessary to increase public social spending, with actions targeting especially vulnerable groups, such as women, children, young people, people with disabilities, the Roma community, those belonging to other ethnic groups, the homeless and the migrant and refugee populations among other groups in situations of severe social exclusion.

The fight against poverty and social exclusion shall be primarily targeted at children who find themselves in this situation. Therefore, measures that guarantee free and effective access, as a minimum, to education and care in the early stages of life, to educational and school activities, to a healthy diet and to medical care will be prioritised, all of which are also addressed in accelerating policy 6. Protection will be extended by supporting families in raising children, complementing the protection provided by the IMV with other social transfers and/or tax benefits for families with dependent children and adolescents who cannot access this benefit. All children and adolescents must receive the maximum protection, especially the most vulnerable. A consultative body will be created where children can be consulted and contribute their own vision directly.

The right to housing is a human right recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Spanish Constitution itself, which should guarantee access to decent affordable housing for all. This includes the adoption of measures that allow autonomous communities and local authorities to halt exorbitant rent increases, foster the regulations necessary to ensure that the mechanisms are articulated to contain and ultimately reduce rent prices. This issue is one of the key questions of the new Housing Act as established in the Spanish Government commitment. Similarly, that legislation will also include, as an essential element, the guarantee of alternative housing in the event of eviction proceedings, through measures to ensure immediate rehousing and social rental alternatives.

Support young people to facilitate **access to decent housing**, designing specific measures aimed at emancipation in a context such as the current one, dominated by precariousness employment and high housing prices, and the articulation of measures to facilitate access to housing for the homeless, are some of the social problems that require a response.

The necessary measures to end **energy poverty** in households must be addressed. Energy poverty is defined as where a household unable to meet basic energy supply needs due to insufficient level of income which, in some cases, may be aggravated by an energy inefficient property. To do so, starting with the measures and lines of action established in the National Strategy against Energy Poverty 2019-2024, and the Spanish Government Programme commitments in this area, the protection mechanisms known as the social electricity allowance and the social heating allowance shall be reformed, geared towards the automatic granting of the allowance, which also considers the universality of the sources of supply and broadens coverage through review of the income thresholds and other circumstances affecting access, in order to ensure a design that responds effectively to the true dimensions of the problem and the population groups affected. A better level of functioning of this mitigation measure is therefore sought, through coordination with other public administrations. Ultimately, the mechanisms included in this Strategy to protect vulnerable consumers from supply cuts will be further developed, through comprehensive protection mechanisms when non-payment is due to reasons beyond the control of the bill payers, such as unforeseen social and economic vulnerability. In addition, renewable self-consumption will be promoted, placing the citizen at the heart of the energy system, as an additional mechanism to alleviate energy poverty and vulnerability.

Another objective that cannot be forgotten is the promotion of **equitable access to culture**. Defined as a universal, committed, critical and diverse culture, based on participation, which is also a regenerative, unifying and dynamic element of the territory, and which has an impact on development and the economy, on innovation and social cohesion, and whose equitable access shall be promoted through research, thought, debate, mapping and programming of diverse activities in collaboration with public and private stakeholder throughout the State.

Finally, the implementation of an **equitable, progressive and redistributive fiscal policy** plays a key role in ensuring equal rights and opportunities and in achieving the goal of ending poverty and inequality. A tax policy in which each actor contributes according to his or her financial ability and ensures greater revenue-raising efficiency, which translates into the strengthening of public services, reducing inequalities and contributing to the protection of the environment, incentivising behaviours coherent with the ecological transition. A fiscal policy that also makes it possible to progress towards a **reform of the regional financing system** that ring-fences the welfare state and provides the autonomous communities with sufficient resources to meet their spending needs.

b. Action priorities:

→ **National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Poverty and Social Exclusion (2019–2023)** aligned with the relevant policies at the European and international level formulated in consonance with the principals of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Family protection and child poverty assistance programmes to support the most vulnerable families:

- » **Family protection and child poverty assistance** with social intervention projects and economic benefits and/or benefits in-kind that help improve the social and employment situation of families.
- » **Specific programmes to ensure the basic right to food, leisure and culture for children and adolescents** during school holiday periods and work-life balance.
- » **Basic social service provisions** through the co-financing of projects of the primary care social services network managed by local corporations.

Support for young people to facilitate their access to decent housing, designing specific measures aimed at their emancipation.

→ **New National Social Inclusion for Roma Population Strategy** to offer a political framework that guarantees equal opportunities for Roma people and delivers institutional recognition.

→ Overhaul of the **Action Plan of the Spanish Disability Strategy** to include specific and comprehensive measures aimed at all persons with disabilities from a gender and children's rights perspective.

→ Implementation of the **2020–2023 Action Plan of the Spanish Autism Spectrum Disorders Strategy**

→ **Family Diversity Act** to promote social protection and legal recognition of the diversity of family structures.

→ **The Minimum Vital Income** (Royal Decree-Law 20/2020, of 29 May) is a new social right that recognises a permanent, non-contributory benefit with the main objectives of redistributing incomes with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty, and social inclusion and participation in the employment market of persons in a situation of vulnerability.

→ **Flexibility of the "cohabitation unit" criterion** in order to facilitate access to the Minimum Vital Income (Royal Decree-Law 3/2021, of 2 February).

→ Approval of the **General Regulations of the Minimum Vital Income** which shall be drafted by the participation bodies such as the Advisory Council or the Monitoring Commission, the Social Seal to involve the private sector in inclusion policies and the improvements that allow for the reduction of the number of people eligible for the benefit who do not apply for it due to the lack the necessary means and/or knowledge necessary to do so.

→ New **Strategic Framework for Migration, Citizenship and Prevention of Xenophobia and Racism**, which, in accordance with the most important recently approved international and European instruments, shall include measures with regard to policies on reception, active inclusion, coexistence and prevention of racism and xenophobia.

→ **Food Aid Programme for the Most Disadvantaged Persons** that encompasses the purchase of food acquired on the market, its storage and free distribution to people in vulnerable situations, along with other accompanying measures.

→ **Protection of Consumers and Users facing situations of social and economic vulnerability** (Royal Decree-Law 1/2021, of January 19), reinforcing the protection of the most vulnerable persons in consumer relations and incorporating the virtual consumer into the state consumer regulations.

→ **Regulation of advertising in the online betting and gambling sector to protect the vulnerable sectors** of society, especially children (Royal Decree 958/2020 of 3 November).

→ **Regulation to achieve Safer Online Gambling Environments** that will tackle all measures of action, intervention, control, prevention, awareness and redress, that would configure an offer of informed and safer gambling activity for players from a safe gambling perspective.

→ Agreement with all the autonomous communities for the **interconnection of the Registers of Self Prohibition of gamblers**, encompassing the limitation of access to all types of face-to-face and online gambling activities after entry on any registry.

→ **European Union 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.

→ **Extension of social protection against child poverty** with universality approach and as a tool to support families raising children, and to prevent and reduce child poverty.

→ **Children's and Adolescents' Rights Strategy** to draft new strategic plan that takes into account the observations of Committee on the Rights of the Child.

→ **Implementation of the State Council for Children's Participation**, where children can be consulted and participate in issues relating to state policy.

→ **New State Housing Plan from 2022** that takes into account the approach to housing human right and the guarantee of a rapid and inclusive response to housing needs. It will articulate and encompass access programmes and establish short and medium-term goals with a direct impact on the supply of affordable and social housing. It will include direct access to rented housing for the groups with scarce resources, creating stable public housing stocks and facilitating access to housing

and housing solutions as immediately as possible. It will also strengthen the promotion of public housing with a particular focus on situations arising from eviction, the homeless, gender-based violence and acute economic vulnerability. It will also increase the offer of affordable and social housing with the aim of improving young people's access to their first home and other residential formats adapted to respond to the new social needs.

→ **State Housing Act** regulating political actions that guarantee the right to housing recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Spanish Constitution, in accordance with the European Parliament Resolution of 21 January 2021 on access to a decent and affordable home for all, which involves halting exorbitant increases and rent and articulates mechanisms to contain and ultimately reduce rent prices. It will also establish the regulation of housing policies as a public service of general interest, the protection of the social function of housing, and will promote the development of stable public housing stocks, reinforcing the right to decent housing at an affordable price and social rent. It will also boost transparency, security and information through inter-administration planning and cooperation. It will also include the guarantee of alternative housing in the event of eviction proceedings, through measures to ensure immediate rehousing, social rental alternatives and the need for a compulsory social services report in the event of such procedure.

→ Overhaul of the **Integrated National Strategy for the Homeless** to establish reducing homelessness as an objective.

→ **National Strategy against Energy Poverty (2019-2024)** which analyses the circumstances of households experiencing difficulty in meeting the cost of energy, setting benefit and structural measures including the reform of the existing social allowances for their optimisation, broadening their protection to all persons and families in situations of energy poverty.

→ **Self-consumption Strategy** to promote renewable self-consumption, to foster a reduction in greenhouse gases and energy dependence of households.

→ **Comprehensive reform of the Tax System** for the application of an equitable, progressive fiscal policy with a redistributive capacity in which each citizen contributes based on their ability to pay and receives based on their needs.

→ **Reform of the tax system** to make it more equitable, progressive and fair, further developing the design of green taxation, incorporating a gender approach and boosting public policies of general interest such as the protection of health. This adaptation of the tax system to the reality of the 21st century, which has the primary tax of contributing to the economic recovery of Spain, will be a tool to guarantee the recovery of the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, fostering the creation of quality employment and improving the efficiency and sustainability of our productive system and placing the appropriate focus on the need to ensure an adequate balance between the medium-term consolidation of the public finances and the contribution of taxation to economic development and

the welfare state. With this in mind, it is essential to complete a diagnosis of the Spanish tax system and a technical analysis of the necessary reforms. To do that, a series of proposals are presented that will allow us to progress towards a strengthening of our fiscal systems, modernising it and making it more efficient.

→ **Reform of the regional financing system** that ring-fences the welfare state and provides the autonomous communities with sufficient resources to meet their spending needs.

→ **Measures to Prevent and Combat Tax Fraud Draft Bill** which contains changes in a number of tax rules and formats, to transpose European law into domestic legislation and to implement measures that strengthen the fight against complex tax avoidance and the black economy.

→ Broaden **the concept of tax haven to encompass non-cooperating jurisdictions**, which will include new, more demanding criteria for transparency and fiscal equity. This concept will encompass not only jurisdictions, but also preferential tax regimes established in certain countries or territories that are prejudicial. Once these new criteria are developed, the current list of tax havens will be revised periodically to ensure a more dynamic focus.

→ **Rollout of the Strategic Plan of the Tax Administration 2020-2023**, which will allow for more effective voluntary compliance with tax obligations, through its two areas of action: preventing tax fraud through taxpayer information and assistance services and combating tax fraud. To achieve this objective, it will be necessary to strengthen the material and human resources of the Tax Administration and to develop a coherent investment policy, that helps reinforces key areas such as IT and the fight against smuggling, human trafficking and drug trafficking. Secondly, an increase in the staff will be required to reinforce and rejuvenate the Tax Administration and allow it to regain its former dimension.

→ To progress towards a **reform of the regional financing system** that ring-fences the welfare state and provides the autonomous communities with sufficient resources to meet their spending needs.

→ Amend the **Immigration Law** to adapt it to new realities, consulting the relevant associations.

→ **Facilitate residency and nationality processes**, preventing irregularity and guaranteeing health care and access to services for all persons, with special attention to the protection of migrant children and unaccompanied children.

→ **Culture and Citizenship Programme** that promotes a universal, committed, critical and diverse culture, based on participation, which is also a regenerative, unifying and dynamic element of the territory, and which has an impact on development and economy, on innovation and social cohesion.

→ **Library Laboratories Project** to promote the confluence between libraries and the citizen innovation sphere with the idea of reinforcing the role of libraries as meeting spaces and spaces for experimentation and collective creation.

→ **Digitisation of the Spanish Film Archive collections and a new B2B/B2C platform** that will include films, materials and resources recovered, restored and digitized from the Spanish Film Archive.

→ The **digitalisation of archives of special interest, of special priority resources and materials of the Reina Sofia Museum** to display to the public online.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, reduce the proportion of men, women, children and adolescents at risk of poverty and/or exclusion by at least half (AROPE rate).

By 2030, eradicate severe material deprivation suffered by children and adolescents and reduce the rate of relative child poverty by half⁶⁵.

By 2030, increase public spending on social protection to bring it into line with the EU-27 average.

By 2030, extend coverage of the Minimum Vital Income so as to protect all persons and family units who find themselves in situation of extreme poverty.

By 2030, increase the redistributive capacity of social transfers to at least bring them in line with the EU-27 average.

Before the end of 2022, guarantee the protection of persons and co-habiting units who, as a result of a situation of social or economic vulnerability, subject to eviction or seizure of primary residence, orienting the resources and programmes of housing policy to such purpose, and also reinforcing the coordination between judicial bodies and social services.

By 2024 guarantee access to rental housing by establishing containment measures so that the burden of cohabitation units for housing and basic supplies (water, electricity, gas and telecommunications) does not exceed 30% of their income, thus increasing the supply of affordable housing, especially in areas with a stressed residential market.

By 2030, increase the stock of public housing for social rental, particularly in the so-called stressed market areas, to reach the current European average, stimulating the rehabilitation of the stock and the use of lands allocated for subsidised housing and social rental.

By 2030, guarantee the protection of vulnerable families suffering from energy poverty facing non-payment and identified by social services, ensuring the application of the precautionary principle and the minimum vital supply.

Reduce energy poverty by at least 25% by 2025, with the target beyond that of a reduction of up to 50% by 2030

By 2030, improve energy efficiency, through the retrofitting of thermal installations in 300,000 homes per year, and actions on the thermal envelope of a total of 1,200,000 homes.

By 2023, guarantee the rights of vulnerable consumers, through the adoption of regulations from a gender-based perspective.

Up to 2030, guarantee the right to food through food distribution mechanisms for individuals and families suffering from social and economic vulnerability, and promote food donations to social organisation, ensuring nutritional quality and sustainability criteria.

By 2030, modernise the tax system based on the criteria of fairness, progressiveness and redistributive capacity, to enable greater revenue raising, reducing the gap with the European Union, which will translate into a strengthening of public services and lower inequality, through an in-depth analysis of existing taxation formats and benefits by 2030.

⁶⁵ Percentage of persons who live below the poverty threshold, measured as 60% of the median of incomes per unit of consumption.

2030 TARGETS

Up to 2030, promote the reduction of inequality among Spanish people living abroad or returnees suffering from a lack of resources, through economic benefits (benefits on the basis of needs, assistance pension for returnees and war children), healthcare and other benefits and aid.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

- » Andalusian Regional Strategy for Cohesion and Social Inclusion (ERACIS) and intervention in disadvantaged areas.
- » Integral Plan for the Roma Community.
- » Andalusian Childhood and Adolescence Law (*).
- » Andalusian Early Assistance Law (*).
- » Living in Andalucía plan, for housing, rehabilitation and urban regeneration in Andalusia 2020–2030.
- » Shock Plan for the Streamlining of the Minimum Social Insertion Income in Andalusia (REMISA) and REMISA reform to complement IMV and improve of economic assistance.
- » Extraordinary Food Guarantee and Child Nutrition Reinforcement Program.
- » Expansion of the network of resources of the Young Adult Program, aimed at young people who, having reached legal age, remain outside the protection system.

ARAGÓN

- » Social and Economic Recovery Plan to counter and correct the effects of COVID-19 with services and provisions aimed at the most vulnerable groups.
- » Reform of the Social Emergency Law of Aragon to extend cover to families at risk of social exclusion not currently receiving assistance.
- » Extension of resources allocated to family integration assistance.
- » Compliance with the Childhood Pact in Aragon.
- » Housing Law (*)
- » Extension of public housing stock, with for social rental housing.
- » Impulse the Protected Housing Registry.
- » Impulse a fair tax system inspired by the principles of equality and progressiveness.

CANARY ISLANDS

- » Development of the Social Services Law.
- » Canary Citizens Income Draft Bill.
- » Canarian Social Inclusion Strategy 2019–2021.
- » Canarian Children, Adolescents and Family Strategy 2019–2023.
- » Canarian Housing Plan 2020–2025.
- » 2nd Socio-Health Infrastructure Plan 2018–2023.

CANTABRIA

- » Cantabrian Housing Plan (*), public housing access plan for vulnerable groups and definition of the Strategy Against Homelessness.
- » Strategic Culture and Heritage Plan (*) and decentralisation of the cultural offering.
- » Fostering of female sport and sport for those with disabilities.
- » Digitalisation of heritage resources to foster accessibility.
- » Foster construction of sporting infrastructure in the local sphere.
- » Tax rebates through the regional Personal Income Tax system to foster rental of primary residence to young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- » General guidelines of the tax control plan of the Cantabrian Agency of the Tax Administrations: control, checks and investigation of tax fraud.
- » Incorporation of social criteria and clauses in public sector procurement. Publication of Decree with general policy guidelines.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » Castile-La Mancha Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Inequality 2017-2020.
- » Children and Family Plan 2018-2021.
- » Law on protection and guaranteed support for people with disabilities.
- » Strategy for comprehensive care for the homeless (*).
- » Housing Law and Housing Plan (*).
- » 2nd Strategic Plan against poverty and social inequality (*).
- » Action plan for the Roma population (*).
- » Plan for services and social inclusion (*).

CASTILE AND LEÓN

- » Adaptation of the Guaranteed Citizen Income, making it complementary with the Minimum Vital Income.
- » Law on the organisation and functioning of the Network for the protection and inclusion of individuals and families in situations of greatest social or economic vulnerability.
- » Early Assistance for minors on an individual basis in accordance with the circumstances, from a coordinated inter-institutional and inter-administrative immediate intervention system.
- » Subsidies for rent, conservation, affordability, energy efficiency and urban generation and renewal.
- » Foster the Public Social Rental Housing Stock, eradicating slums and a Rural Rehousing Programme.
- » Impulse the digitalisation of cultural heritage. Castile and León Digital Library-
- » Budgetary alignment of objectives and assessment of results looking to 2030.
- » Inclusion of social clauses in public procurement.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

- » Economic and Social Protection Reactivation Plan in the aftermath of COVID-19.
- » National Agreement for the Bases for the Economic Reactivation with Social Protection within Social Dialogue.
- » Strategic Social Services Plan 2020-2024.
- » Regulation of the Guarantee Citizens' Income Law 14/2017, of 20 July, (RGC) (through Decree 55/2020, of 28 April).
- » Law on urgent measures to contain rents in housing rental contracts nº 11/2020, of 18 September.
- » Reallotgem.cat programme to mobilise housing not currently occupied to house families with unfavourable report for rehousing.
- » Housing mobilisation programme in rural areas to foster access to housing and rehabilitation.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA – VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » Valencian Inclusion Income.
- » Combat the feminisation of poverty.
- » KUMPANIA, specialised and individualised service aimed at children and adolescents in the Roma community.
- » Plan Renhata for housing reform.
- » Alcem-Nos Social Agreement.
- » Valencian Strategy for the Recovery.
- » Digital Gap Observatory.
- » Network of Professorships in the Digital Gap.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

EUSKADI – BASQUE COUNTRY

- » Inclusion Plan 2017-2021 for the articulation of prevention and social inclusion policy and continuation with the Basque Social Inclusion Plan 2022-2025.
- » Child Guarantee Programme (overarching strategy against child poverty).
- » 2nd Strategic Social Services Plan.
- » Basque Active Aging Strategy: inter-institutional Plan to combat loneliness, and Basque Strategy to support carers.
- » Basque Law on Children's and Adolescents' Rights (*).
- » Basque Social Pact for Migration, and the 6th Action Plan in the sphere of citizenship, inter-cultural inclusion and immigration.
- » Draft Basque Youth Bill (*).
- » 4th Inter-institutional Support Plan for Families 2018-2022, to promote demographic change through benefits, tax incentives and family support programmes.
- » Basque Strategy for the Homeless 2018-2021.

EXTREMADURA

- » Complement to Minimum Vital Income through Extremeñan Guaranteed Income and recognition of same as a subjective right.
- » Programs and services of the catalogue of the Public System of Social Services, with personalized accompaniment for social inclusion.
- » Extremadura Addiction Plan (2018-2023).
- » Family Law (*).
- » Childhood and Adolescence Attention Plan (protective care and combating abuse and violence of children).
- » REHABITA Program, self-promoted protected housing programmes, and other assistance programmes to facilitate access to housing, as well as access to basic supplies for groups in situations of exclusion.
- » Support and impetus for cultural activities in rural and disadvantaged areas and Sports Activation Plan.
- » Actions to foster the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

GALIZA – GALICIA

- » Galician Social Inclusion (RISGA), Galician Social Insertion Income
- » Urgent social assistance to prevent electricity supply cuts for severely vulnerable consumers at risk of social exclusion.
- » Galician Homelessness Assistance Plan 2019-20203.
- » Digitalisation of cultural heritage and narrowing of the digital gap to make culture more accessible to a larger number of citizens.
- » Free early childhood education for children aged 0-3 for second and successive children of the family unit.
- » Conciliation allowance: economic assistance for families with children aged 0-3 who have not obtained a publicly funded early childhood education place.
- » Creation of nest homes: creation of resources for assistance to children aged 0-3 in those municipalities with a population of less than 5,000 inhabitants where there is no other children's allowance.
- » Galician Childhood Obesity Prevention Plan (Plan Xérmola)

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ILLES BALEARS – BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » Guaranteed Social Income aimed at co-habitation units in situations of economic vulnerability.
- » Children's and Adolescents' Services Rights Law (*).
- » Law 8/2018, of 31 July, on support for families.
- » Balearic Housing Law.
- » Existing Buildings Energy Rehabilitation Programme (PREE).
- » Strategy for digitalisation and to promote technology in the cultural sphere.
- » Law 2/2016, of 30 March, on the tax on tourist stays in the Balearic Islands and measures to foster sustainable tourism.
- » Balearic Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

LA RIOJA

- » Policy against fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance.
- » Inclusion of social clauses in public procurement to ensure employment insertion of persons with difficulties accessing employment.

NAFARROA – COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

- » Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion to prevent social exclusion and poverty through coordinated inter-department actions.
- » Children and Adolescents Plan and updating of the regulatory framework to integrally guarantee children's rights.
- » Housing Plan to guarantee access and the social function of housing. (Official Protection Housing for rent, rental portfolio, Emanzipa programme, Daviz programme and others).
- » Strategic Cultural Plan. In the area of libraries, the programme "Books and Libraries to build the world we want" also stands out.
- » Actions relating to the fight against fraud and the management of economic activities.
- » Approval of regulation for the inclusion of social and environmental criteria in public procurement.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » General Regulation of the Basic Social Salary Law, nº 4/2005 of 28 July of 2005, approved by Decree number 29/2011, of 13 April (*).
- » Asturian Strategy for the Roma Population.
- » Accessibility Strategy.
- » Support and Extension Plan for Local Youth Councils, boosting subsidies to youth associations and the role of the Asturian Youth Institute.
- » Network of Children Services for the prevention of ITP⁶⁶ and transition to adulthood programmes.
- » Promotion of public rental housing, with the focus on young people and strengthening the assistance programme for rent, purchase and rehabilitation.
- » Sports equipment promotion.
- » Asturias, Cultura en Rede Programme and creation of Office of Cultural Projects.

REGION OF MURCIA

- » Strengthen Social Services actions within Primary Care to inform of situations of risk of social exclusion.
- » Streamlining of procedures to facilitate access to the Minimum Vital Income and Basic Insertion Income.
- » Development of other forms of economic assistance for persons with disabilities and victims of gender-based

⁶⁶ Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty.

(*). In progress.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

violence.

- » Regulatory development and family protection subsidies for, child poverty services and for special category large families and single-parent families and programmes for youths in care.
- » Assistance for access to rental housing for groups suffering from vulnerability or exclusion and especially young people in municipalities of less than 5,000 inhabitants with limited income and women who are victims of gender-based violence.
- » Housing acquisition programme to rehouse families and eradicate slums.
- » Regional and local strategy for services for homeless persons.
- » Measures to foster access to sporting activity for groups at risk of social exclusion.

LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Strategy 2020-25 to combat homelessness and plans against the exploitation of begging.
- » Social and Intercultural Coexistence Plans.
- » Extension of social protection against child poverty, ensuring access to food through school meal programmes and to education through electronic access support programmes through increased public social spending, focussed on actions targeting especially vulnerable groups.
- » Voluntary home help programmes for the elderly and generation of spaces, environments and networks for care for persons in situations of vulnerability, isolation and/or lack of autonomy.
- » Socio-economic development actions in rural areas to reduce the inequality gap.
- » Technical and economic support to tertiary sector entities.
- » Creation of local councils for children and adolescents and foster participation in the Child Friendly Cities Program in collaboration with UNICEF.
- » Neighbourhood Centres to work with children in situations of social exclusion on social skills and educational reinforcement.
- » Ensure access to decent, adequate and affordable housing through the creation of municipal public housing stock (emergency and social rental housing), support programmes that promote the possibility of house sharing and sign collaboration agreements with financial institutions that own empty homes.
- » Exemption from the capital gains tax for loss of home through foreclosure.
- » Foster the improvement of energy efficiency in housing, and promote renewable self-consumption, with a particular focus on low-income groups and ensure access to basic supply rebates (electricity, water, sanitation, air conditioning, transport, etc.) on Property Tax, Construction and Installation Tax and Corporation Tax for photovoltaic solar installations and on road tax for electric vehicles and special rebates for large or single-parent families.
- » Creation of the Youth Emancipation Office: which will provide information on job offers, training courses, housing for sale and rent. Facilitate access to affordable housing for young people.
- » Positive promotion of culture and sports and outreach to the population in the most disadvantaged areas and in groups at risk of social exclusion, promoting equal access and consumption.
- » Subsidies through agreements to foster different areas of culture.
- » Historical heritage management plans.
- » Modernise the tax system, with reforms translating into a strengthening public services and reduction of inequality.
- » Tax postponement and repayment in instalments programmes for economic activities (hospitality sector, street traders) and for families at risk of vulnerability.
- » Tax awareness campaigns for citizens and especially young people.
- » Guarantee of accessible public prices and rates for all citizens.
- » Alignment of Budgets with the 2030 Agenda.

COUNTRY CHALLENGE 2. TACKLING THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Diagnosis

Climate change, environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity remains the principal threat to the survival of humanity and the countries of the Mediterranean arch are among the most affected. To tackle this enormous global challenge, the 2030 Agenda establishes the need to adopt urgent measures to tackle climate change and the degradation of the natural environment and establish decisive steps to protect our natural surroundings and guarantee the health of planet. Specifically, the Paris Agreement establishes the multilateralism in the fight against climate change which establishes the foundations for the international response from all countries and all of the stakeholders in this challenge.

Spain is one of the richest country in nature and biodiversity among the European countries but at the same time is among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Furthermore, and despite the positive evolution of some indicators over recent years, Spain generates an environmental impact that is far above our biocapacity. According to the latest data available, our ecological footprint rose to 4.0 global hectares per person, which puts our ecological deficit above 2.8 global hectares per person.⁶⁷ To put it in other terms, we would need 2.8 times our surface area to be able to cover our consumption of natural resources, making us dependant on other countries to be able to meet the needs of our economy.

The latest data available, prior to the COVID-19 global pandemic, reveal and acceleration and willingness over recent years in the fight against climate change and the ecological transition, with significant progress in key aspects such as improving energy efficiency, the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) or the replacement of fossil fuels through a greater penetration of renewable energies. At the same time, this progress is not made in all sectors or all dimensions, and so we continue to face major challenges that confirm the urgency of accelerating the process of decarbonisation and advancing towards a real ecological transition, intensifying efforts at all levels to reach the binding objectives agreed within the international and European framework. Thus, the reduction of external energy dependency, the contraction of the ecological footprint, energy reconversion of transport, the protection of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems are just some of the main challenges that require special attention and an urgent response.

2020 has been marked by the COVID-19 crisis, the effects of which have been dramatic on a human, public health, and socio-economic level. According to provisional data, there has also been significant impact on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutant gases.

On the one hand, the pandemic has made it clear that there are strong interrelations between the protection of the environment, health, and the survival of humanity, underlining how the destruction and alteration of the biosphere as a result of human action breaks the balance between the species and pathogens and increases the risk of transmission of viruses and diseases, especially zoonotic diseases (diseases that are transmitted naturally from animals to humans).

⁶⁷ Global Footprint Network (2020). Accessible [here](#)

On the other hand, it is important to recognise the exceptional nature of the situation and to be able to identify its effects on the temporary reduction and limitation over time of some indicators like greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutant gasses, so as not to generate a false sense of security that might lead us to let our guard down in relation to the common challenge of structural improvement beyond the current situation.

Forecasts at an international level show that the different social distance and restriction of mobility measures generated a significant fall in energy demand on a global scale, as well as an unprecedented reduction in GHG emission levels. According to the International Energy Agency, the global energy demand reduced between 4 and 6% in 2020, which will translate into the greatest drop in global energy-related CO₂ emissions since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, with an expected drop around 7%⁶⁸.

According to the forecasts made by the Spanish Observatory for Energy Transition and Climate Action⁶⁹ in a context of a 12.8% Spanish GDP decrease in 2020, GHG emissions in 2020 would reduce around 15% compared to 2019¹. This decrease would be the sharper decrease in the historical series with said emissions below 39% compared to the 2005 figures and 7% compared to 1990. Although this decrease in the emissions during 2020 can be considered exceptional and is largely due to the effects of the pandemic (71%), it is estimated that they would have likewise decreased around 7% in a hypothetical scenario without COVID-19.

If confirmed, these data would prove the positive trend of our country in terms of acceleration of efforts to counter the climate change as a consequence of the measures implemented by the Government. In this sense, the unprecedented resource mobilization and implementation of recovery and reconstructions plans offer an opportunity to reinforce this trajectory and to promote a real and fair ecological transition that moves towards the objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

One of the primary challenges we encounter as a country is moving towards a fair and sustainable reconstruction after the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through the economic recovery aimed at making progress in ecologic transition in our productive and social model, as well as in a digital transition which should go hand-in-hand. To achieve this, it is essential to maintain and strengthen the decoupling observed in recent years between economic growth and GHG emissions, and to accelerate efforts over the next decade to meet emission reduction and decarbonisation targets for the economy.

Consistent with the urgency to act on climate and environment, the Council of Ministers adopted in January 2020 the Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration⁷⁰, which commits to the adoption of 30 priority lines of action to combat climate change and to take advantage of the social and economic benefits offered by the ecological transition. Moreover, our country is one of the countries with the greatest

biodiversity and natural wealth and has the largest extension of protected areas in the EU. In 2018, 32.82% of the land area was protected, and about 13% of the maritime waters⁷¹, exceeding the 10% target set for 2020 by the so-called United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets⁷².

However, this biodiversity is at risks. In 2018, more than a thousand species were threatened as a result of the destruction of natural habitats. According to data from the European Environment Agency (EEA), in the 2013-2018 period the conservation status of species and habitats had worsened compared to the previous five-year period. This is evidenced by the fact that, in 2019, only 18.93% of species and 8.91% of habitats were in a favourable conservation status⁷³, compared to 21.6% and 12.3% respectively in 2012. In contrast, 26.23% of species and 17% of habitats were in a very poor conservation status in 2018, compared to 18.65% and 14.34% respectively in 2012.

Climate change and ecosystem degradation cannot be considered an exclusively environmental phenomenon, as it has profound economic and social consequences. In particular, there is now a long-standing consensus in the scientific world that human health and well-being are intimately linked to environmental quality. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 24% of global morbidity and 23% of mortality are attributable to environmental factors. In terms of the world's population, this figure accounts for 12.6 million deaths each year, distributed unevenly around the globe. In Europe, an estimated 1.4 million deaths per year are due to environment-related causes.

Ultimately, climate change can affect health directly and indirectly. Direct effects include changes in temperature, precipitation, and extreme events (heat and cold waves, floods, and droughts). Indirect effects include changes in disease transmission patterns, reduced availability of water and food, and poorer quality of the air we breathe. It is estimated that heatwaves cause 2,700 deaths each year in the EU, a number that could increase by as much as 30 times before the end of this century if the current trend of rising global average temperatures continues. It is a phenomenon that affects countries differently and, in the European context, the most affected are the countries of southern Europe, including Spain⁷⁴.

The greatest cause of premature mortality is atmospheric pollution, which causes 452,400 deaths annually in Europe, a figure which in Spain amounts to around 30,000 premature deaths every year⁷⁵. The impact is general in nature but also differs between countries and, within these, between regions, as well as according to the socio-economic level of the population, so that people with fewer economic resources are at greater risk of being affected by extreme weather events, poor air quality, or the scarcity of

⁶⁸ International Energy Agency (2020). Accessible [here](#)

⁶⁹ Spanish Observatory for Energy Transition and Climate Action. Advanced Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Spain 2020. Accessible [here](#)

⁷⁰ Agreement of the Council of Ministers approving the Government's Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration. Accessible [here](#)

⁷¹ MITECO (2018) Annual Report on the State of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity in Spain. Accessible [here](#)

⁷² United Nations Convention Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Accessible [here](#)

⁷³ European Environment Agency (2019) Conservation status and trends of habitats and species. Accessible [here](#)

⁷⁴ European Union – Joint Research Centre (2020) PESETA IV. Accessible [here](#)

⁷⁵ EEA (2020) Air Quality in Europe – 2020 Report. Accessible [here](#)

natural resources. Health risks are greatest in cities and densely populated urban centres, with an estimated 90% of the EU urban population exposed to high levels of air pollutant concentrations considered harmful to health. In this sense, cities can play a key role in moving towards sustainability, but they are also the place where the link between environmental degradation and related health problems is most clearly evident. In view of this situation, among the measures envisaged in the Spanish National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC) is the commitment to reduce the number of premature deaths due to pollution by 2,400 per year, i.e. 27% compared to the baseline scenario.

Spain is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, the effects of which project a future scenario of rising temperatures, coupled with extreme variations in rainfall and droughts, which will critically affect the future availability of water, and will have major implications for sectors such as agriculture, livestock, forestry, and tourism.

The Paris Agreement reached in 2015 and ratified by Spain in 2017, sets the common objective of containing the increase in global average temperature to below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, and to make efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has estimated the need to achieve a global decarbonisation rate of more than 7.6% per year in the 2020 to 2030 decade to reach this objective⁷⁶.

According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), there has been a steady increase in global temperature since the 1980s, with the last decade, 2010–2020, being the warmest since records began. 2020 was one of the three warmest years globally, and the warmest year in Europe⁷⁷, which is the continent with the highest temperature increase in recent decades, exceeding the global average by 0.9°C⁷⁸.

Spain is part of this trend with an increasingly warmer climate, revealing how warming not only does not stop, but is rather accelerating. This trend is slightly higher in Spain compared to the international records, with an average increase of around 0.3°C per decade since the 1960s. Thus, five of the six years with the highest temperatures have been recorded in the last decade, and the average temperature has increased by about 1.7°C since pre-industrial times⁷⁹.

At the same time, average annual precipitation has experienced a moderate decrease over the last 50 years in a large part of the Iberian Peninsula and, especially, in the southeast of the country, standing in 2019 3% below the average annual value of the 1981–2010 reference period. This phenomenon, together with the increase in average temperature, explains why the area with a

semi-arid climate has increased by more than 30,000 km² in the last 20 years⁸⁰ (PNACC – Spanish National Climate Change Adaptation Plan). The scenario in Spain is thus clearly warmer and with less water availability, in a context in which the demand for water in several areas of the country exceeds the available water resources⁸¹, which, in addition to being overexploited, are affected by inadequate use. 61% of our country's surface water bodies and 45% of groundwater bodies are affected by pollution⁸².

According to the work carried out by the Public Works Studies and Experimentation Centre, CEDEX, and the Spanish Office for Climate Change, the expected **decrease in contributions at the end of the century**, considering average scenarios, will be between **19% and 42%** depending on the river basin districts, with the highest values precisely in the most vulnerable basins, those of the South, Southeast and Levante, as well as in the island territories. These changes in the natural water cycle, among many other impacts, will result in a decrease in the availability of water resources with implications for the agricultural sector, urban supply, hydroelectric production, and ecosystems, especially affecting ecological processes, species and habitats linked to aquatic ecosystems⁸³.

Fighting Climate Change. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency to Further Reduce GHG Emissions

Global warming is the result of imbalances in the planet's energy balance, which are caused by natural and anthropogenic processes and agents. Human influence on climate has been the dominant cause (with a probability of more than 95%) of more than half of the observed increase in global mean surface temperature in the 1951–2010 period⁸⁴.

In this sense, the main driver of climate change is represented by Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and in particular three of them – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O)– with CO₂ being the most important GHG in terms of representation. However, the so-called fluorinated gases should not be forgotten in this area because of their high global warming potential.

The European Union has set the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, i.e. to have an economy with zero net greenhouse gas emissions. This goal is at the core of the European Green Deal and is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement.

⁷⁶ Accessible [here](#)

⁷⁷ WMO (2021) *State of the Global Climate 2020*. Accessible [here](#)

⁷⁸ Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) (2021). Accessible [here](#)

⁷⁹ Spanish State Meteorological Agency (2020): *Report on the state of the climate in Spain in 2019*. Accessible [here](#)

⁸⁰ MITECO (2020). *2021–2030 National Climate Change Adaptation Plan*. Available [here](#)

⁸¹ European Commission (2020). *Spain 2020 Report. European Semester 2020: Assessment of progress on structural reforms and the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances, and results of the in-depth reviews under Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011*. Accessible [here](#)

⁸² MITERD (2020). *Monitoring Report on the Hydrological Basin and Water Resources Plans in Spain 2019*. Accessible [here](#)

⁸³ 2021–2030 National Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. Accessible [here](#)

⁸⁴ IPCC (2014) *Fifth Assessment Report*. Accessible [here](#)

Spain is aligned with this European commitment, as agreed in the European Council Conclusions of 12 December 2019, as well as in the aforementioned Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration. This is a goal that responds to the general consensus of the scientific community, which is calling for urgent action to safeguard the environment, health and safety of citizens.

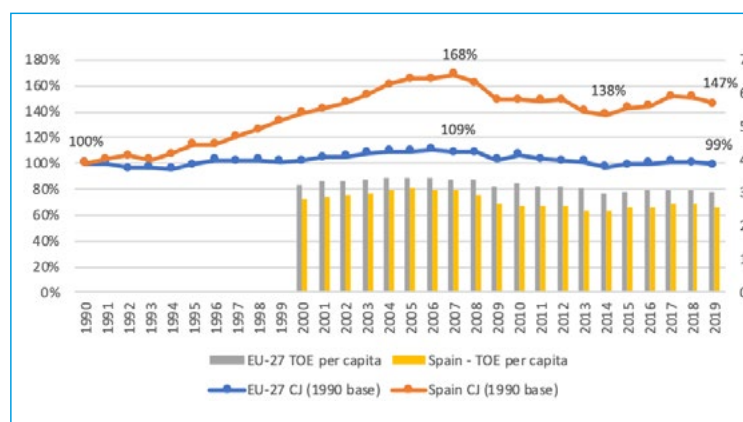
Spain faces the challenge of improving energy efficiency and boosting the integration of renewable energies, achieving the reduction of net GHG emissions, reducing its energy dependence, as well as energy costs.

Primary energy consumption in Spain has experienced a very high increase in recent years, much higher than in European countries as a whole, reaching a peak in 2007 when it was almost 70% higher than in 1990. After a fall during the recession phase between 2008 and 2014, demand returned to growth between 2015 and 2017, coinciding with the economic recovery. In turn, the reduction observed in energy consumption in the two years prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is very positive. A reduction of 3% in 2019 compared to the previous year – compared to the EU-27 average of 2.6%– and which takes on greater relevance due to the fact that, for the first time, it occurred during a period of economic growth, highlighting a trend of decoupling between economic growth and energy consumption. Nevertheless, primary energy consumption in Spain remains 47%.

One way to reduce energy consumption, decoupling it from the economic cycle, is to encourage efficient energy use by different activities. Energy efficiency can be measured through energy intensity. This indicator reflects the ratio of energy consumption to the volume of economic activity and is calculated as the ratio of energy consumption to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Although, according to this indicator, Spain has been improving its energy efficiency, especially in recent years, the increase in demand now faces us with the challenge of being much more efficient in order to contain greenhouse gas emissions.

Improved energy efficiency, together with a commitment to renewable energies, are also fundamental tools for evolving towards a much more secure energy model, reducing energy dependence on the exterior, which is structurally very high in our country, and which entails a high cost in economic terms and reduced competitiveness. At present, according to Eurostat data⁸⁵, Spain's degree of foreign energy dependence is almost 75%, compared to a European average of approximately 61%, making it the seventh most dependent European country on the outside world for its energy supply. Energy dependency, unlike the other indicators, has grown slightly in the last two years before the pandemic. Against this, the PNIEC 2021–2030 sets an ambitious target of reducing dependence by almost 15 points to 61% by 2030 and the Long-Term Decarbonisation Strategy (2050

Graphic 01: Primary Energy Consumption. Spain and EU27, 1990–2019 Evolution



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT

Note: Total primary energy consumption, represented in the figure by the solid lines, is measured in Terajoule (TJ) and expressed as a percentage of 1990 values (left axis), i.e. taking this year as the base year. Per capita consumption (right axis) is measured in Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (TOE), the energy yield of one tonne of oil.

LTS) sets a target of reducing dependence to 13% by 2050. The decarbonisation of the economy and society over this 30-year period will mean that, by mid-century, Spain will be largely self-sufficient in its energy needs.

The level of GHG emissions per capita in Spain is lower than the EU average and has accelerated its rate of decline in the last two years. CO₂-equivalent emissions have recorded an overall decrease in 2019 of -5.6% compared to 2018, in a favourable economic context of 2% GDP growth, indicating that emissions are decoupled from economic growth. This decrease is explained by the reduction of coal use in electricity production by -66% and the introduction of renewable energies. However, our country still maintains a high dependence on fossil fuels (around 75%) and a total level of emissions higher than in 1990, which urges us to consolidate and accelerate the pace of emissions reduction through decarbonisation, energy efficiency and increased energy generation through renewable energy.

The latest available data⁸⁶ show that in Spain total gross emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) have increased by 8.5% since 1990, reaching 314.5 million tonnes of CO₂-eq in 2019 but reduced by 5.6% compared to 2005 (the year in which the peak of GHG emissions was recorded). More than 75% of these originate in the energy system, with carbon dioxide being the main component, accounting for 80% of the total gases emitted.

The variations in economic growth, population, and energy consumption in Spain since 1990, the reference year, have been

⁸⁵ Energy imports dependency. Data consulted in EUROSTAT in March 2021. Accessible [here](#)

⁸⁶ MITECO (2021) National Emissions Inventory Report (2021 Edition). Accessible [here](#)

very notable, making the Spanish economy one of the top 25 OECD countries. Its evolution since 1990 is initially marked by structural reforms, Spain's entry into the then European Economic Community and population growth. Therefore, this situation is very different from the starting point in 1990 of the rest of the neighbouring countries. Thus, since 1990, the evolution of GHG emissions has followed a pattern closely linked to the economic and demographic cycle and, therefore, to the increase in energy demand and consumption. According to data from the European Environment Agency⁸⁷ between 1995 and 2007 emissions peaked and were 53.9% higher than in 1990. 2008 saw the beginning of a marked decline as a result of the slowdown in activity caused by the economic crisis, and this decline continued until 2013. Finally, from this year onwards, despite the recovery of macroeconomic indicators, global emissions seem to show a phase of relative stabilisation and show a decoupling of economic growth.

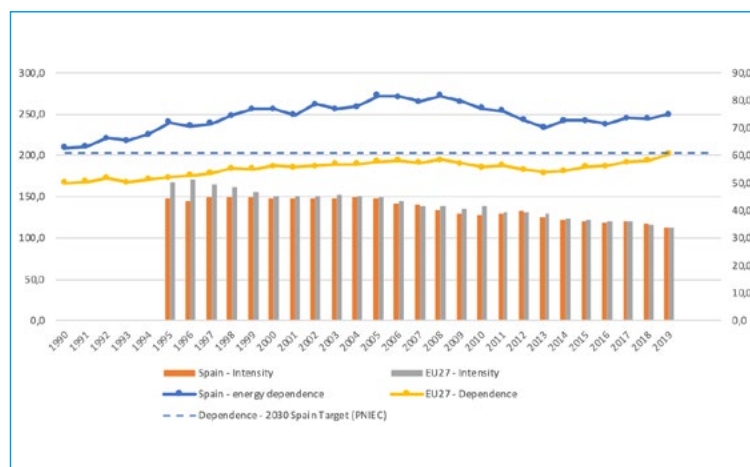
However, it is worth noting the 28.9% reduction compared to 2005 and the fall in annual emissions between 2018 and 2019, with a 6.2% reduction in CO₂-eq, mainly due to the strong increase in energy production from renewable technologies. This trend, in a context of increasing total energy consumption, shows the decoupling between economic growth (which amounted to 2% of GDP in 2019) and greenhouse gas emissions, which shows significant progress in the decarbonisation process in our country⁸⁸.

Therefore, the projections based on the historical series show the importance of further strengthening the downward trend recorded in recent years in order to achieve the targets set at international and European level. In fact, the target of reducing emissions by 23% compared to 1990 implies a reduction of one in three tonnes compared to current levels.

The significant increase in electricity production from renewable sources is playing a key role in the decline of emissions in the energy system in recent years. The transport sector is the largest contributor to overall emissions and is also the sector that has made the slowest progress in terms of emissions reductions, being the only sector that has increased emissions in 2019, and the sector most dependent on fossil fuels.

Transport accounted for 29.1% of total GHG emissions for the year 2019⁸⁹, 41.6% of total nitrogen oxide emissions and 30% of heavy metals. This is followed by industrial activities which generate 20.9% of total GHG emissions, electricity generation (13.7%), agriculture and livestock as a whole (12.0%), fuel consumption in the Residential, Commercial and Institutional

Graphic 02: Energy Intensity and Dependence. Spain and EU27, 1990–2019 Evolution



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT

Note: Energy intensity, represented in the figure by the solid lines, is expressed as the quotient between energy consumption (in Kilograms of Oil Equivalent - Kgoe) and gross domestic product at constant 2015 prices (Kgoe per 1,000 euros, left axis). Energy dependence (right axis) is measured as a percentage of total energy imports over national consumption.

sectors (8.2%), and waste (4.4%). All sectors except transport, which saw an overall increase of 1.2% and 1.7% for vehicles, have reduced their emissions.

Spain is therefore faced with the imperative need to boost sustainable mobility, reducing the volume of road traffic, especially in cities, while promoting non-motorised modes of transport and the penetration of electric mobility and modal shifts. This is in addition to measures for the improvement, electrification and use of the public transport network. Digitalisation, the use of big data and monitoring will be key factors in this "green" mobility of the future.

Finally, CO₂-eq removals associated with the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector decreased by 3.4% compared to 2018. This reduction in removals is linked to a decrease in removals from forestry (-2.0%) and wood products (-20.3%), partly offset by an increase in removals from agricultural crops (+2.0%)⁹⁰.

In this scenario, renewable energies represent one of the main and most effective tools to reduce our environmental impact and improve the country's energy efficiency and security. In 2020, they accounted for 20.9% of final energy consumption, 2.5 percentage points more than in 2019 and more than twice as much as in 2004, meeting the 20% target set for 2020 by the European 2020 Strategy⁹¹. The use of renewable energies, after the slowdown observed between 2016–2018, will increase again in 2020, consolidating the growth path of the renewable share

⁸⁷ GHG emissions - European Environment Agency. Data consulted in EUROSTAT.

Accessible [here](#)

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ MITECO (2021) National Emissions Inventory Report (2021 Edition).

Accessible [here](#)

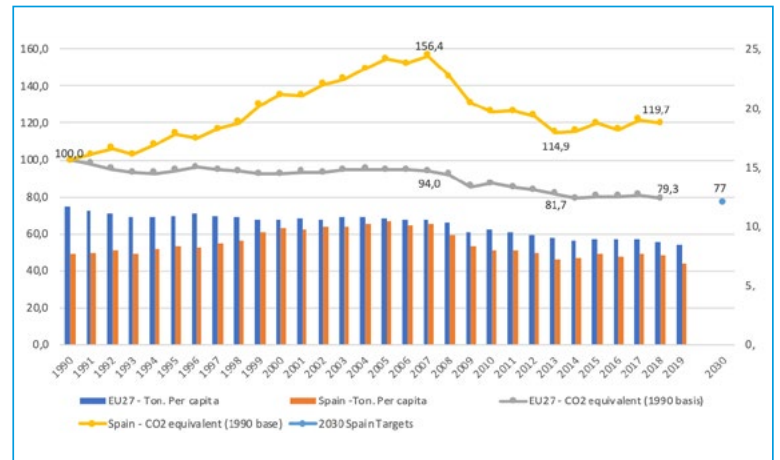
⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

⁹¹ Data accessible [here](#)

and reaching a record figure in the reduction of emissions⁹².

Against this, the PNIEC 2021–2030 has set Spain the ambitious objective of increasing the weight of renewable energies in the generation mix, reaching 74% of electricity generation from renewable energy sources in 2030, as well as 42% of renewables in final energy consumption in 2030, which is equivalent to an increase in this indicator of 24 percentage points over the next 10 years, more than double what has been observed in recent years. As three out of four tonnes of GHG emissions originate in the energy system, decarbonisation is of particular relevance in the energy transition. In this respect, the strong reduction of emissions in this sector, driven by a significant increase in energy production from renewable sources, is very positive. Their weight is, in fact, greater in the energy sector, where they accounted for 36.9% of the total in 2019, almost two points higher than the EU average⁹³. The electricity sector is also the sector where its use has increased the most compared to the previous year. The latest available data, according to year-end forecasts published by Red Eléctrica de España, confirm this trend also in 2020, showing further acceleration: with renewables accounting for 43.6% of total electricity generation, the highest share of the generation mix since records have been kept⁹⁴.

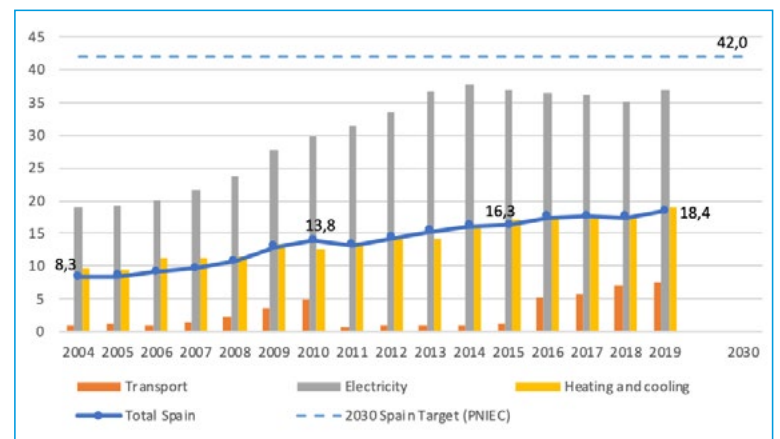
Graphic 03: Evolution of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions. Spain and EU27, 1990–2019 Evolution



Source: Compilation based on EUROSTAT and MITECO (National Emissions Inventory Report)

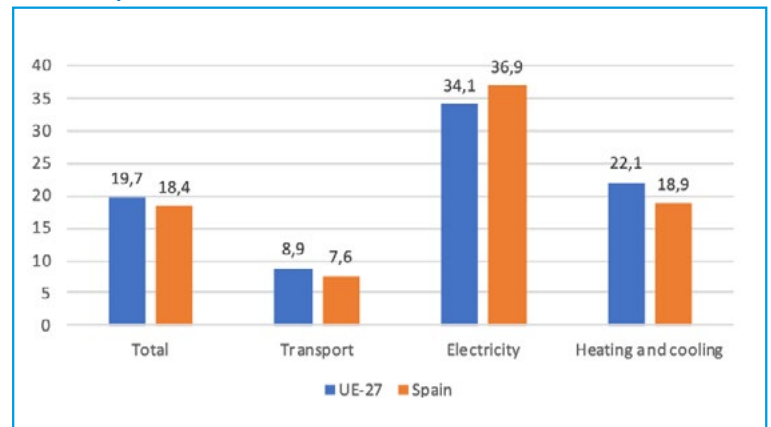
Note: GHG emissions, represented in the figure by the solid lines, are measured in CO2 equivalents (C=2-eq) and are expressed as a percentage of 1990 values (left axis), i.e. taking this year as the base year. Emissions per capita (right axis), measured in Tons of CO2 Equivalent.

Graphic 04: Share of Renewable Energies in Final Consumption in Spain. Evolution 2004–2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT

Graphic 05: Share of Renewable Energies in Final Consumption, by Sector. Spain and EU, 2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT

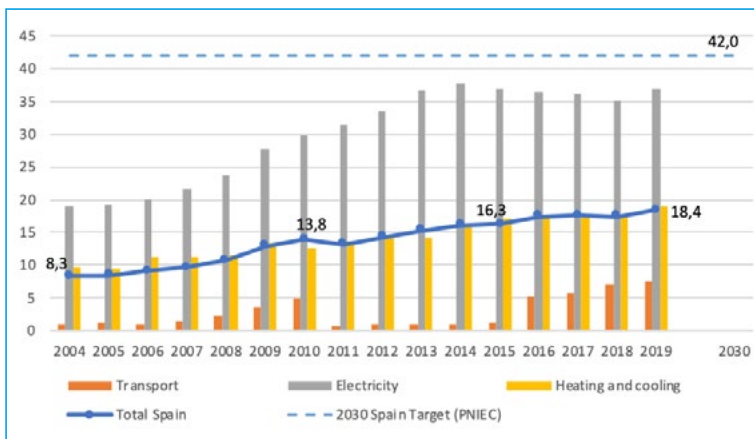
⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Red Eléctrica Española (2020). Accessible [here](#)

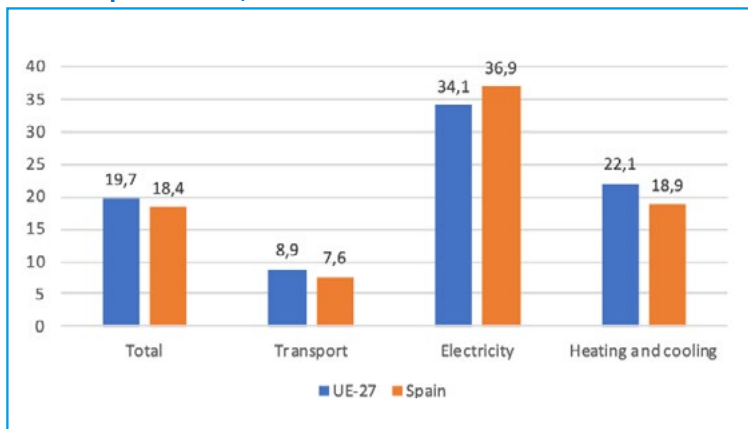
Achieving climate neutrality by mid-century is an opportunity to strengthen the industrial and technological fabric, consolidating the industrial value chain, reactivating the economy, and generating quality employment. Technological development will be strengthened by investing resources in the search for new solutions for decarbonisation, thereby improving the research and innovation structure, while increasing the competitiveness of the economy as a whole.

Graphic 04: Share of Renewable Energies in Final Consumption in Spain. Evolution 2004-2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT

Graphic 05: Share of Renewable Energies in Final Consumption, by Sector. Spain and EU, 2019



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from EUROSTAT

ACCELERATING POLICY 2:

A country that respects the limits of the planet



a. Accelerating Policy Orientation:

Given the climate and ecological emergency whose magnitude and effects are undeniable, in the next decade comprehensive set of actions must be deployed to cope with and anticipate its effects. These must have a cross-cutting, interdependent, and global approach, cutting across all our economic activity, our mobility, the protection of our ecosystems and all other human actions, and must be carried out in a way that ensures that no one is left behind. We have a unique opportunity to carry out these measures that will allow us to transform our production model, the way we move and our energy production, making them more sustainable and compatible with the limits of the planet. This is a complex exercise, where inter-ministerial and multi-level work will be decisive and policy coherence for sustainable development is the best approach to achieve it.

In view of this, the **Government's Climate and Environmental Emergency Declaration** of January 2020 formalised Spain's commitment through the adoption of 30 priority lines of action to combat climate change and the promotion of a fair and inclusive ecological transition that minimises the economic, social, and environmental impact in the transition to a green, circular, fair, resilient and climate-neutral economy by 2050 at the latest, leaving no one behind. A very significant number of the priorities for action, public policies and actions included in this accelerating policy are derived from it, as well as the integration, in a cross-cutting approach manner, of the aspects related to the climate emergency in other public policies and actions contemplated in the framework of this Sustainable Development Strategy. In short, it is a question of promoting the concept of sustainable development as an essential tool for making the fight against climate change, the conservation of biodiversity and the ecosystemic values it provides compatible with the socio-economic development of the territory for a country that cares for our planet and guarantees its protection within and beyond our borders.

In terms of **energy transition**, actions are articulated from the milestone of the approval, on 13 May 2021, of the **Act on Climate Change and Energy Transition**⁹⁵, a regulatory framework that places the fight against climate change at the centre of political action in the coming years, establishing, with the status of law, targets for reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and a commitment to climate neutrality by 2050, in line with European and international commitments linked to the Paris Agreement. It also articulates a cross-cutting response in terms of climate action, reinforcing and anchoring in legislation the commitment to renewable energies and energy efficiency.

⁹⁵ Act 7/2021 of 20 May on Climate Change and Energy Transition. Accessible [here](#)

Namely, the 2030 scenario commits to a 23% reduction in GHG emissions compared to 1990 levels, a 42% share of renewables in final energy use, a 39.5% improvement in energy efficiency and a 74% penetration of renewable energy in electricity generation. Quantified targets that seek to promote predictability and appropriate economic signals, reflecting the principle of non-regression in the targets set, and establishing a commitment to their upward revision in 2023 with a view to ensuring the achievement of GHG emissions neutrality by 2050 at the latest, in line with the targets set in the European Green Deal and Sustainable Development Goal 13.

The obligation to limit emissions conditions sectoral policies and implies the need to address changes in production, mobility and consumption patterns: However, at the same time, it provides the stability and predictability necessary to avoid cost overruns or the generation of captive assets, which could hinder the progress of our economy, thus taking advantage of the important opportunities offered by the ecological transition in the generation of employment, in the modernisation of the economy, and in the improvement of the competitiveness of the productive fabric, while deploying accompanying measures for potentially affected groups to guarantee a fair transition. To this end, the Act articulates a cross-cutting response supported by different planning tools aimed at articulating the implementation of the measures, as well as the definition of climate and energy governance. To a large extent, these tools have already been defined and are included as part of the actions framed within this accelerating policy.

These include the **2021-2030 National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan** (PNIEC), which establishes the framework and measures for meeting the 2030 targets, and whose actions are estimated to generate a net increase in employment of between 253,000 and 348,000 people (a 1.7% increase of employment in 2030). To reach these goals an estimated mobilisation of 241.4 billion euros will be needed, of which a substantial part of the investment (80% of the total) will be made by the private sector, mainly associated with the deployment of renewables and the distribution and transmission networks, with the rest of the measures being framed within the promotion of energy saving and efficiency, the promotion of sustainable mobility and modal shift, which will be assumed by the public sector. It will also have positive effects in terms of public health, as it will lead to a reduction of around 2,400 premature deaths compared to the *baseline scenario*. The second planning tool to address the energy transition is the **2050 Long-Term Strategy**, which sets the path towards climate neutrality by mid-century and analyses, from a strategic point of view, the different options for decarbonisation, proposing a path based on technology and the best available scientific knowledge. The document addresses the importance of renewable energies and the improvement of energy efficiency in the different sectors of the economy and delves into energy carriers, such as renewable hydrogen, which will be necessary for those sectors that are difficult to electrify, such as heavy transport and certain industrial sectors, and will generate a change in the energy structure, resulting in a considerable reduction in external dependence. Moreover, the commitment to the deployment of actions that guarantee

an equitable and supportive treatment of the effects of the transition to a low-carbon economy on the affected workers and territories is articulated through the **Fair Transition Strategy**, which establishes the public support and accompaniment measures to minimise its impacts from the perspective of inclusiveness, participation, and social justice, all of which are key principles of the 2030 Agenda. The application of the principle of fair transition as a lever to achieve the challenge of promoting decent employment will contemplate the formulation of sectoral plans that take into account the adaptation horizons of each segment of the production model, as well as adaptation measures limited in time in the face of its progressive transformation. In this sense, it is necessary that, starting from the socio-economic context, a commitment be made to a diversity of projects and not to a single productive monoculture, as well as ensuring the involvement of social agents and municipal institutions, which must play a dynamic role, and to productive sectors with an effective capacity to generate quality employment. Finally, it is also of particular relevance to **promote coordinated and coherent action from a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral and multi-level perspective given the risks and threats posed by climate change**. To this end, the II National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (2021-2030 PNACC) is configured, which commits to actions to reduce the exposure and vulnerability of our social, economic, and environmental system, while improving its capacity to recover and restore itself after a climate-related shock. Adaptation not only prevents or minimises damage, but it also brings economic and social stability, and can create new economic activities and quality employment opportunities, while preventing economic losses. Its implementation involves the revision of different regulatory frameworks and sectoral plans, as well as coordinated action with the adaptation plans defined by the Autonomous Communities.

In addition to the strategic planning frameworks, anchored in the need to address the energy transition with guarantees, insofar as three out of every four tonnes of GHG emissions originate in the energy system, there are others in the areas of energy storage, the sustainable management of mineral raw materials and the guarantee of a secure supply that reduces our dependence on external sources, the deployment of new energy sources such as renewable hydrogen, biogas, offshore wind power and marine energy. In this sense, the commitment to renewable energies will continue, simplifying and streamlining the procedures for their entry and extension throughout the country, while encouraging the entry of new actors, such as energy communities, and improving the planning of the electricity transmission grid, contributing not only to reducing emissions but also to guaranteeing security of supply at minimum cost.

Energy saving through the intensification of energy efficiency efforts particularly, but not exclusively, in the building sector is another priority area for action, an objective to which various instruments contribute, including the establishment of regulatory frameworks, the development of specific strategies and the implementation of aid programmes. The aim is, on the one hand, to improve efficiency through the partial or integral

refurbishment of buildings and thermal installations, which will have a triple positive effect in job creation and economic activity in the construction sector, a reduction in household energy consumption, thus reducing vulnerability and energy poverty and, finally, reducing the contribution of this sector to global GHG emissions. At the same time, renewable self-consumption will be promoted, enabling the proactive role of citizens in decarbonisation.

A final area of emphasis in the field of energy transition is the promotion of safer, more sustainable and connected mobility, through strategies and new regulatory frameworks, which will address current mobility and transport challenges marked, among other aspects, by the irruption –often disruptive– of new technologies and the ever-increasing concentration of population in large cities. A reality that is closely linked to the need to continue to deploy the strategic objectives set out in the Spanish Urban Agenda to achieve sustainability of urban policies by 2030 and contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 11.

In this sense, the contribution of the Spanish Urban Agenda would be linked to another of the articulating axes of this accelerating policy: tackling the environmental determinants of health. The aim is to protect the health of the planet and people. In this area, the actions to be carried out are framed within two perspectives: On the one hand, **air pollution control**, through the development of a specific plan that commits to emission reduction targets for four pollutants (SO₂, NO_x, NH₃ and PM_{2.5}) in compliance with the EU National Emission reduction Commitments Directive for certain atmospheric pollutants. Information on air quality will continue to be accessible to all the people through the Air Quality Index, an interactive map that provides real-time information on air quality based on data provided by the National Monitoring Network, as well as health recommendations. This guarantees the public's right to information.

On the other hand, efforts will be intensified **to prevent and reduce the generation of waste** and the adverse impacts of its generation and management, through the approval and development of specific legislation that will also be aimed at guaranteeing greater safety in its transfer and adequate treatment. These regulatory frameworks also respond to the commitment to **the promotion of a circular economy**, a commitment that will contribute decisively to the structural transformation of the production and consumption system, moving from a linear model that involves intensive use of natural resources to a circular model capable of optimising the use of raw materials, reducing pressure on the environment, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 12. In this area, the commitments and actions of the Spanish 2030 Circular Economy Strategy will be developed, which commits to the following reduction targets in 2030 with respect to the 2010 parameters: a 30% reduction in the national consumption of materials in relation to GDP, a 15% reduction in waste generation, including a 50% per capita reduction, at household and retail consumption level, of the waste generated throughout the food chain, and a 20% reduction in the production and supply chains. Finally, to increase reuse and preparation for reuse to 10% of municipal waste generated, to improve water efficiency by 10%, and to reduce GHG emissions to below 10 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. Its commitments will be articulated through successive action plans.

Driving the ecological transition also means **halting biodiversity loss through measures aimed at ecological restoration, conservation of ecosystems, habitats, and species, as well as creating conditions for biodiversity adaptation to climate change**, including forests, rivers and wetlands or coasts. This accelerating policy commits to the development of different strategic frameworks, regulatory reforms and action plans aimed at reversing damage and recovering biodiversity in our country, where only 9% of habitats and 21% of species are in a good state of conservation.

On the one hand, a new strategic plan for **natural heritage and biodiversity** will be defined, in line with the European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, which is one of the pillars of the European Green Deal, which will establish the objectives and actions to be developed to put our natural heritage and biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030, thereby making a decisive contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, a series of instruments will be developed for the protection and management of Spanish biodiversity, including the conservation and restoration of wetlands, the promotion of the protection and management of protected marine areas, the development of the National Strategy for Green Infrastructure and Ecological Connectivity and Restoration, with the aim of contributing to an ecological transition in which territorial planning fully integrates the need to preserve the natural values and essential services provided by biodiversity, or the development of Maritime Space Management Plans within the framework of the development of the second cycle of Marine Strategies, initiated in 2018.

The **sustainable management of water resources** will constitute another of the central approaches of this accelerating policy, articulated through different instruments, including the Third Hydrological Planning Cycle, which will begin in 2022, and will provide greater protection for water bodies and associated protected areas and, in particular, progress in the definition and implementation of ecological flows. Issues such as purification and diffuse pollution, the restoration of rivers and aquifers or the assessment of the effects and risks of climate change on water resources and ecosystems in each demarcation will be addressed through the third cycle hydrological plans, which will include the development of plans for adaptation to climate change in the basin organisations. In the same line of compliance with the objectives associated with hydrological planning, management of the Hydraulic Public Domain and water security of the EU Green Deal, the reform and updating of the Water Act, its regulations and other derived regulations will be addressed. In addition, a Water Strategy for the ecological transition will be defined as a Public Administrations planning instrument and the digital transition of the water sector will be promoted as a mechanism to improve its administration. Actions aimed at conserving and restoring the proper condition of rivers will also be articulated through a new strategic framework that will promote the achievement of different objectives for the correct management of river space, which will also enhance the value of river ecosystems as a tool for promoting actions with a view to generating positive impacts in tackling the Demographic Challenge. Public participation in the

management of the river environment will be another goal.

The improvement of **the conservation status of our forests and forest ecosystems** will be articulated through a new forestry framework strategy and a new Forestry Plan, which will provide clear criteria for better forestry planning and its integration into land use planning, ensuring the economic, social, and environmental viability of forest use. These initiatives will be accompanied by a new regulatory framework, aimed at establishing the basic rules on the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources of national interest and the planning, coordination, and collaboration instruments for them *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation. These actions will be supported by forest inventories and information systems, which will make it possible to obtain detailed information on the ecosystem services provided by forests. Furthermore, action will continue to be taken to halt the desertification of our territory through the implementation of a new system for monitoring land and soil degradation and desertification, the integration of the fight against this phenomenon in sectoral policies linked to agriculture, irrigation and water management, and the continuation of actions to prevent and fight forest fires, the restoration of degraded forest masses and their adaptation to new climatic scenarios, among others.

The actions and objectives regarding the protection, conservation and restoration of our biodiversity must be integrated into other sectoral policies in our country and, in particular, they must be in dialogue with actions in the field of agriculture and livestock farming, as well as with those aimed at providing solutions to the Demographic Challenge. Accordingly, it will be essential to focus on agricultural practices and techniques that reduce emissions, protect, and restore the soil and reduce the use of phytosanitary products and water, thus helping to generate social and environmental benefits by fixing the population in the territory and maintaining the balance of environmental services. Likewise, other measures that have a direct impact on increasing biodiversity will be promoted, such as non-productive elements and areas, or crop diversification and rotation, among others. This commitment should be accompanied by actions to promote a diet change in diet, through the promotion of local and seasonal products, as well as actions to curb food waste.

Finally, green taxation will be promoted in order to progressively bring Spain up to the levels of use of these figures similar to the European average (2.40% of GDP compared to 1.83% in Spain), and will be aimed at discouraging harmful behaviour, promoting sustainable mobility and facilitating compliance with environmental commitments, preventing any modification from falling on the middle and working classes or on the self-employed and SMEs or, failing that, implementing the necessary economic, labour or social compensation policies to mitigate this impact.

b. Action Priorities:

→ Implementation of the provisions of the **Climate Change and Energy Transition Act**, as an institutional framework to activate a cross-cutting, supportive and inclusive response to the climate emergency, with the establishment of quantified objectives that set an unwavering minimum of climate ambition

in terms of reducing GHG emissions, commitment to renewable energies, energy efficiency and the deployment of measures to enable adequate adaptation to climate change effects, based on the best available scientific knowledge.

→ **2021-2030 Spanish National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC)**, which establishes the framework and measures for meeting Spain's climate change objectives for 2030, in accordance with the governance framework agreed at EU level.

→ **2050 Long-Term Strategy**, which sets the path towards climate neutrality by mid-century, and which will guide investments in the coming years by articulating a coherent and integrated response to the climate crisis, which seizes opportunities for the modernisation and competitiveness of our economy and is socially fair and inclusive.

→ **Fair Transition Strategy**, an instrument that allows for the identification and adoption of measures that guarantee fair and supportive treatment for workers and territories affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy, based on the keys of inclusiveness, participation, and social justice, articulated through the Fair Transition Agreements and the Urgent Action Plan in response to the closure of mining, thermal and nuclear power plants.

→ **II National Adaptation to Climate Change Plan (2021-2030 PNACC)** aimed at building a country that is less vulnerable, safer, and more resilient to the impacts and risks of climate change, so that we can anticipate, respond, and adapt to a changing climate context.

→ **Energy Storage Strategy**, a tool to promote the deployment of energy storage, committing to targets for installed storage capacity in 2030 and 2050, which also offers opportunities for the implementation of new business models that generate employment, reducing our external dependence on critical materials.

→ **Renewable Hydrogen Roadmap**, aimed at boosting the deployment of hydrogen generated from renewable energy sources, an energy vector that will be key to the decarbonisation of certain sectors that are difficult to decarbonise and, therefore, to achieving climate neutrality. Including national renewable hydrogen deployment targets for 2030.

→ 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. This biofuel will have to reconcile the fight against climate change with the highest standards of biodiversity protection.

→ **Development of Offshore Wind Energy and Marine Energy Roadmap**, with the aim of promoting the deployment of these technologies, taking advantage of the technological progress made in recent years, which are essential to achieve the objectives set out in the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, also in line with the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act.

→ **Sustainable Management of Mineral Raw Materials**

Roadmap, with the aim of establishing the basis for boosting the supply of autochthonous mineral materials in a more sustainable, effective and profit-maximising way along the value chain, reducing our external dependence.

→ **2021-2026 Planning of the Electricity Transmission Grid**, which will define, among other aspects, the objectives that will shape the electricity system in the medium and long-term with regards to renewable energies integration, emissions reduction and security of supply at the minimum cost to the consumer. It includes binding and indicative planning.

→ Development of the **Regulation of the Economic Regime of Renewable Energies for Electricity Production Facilities** (Royal Decree-Law 23/2020, Royal Decree 960/2020) that simplifies and streamlines the procedure and its extension throughout the country, while encouraging the entry of new actors, such as energy communities, and reorganising the National Energy Efficiency Fund to support energy saving efforts and initiatives, among other measures.

→ **National Self-Consumption Strategy**, which will establish the lines of action to promote renewable self-consumption, placing the citizen at the heart of the energy system, and activate its use as a key tool in the fight against energy poverty.

→ **2019-2024 National Energy Poverty Strategy**, which contributes to the Accelerating Policy of Country Challenge 1, but also of Country Challenge 2, by including both long-term structural and performance measures related to energy efficiency improvement and energy bills reduction, in turn reducing energy poverty.

→ **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 stocks by 2050, and committing investments for the regeneration of vulnerable neighbourhoods. It is complemented by the **Energy Rehabilitation Programme for Buildings (PREE)**, through which aid will be granted to improve energy efficiency, with a special focus on vulnerable consumers.

→ 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.

→ **2020-2030 Safe, Sustainable and Connected Mobility Strategy**, which seeks to respond through 9 strategic axes and 40 lines of action to the current challenges in terms of mobility and transport, from an approach based on mobility as a right, a factor of social cohesion and sustainable economic growth.

→ **Sustainable Mobility and Transport Financing Act**, which will respond to the environmental, technological, demographic, and urban challenges faced by our country, promoting green taxation in transport, establishing a financing system for urban public transport based on stable, predictable, and proportional criteria, and promoting its innovation and digitalisation, among

other aspects.

→ Development of the **Spanish Urban Agenda**, as a reference framework to achieve the sustainability of urban policies in 2030, through the deployment of a decalogue of strategic objectives which, in turn, are articulated into 30 specific objectives and 291 lines of action as a menu of options so that interested municipalities can draw up their own action plans adapted to the particular characteristics and needs of their environment.

→ **2030 National Air Pollution Control Programme** (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.

→ **National Ozone Plan** that will be integrated and coordinated with the rest of the air quality improvement and climate change adaptation programmes.

→ **Health and Environment Plan**, which will provide a comprehensive response to health-related challenges resulting from environmental problems.

→ **Spanish 2030 Circular Economy Strategy**, which establishes strategic guidelines and lines of action that include aspects such as production, consumption, waste reduction and management and water reuse, among others, with specific objectives for 2030 that will contribute to reducing the pressure of our production system on natural resources, including the reduction of GHG emissions.

→ **Food Loss and Food Waste Act**, which will contribute to the fulfilment achievement of circular economy objectives, as well as to a more sustainable management of natural resources and the fight against climate change.

→ **Waste and Contaminated Land Act**, which will establish the regulatory reference framework for the prevention and reduction of waste generation, as well as the adverse impacts of waste generation and management, thus helping to protect the environment and human health, while strengthening the transition to a circular and low-carbon economy.

→ **Royal Decree on Packaging and Packaging Waste**, which will revise the current implementing legislation to comply with the provisions and objectives set out in the Circular Economy Package Directive (Directive EU 852/2018), updating the extended producer responsibility regulation, among other aspects.

→ Development of the regulation of **Landfill Waste Disposal**, (Royal Decree 646/2020), which will help drive the transition to a circular economy, prioritising waste prevention, preparation for reuse and recycling.

→ Development of the **Regulation for 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, ensuring correct

treatment of the waste. This is in addition to the **2021-2026 State Transboundary Waste Shipments Inspection Plan (PEITTR)**, which will ensure compliance with waste shipment regulations through more effective inspections.

→ Development of the **Legal Regime Applicable to Different Waste Streams**: end-of-life tyres (Royal Decree 731/2020), batteries and accumulators, electrical and electronic equipment (Royal Decree 27/2021), and end-of-life vehicles (Royal Decree 265/2021).

→ **National Green Infrastructure and Ecological Connectivity and Restoration Strategy** which will address the deterioration of ecosystems and their environmental services, as well as their fragmentation, through actions aimed at restoring damaged ecosystems and consolidating a network of natural and semi-natural, both terrestrial and marine, functional and connected areas by 2050.

→ **2021-2030 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategic Plan**, which will establish the objectives and actions to be developed to put our natural heritage and biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030, helping to integrate nature conservation into the country's different sectoral policies, as set out in Act 42/2007. It will reflect biodiversity objectives in coherence with the EU Biodiversity Strategy, as well as with the future global post-2020 biodiversity framework to be agreed at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Kunming Summit).

→ Update of the **Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands Strategic Plan**, which will define objectives related to the management, conservation and restoration of wetlands articulating its lines of action in coherence with the EU Biodiversity Strategy, as well as with the future post-2020 global framework on biodiversity.

→ **Network of Marine Protected Areas of Spain Master Plan (RAMPE)**, which will include strategic protection objectives and the actions to achieve them, as well as common guidelines and criteria for their planning, conservation and coordinated management, or the determination of projects of general interest that may be subject to state funding.

→ 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 be running until 2024. To this end, the evaluation of the functioning of the Natura 2000 Network is foreseen in order to detect insufficiencies and to improve knowledge on habitats and species for the determination of areas to be protected under the criteria of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

→ **Spanish Marine Strategies (second cycle)** whose main objective is the achievement of the Good Environmental Status of our seas, based on the monitoring programmes and measures that will be developed in the coming years. In addition to this, Maritime Space Management Plans (POEM) have been drawn up for each of the five marine demarcations established in the Protection of the marine environment Act, nº 41/2010.

→ Development of the **Conservation of Natural Marine Spaces Preventive Plans** by the Guardia Civil to monitor and prevent dumping in order to guarantee the conservation of our oceans, seas and natural marine spaces. In line with the above are the **analysis, investigation, and prevention of environmental crimes operations**, which are also carried out by the Guardia Civil.

→ **Plan to Boost the Sustainability and Competitiveness of Agriculture and Livestock Farming (III)**, integrated in component 3 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, includes a set of investments in precision agriculture, energy efficiency and circular economy, as well as for the use of renewable energies and gases in the agricultural and livestock sector.

→ The **Spanish Forestry Strategy** and the **Forestry Plan**, the preparation and development of which will respond to current forestry needs and demands, together with the adoption of the Common Basic Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management, as a framework for criteria to improve forestry planning and its integration into the territory, with the aim of improving the state of conservation of forests and their sustainable use.

→ Approval and development of regulations **on forest conservation and wild flora genetic resources**, in order to establish the basic rules on the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources of national interest and the instruments for planning, coordination and collaboration for their conservation.

→ **National Forest Inventory and Forest Information System**, which provide detailed information on the ecosystem services provided by forests and other forest ecosystems, as a tool for proper planning, management, and conservation.

→ **National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PAND)**, aimed at preventing degradation and recovering desertified land, through a monitoring system, the integration of the fight against desertification in other sectoral policies – mainly agriculture, irrigation, and water–, the prevention and, or the adaptation of forests to new climate scenarios through their adaptive management, among other measures.

→ **Third Hydrological Planning Cycle (2022-2027)**, which will provide greater protection for water bodies and associated protected areas and, in particular, progress in the definition and implementation of ecological flow regimes. They will also incorporate an **assessment of climate change effects and risks** on the water resources and ecosystems of each district extending the provisions of the Hydrological Planning Regulation, as well as **plans for adaptation to climate change** in the River **Basin organisations**.

→ Reform and update of the **Water Act**, its regulations, and other derived norms, including the regulation of the planning and instruction of hydrological planning, the regulation of the public water domain, and other derived rules.

→ **The Ecological Transition Water Strategy**, which will constitute the planning instrument of the public

administrations, which among other measures will promote the incorporation of automatic hydrological information systems (SAIHs, as per the Spanish) in the control of ecological flows, the digitalisation of the monitoring and control of the Public Water Domain or the use of new tools such as Big Data analysis.

→ **Urban Water Cycle Roundtable** to gather information and to initiate structural reforms leading to a better governance model for urban water services.

→ **National Purification, Sanitation, Efficiency, Saving and Reuse Plan (DSEAR Plan) and its Strategic Environmental Study**, as a governance instrument to incorporate improved procedures and work methodologies aligned and focused on the fulfilment of the objectives of the hydrological planning, mainly in the areas of purification, sanitation, and reuse of reclaimed wastewater, into the hydrological plans of the third cycle.

→ **National River Restoration Strategy**, which will promote the conservation and recovery of good rivers conditions, minimising flood risks through proper management of river space, the redevelopment of flood areas, the recovery of banks and meanders, the expansion of river spaces and green infrastructure through the implementation of nature-based solutions projects, and the monitoring of the impacts of climate change, namely in hydrological reserves.

→ **Emblematic Natural Areas**, which will improve the 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.

→ Second-cycle **Flood Risk Management Plans**, which will allow for a coordinated and contingent management of flood risks, integrating climate change effects and proposing adaptation measures for each river basin to minimise risks, such as natural retention and nature-based solutions, as well as modernising existing **hydrological information systems**.

→ **Spanish Biosphere Reserves**, a protection and conservation network that promotes sustainable forms of relationship between local economies and the environment, by supporting producers, entrepreneurs, and local services. This initiative ties in with the work of protecting Intangible Cultural Heritage, linked to traditional, artisanal, and sustainable forms of exploitation of natural resources.

→ **2021-2025 Environmental Education Action Plan for Sustainability (PAEAS)** which, based on the diagnosis of the current situation, will establish the strategic lines of environmental education in Spain, with the aim of promoting a cultural change that will allow an adequate response to contemporary socio-environmental challenges in a coordinated, participatory manner and with institutional and social co-responsibility. It is linked to the relevance given to sustainability in the LOMLOE Education Act, which incorporates, for the first time, explicit references to Education for Sustainable Development and Education for Global Citizenship.

→ Implementation of **curricular developments that incorporate the objectives of sustainable development into the essential skills and knowledge** of compulsory education

plans and programmes, in accordance with the provisions of the LOMLOE.

→ **Animal Welfare Act**, which will focus on the protection and welfare of animals, through the establishment of measures to reduce the rate of abandonment, guaranteeing the life and health of animals. It will establish the basis for control over the breeding and sale of animals, ZERO slaughter, or the creation of a country-wide coordinated identification system as well as regulate the mechanisms for control and assessment of the animal protection situation.

→ 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.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, a 23% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to 1990 levels, as a prelude to climate neutrality by 2050.

By 2030, achieve a penetration of renewable energy in final energy consumption of at least 42%.

By 2030, achieve an electricity system with at least 74% of generation from renewable energy sources, ensuring that new generation is respectful of biodiversity conservation.

By 2030, improve energy efficiency, reducing primary energy consumption by at least 39.5% compared to the baseline set in EU legislation.

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 fair transition agreements, boosting their socio-economic dynamism to preserve the sustainability of employment, and living conditions in the affected territories.

By 2030, reduce the degree of external energy dependence from 74% in 2017 to 61%, reducing fossil fuel consumption and increasing the share of renewables, thus contributing to improving national energy security.

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.

By 2030, achieve a 28% share of renewables in transport-mobility, through electrification and the use of advanced biofuels.

By 2030, achieve the following reduction 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 SO₂, 66% for NO_x, 30% for NMVOC, 21% for NH₃ and 50% for PM_{2.5}.

By 2030, complete specific measures in each and every one of the sectoral 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.

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 the 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.

By 2030, 20,000 hectares of wetlands will have benefited from conservation and ecological restoration actions.

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.

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.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, reduce national material consumption relative to GDP by 30% from 2010 levels.

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 CO₂ equivalent.

By 2027, meet the new Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027 climate and environmental objectives, as a contribution to the EU's overall climate action and biodiversity protection efforts.

By 2030, agriculture and livestock farming in Spain will have moved towards more sustainable production models, increasing their resilience to climate change through the transformation of their production processes.

By 2030, improve water use efficiency by 10% by introducing measures to increase the circularity of the water cycle and reduce net consumption, as well as promoting the use of renewable energies, ensuring water security and the achievement of environmental targets for water bodies.

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.

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 participative management and the achievement of its conservation objectives based on the best available scientific knowledge.

By 2030, improve the conservation status of marine ecosystems, through the implementation of specific marine strategies and maritime space management plans, the promotion of sustainable fisheries, and the integration of climate change adaptation into coastal planning and management.

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.

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.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

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

ARAGÓN

- » Aragonese Climate Change Strategy.
- » Aragonese Climate Change and Energy Transition Act.
- » Aragon Forestry 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 2030 Circular.

CANARY ISLANDS

- » Canary Islands Climate Action Strategy, and Canary Islands Fair Transition and Climate Justice Strategy.
- » Climate Change and Energy Transition Act, and the Canary Islands Energy Transition Plan.
- » Canary Islands Climate Action Plan.
- » Canary Islands Circular Economy Strategy, Circular Economy Act, 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.

CANTABRIA

- » Revision of the Cantabria 2018-2030 Climate Change Action Strategy, to align its objectives and measures with the new objectives at state and EU level, and the Climate Change Act (*).
- » Promote 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.
- » Prevention and Fight against Forest Fires Strategic Plan (*), and Management and Control of Invasive Alien Species Strategic Plan (*).
- » Cantabria 2023-2050 Forestry Plan (*).
- » Cantabria 2021-2030 Energy Sustainability Plan (*).

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » 2030 Circular Economy Strategy and Circular Economy Act.
- » Castile-La Mancha Climate Change Strategy. 2020 and 2030 Horizons.
- » Energy development Strategic plan, 2030 Horizon.
- » Bio-waste management Regional strategy, and Integrated waste management plan.
- » Environmental Assessment Act.
- » Strategic water treatment plan (*).
- » 2021-24 responsible consumption Strategic Plan(*).
- » Transport of Travellers Master (*).
- » Landscape Act (*), and Water Act (*).

CASTILE AND LEÓN

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

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

- » Climate Change Act nº 16/2017.
- » Catalan 2021-2030 Adaptation to Climate Change Strategy (*).
- » Implementation of the CO2 Tax and creation of the Carbon Fund and the Natural Heritage Fund with the recaptured resources.
- » Global energy strategy for Catalonia (2050 PROENCAT) (*)
- » Circular Economy in Catalonia Roadmap (*) and 2021-2030 Bioeconomy Strategy (EBC2030) (*).
- » Protection and management of the coast Act nº 8/2020, and the Coastal Protection and Management Plan for the integrated management of the terrestrial and marine environment (*).
- » Catalonia 2030 Maritime Strategy, creation of the Coastal Observatory, and development of the Coastal Dynamics Information System (SIDL).
- » Catalan 2020-2025 Forest Agenda and Catalan Rural Agenda (*).
- » 2030 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA – – VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » Valencian Urban Agenda.
- » Valencian industry Strategic Plan.
- » Sustainable Energy Plan of the Valencian Community.
- » Valencian 2030 Climate Change and Energy Strategy.
- » RENHATA Plan, aid for the replacement of 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.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Cogeneration Promotion Plan.
- » 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 Decree Law nº 14/2020.

EUSKADI – BASQUE COUNTRY

- » 2050 Climate Change Strategy –Klima 2050, and Climate Change and Energy Transition Act (*).
- » Basque Country 2030 Energy Strategy, and Fair Energy Transition Strategic Plan.
- » Basque Country 2030 Circular Economy Strategy, and Basque Country 2030 Bioeconomy Strategy.
- » Basque Country 2030 V Environmental Framework Programme, and the Basque Environmental Administration Act (*).
- » 2030 Biodiversity Strategy of the CAPV, and 2030 Soil Protection Strategy.
- » Electric Mobility Integral Plan.
- » Conservation of Natural Heritage Act (*).
- » 2030 Green Procurement Programme.
- » Basque 2050 Urban Agenda Bultzatu, and Network of Municipalities towards Sustainability Strategic Plan.
- » 2021–2025 Sustainable Mobility Plan, and 2030 Sustainable Transport Master Plan.

EXTREMADURA

- » Extremadura Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.
- » Extremadura 2021/2030 Integrated Energy and Climate Plan.
- » Promotion of renewable energies Aid programme, electric mobility, energy efficiency and the promotion of biofuels.
- » Self-consumption promotion Plan.
- » 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 Act (*), and 2016–2030 Water and Water Infrastructure Strategic Plan.
- » Extremadura 2021–2030 Sustainable Mobility Plan.
- » Extremadura 2030 Green Economy Strategy.

GALIZA – GALICIA

- » Galician 2050 Climate Change and Energy Strategy and 2019–2023 Regional Energy and Climate Integrated Plan.
- » 2020–2030 Galician Circular Economy Strategy.
- » Galician Waste and Contaminated Land Act nº 6/2021, of 17 February Galician Mobility Strategy.
- » 2021–2030 Galician Energy Transition Agenda.
- » Natural Heritage Act and Promotion and Improvement of Galicia's Natural Heritage Plan.
- » Drought Plan.
- » Flood risk management plan.
- » 2010–2025 Water Plan: a tool for the management and distribution of water resources for the consumption of the Galician population.
- » Coastal Management Plan.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ILLES BALEARS – BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » Climate Change and Energy Transition Act.
- » Waste and Contaminated Soils of the Balearic Islands Act.
- » Environmental and economic sustainability of the island of Formentera Act.
- » Solarisation promotion Plan.
- » Mobility Sectoral Master Plan.
- » Situations of Alert and Possible Drought Special Action Plan.
- » Marine Conservation Investment Plan.
- » Environmental Assessment Act.

LA RIOJA

- » Regional Energy and Climate Integrated Plan and Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
- » Creation of the Riojan Energy Transition Agency(ARTE)
- » Actions to improve public transport.
- » Modification of sewerage and wastewater treatment regulations to serve small population centres.
- » New regulations on Biodiversity and on 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 of regional nature.
- » Ecosystem restoration: river restoration plans (Ebro Resilience strategy) and gravel pit restoration.

NAFARROA – COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

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

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » Revision of the Sectoral Land Use Planning Guidelines for wind energy utilization.
- » Climate Action Strategy (*), Fair Transition Strategy (*), Raw Materials Strategy and Energy Rehabilitation Strategy for Buildings (*).
- » Air Quality Strategic Plan.
- » Aid to individuals and companies for the promotion of energy saving and efficiency, sustainable mobility, and renewable energies.
- » Multimodal Mobility in the Metropolitan Area of the Principality of Asturias Plan
- » Natural Resources Management Plan for Asturias (PORN) (*), and promotion of initiatives aimed at the environmental recovery of areas affected by mining and industrial activity.
- » Integrated Water Cycle Act and Water Supply, Sanitation and Treatment Master Plans.
- » 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, circular economy, renewable energies, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, mining and circular economy.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

REGIÓN OF MURCIA

- » Improving energy efficiency on farms.
- » Regional Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change Strategy for the Region of Murcia.
- » Drafting and approval of the Passenger Transport Master Plan to guarantee sustainable, digital, structured, and eco-efficient mobility.
- » Geographic de-concentration 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 best environmental practices for tourist companies.
- » Promote Species and Variety Reconversion.
- » Denitrification of surface water discharging 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.

LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Promotion of actions to achieve energy efficiency in public lighting, provision of photovoltaic installations in public buildings and electric recharging points and installation of domotic systems on municipal infrastructures.
- » Guarantee sustainable, safe, and connected mobility in urban and metropolitan environments, improving public transport management through the use of new technologies, promotion of subsidies and bonuses for electric vehicles, delimitation of low-emission zones, pedestrianisation processes, encouraging the use of public transport and installation of urban and peri-urban cycle lane networks.
- » Special fees on the city bus network for specific groups and provision of bicycle racks.
- » Maintenance of natural spaces and promotion of reforestation and restoration processes near the urban centre with autochthonous species.
- » Air quality plans and environmental awareness and education campaigns.
- » Favouring the circular economy. Promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).
- » Creation of composting points.
- » Promoting citizen participation in water planning and management.
- » Incorporate sustainability criteria in municipal festivals and events.
- » Recovering traditional craft activities.
- » Municipal promotion of training in organic farming. Creation of municipal spaces for the promotion of urban organic farming gardens.
- » Homologation of training spaces for training in sustainable energies.
- » Renovation of the rainwater and sewerage system.
- » 50% rebate for works carried out in the main residence in which systems for the thermal or electrical use of solar energy for self-consumption are incorporated.
- » Advance in the development of green taxation as an instrument to internalise the environmental externalities generated by certain goods, services, and activities, as well as to guide the behaviour of producers and consumers towards more sustainable patterns.

**COUNTRY CHALLENGE 3.
CLOSE THE GENDER
INEQUALITY GAP PUT AN
END TO DISCRIMINATION**

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Diagnosis

One of the main challenges identified is without doubt the gender gap that currently exists in our country. The structural inequality that affects women and girls permeates all areas of our society and has been deepened by the socio-economic impact of the health crisis that the country and the world are currently going through. These effects can also be seen through the impact of male violence against women, and this is something that international organisations like UN Women have been warning about since the start of the pandemic.

The burden of family care falls mostly on women. Their position in paid work is more insecure, and their levels of protection are lower, as it generally takes the form of lower benefits. To this must be added the fact that they work in industries that have been most affected by the pandemic: the services industry, hotel and catering, commerce and tourism, as well as representing a majority of health and social care workers. All this makes women more vulnerable to its effects and, therefore, at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion. Ensuring women's rights is embodied in the need to promote a framework for political action to ensure equality in all spheres of life.

3.1 Structural inequality.

The situation of women in the labour market is affected by the conditions of employment insecurity that are specific to them and which must be addressed as a priority in order to move towards an equal society. It is also essential to use effective measures to tackle the pay gap between women and men, which reflects the undervaluing of women's work and which has consequences at all levels – particularly in the area of pensions.

According to the Labour Force Survey (EPA) for the first quarter of 2021, almost 3 in 4 part-time workers in Spain are women, 74.3% compared to 25.7% of men. The 21.2% of women cited family care reasons for choosing this form of work, compared with 4.8% of men. In 2018, women took 82.4% of leave for family care and 91.3% for caring for children.

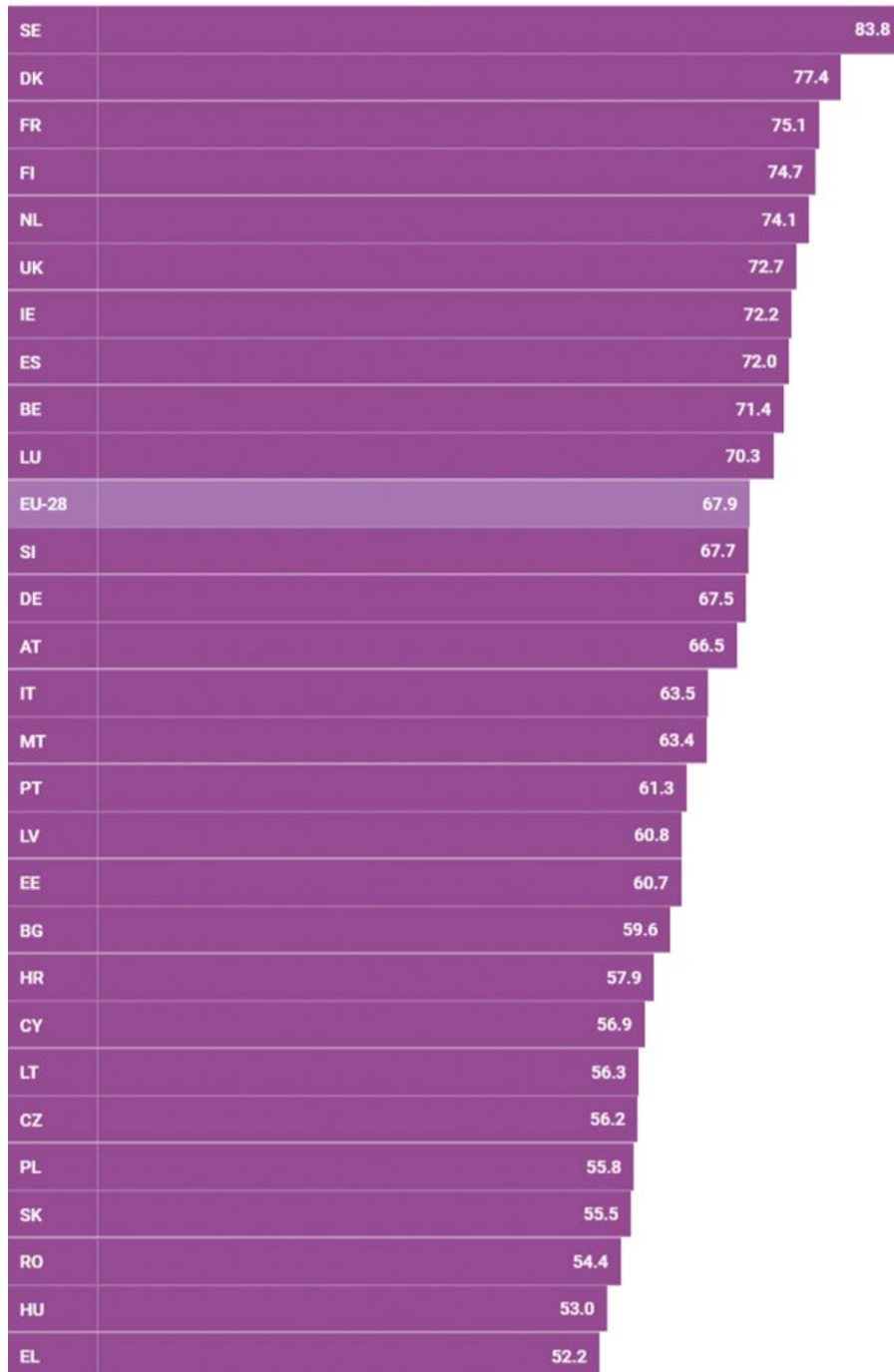
According to the 2018 Wage Structure Survey, the pay gap is 21.4%, which significantly weakens the position of women in family decisions-making regarding whether to stay in or leave salaried employment if care needs arise. Lastly, the unemployment rate for women in the first quarter of 2021 was four percentage points higher than that of men, at 18.13% compared to 14.07% for the male population⁹⁶.

⁹⁶ EPA-INE (2021). See details [here](#)

These figures show the urgent need to address the relationship between the labour market and the unequal distribution of the task of caring for others and implement public policies that are delivered through public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, using a rights-based approach, as demanded by Agenda 2030.

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) – a specialist EU agency – publishes a two-yearly Gender Equality Index⁹⁷ which compares the situation in different EU countries. The six main dimensions of the Index are power, time, knowledge, health, income and employment. The graph below shows that in 2019 (latest available data) Spain was ranked 8th, although above the EU-28 average:

Chart 1 Country comparison: Gender Equality Index 2019



Source: European Institute for Gender Equality, Gender Equality Index 2019

⁹⁷ Accessible [here](#)

Concerning the records over the last decade, Spain has improved its position by 5.6 points. The index items under which Spain scores best are health and income/finance. However, time variable – which takes into account inequality in terms of time spent on domestic and care tasks, as well as social activities between men and women – is one of the variables with the lowest scores.

At national level, the publication *Women and Men in Spain*⁹⁸, published yearly by the National Statistics Institute (INE) in collaboration with the Women's Institute, compiles a selection of relevant indicators in eight major areas. The purpose is to offer a gender perspective on the situation of men and women across eight dimensions relating to employment, wages, income and social cohesion, education, health, work-life balance, science, technology and the information society, crime and violence, and power and decision-making.

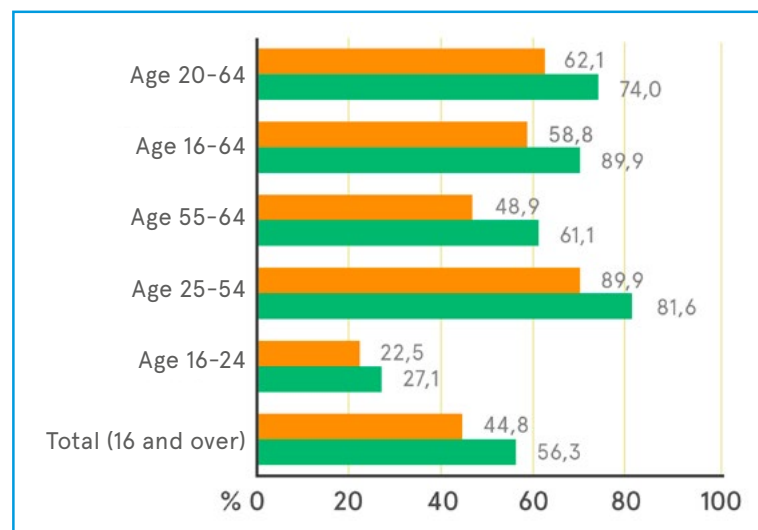
Each of these variables is analysed below, in order to weigh the country's existing challenge in terms of gender inequality.

3.2. The gender gap⁹⁹.

During the period 2014-19, the employment rate for men increased by 6 percentage points, compared to 4.8 points for women. If the trend is analysed by age group, the greatest increase in employment rates occurred for men in the 55-64 age group, with an increase of 9.9 percentage points, compared with 9.1 points for women in the same age group.

If we analyse the gender gap in employment rates for the same period, understood as the difference in percentage points between the male's employment rates compared with women's, the gender gap increased 1.2 points to 11.5 points in 2019. Chart 2 shows how the gender gap in employment rates affects all age groups, although the population aged 55 to 64 is the most affected:

Chart 2. Employment rate and gender gap by age group. 2019



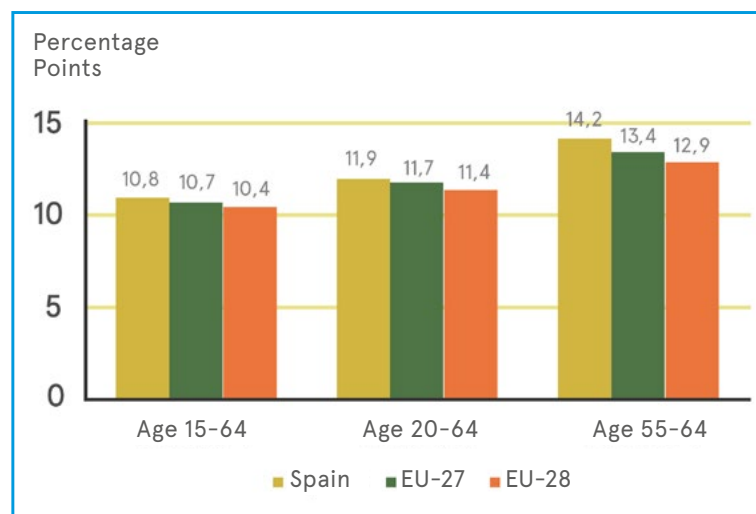
Source: Labour Force Survey (EPA). INE

⁹⁸ Accessible [here](#)

⁹⁹ INE, *Women and men in Spain*, updated as at 7 May 2020. You can access it [here](#)

It is also significant that the gender gap in 2019 associated with the employment rate in Spain – under any of the age brackets – is higher than the EU-27 average and the EU-28 average, as it can

Chart 3. Gender gap in employment rates by age groups in 2019. Spain EU-27 EU-28



Note: EU-28: 27 countries (from 2020). EU-28: 28 countries (2013-20)
Source: European Labour Force Survey (LFS). Eurostat

be seen in Chart 3:

3.2.1. Gender gap in education.

Although in recent years the differences in men and women's levels of education have narrowed considerably and women now have higher levels of education, other gender gaps in education persist and merit special attention. The fact that women represent only 47% of students who take the Science and Technology Baccaureate is a proof of that, a percentage that drops to 11.4% in the case of professional families such as computer science and communications in vocational training. This situation can be extended to all branches linked to STEM disciplines, as well as university degrees and Master's degrees.

These data are of great importance, since they determine the professional future of the female students and their options for accessing quality employments, given that a very substantial part of new employment opportunities are in these professional fields. This implies the need to address the sociocultural barriers that continue to determine women's educational and career choices. a clear disparity between the level of education attained by women and their professional status and job positions persists.

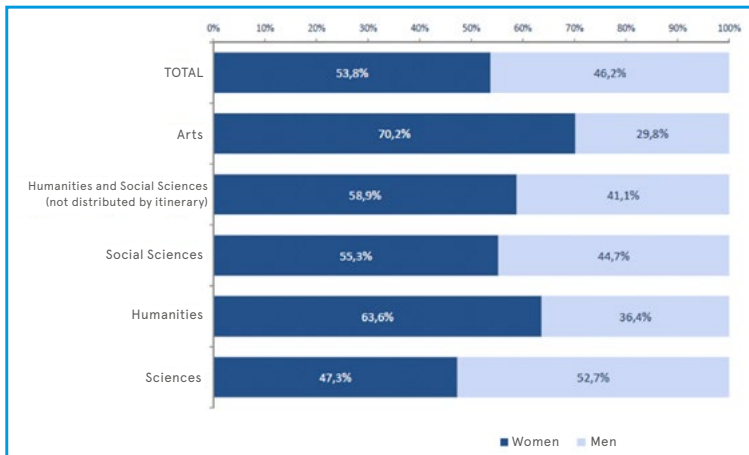
3.2.2. Part-time contracts.

Ascertaining the population that currently has lower levels of employment or can only work part-time or on a temporary basis due to gender, level of education, balancing with family care, among other aspects, provides key information for developing public policies aligned with Agenda 2030.

The reasons for part time work in men and women are very different and may be associated, among other reasons, with not having been able to find a full-time job (involuntary part-time work), or with difficulties in balancing work and family life, such as caring for children or dependent adults. Other factors that may affect the inability to access full-time employment include the need to follow education or training courses, or handling family or personal obligations.

As it can be seen in Chart 4, in 2019¹⁰⁰ the reasons mainly given by women for working part-time were three: inability to find full-time work (52.6%), other unspecified reasons (18.5%) and caring for children or sick adults, people with disabilities or elderly (14%). For men, the main reasons were: not being able to find full-time work (59.6%), other unspecified reasons (17.9%) and taking educational or training courses (13.6%). Only 3.9% of men stated that they were unable to access full-time employment because of children or adult dependants care. This shows that tasks involving caring for others continue to fall mostly on women, making it impossible for them to choose to work full time in their professional careers. This, in turn, has consequences in terms of access to and amounts of unemployment benefits and retirement protection.

Chart 4. Percentage and distribution of students enrolled in in-person Baccalaureates by mode and gender. Academic year 2018-19



Fuente: Estadística de las Enseñanzas no universitarias. Alumnado matriculado. MEFP
 Nota: Detalles metodológicos, información ampliada, y posteriores actualizaciones se encuentran disponibles en:
<http://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/estadisticas/no-universitarias/alumnado/matriculado.html>

Chart 5. Percentage and distribution of students enrolled in Higher Level Training Cycles, by gender and professional group. Academic year 2018-19

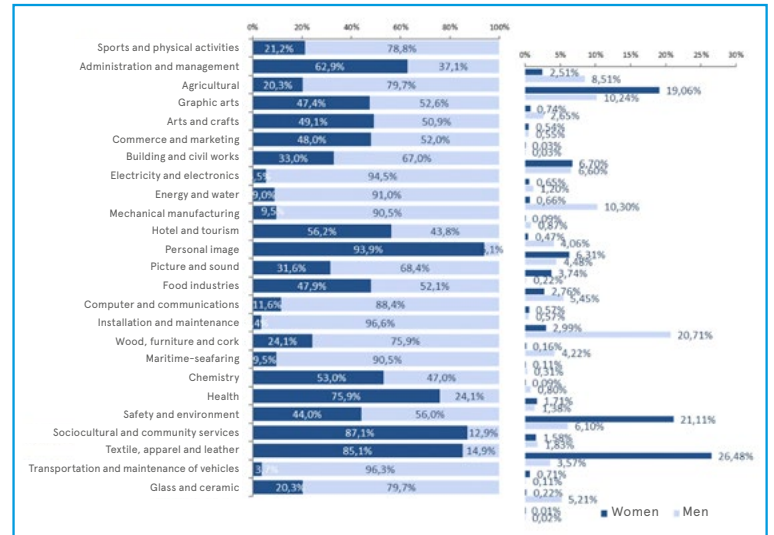
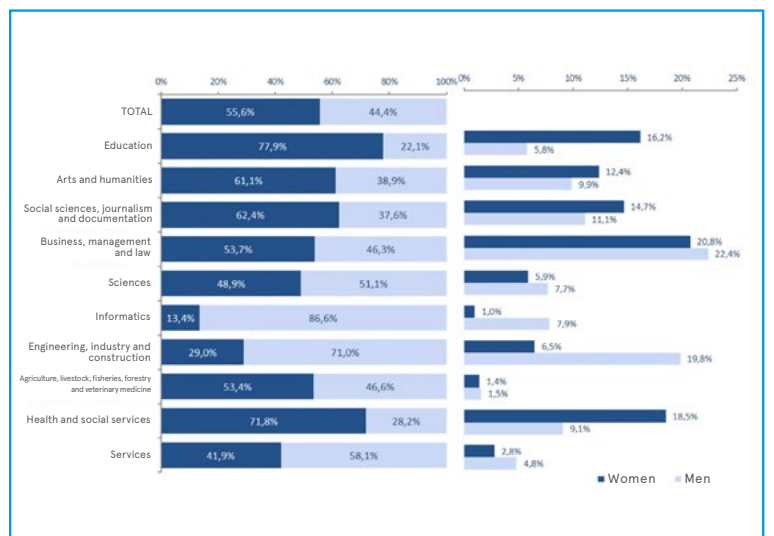
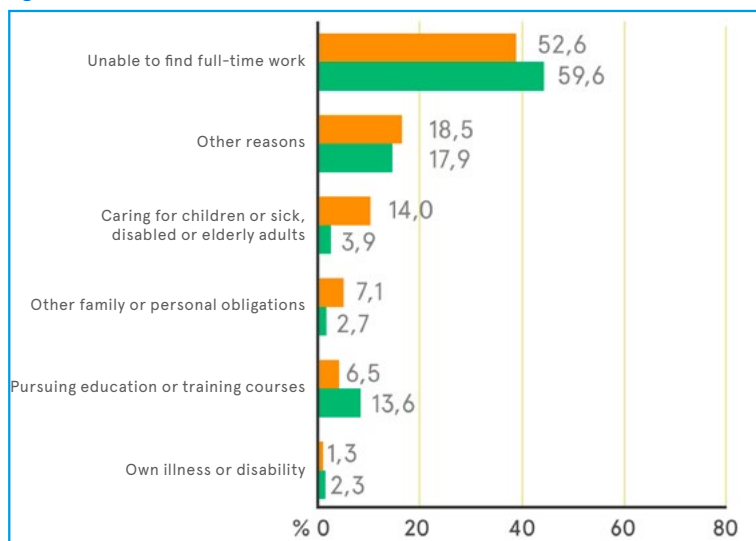


Chart 6. Percentage distribution of students enrolled in University Degree studies (1) by gender and field of study. Academic year 2019-20 (2)



¹⁰⁰ Labour Force Survey (EPA-INE) 2019. You can access it [here](#)

Chart 7. Reasons for working part-time in Spain. 2019 (population aged 15–64)



Source: European Labour Force Survey (LFS). Eurostat

3.2.3. Segmentation and the glass ceiling.

In recent decades a remarkable increase in women's participation in the labour market has been produced. However, one of the characteristics of this market is the concentration of men and women in different economic sectors and occupations, as well as different working conditions due to gender, which in turn derives from the aspects reflected in the section on the education gap.

Furthermore, there are still considerable differences in the conditions and characteristics of both the job offer and job demand for both sexes, which means that gender gaps continue to exist in terms of wages, positions of responsibility, sharing of family responsibilities, doing unpaid work, the impact of having children on employment and so on.

According to the Gender Social Norms Index developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)¹⁰¹ about 90% of the population have some form of prejudice towards women. According to the index, "approximately *half* of the world's men and women consider men to be better political leaders than women". Similarly, more than 40% believe that men make better business executives and are more entitled to take up a job when work is scarce.

Agenda 2030 calls for a new set of policies to change these discriminatory social norms and practices through education, increased social awareness and through the implementation of new incentives. For example, through measures to promote the equal sharing of childcare responsibilities, or by encouraging women and girls to enter traditionally male-dominated sectors, such as the armed forces and activities associated with new information and communication technologies. In this regard, the SDGs are the ideal framework for the promotion of policies and measures aimed at helping to close the gender inequality gap

¹⁰¹ Accessible [here](#)

and put an end to discrimination.

As it can be seen in Chart 8, in 2019, the highest percentage of participation of the total number of employed women (16.7%) by branch of economic activity¹⁰² relates to activity G.: Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles. In the second place, at 14.2%, relates to activity Q.: Health and social services activities. And in third position (both at 10.2%) are activity I. Hotels and restaurants and activity P. Education.

With regard to the type of occupation in 2019, the highest percentage of employed women fall under Group 5¹⁰³: workers in catering, personal services, protection and retail services, followed by Group 2: Scientific and intellectual technicians and professionals (22.8%) and, in third place, elementary occupations (16.1%).

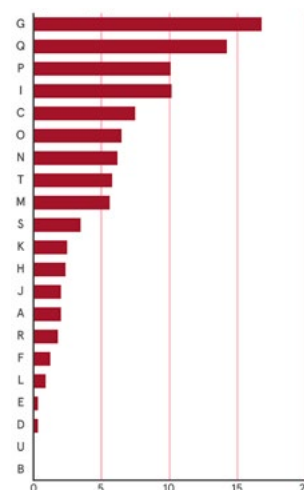


Chart 8. Occupation by branch of activity. 2019

Source: Labour Force Survey, INE.

If we analyse women's occupations by type of job in 2019, 76.3% of employed women were employed (with managers and without subordinates), 7.5% were self-employed (without managers and without subordinates). 6.3% of women were middle managers, 4.7% were supervisors, workshop or office managers, foremen or similar; 4.5% were directors of small companies, departments or branches. 0.4% were directors of large or medium-sized companies.

Conversely, the percentages for men, for the same year, show differences especially in regard to positions of responsibility: 7.7% of men held middle management positions, 8.1% were directors of small companies, departments or branch offices,

¹⁰² The National Classification of Economic Activities for 2009 (CNAE 2009) records the following as being in single digits: A. Agriculture, livestock farming, forestry and fishing; B. Mining and quarrying; C. Manufacturing industry; D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; E. Water supply, sewerage, waste management and decontamination activities; F. Construction; G. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; H. Transport and storage; I. Hotel and catering; J. Information and communications; K. Insurance and financial activities; L. Real estate activities; M. Professional, scientific and technical activities; N. Administrative and support service activities; O. Public Sector and Defence, compulsory social security; P. Education; Q. Health and social services activities; R. Arts, recreational and entertainment activities; S. Other services; T. Home-based activities as employers of domestic staff, as producers; U. Supply of goods and services for own use; U. Activities of foreign organisations and bodies.

¹⁰³ National Classification of Occupations for 2011 (NCO-2011) at single-digit level.

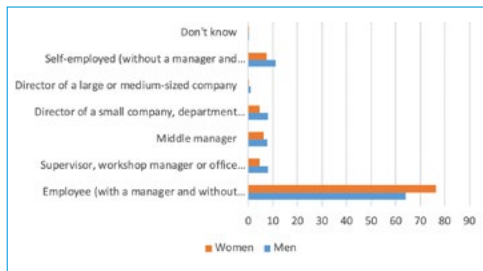


Chart 9. Occupation by type of job, 2019

Authors' own, based on Labour Force Survey, INE.

and 0.8% were directors of large or medium-sized companies.

In 2020, for the first time, **30% of the total number of CEOs of IBEX companies were women** – a situation that has been maintained in 2021¹⁰⁴. However, there are still 14 IBEX companies that do not meet this percentage¹⁰⁵, which had been set as a target for 2020 at the recommendation of the National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) Code of Good Governance¹⁰⁶.

3.2.4. Pay gap.

Determining the gross annual earnings of male and female workers, according to different characteristics such as occupation, economic activity, age, or type of working day (among others) is the first step in analysing equality between women and men in an aspect as relevant as working activity and its associated remuneration.

The INE conducts an **Annual Wage Structure Survey (EAES)**¹⁰⁷, whose last available edition was in 2017. The INE is planning to update it for 2021. Meanwhile, every four years all EU Member States run aligned wage structure and distribution survey, called the **Quadrennial Wage Structure Survey**¹⁰⁸, with the most recent edition being from 2018.

To compare men and women's salaries, equivalent situations need to be considered in regard to work-related variables such as type of working day (full-time, part-time etc), occupation, and type of contract among others, which have a significant impact on salary. When analysing remuneration by type of working day, especially in regard to part-time workers, the hourly wage needs to be considered.

There is a complex and often interrelated set of factors that create the gender gap¹⁰⁹. In addition to assessing work-related skills, we find the segregation of the jobs market with different representation among men and women within the different economic sectors, the features of the female employment offer, which in many cases is determined by balancing work and home life, women working part-time due to looking after children and dependent adults, and the established wage remuneration mechanisms. The pay gap is therefore affected by a range of

social, legal and economic factors, and goes beyond the premise of equal pay for equal work.

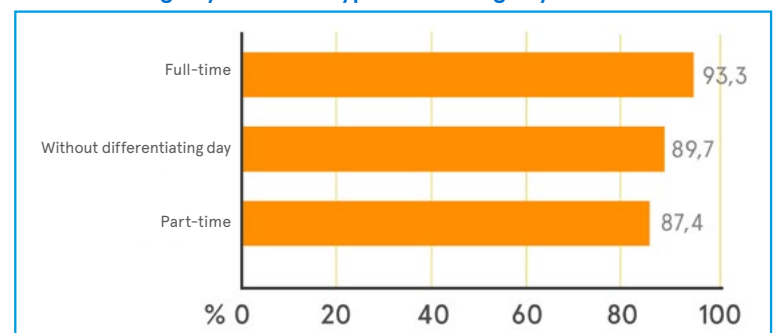
In 2018¹¹⁰, the most frequent annual salary for women (€15,484.40) represented 83.8% of the most frequent salary for men (€18,470.80). In terms of the median wage, this percentage was 78.5% and for the average gross wage it was 78.6%. Looking at annual full-time **wages women's were 89.5% of men's in 2018**. In terms of part-time working, the percentage was 85.7%.

As can be seen in Chart 7, to highlight the gender gap, the hourly wage by working day type needs to be taken into account (. In terms of full-time work, **women's hourly wages (11.90 euros) were 93.3% of men's (12.80 euros) in 2018**. When considering part-time work, the percentage above is 87.4%.

According to 2018 data, **the gender gap in hourly wages increases with age** from 4.6 in the 25-34 age bracket to 18.2 in the 55-64 age bracket.

According to **the type of working day**, the **gender gap** (not adjusted for individual characteristics)¹¹¹ was **6.5 in regard to full-time working hours and 20.6 for part-time working hours in 2018**. In 2010 the pay gap in regard to full-time working hours was 10.2 and for part-time working hours 34.6. **Depending on the nature of the employer** (public sector, private sector) the gender gap in Spain in the period covering 2010-2018 was at **its highest in 2016 in the public sector at 14.3**. For **the private sector** the highest value was in **2012** at 21.9. The public sector pay gap in 2012 was 14.3. In 2018 the pay gap was lower in the private sector compared with 2012 (10.3 in the public sector and 16.2 in the private sector).

Chart 10. Wage by hour and type of working day, 2018



Source: Annual Wage Structure Survey, INE

¹⁰⁴ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁰⁵ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁰⁶ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁰⁷ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁰⁸ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁰⁹ According to the Eurostat definition, the gender gap unadjusted for individual characteristics that could explain part of the pay differences between men and women is the difference between men and women's gross hourly earnings expressed as a percentage of men's gross hourly earnings. Eurostat only calculates this for employees working in units that have 10 and more workers and includes as hourly earnings payments for overtime worked, but excludes overtime bonuses.

¹¹⁰ Annual Wage Structure Survey. You can access it [here](#)

¹¹¹ According to the Eurostat definition, the gender gap unadjusted for individual characteristics that could explain part of the pay differences between men and women is the difference between men and women's gross hourly earnings expressed as a percentage of men's gross hourly earnings.

3.2.5. Feminisation of unemployment

It is important to bear in mind the structural labour inequality which, on the one hand, puts women in a worse employment situation from the outset and, on the other hand, feminization of employment means that **6 out of 10 unemployed people are still women**¹¹².

The total number of unemployed people in Spain in the fourth quarter of 2020, according to the data from the Labour Force Survey for this period¹¹³ is 3,719,799.97 persons, representing an unemployment rate of 16.13%. The unemployment rate for women stood at 18.33%, compared with 14.17% for men. Over the last year, the unemployment rate for women has varied by 17.89%, while for men it has varied by 15.86%.

This latest available figure for 2020 confirms the trend of a lower decrease in the unemployment rate for women compared to men over the last five years. Without considering the age groups, in Spain between 2014-19 the unemployment rate of men decreased by 11.2 points and that of women by 9.4 percentage points. By age group, the largest decrease in unemployment rates has been among 16-24 year olds - for both men and women. Over this period, the unemployment rate for men decreased 22.5 points and for women it decreased 18.5 points.

In terms of the gender gap, beyond the evidence of the higher unemployment rate among women compared to men, the following considerations should be highlighted, taking the latest INE report on Women and Men (2019) as a reference:

_ The unemployment rate in Spain in 2019 for men under 25 years of age (30.9) was the highest of all EU-28 countries and more than double the EU-28 average (15.0).

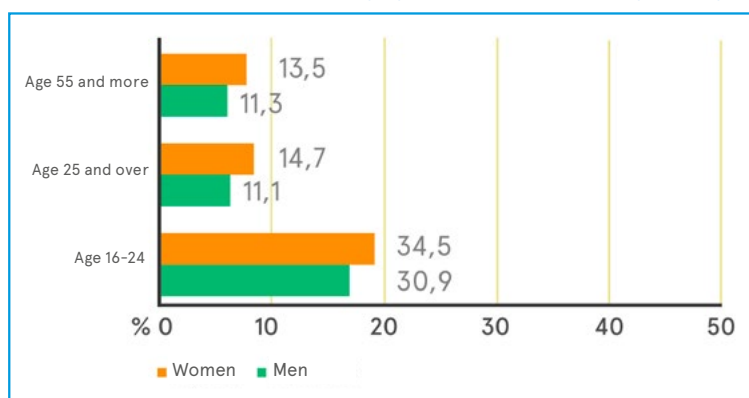
_ The unemployment rate among women under 25 in Spain in 2019 (34.5) was the second highest after Greece (37.1) and more than double the EU-28 average (13.7).

_ Among the 25+ age group, the unemployment rate for men over the period 2014-19 in Spain decreased 10.3 points and decreased 8.7 points for women.

Looking at the decrease in **the long-term unemployment rate**, the data show afresh that the reduction is smaller for women. Over the period 2014-19, Spain's long-term unemployment rate among men (compared to the total active population) declined 7.9 points and declined 7.2 points for women. In the EU-28 in 2019, 40.6% of unemployed women aged 15-64 were long-term unemployed compared to 40.5% for men. In Spain, these percentages are 40.3% and 34.9% respectively.

3.3. The cost of caring for others among women.

Chart 11. Unemployment rate by age group and period. The gender gap.



Source: Labour Force Survey (EPA). INE

Caring tasks cannot keep being done solely and invisibly in family structures - particularly those led by women. They cause a significant emotional cost for women's health and prevent them from equal access to the labour market and from developing their personal lives and professional careers. The specific situation of women with unshared family responsibilities, women with disabilities, gypsy and migrant women and those who have been victims of male violence should also be taken into account. In addition, where caring tasks are done in the labour market, it is under situations of extreme employment insecurity and without social recognition. It is also mostly done by women, most of whom are migrants and often in close to labour exploitation conditions.

The pandemic has shown the effect of cuts in social care structures and it has greatly affected the almost non-existent, and often informal, care and work-home structures. The care crisis was already taking place, but the pandemic has made it clear that it needs to be urgently and comprehensively addressed. Therefore, in addition to promoting co-responsibility within families, public administrations need to take responsibility too. This implies putting in place a public care network that undertakes a significant part of these tasks, with decent salaries and jobs, and with full guarantees for those who provide care and are cared for.

¹¹² Labour Force Survey, data from the last quarter of 2020. You can access it [here](#)

¹¹³ See note 16.

Broadly speaking, the main points to highlight in the context of the care sector are the following:

_ 90% of people working in the care sector are women¹¹⁴;

_The heads of most single-parent households are women (81%);

_Three in ten households with dependents who needed to receive care in the home (30.8%) do not have this need covered - the main reason being that they could not afford it.

3.3.1 Employment rates for women with children.

The **employment rates for women** (aged 25-49) **with children under 12 are lower** than those for women of the same age who do not have children. The opposite is true for men: the employment rates for men aged 25-49 with children are higher than those of men of the same age who do not have children.

For women, **as the number of children under 12 increases, their employment rate decreases**. For women aged 25-49 with no children of that age, the employment rate in 2019 was 75.1%, falling to 69.1% for women with children under 12. Where they have one child under 12, the rate is 71.0% and 69.2% where they have two children under 12. Where they have three or more children, the rate is 48.3%.

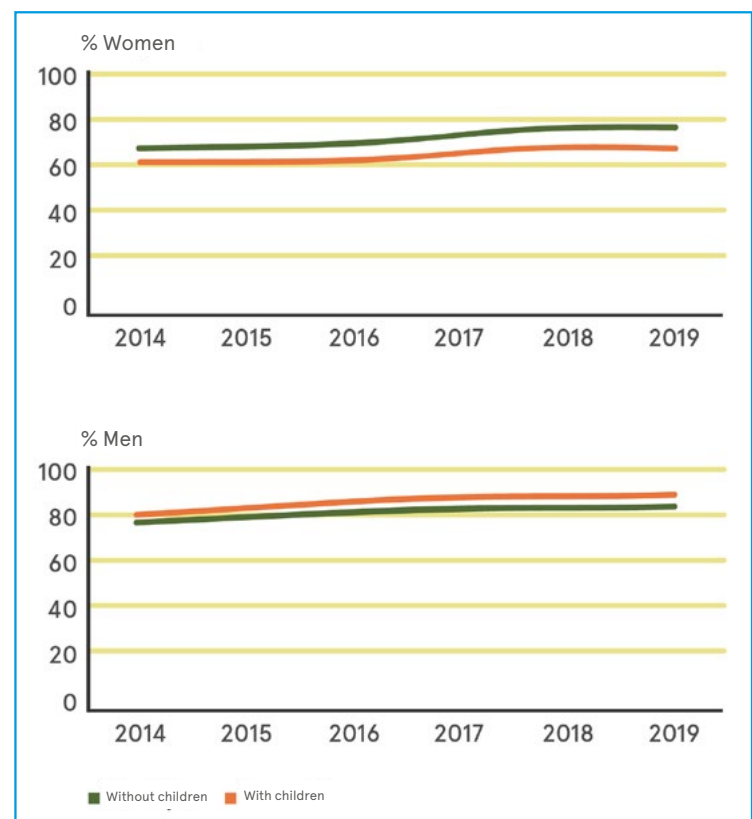
3.3.2. Leaving the jobs market.

According to the information provided from the 2018 module of the LFS on work-life balance¹¹⁵, of the 17,326,900 people aged 18-64 with a child of their own or their partner's, **28.1% left their job at some point after completing their studies in order to care for their children**.

In regard to leaves of absence to care for children, **the percentage of women who stopped working was higher than that of men** (3.6% as compared with 2.9%), with the highest percentage being among those aged 45-64 years (3.9%).

86.9% of **men** took time off for a **maximum of six months**. **For women, the amount of time they took off work was more spread out**. Thus, 49.9% took six months off, 20.9% took off between six months and a year, and 9.4% took off one to two years. The percentage of women who took off more than two years was 17.7%, compared with 2.8% of men.

Chart 12. Employment rate for people aged 25-49 without children/with children aged under 12, by period



Source: Labour Force Survey (EPA). INE

¹¹⁴ UGT, Shared responsibility in care tasks, 2018. Accessible [here](#)

¹¹⁵ Accessible [here](#)

3.3.3. Unpaid work.

The ILO considers unpaid care work to be "a fundamental dimension of the world of work"¹¹⁶. According to its report "Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work"¹¹⁷ the majority of paid care workers are women (often migrants) and when they work in the informal economy they do so in insecure conditions and for very low pay. **Transformative policies and decent care work** are critical to securing a future of work that is underpinned by social justice and promotes gender equality for all. Its implementation will require a doubling of investment in the care economy, which could lead to a total of 475 million of jobs by 2030 – that is, 269 million of new jobs.

According to information provided by the National Working Conditions Survey 2015¹¹⁸ which looks at the **number of hours people in work spent per week** (on their main job, other paid work, unpaid work, commuting), broken down by gender and type of working day the amount of time spent working (both paid + unpaid work) was longer for women than for men.

Men typically spend the same **number of hours doing unpaid work** (14 hours a week) regardless of whether they work part-time or full-time. Women spent more time on unpaid work (30 hours a week) if working part-time.

As can be seen in Chart 10, the highest percentage (33.9%) of **women in work** who spend **time caring for children or grandchildren**, spend **four hours a day** doing so. The highest percentage of **men in work** (36.7%) spend **two hours a day** on caring tasks.

The highest percentage of women in work (43.3%) who do **housework and cooking** spend two hours a day on these tasks. The highest percentage of male workers (42.5%) spend one hour a day on these same tasks.

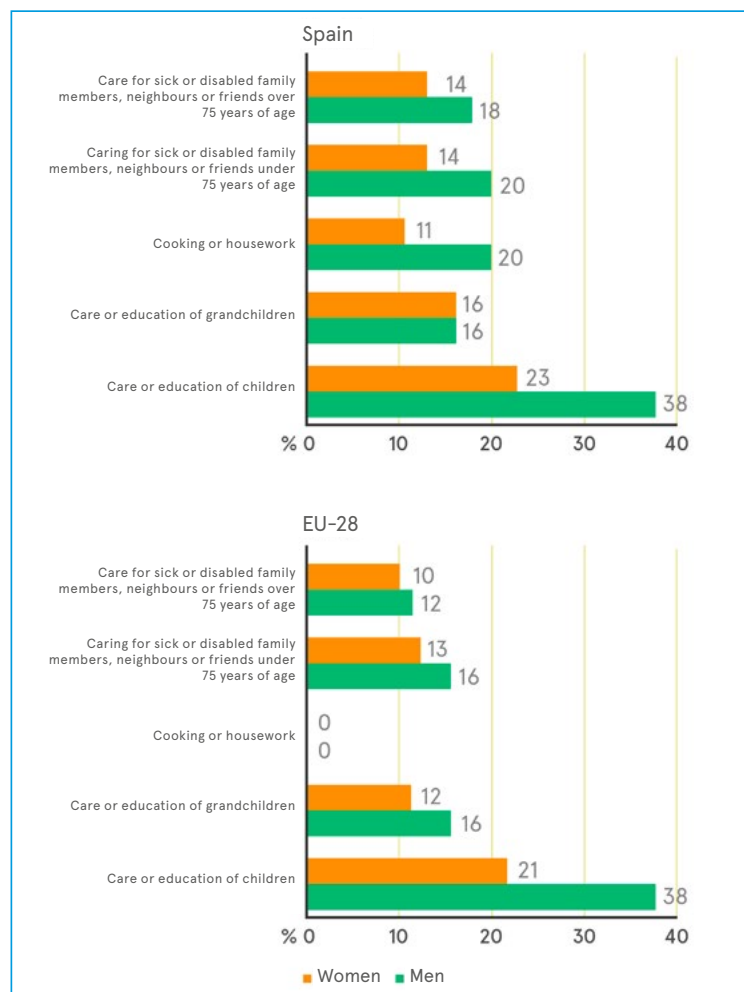
Achieving gender equality at work is an urgent priority since adopting **SDG 5**, the aim of which is to recognise and value unpaid care work "through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies drafting" (Target 5.4). This global commitment to gender equality has been accompanied by recognition of the role of the Decent Work Agenda in transforming the planet, eradicating extreme poverty and mitigating inequalities. This has also been reaffirmed by **SDG 8** on full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.

Achieving the creation of more and better jobs in the coming years will be done in part by promoting greater flexibility in working conditions to enable better work-life balance, which will promote greater gender equality and a greater proportion of the working-age population contributing to growth and social cohesion.

3.4. Gender gap in the population at risk of relative poverty.

According to the results of the Living Conditions Survey 2019, **the population at risk of relative poverty** (at-risk-of-poverty rate), calculated from the income received by households in 2018, **is higher for women** (21.1%) than for men (20.2%). The age groups most at risk of relative poverty **are those aged under 16**: (26.0%) in men and (28.2%) in women. In the 65+ age group, (14.4%) of women and (14.5%) of men are at risk of relative poverty.

Chart 13. Hours per week spent on care activities and household tasks. 2016



Source: Quality of Life Survey 2016. Eurofound.

¹¹⁶ Accessible [here](#)

¹¹⁷ ILO: Care work and care workers for the future of decent work. You can access it [here](#)

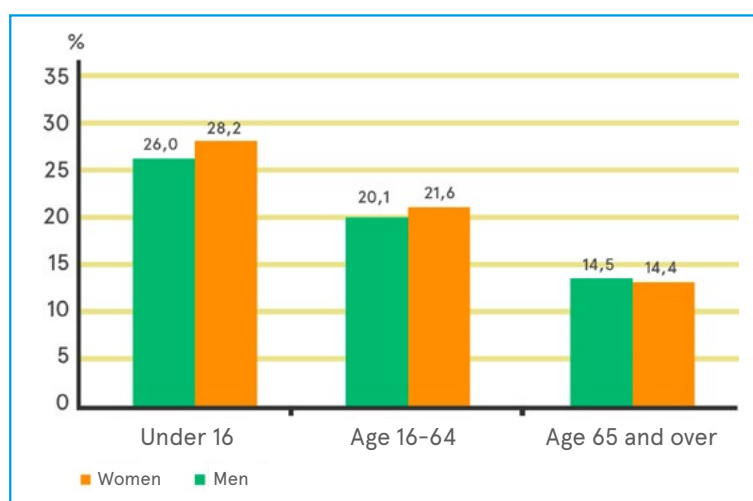
¹¹⁸ Accessible [here](#)

3.5. Violence against women.

In addition, there was data showing that violence against women and girls was already an unacceptable reality in Spain prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 health, social and economic crisis, and could be aggravated as a consequence of its effects. Combating it must be one of the structural priorities for the whole public sector, with the support of civil society, to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The data from the **2019 Violence Against Women Macro-Survey** – the first in the historical series that incorporates specific questions in reference to sexual violence – shows the challenge our country has ahead in protecting the rights and freedom of girls, adolescents and women. The 57.3% of over 16 years old women living in Spain – that is, more than one in two – have suffered some type of physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence during their lives. Furthermore, in 2020¹¹⁹, 41 women were killed by their partners or ex-partners. This figure is a decrease on the previous year, when there were 55 fatalities. Only 6 of the fatal victims (14.6% of the total) had previously reported their aggressor and only 2 of them had protection measures in place at the time of their murder.

Chart 14. Population at risk of relative poverty by age group. Spain 2019.



Source: European Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Eurostat.

In the fight against all forms of male violence against women, and under the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), it is crucial to continue promoting the State Pact against Gender violence and the fulfilment of all agreed measures, and help consolidate it by fully institutionalising it through a national strategy. This Strategy must incorporate the recommendations of the Group of Experts in Combatting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) Opinion into our legal system, and establish mechanisms to ensure sufficient funding at all levels of public administration, in line with the recommendations of the Convention on Eliminating all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) or the EU's recent Gender Equality Strategy, as well.

Combatting male violence against women should also include implementing a protocol to include an assessment of the children of female victims of gender-based violence as part of police risk assessments. This should also be backed by implementing a Strategic Plan to progress to full communication and information-sharing between government organisations and increasing the number of National Security Forces and Corps that specialise in preventing and combatting gender-based violence.

This impetus to the State Pact should be accompanied by promotion for a regulatory framework that addresses a comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom, through the Comprehensive Guarantee of Sexual Freedom Act, as well as a Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Act, in order to combat sexual violence, as well as to establish a package of protection, prevention and – in particular – redress related to such violence. These regulatory frameworks would entail the Istanbul Convention and Warsaw Convention being fully incorporated into our legal system, with the aim of protecting women and girls freedom in our country and their right to life.

Among the measures aimed at guaranteeing women's rights and full control over their bodies as well as their sexual and reproductive health, reform is also needed of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Voluntary Pregnancy Termination Act no 2/2010, both for the recovery of the rights of women aged 16 and 17 and this Act's protection to be extended to the reproductive exploitation of women, obstetric violence, and to tackle the harassment of women and professionals who undergo or perform abortions. Equality policies aimed at promoting equality in the workplace and in the care work, the purpose of which is the fair redistribution of time, care work and wealth, as well as those aimed at combatting all forms of male violence against women must be based around an intersectional perspective that takes the diversity of women and their circumstances into account.

¹¹⁹ Accessible [here](#)

In addition, and specifically, the most pressing demographic problem for women's equality in Spain: ie the unequal access to services in areas at risk of depopulation, where there are fewer public opportunities to support care work and personal-professional life balance, as well as to fulfil their own life projects. Women leave rural areas to progress their life projects and this has a double-acting negative effect on the area and its demographics.

Furthermore, it is necessary, to continue promoting women's equality in rural areas in terms of their participation in economic activities, developing the system of shared ownership of farms and promoting women's self-organisation in rural areas and access to self-employment and new technologies.

Full, real and effective equality between women and men, enshrined in the Act nº 3/2007 of 22 March, must be approached from an intersectional perspective and must be understood as a guiding principle of democracy that takes into account the multiple forms of discrimination that people face due to other factors as well as those derived from their sex. Thus, a feminist country that aspires to comply with 2030 Agenda needs to guarantee equal treatment in a way that also includes the LGBTI community and people from diverse ethnic-racial backgrounds. The legislative package that will enshrine these civil rights - which is included in the Government Agreement and firmly anchored in the international Human Rights framework - is made up of three regulations: The Equal Treatment Act (currently in Parliamentary process), the LGBTI Equality Act, and the so-called Trans Act.

3.6 Intersectionality of gender inequalities.

Gender equality is the key to achieving inclusive societies, building equitable and sustainable economies and making progress on each of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, women and girls experience multiple inequalities and intersecting forms of discrimination - including those based on their sex, age, ethnicity, place of residence, financial situation, sexual orientation, gender identity and migration status, among others.

Among the groups of women who suffer the most discrimination, trans women stand out. Few studies have addressed the estimation of transsexuality in the world, although those conducted show that there is a higher prevalence of transsexual women. Numerous studies show that the social rejection suffered by trans women is higher than that of trans men. The research reviewed agrees that trans women are more likely to experience harassment, loss of trust from their employers, demotion in the job hierarchy, reduction in pay and dismissal.

Intersectional discrimination is a specific type of discrimination¹²⁰, in which different types of discrimination (for example, gender and ethnicity) concur at the same time. It is not a question of "adding up" discriminations, but of understanding how the intersection of these discriminations is something specific that needs a particular approach that recognises these different factors.

This accumulation and intersectionality in regard to inequalities means that women face profound deprivations of their rights - from access to education and health, to clean water and decent work, not to mention the increased risk of multiple forms of violence.

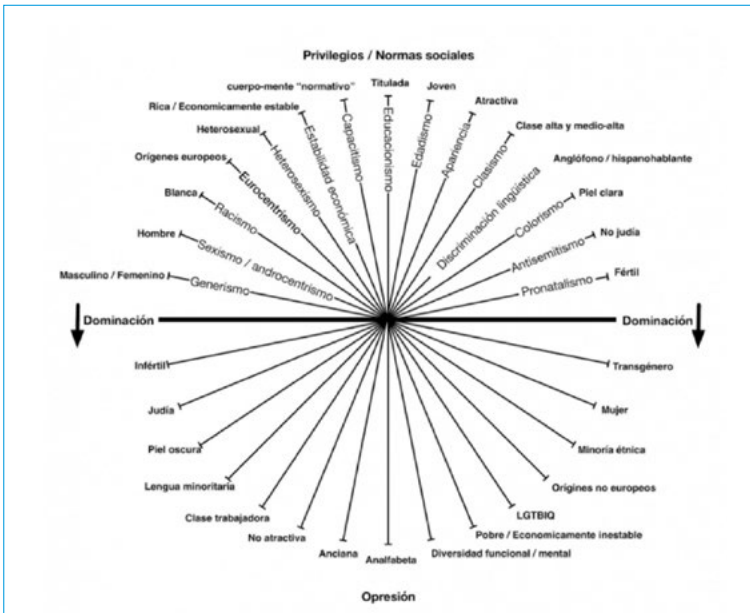
In a world of increasing inequalities of all kinds¹²¹, sex-disaggregated data is not enough to track the impact of inequalities on women and girls. Other forms of structural inequality intersect and exacerbate gender inequalities, leaving certain groups behind on a range of development indicators.

Intersectionality ends up being a deepening of all the factors that allow the perpetuation of inequalities and that help inequalities to become embedded, as shown in Chart 15. Therefore, it is necessary to promote inclusion by mainstreaming the principles contained in the different SDGs.

¹²⁰ Tania Sordo: *Guide to intersectional discrimination for the FSG (Gypsy Secretariat Foundation)*. You can access it [here](#)

¹²¹ *Intersectionality of Gender Inequalities in Mexico: an analysis for the monitoring of SDGs*. You can access it [here](#)

Chart 15. Intersectionality



Source: Kathryn Pauly Morgan, "Describing the Emperor's New Clothes: Three Myths of Educational (In)equality." *The Gender Question in Education; Theory, Pedagogy Politics*. Ann Diller et al. Boulder, CO: Westview 1996

ACCELERATING POLICY 3:

Free and equal lives for everybody



a. Accelerating Policy orientation:

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also it is one of the essential foundations for building a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. However, the gender inequality gap affects all women and girls in all areas and throughout their lives – including employment, violence, care tasks, participation and work-life balance. This intended country project to which contributions from the global agenda will be added is a project for a society where women and girls live safely and freely. A broad concept of security that implies the end of any type of violence, but also the absence of barriers and discrimination in the workforce, guaranteeing decent wages and pensions, and ensuring equal opportunities in regard to access to health (including sexual and reproductive health), as well as quality education, while promoting and ensuring the full participation of women and girls in all areas of social, economic and political life.

The actions contained under this sustainable development accelerating policy respond to the mandate arising from Sustainable Development Goal 5, which urges countries to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, addressing the structural causes that are at the root of the inequalities that affect women and girls, and promoting regulatory and strategic frameworks aimed at guaranteeing their rights in line with Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) commitments, to which Spain is a State Party, and the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination and the principle of equal opportunities between women and men enshrined in our Constitution in Articles 14 and 9.2.

An initial area of focus relates to actions aimed at **ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls**, in line with Target 5.1. Here, the aim is to guarantee effective equality between women and men, promoting measures to transform unequal gender relations and their different expressions and consequences, including access, under equal conditions, to quality employment, or the socially fair reorganisation of care and tackling the feminisation of poverty and employment insecurity, furthermore, starting from the different impacts that the Covid-19 pandemic is having on women to reverse the setback that this has caused and may continue to cause. An approach that should integrate a budgetary and fiscal perspective, structuring the budgetary analysis around three core areas for analysis and presentation: the orientation in terms of contribution to the SDGs, the gender impact, and policies aimed at children, adolescents and families. The aim of all this is to turn the budgetary analysis of the impact of gender into a tool that has a greater capacity to provide relevant information for decision-making in this key area of the political and social agenda. A tax policy with a gender perspective should also be promoted, aimed at identifying and reversing possible gender biases that result in a higher tax burden for women and a tax system that does not further eradicate inequality between men and women, especially those with lower-income.

A second priority area for action under this accelerating policy is aimed at **removing the wage gap affecting women and ensuring equal pay**, in line with Target 5.2 of SDG5. Accordingly, the approval of regulatory frameworks for equal pay (such as Royal Decree 902/2020, which came into force on 14 April) is a very important step towards guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value, in complying with the mandate for the regulatory development of the concept and content of the labour audits provided for under Article 46.6 of the Effective Equality Between Women and Men Act nº 3/2007 (LOIMH). It also establishes the scope of governmental and judicial protection, and regulates pay transparency instruments such as pay records, pay audits, the job evaluation system for professional classification and any collective bargaining agreements, as well as workers' right to information.

On the other hand, in response to the **link between the wage gaps and pension gaps**, is the regulation to set a new supplement related to maternity and paternity, which is to be granted to a parent who proves that their professional career suffered as a result of having children. A regulation that, in the event that neither of the two parents provides such proof, will automatically recognise the mother as having the right to it, in regard to contributory pensions - ordinary retirement, voluntary early retirement, permanent disability and widowhood (with the sole exception of partial retirement) and through amounts that will be updated in line with pension revaluations. Therefore, it is, a measure that has already been incorporated into Spain's legal system, and which will continue to be developed throughout the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, as part of the actions aimed at reducing the impact on women's pensions of the pay gap.

The measures discussed above comply with the provisions of Urgent measures to guarantee equal treatment and opportunities between women and men in employment and occupation Royal Decree-Act 6/2019, of 1 March, on. In addition, other plans and strategic frameworks are being deployed to ensure the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities in all sectors of productive activity, including the public sector and traditionally male-dominated sectors, and to provide equal rights of access to financial resources. These measures will be accompanied by the ratification of international conventions on labour rights, as a means of reversing the employment insecurity experienced in certain professional areas, as well as to prevent harassment in the workplace.

Another priority area of action is aimed at **eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls**, in line with Target 5.2, by deepening and improving existing mechanisms such as institutionalising the State Pact against Gender Violence to ensure compliance with its measures and stable funding over time, and integrating the recommendations of the *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*, the Istanbul Convention, into our legal system. In addition, new regulatory frameworks will be incorporated into our legal system to provide comprehensive

protection against sexual violence, guarantee sexual freedom, and address the issue of trafficking of human beings - especially women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation - through enhanced prosecution of these crimes and improved care and recovery of their victims.

In regard to **educational matters**, in order to address the challenges of the future and the challenges we face as a country, including the employment gap affecting women, the promotion of **STEM vocations** is key - particularly among female students. Therefore, the need, to join efforts to address gender-based stereotypes and prejudices in order to improve their participation in these disciplines, fostering scientific and technological vocations among women becomes clear. For that purpose, it is necessary to combine different types of measures and initiatives that counteract barriers and specific difficulties in attracting, retaining and promoting women in this professional field.

Meanwhile, the **area of care's domain** will receive special attention in terms of implementing this sustainable development accelerating policy and in the Sustainable Development Strategy as a whole. To this end, various actions have already been implemented that will be developed and deepened over the coming years. These are based on the lessons learned during the Covid-19 pandemic, which have highlighted the need to stop care tasks being hidden from view and promote the right to care and be cared for in dignified conditions, by re-shaping a National Care System. The set of policies and measures aimed at achieving this are therefore part of achieving Target 5.4, which calls on countries to recognise and value care and unpaid domestic work through public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, while promoting shared responsibility between men and women.

In the area of **sexual and reproductive rights**, it is planned to reform the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Voluntary Pregnancy Termination Act 2/2010, in order to restore the rights of women aged 16 and 17, and to extend protection in the area of reproductive exploitation of women, obstetric violence, and harassment of women and health professionals who undergo or perform abortions. This reform is therefore aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3's Target 3.7, which calls on countries to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, as a means of ensuring women's free exercise of their sexuality.

As with ensuring the free exercise of sexual freedom and **eradicating discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics**, new regulatory frameworks will be approved to promote and ensure real and effective equality of LGBTI people, paying special attention to the unequal situation of lesbian, bisexual and trans women in the workplace, as well as promoting the development of specific programmes and protocols that respond to their own needs in terms of sexual and reproductive health, among other aspects.

b. Priorities for action:

→ **2021-25 Effective Equality between Women and Men Strategic Plan for (PEIEMH)**, based around strategic objectives aimed at guaranteeing the transformation of unequal gender relations, in regard to their different expressions and consequences. It will drive actions aimed at achieving good quality and equal employment, reorganising care in ways that are fair and tackling the feminisation of poverty and employment insecurity. It will incorporate quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure compliance.

→ Alignment of the **National Budget Gender Impact General Report** with the goals of the 2021-25 Effective Equality between Women and Men Strategic Plan for (PEIEMH).

→ → Development of a **fiscal policy that has a gender perspective**, based on analysis of the fiscal and tax system from this perspective, with the aim of driving the necessary reforms to avoid potential gender biases and promote super-reduced tax rates on essential women's health-related products.

→ The **Comprehensive Equal Treatment and Combatting Discrimination Act**, aimed at reinforcing the right to equal treatment, including measures to combat all forms of discrimination and intolerance, in the areas of economic, political, cultural, social, labour, health, education, social services as well as the media, among others.

→ Updating of the **self-regulation code for advertising content** for games and toys aimed at children and adolescents to ensure that sexist messages and stereotype images are excluded.

→ Incorporating the **intersectional perspective when analysing the situation of the main groups in the population at risk of exclusion and/or poverty**, such as the gypsy and immigrant populations as well as people with disabilities, among other groups, in order to encourage the design of public policies and actions that take this perspective into account.

→ Sponsoring a review of **European Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000, implementing equal treatment** irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, with a view to broadening the areas of prohibited discrimination and expressly incorporating that of intersectional discrimination.

→ Development of specific measures to effectively address **the gender digital divide** to ensure women's and girls' right to digital media access.

→ Development of **Equal pay between women and men Royal Decree n° 902/2020, of 13 October**, which develops Article 28 of the Workers' Statute, and regulates the instruments of pay transparency, including the tool for ensuring that companies comply with the obligation to record pay, as agreed in dialogue with the social partners.

→ Development of **Royal Decree-Act 3/2021, of 2 February, adopting measures to reduce the gender gap and other matters in the areas of social security and finance**,

regulating the supplement to contributory pensions in order to reduce the gender gap.

→ **Ratification of ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers**, in order to sponsor the equalisation of domestic workers in regard to unemployment benefits and reverse their situation of employment insecurity.

→ **Ratification of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment at work**, which establishes the basis for a work environment free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment.

→ **3rd Plan for Gender Equality in Central Government** and in any public bodies linked to or dependent on it, with the aim of improving equal treatment and opportunities between women and men and eradicating any form of direct or indirect discrimination based on gender. This incorporates indicators to determine both the degree of execution and the effectiveness of the measures. For the first time, it establishes core measures that will be applied across national government organisations.

→ **2021-26 Gender Equality in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Plan**, aimed at sponsoring equal opportunities between women and men in the fisheries and aquaculture industry, and improving the visibility of female marine professionals through initiatives developed by the **Spanish Women in the Fishing Industry Network**, of the definition of indicators for monitoring gender equality in implementing of the FEMPA Operational Programme and measures to **support women's associations** in this sector.

→ **Rural women's equality Network** which contains specific measures to support women in the agri-food sector and in the rural environment - including those arising from the inclusion of the gender perspective as a specific objective within the new National Strategic Plan, which will enable specific measures to be developed in regard to positive discrimination in favour of women within the rural environment.

→ National Security Forces and Corps **Equality Units** - with actions aimed at eliminating potential inequalities with regard to presence, professional classification and participation, ensuring equal treatment and opportunity.

→ Initiatives by the **Gender Equality Observatory in the area of Culture**, the objective of which is to promote the presence of women and equal opportunities in all cultural manifestations, encouraging artistic production and the representation of women in this sector.

→ **National Strategy Against Male Violence**. Tackling all forms of male violence against women, and under the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), it is crucial to continue promoting the State Pact against Gender violence and the fulfilment of all agreed measures, and help consolidate it by fully institutionalising it through a national strategy.

→ **Act 1/2021** of 24 March, **regarding urgent measures for protecting and assisting victims of gender-based violence**,

to ensure the functioning of services that comprehensively protect victims of gender-based violence within the context of the State of Alarm, and encourage autonomous communities to use funding from the State Pact against Gender violence, and ensure comprehensive care for victims who are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

→ The **Comprehensive Guarantee of Sexual Freedom Act** (LOGILS), which aims to tackle sexual violence, as well as establish a package of protection, prevention and (especially) redress measures in compliance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention and the mandates contained in the State Pact against Gender violence.

→ The **España Te Protege (Spain Protects You) Plan to combat male violence**, which supports the creation of 24-hour crisis centres offering comprehensive care for victims of sexual violence, in response to the provisions of LOGILS, as well as strengthening the 016 telephone helpline and ATENPRO services to include care for victims of all forms of male violence against women, and incorporating psychological and socio-work-related care in the 016 helpline's catalogue services.

→ The **Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Act**, which will make comprehensive regulation of human trafficking possible – in particular, of women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation – and reinforce the prosecution of this crime while improving care, protection and redress for its victims.

→ The **Strategic Plan Against Human Trafficking**, as part of the National Strategy Against Organised and Serious Crime, establishing standardised official registers of victims of trafficking, and pushing for specific resources to be put in place for their care.

→ Reinforcing the **Comprehensive Monitoring System for cases of Gender-Based Violence** (the VioGén System) to strengthen mechanisms to protect female victims of gender-based violence. This includes improvements to optimize risk assessments, including minors in those assessments, and adding an SOS button to the AlertCops application.

→ Implementing **Form Zero**, which will make it possible to use testimonies of members of the family or social circle of female victims of gender-based violence in order to activate police protection and support mechanisms, even where there is no complaint.

→ The **police risk-assessment system used in cases of violence against women**, which strengthens the mechanisms for automatically identifying cases that are likely to develop into serious, very serious or lethal re-offending, allowing for risk assessment and management that is in line with that classification, working with the authorities.

→ The **Civil Guard Plan of Action used in cases of violence against women**, which brings together 20 measures across areas such as more specialist staff, increased training, and the setting up of a central office to tackle violence against women.

→ The **Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment Protocol** within the National Security Forces and Corps, with the aim

of eradicating any form of violence against female public employees.

→ Developing **training programmes** in the National Police Force regarding female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

→ The **Joint Responsibility Plan** – to guarantee the right to care for families with children up to the age of 14, by creating a professional care exchange (at home or in public spaces); encouraging employment and recognising experience in care work within the informal economy as a route for moving into the formal economy. Jointly Implemented with the autonomous communities, this is as an initial step towards a **National Care System**, which completes the reconfiguring of the public provision of care, beyond childhood, and the guarantee of a right to care beyond the realm of work. The National Care System will promote good quality and inclusive public solutions, with a focus on universal provision, that provide decent care both for recipients and professional providers.

→ Drawing up a **national care map**, which offers citizens information about existing resources, in order to facilitate access to these services throughout the territory.

→ Supporting **studies, surveys and reports** that will help gain deeper knowledge of how people spend their time from a gender perspective, to serve as information for public decision-making.

→ Creating an **Advisory Board for Care Work**, made up of experts, stakeholders in civil society and representatives from different ministries, to support the process of shaping care provision towards a National Care System.

→ **Reform of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Voluntary Pregnancy Termination Act 2/2010**, in order to restore the rights of women aged 16 and 17, and to extend protection in the area of reproductive exploitation of women, obstetric violence, and tackling the harassment of women and health professionals who undergo or perform abortions.

→ The **Equality of LGBTI People and Non-Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression or Sexual Characteristics Act** will aim to promote and guarantee the real and effective equality of LGBTI people and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics.

→ The **Full and Effective Equality of Trans People Act**, which is aimed at guaranteeing the real and effective equality of trans people, by recognising the right to a person's freely manifested gender identity, as well as promoting work-related measures to improve the employability of this group.

→ Promoting social participation through the **Council for the Participation of Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual and Intersex Persons** (LGBTI), created in 2020 and the **Council for the Elimination of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination**.

→ Development of the actions contained in the **Education Act (LOMLOE)**, aimed at advancing gender equality in

education, which involve a review of the current curriculum, the introduction of new curricular content, teacher training, schooling conditions to ensure non-discrimination in regard to admission and not subsidizing schools that do not carry out schooling on a co-education basis, or that provide educational and professional guidance of students from a gender perspective.

→ The **STEAM Alliance**, which will drive forward specific initiatives to shape an education and training system that eliminates gender stereotypes associated with certain vocations and professions and that contributes to eliminating the gender gap in regard to accessing STEAM disciplines. The INTERCAMBIA virtual space, the value of co-education as a space for exchanging information and knowledge on co-educational practices will also be useful for this purpose.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, including those with a migrant background.

By 2030, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private sector, including trafficking of women and girls, and sexual and other types of exploitation, continuing with the momentum of the State Pact against Gender violence and following the recommendations of the GREVIO expert group's Opinion, and including mechanisms for sufficient funding and budgetary implementation across all public sector organisations, as well as promoting specific measures to combat sexual violence, as well as protection, prevention and redress, in line with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and the Warsaw Convention.

By 2030, adopt regulatory frameworks that provide a comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom and develop their provisions in line with the Istanbul Convention.

By 2030, promote regulatory reforms and reshape the National Care System, through public services that are of good quality, are inclusive and have a focus on universal provision and provide decent provision and reception as strengthened rights, as well as improve the working conditions of people who provide such care on a professional basis.

By 2023, consolidate the Joint Responsibility Plan, as a public policy aimed at guaranteeing the right of families with children up to age 14 years to care by setting up a professional care exchange.

By 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, employment insecurity, undervaluation of their work and segregation, eliminating the barriers and obstacles that hinder the professional development of women in all sectors.

By 2030, promote the approval and development of a regulatory package that foster real and effective equality of trans people, and guarantees the protection of the rights of LGBTI people, through the fight against any discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics.

By 2030, ratify ILO Convention 189 regarding domestic workers, as well as ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace.

By 2030, guarantee the inclusion of the principle of intersectionality within all public policies and in all government activities 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.

By 2030, improve the availability of statistical sources and indicators that enable a comprehensive understanding of discrimination on grounds of sex, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, among others.

By 2030, implement Equal Opportunities Strategic Plans as a specific and comprehensive instrument for public policies for eradicating discrimination and violence affecting women.

By 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 supporting the participation of women in decision-making spaces and management bodies.

By 2030, guarantee the exercise of Sexual and Reproductive Rights by women through, among others, the reform of the **Sexual and Reproductive Health** and Voluntary Pregnancy Termination Act 2/2010, recovering the rights of women aged 16 and 17.

By 2030, develop specific measures to effectively address **the gender digital divide**, so that no women or girls in vulnerable groups and at risk of social exclusion are limited in their right to access digital media that is essential for both their personal and professional development.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, promote comprehensive support plans for women in rural areas, by promoting the work of associations as a key element for the stimulating the social, economic and cultural spheres, as well as other specific support programmes.

By 2030, continue with the annual publication of the Gender Impact Report that accompanies the General National Budget Draft Bill, as a means of monitoring progress on inequality and promoting the design of more effective policies.

By 2030, address sexism in children's toy advertising, through the development of policy and communication measures.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

- » Programme for women at university to improve their employability and entrepreneurship.
- » Protocol for an institutional response to male-on-female murders.
- » 2021-24 Andalusian Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation Purposes Strategy.
- » Creation of a One-Stop-Shop for supporting victims of gender-based violence.
- » Comprehensive plan for raising awareness and preventing gender-based violence 2021-25.
- » Victims of gender-based violence and other particularly vulnerable persons Support programme.
- » Equal treatment and non-discrimination of LGBTI people and their families, subsidies to guarantee their rights Strategy, and the creation of the Andalusian LGBTI Council.
- » 1st Reconciliation Strategy in Andalusia 2021-25.
- » Rural and Marine Women of Andalusia Statute (*).
- » 2nd Plan for Equal Opportunities between women and men engaged in Andalusia's agricultural, fishing and environmental activities - to 2027.

ARAGÓN

- » Promotion of specific measures to end the pay gap and glass ceiling.
- » Action plans to combat Gender-Based Violence.
- » Provide access to school from age 0-3 for single-parent families, or at risk of exclusion and/or victims of male violence against women.
- » Equal Opportunities Between Women and Men Act (*).
- » Aragon's Strategy for Balancing work, family and education.
- » Actions of shared responsibility work-life balance.
- » The Autonomous Community of Aragon's Gender Identity and Expression and Social Equality and Non-Discrimination Law 4/2018 of 19 April (*).
- » The Autonomous Community of Aragon's Law 18/2018 of 20 December on Equality and comprehensive protection to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity (*).

CANARY ISLANDS

- » Canary Islands 2021-24 Equality between men and women Strategy.
- » Continuous improvement and updating of the Canary Islands System of Comprehensive Initiative to Combat Violence Against Women.
- » The Canary Islands System of Comprehensive Initiative to Combat Violence Against Women.
- » Care Strategic Plan.
- » 2nd Plan for Public Health Infrastructures 2018-23.
- » Implementation of early childhood education for ages 0-3 Strategic plan.

CANTABRIA

- » Equality plans within companies in Cantabria (*).
- » State Pact against Gender Violence (*).
- » Implementation of shared responsibility measures from an intersectionality perspective with funding from the European Fund for Recovery and Resilience (EU Next Generation).
- » 2nd Equality Strategy 2019-23 of the Government of Cantabria (*).
- » Guarantee of Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Transgender, Bisexual and Intersex People and Non-Discrimination on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Law 8/2020 (*).

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Integration of the gender perspective in Cantabria's General Budgets.
- » Effective equality between men and women Law 2/2019.
- » Incorporation of operation 08.03 Women and men from a gender perspective, and publication of the Gender Equality Index for Cantabria into Cantabria's Statistical Plan.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » 2nd Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Castile-La Mancha 2019-24.
- » Law for a Society free from gender-based violence Law in Castile-La Mancha.
- » Statute for Women in rural areas of Castile-La Mancha Law.
- » 2nd Equal Opportunities Plan for public employees of the Regional Government (*).
- » Draft amendment to Equality between women and men Law. of Castile-La Mancha (*).

CASTILE AND LEÓN

- » Recruitment of equal opportunities officers.
- » Reinforcement of gender equality policies.
- » Development of the model of comprehensive care for victims of gender-based violence "Zero Violence Target".
- » Programmes for helping women who are in situations of special vulnerability get into work, in partnership with social organisations.
- » Adoption of measures to support work-life balance and shared responsibility (subsidies for leave of absence, reduced working hours and care for children aged 0-3 in children's centres).
- » Law to guarantee the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (*).
- » Rural Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy in the areas of agriculture and agri-food.
- » Including gender equality clauses in public contracts.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

- » Law 19/2020 on Equal treatment and non-discrimination.
- » Deployment of the 2019-22 Gender Equality Policies Strategic Plan.
- » Strengthening of the network of resources for comprehensive care and recovery for women have been subject to violence.
- » Development of the service to support victims in court.
- » Development of a programme of co-education and gender perspective in the curriculum in early childhood, primary and secondary education.
- » Publication of a guide on gender mainstreaming in participatory processes.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA - VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » Decree 40/2020, creating the Valencian Observatory for Decent Work.
- » Creation of the University of Valencia Chair for the Digital Gender Gap with the Department of Innovation, Universities, Science and Digital Society.
- » Launching of the STEAM Movement.
- » Transportation tickets for female victims of gender-based violence.
- » Action protocol in cases of sexual harassment and aggression in Metrovalencia and the Alicante TRAM.
- » "Fem Cooperatives".

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

EUSKADI – BASQUE COUNTRY

- » Equality between Women and Men Plan (2018-21).
- » Comprehensive plan to prevent, protect and redress damage to minors who are victims of gender-based violence.
- » 4th Support Families Interagency Plan 2018-22.
- » 2nd Co-education Plan for the Basque Education System, on the road to equality and fair treatment 2019-23.
- » Basque Agreement in Favour of Families and Children.
- » Equal Opportunities Between Women and Men Draft Bill (*).
- » Comprehensive Law on Equality in Diversity and the fight against Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation
- » Draft amendment to Law 14/2012 regarding non-discrimination on grounds of gender-based identity and recognition of transgender persons.

EXTREMADURA

- » Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy.
- » Employment and Business Competitiveness Strategy for 2020-25 (care areas: equal opportunities and shared responsibility and work-family life balance).
- » Harm-reduction programmes for women who take drugs and potential victims of gender-based violence with or without children and possibly in prostitution situations.
- » Development of projects associated with the State Pact against Gender violence.
- » Promotion of programmes and resources aimed at migrant women, victims of trafficking through public health programmes and residential resources.
- » Promotion and development of shared ownership of farms.
- » Mandatory parity in all public bodies.

GALIZA – GALICIA

- » Galician Strategic Plan (2021-30).
- » Galician Work-Life Balance and Shared Responsibility Plan 2018-21.
- » Galician Public Transport Plan, enabling a doubling of the public road transport network in the region, paying special attention to the needs of people in vulnerable situations.
- » 1st Plan for Equality Between Women and Men in The Galician Health Service (2019-22).
- » Guidelines to prevent gender-based violence according to age.
- » "Mocidade Contra a Violencia de Xénero" project, aimed at increasing awareness of gender-based violence, with a particular focus on young people.
- » "Sonexecutiva" training and coaching programme for the professional promotion of recently graduated businesswomen and entrepreneurs.
- » Galician Forum for Equal Education.

ILLES BALEARS – BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » Programme for Gender Equality in Labour Market Opportunities.
- » Regional Plan to combat trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and tackling prostitution, 2019-22.
- » Awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing violence and caring for female victims and their children.
- » Study and approach to dealing with prostitution and trafficking as a form of violence against women, in partnership with the Balearic Islands Women's Institute.
- » 4th Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities Between Women and Men 2015-20.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Equality Between Women and Men Act.
- » Strategic Plan for public LGBTI policies and in regard to sexual, family and gender diversity, 2021-24.
- » Comprehensive healthcare protocol for Trans people.

LA RIOJA

- » 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 universities.
- » Implementation of the Joint Responsibility Plan.
- » Balanced presence. #Ellascuentan, aimed at increasing and highlighting the presence and participation of female experts in the public sphere.
- » Promote policies and measures aimed at achieving a balanced presence of women and men in all areas of public life, as well as supporting the participation of women in decision-making spaces and management bodies.
- » Effective equality between men and women in La Rioja Law (*).

NAFARROA – COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

- » Regional Law to tackle violence against women.
- » Regional Law regarding Equality Between Women and Men.
- » Equality policies, promotion of the Equality Council of Navarre, and strengthening the Equality Institute of Navarre.
- » Equality Strategic Plan.
- » Regional Law for equality in society of LGBTI+ people.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » Strategy to address the pay gap, through dialogue with social partners.
- » Action protocol to address labour and sexual harassment within companies.
- » Strengthening of the Women's Advice Centres and the Network of Shelters, and review of the Interdepartmental Protocol for comprehensive care for female victims of gender-based violence.
- » Protocols and alignment of Gender-Based Violence Courts for the care of female victims.
- » Principality of Asturias Strategic Plan for Equality.
- » Local programmes for opening educational centres outside school hours to facilitate the work-family life balance, healthy eating and educational leisure for children in situations of social vulnerability.
- » Support programme for carers: training, counselling, psychological help and rest in situations of overload.
- » Creation of an Observatory to Address LGBTI Phobia.

REGIÓN OF MURCIA

- » Address the employment gap affecting women who work in care centres for the elderly and people with functional diversity, through contractual employment-stability clauses.
- » Support for mothers with children aged up to 4 to return to work.
- » Equality logo for companies.
- » Support for indefinite-term contracts, specifically for women who are victims of gender-based violence.
- » Awareness-raising courses for companies that participate in the Group of Companies for a Society Free from Gender-Based Violence.
- » Promote resources that are suitable for women with functional diversity who have suffered sexual violence.
- » IMIB Equality Plan.
- » Equality Observatory.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Programmes to help women into work, and development of policies aimed at guaranteeing full pay equality for men and women.
- » Encouraging parity between men and women for municipal employees and the promotion of women in positions of responsibility.
- » Development of local equality plans. Creation of Municipal Councils and Provincial Equality Observatories, in collaboration with women's organisations and associations.
- » LGBTI municipal plans.
- » Preventing sexual harassment in the workplace.
- » Protecting against violence and providing psychological counselling for female victims, as well as developing Safety Plans for victims of gender-based violence, working together with supra-municipal organisations.
- » Acquiring and renovating housing to temporarily house female victims of gender-based violence.
- » Rebates on social security contributions for hiring women who are victims of gender-based violence.
- » Creation of "purple dots".
- » Annual call for grants to private and non-profit associations that carry out activities to promote equal opportunities and prevent gender-based violence.
- » The right to a 50% reduction in the working day, change of job and leaves of absence for employees who are victims of gender-based violence.
- » Drawing up general city council budgets to include a gender perspective and promote comprehensive, specifically budgeted support plans for women in rural areas, including measures to ensure shared ownership of farms, by promoting the work of associations as a key part of revitalising the social, economic and cultural spheres.
- » Development of projects for women in rural areas.
- » Reviewing the relationship between the labour market and the unequal distribution of care tasks via policy reforms and a reconfiguring of a robust National Care System.
- » Facilitate and promote accessible services for the elderly and/or people with disabilities in order to reduce overloading care work taken on by women.

**COUNTRY CHALLENGE 4.
OVERCOMING THE
SHORTCOMINGS
OF AN EXCESSIVELY
CONCENTRATED AND
DEPENDENT SYSTEM**

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Diagnosis

The health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemics has had a tremendous impact on the Spanish economy and has evidenced the need to transform our production model. It is fundamental to change our economic model and to put an end to a model with a high environmental cost and sustained by the invisible care work and to replace it with a model which is committed to decent work, investment in continuous training and innovation, supports the development of small companies, the adoption of new technologies and territorial regeneration. The Covid-19 pandemics has evidenced not only the need to implement a different productive and economic system, one that respects the limits of the planet, but also to correct our external dependency and commit to enhance our productive system in order to guarantee a certain level of internal capacities. Over the last months, the Government of Spain, the Autonomous Communities and local entities have deployed a series of measures intended to mitigate the impact of the crisis on society and on the economy, considering self-employed workers and the productive framework. However, we need to go one step further and address the updating of our productive model in order to be leaders and partners in the evolution towards a system based in sustainability and social justice as its two main cornerstones.

In fact, beyond the initial shock, the current crisis has accelerated already ongoing processes, which may have an important impact on the Spanish economy and society if we fail to re-frame growth recovery as an opportunity to update our productive model on the basis of a new social contract and the protection of the welfare state, overcoming existing social gaps and extending growth to the entire territory, respecting the corresponding environmental limits. In this framework, the Plan for Recovery, Transformation and Resilience highlight the transformation and updating of the production models and consumption patterns, creating quality jobs and providing appropriate education, fighting climate change by committing to ecological transition and de-carbonisation of economy, digital revolution and innovation, as well as health and social welfare. These priorities correspond to the goals of 2030 Agenda and must be continuously pushed to reach and consolidate and inclusive, fair growth which can be sustained on the long term.

4.1 Structure of the business sector

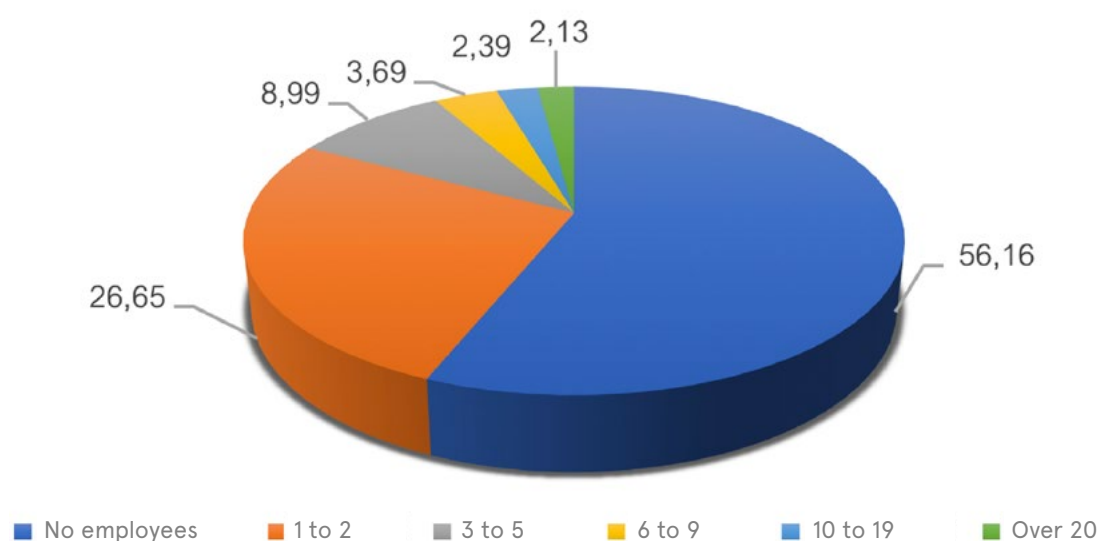
According to the European Commission's definition of SME ¹²² as established by the Commission Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014, the criteria for defining a small or medium enterprise are determined by:

¹²² Accessible [here](#)

CATEGORY	STAFF HEADCOUNT	TURNOVER	GENERAL BALANCE
Medium	< 250	<= 50 million EUR	<= 43 million EUR
Small	< 50	<= 10 million EUR	<= 10 million EUR
Micro	< 10	<= 2 million EUR	<= 2 million EUR

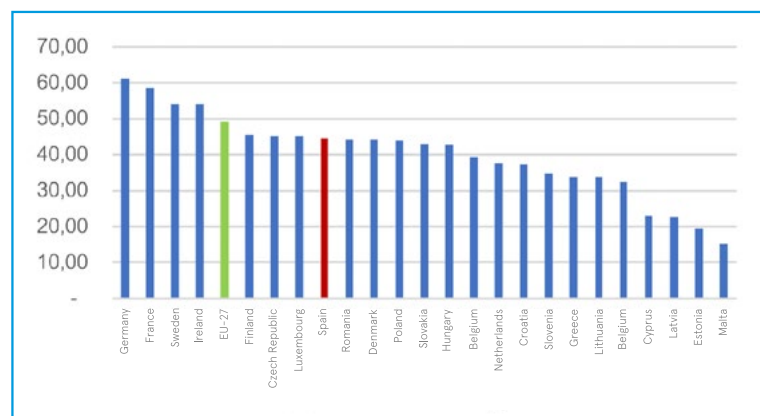
Considering the first criterion, as per 2020 data, there are 3,404,428 active companies in Spain, 99.85% of which have less than 250 employees. That is, only 0.15% of companies are large corporations with more than 250 employees. Besides, 82.81% of the Spanish productive framework consists of micro-companies with less than two employees. The clear prevalence of SMEs in Spain is the cause that 70% of jobs are in SMEs¹²³.

Companies by employee headcount (5), 2020



Source: Own sources based on the statistical data from the Central Business Director of the National Statistics Institute (INE).

Share of SMEs contribution to total turnover, 2018.



SMEs constitute the lion's share of the productive framework of Spain, in a rate comparatively higher than the EU average, and, besides, despite being smaller than the EU average (average staff headcount of 4.4 compared to EU average of 5.9), they rate 5 percentage points higher in job creation and corporate gross added value¹²⁴.

This does not consider the large number of self-employed workers, that represent 17.42%¹²⁵ of corporate work and share a good part of the characteristics of microbusinesses. The weight of such microbusinesses and self-employed workers is particularly relevant in the hospitality and catering sector, as well as in retail, in which 99.91%¹²⁶ of businesses are microbusinesses. Consequently, considering the relevance and sheer weight of

¹²⁴ Source: Eurostat. Accessible [here](#)

¹²⁵ Persons registered under the Special Regime of Self-Employed Workers of the Social Security as of 31 March 2021.

¹²⁶ INE (2020) Structural statistics of businesses: retail. Accessible [here](#)

¹²³ Sustainable Development Goals: guidelines for SMEs. CEPYME, 2019. Accessible [here](#)

SMEs and self-employed workers in the productive framework of Spain, and the data obtained during the procedure of social consultation, there is ample space for growth towards the goal of improving awareness and actions by SMEs in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

This entails a series of specific challenges and a need to adopt a particular approach to address such challenges and opportunities, including aspects such as funding initiatives to entrepreneurship, growth and innovations, and for leveraging scale economies and their globalisation. SMEs and microbusinesses are more vulnerable to external impacts such as that caused by the recent global pandemics.

In this sense, the Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium Enterprises (CEPYME) Barometer offers relevant data on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemics in SMEs¹²⁷:

_ 86% of SMEs state that they have been negatively or very negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemics.

_ 39% of respondents state that their income has been cut in more than half, and only 8% of SMEs report income increases.

_ 53% of companies that have been forced to implement the Temporary Employment Regulation Schemes (ERTE) believe that they will not be able to keep all the jobs over the next six months.

_ 65% of SMEs rate their expectations for the next 12 months as "bad" or "very bad".

_ 52% consider that their companies will shrink in term of number of employees.

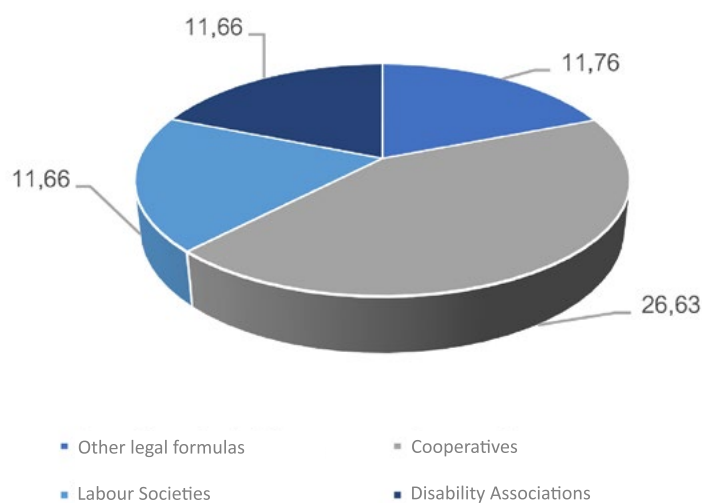
Consequently, together with the specific challenges for companies arising as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemics, which have been addressed by a myriad of measures deployed to support and sustain the productive framework and intended as a mechanism to protect economic activities and employment, it is necessary to continue to develop new initiatives focused in supporting small and medium enterprises with the goals of improving their competitiveness, addressing ecological transition and enabling quality job creation through specific support instruments adapted to their specific nature.

On top of that, another fundamental agent of a change of productive model are social economy organizations, a type of organizations whose business model is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda approach by focusing on people, distributing profit equitably or reinvesting in the social purposes of the company. The link between social economy and sustainable development is recognised by Act 5/2011 on Social Economy, which instructs the Public Administration to promote and develop social economy for their interest to the public.

According to the Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Businesses¹²⁸, in Spain there are 43,192 social economy entities, which create 2,184,234 direct and indirect jobs. This includes over 26,798 cooperatives and labour companies registered with the Social Security Systems, directly employing 374,398 workers. Our recent experience evidence that this category of businesses has more capacity to create and protect jobs against economic recessions, and that they show lower impermanence levels and a higher job stability. Besides, they show a higher rate of women in managerial functions and create employment opportunities for especially challenged groups such as over-55s people, persons with disabilities, migrants and persons in risk of social exclusion, among others, as well as more equitable salaries and compensations.

In this framework, it is relevant to create innovative mechanisms for participation of social economy in strategic sectors linked to the development of circular economy and the new care economy, among others, as well as reinforcing the institutional support of these models, for the purposes of enabling the creation of new, feasible, long-term socio-economic projects focused on collective social innovation. This support can be framed in the **Spanish Strategy for Promotion of Social Economy 2021-2027**, which is currently being drafted.

Organizations of the social economy by type



¹²⁷ Indicators as of September 2020. Accessible [here](#)

¹²⁸ Accessible [here](#)

4.2 Transformation of the productive sector towards a circular economy

One of the most urgent aspects of the change of economic model must be to transform the productive framework of the country in order to create stable, quality jobs and advancing an ecological transition as the main contributions to the compliance with the 2030 Agenda. This transition has started in Spain by the enactment and implementation of the **Spanish Strategy for Circular Economy. 2030 Circular Spain**¹²⁹.

This transformation necessarily involves the reinforcement of the collaboration frameworks among the Public Administrations, the scientific community, the private sector and social groups in order to leverage such developments, but also to support those groups and territories impacted by this transformation, being digital transition a tool for these purposes. All this involves an active accompaniment from the different Public Administration and social agents in order to ensure that this process is developed based on social inclusion and solidarity criteria that guarantee a truly fair and inclusive transition for all, and one that provides stable, quality employment.

The current economic system is based on a growth model supported by the endless production of goods and services in the framework of our throwaway culture. This lineal model entails an intensive use of natural resources and creates excessive pressure on the environment, and is one of the causes of the most serious manifestations of the current environmental crisis, including climate change or loss of biodiversity. This lineal model involves aggravated impacts on resources and ecosystems, high levels of waste and of GHG emissions¹³⁰ which in turn worsen climate change and pollution of soils and masses of water.

Additionally, the impact of the linear model is aggravated by consumption patterns increasingly associated to “fast consumption”, with fast rotation rates that do not even complete the useful lives of products; as it is the case, for example, of fashion clothing or electronic devices. One of the cornerstones of this transformation of the productive framework is implementing the principles of **circular economy to the productive and consumption patterns**, so that the value of products, materials and resources are kept within the economy for as long as possible, so that waste is kept to a minimum and re-purposed whenever possible. This involves a commitment to eco-design, with allows waste reduction and increasing use of toxic-free products and materials; promoting a labelling system that include any critical components of a used product, the relevant guarantees for re-used materials or products or the inclusion of a reparability index in order to enhance sustainable consumption. And, above all, continuing the ongoing improvement in waste management, in order to both minimize waste and maximize its reuse and recycling, thus contributing to the transition towards a model of circular economy.

In the current context, Spain is estimated to need over two and a half times its surface to be able to cater to the requirements of its economy. This, besides an enormous environmental impact, evidences an inefficient model and aggravated external dependency, which makes Spanish economy more vulnerable and less competitive.

Additionally, the European Commission¹³¹ and other international organizations, such as the World Economic Forum, state that circular economy may create new economic and entrepreneurial opportunities, thus allowing to create new employment and occupations. The projections and scenarios carried out hint at that, from now to 2030, circular economy can generate an additional growth of the European GDP of 0.5% and create 700,00 new jobs.

Besides, on 14 March 2020, the European Commission presented the EU’s Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability towards a toxic free environment¹³², which is a fundamental part of the European Green Deal and its zero-pollution ambition. Besides, it is a key component of the post Covid 19 crisis recovery plan. This Strategy establishes a long-term vision for the purposes of achieving a toxic-free environment, enhancing protection to the environment and to human health, while strengthening the competitiveness of EU’s chemical industry. In the conclusions to this Strategy, the Council requests the Commission to implement the relevant actions, especially the specific modifications required to streamline the EU laws and regulations regarding chemicals, replacement and minimisation of substances of concern, and the progressive removal of the most damaging substances from all non-essential purposes. In sum, the strategy undertakes to progressively remove hazardous chemical substances affecting vulnerable groups, as well as to make a more sustainable and safe use of all chemical substances.

One of the most important innovations of this strategy is establishing a “safe and sustainable by design” approach. Member States support this approach focused on the life cycle of products, which considers levels of toxic chemicals throughout its life cycle, from manufacturing to use, recycling and final disposal, for the purposes of preventing hazardous chemical substances from being introduced in products from the design phase. This approach also pursues to reinforce innovation and sustainability in the chemical sector, prioritizing sustainable production and use, which will enable transition towards a circular economy and reinforce the existing links between climate policies, energy and biodiversity, allowing to achieve a toxic-free environment.

¹²⁹ Accessible [here](#)

¹³⁰ See Goal 6

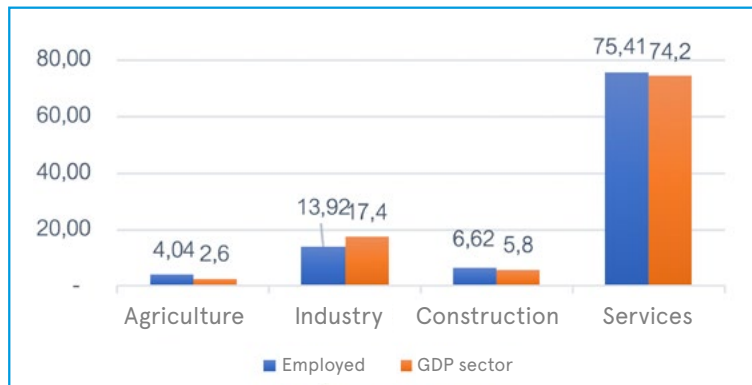
¹³¹ European Commission. *A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe. March 2020* Accessible [here](#)

¹³² European Commission. *Chemical Strategy towards a toxic-free environment. Accessible [here](#)*

4.3 Productive sectors.

All the issues mentioned above are cross-sectional to the entire economic and productive activity. However, the specific sections of each sector must not be disregarded and shall be analysed in depth in this section. In the first place, a quick approach to the productive structure of Spain shows that the service sector conglomerates three quarters of the economic activity, concentrating 75% of jobs and an equivalent contribution to the GDP, which gives an idea of the excessive concentration of economic activity in the third sector.

Financial sectors per employed persons and contribution to the GDP, 2019



Source: Own source based on data provided by the INE.

4.3.1 Agriculture, livestock and fishing

The agricultural sector (including livestock farming and fishing) is a fundamental sector for the productive model of Spain, besides an activity with the capability to act as a territorial backbone. The Gross Added Value of the primary sector (agriculture, including livestock farming, silviculture and fishing) shrank by 1.8% in 2019 with respect to 2018. This value represented 2.6% of total GDP. On the contrary, GHG emissions arising from livestock farming represented 11.9% of total emissions in 2019, 1.6% less than in 2018.¹³³

The agricultural sector has been fundamental to guarantee that people had sufficient food to eat during the Covid-19 pandemics and all its agents have developed a fundamental role; the work of all employees thought the production and distribution chain is to be especially praised. Improving the competitiveness of this sector is key to preserve the environment, protect biodiversity and maintaining populations, employment and economic activities in rural areas, thus guaranteeing territorial and social cohesion in such areas, which must be accompanied by sustainable practices which are mindful of environmental limits and the traditional practices and lifestyles of the rural environment. Consumers can contribute to this provided that they are provided with clear, simple, trustworthy information on the sustainability of the different foodstuffs they purchase, which, in turn, contributes to promotion a healthier diet and aware of its ecological impact.

¹³³ INE. Air emissions account, preview 2019. Accessible [here](#)

4.3.2 Industrial sector.

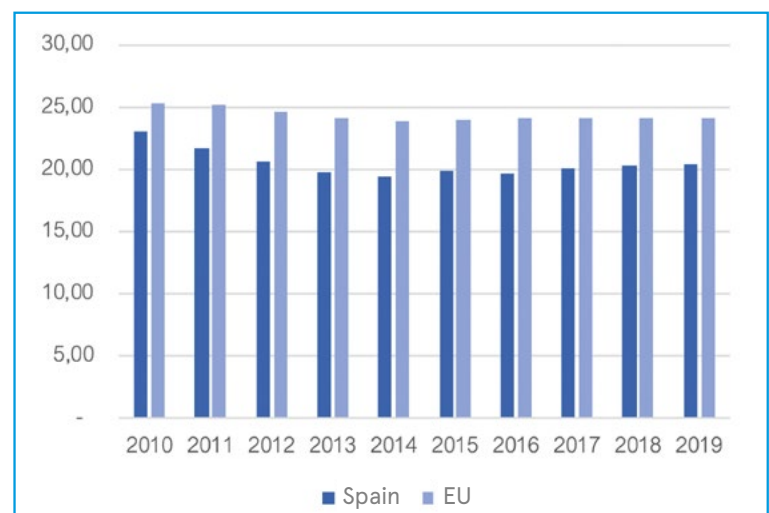
Over the last few years, pursuant to the diagnosis carried out in the General Guidelines for the New Spanish Industrial Policy 2030, enacted in February 2019, public initiatives to **enhance industrial growth** have been scant and not very far-reaching, which has allowed Spanish economy to undergo a process of tertiarisation that has resulted in a reduced weight of industry in the Spanish economic structure.¹³⁴ Industry's contribution to the GDP is around 17.4% and represents 13.9% of total jobs. This comparatively lower relevance has implications in the quality of employment offered within our economic framework

The significance of industrial jobs goes well beyond their sheer number, since they also are more qualified, more productive (66,000 € per employee, higher than another sector), more stable and better paid employment contracts. Besides, these employment quality indicators have, significant additional derivative effects in the economy: higher contributions to Social Security system and higher level of companies investment in training their workers¹³⁵.

On the other hand, industry is the productive sector which the highest level of innovation, considering that even though its weight in the Spanish GDP is 4.2 points lower than the service sector, it represents 48% of total expenses in innovation and 30% of innovative companies¹³⁶. This means that it demands higher qualified employments, which is more stable in the context of a recession and with higher salaries than other economic sectors. In sum, a more developed industrial sector contributes to dynamization of economic activity and may become an important element for social and territorial vertebration, and at the same time **reducing Spain's external dependency** on the production of strategic goods.

For these reasons, it can be concluded that the main challenge is to increase the relevance of the industrial sector in Spanish economy and promote investment by such industrial sector in

Evolution of persons employed in the industrial sector (% over total jobs)



Source: World Bank.

¹³⁴ General Guidelines for the New Spanish Industrial Policy 2030 Accessible [here](#)

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Community Innovation Survey in Enterprises, 2019. INE. Accessible [here](#)

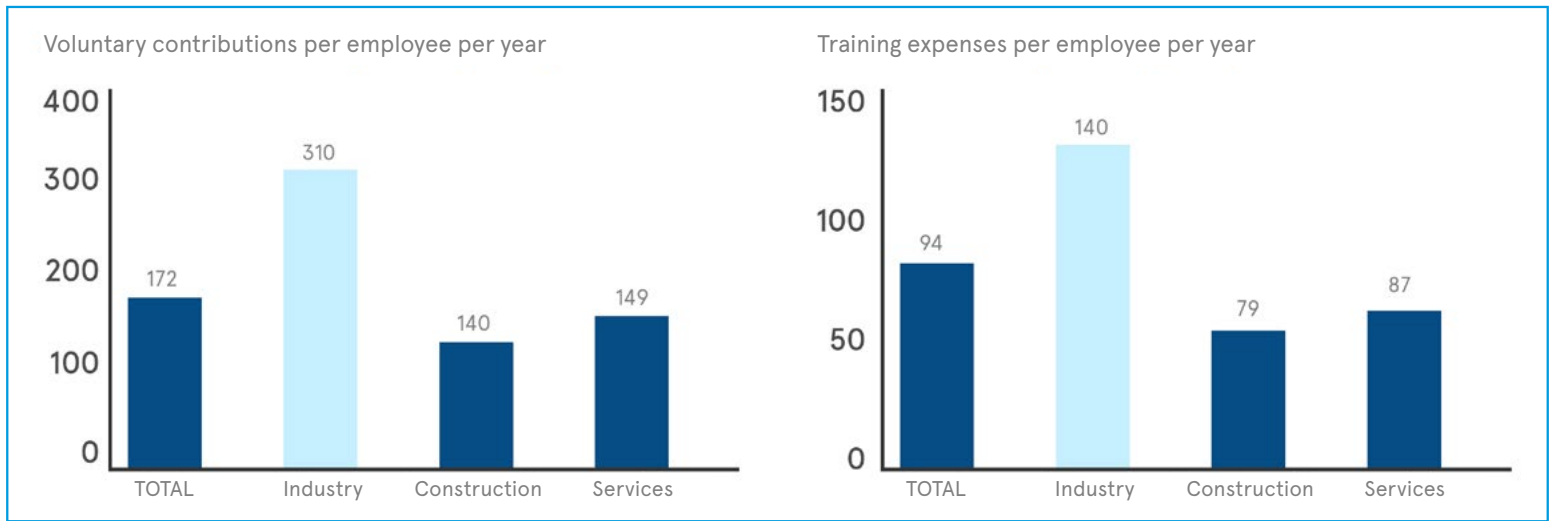
R&D and innovation, in order to be closer to average EU levels and of the most competitive economies of our environment, and to take advantage of all positive side effects that industry has on a country's economy. Acting on said variables would have a positive, relevant, structural effect on the Spanish economy and its resilience. For this reason, public intervention is required to promote R&D, innovation and productivity in the industrial sector and helps the sector adjust to the new challenges arising from digital transition, ecological transitions and more efficient energy use, that, in turn, contributes to more efficient energy use, which in turn contributes to lower GHG emissions, which currently represent approximately 20% of total emissions in Spain.

4.3.3 Tourism

The tertiary sector is the most important sector in the Spanish economy; it constitutes the main economic activity and concentrates most jobs throughout the entire territory.

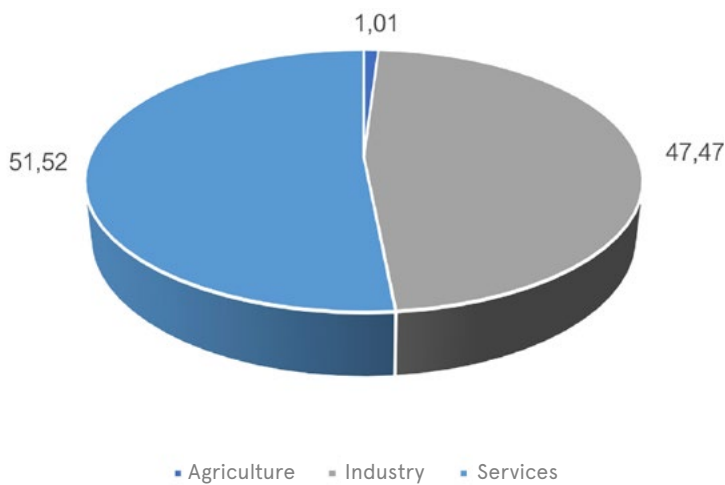
Without a doubt, the tourism sector is the most relevant of Spanish economy, not only within the service sector but considering all productive sectors. In 2019, tourism represented an average of 12.4% of the GDP, and created 2.72 million jobs, which represent 12.9% of all jobs¹³⁷. These figures have presented a growing trend since 2015 and are even higher in those Autonomous Communities with a high-level profile on tourism. An example of this is the Canary Islands, in which tourism is responsible for

Evolution of workers employed in industrial sector (% over total Jobs)



Source: General Guidelines for the New Spanish Industrial Policy 2030

Expenditure in innovative activities per productive sector, 2019.



about 40% of jobs and approximately 35% of its GDP. 2019 marked a new high with a total of 83.7 million of foreign tourists visiting Spain, an increase of 1.1% with respect to the previous year. The expenses made by these tourists also marked a new high, since it increased by 2.8% to 92,278 million euros.

However, these macroeconomic figures imply social and environmental side effects that could compromise Spain's commitment to comply with the 2030 Agenda. This aspect needs to be addressed now that the Covid-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately impacted the tourism sector, has opened new opportunities to adjust and transform the tourism sector, to steer it into a more socially and environmentally sustainable model.

The Spanish tourism industry faces a threefold sustainability challenge: environmental sustainability (protection of the environment and of natural resources), social and economic sustainability (equitable distribution of the sector profits between employers and employees, and improvement of labour conditions) and territorial sustainability (diversification, deconcentrating and de-seasonality).

Spain already has extraordinary touristic attractions and strengths; it is time to consider sustainability and to ensure that such a significant sector is committed to all forms of sustainability. This involves correcting all historical unbalances in the sector and supporting several pathways such as quality

¹³⁷ Community Innovation Survey in Enterprises, 2019. INE. Accessible [here](#)

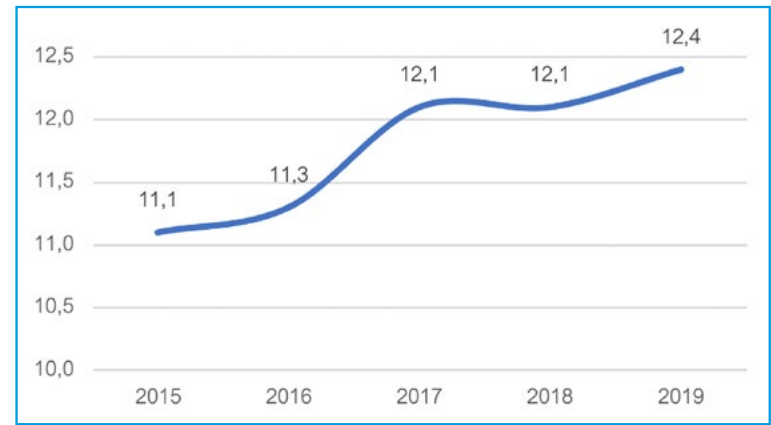
tourism, improvement of labour conditions in tourism-related jobs, environmental sustainability and protection and territorial sustainability that guarantees that out potential benefits to the entire territory. It is time to commit to a tourism sector that values quality over quantity, and whose cornerstone is social and environmental sustainability.

In the same manner, current issues such as oversaturation of public spaces and gentrification of urban areas confirm the need to commit to a sustainable management of city tourism which is capable of addressing this situation and considers the effect of private tourism accommodation rental. This necessarily involves choosing an appropriate management approach to ensure that our cities remain fundamentally places to live rather than touristic attractions and that coexistence between tourists and locals is correct and appropriate. In the same manner, sustainable tourism must be enhanced throughout the territory and very especially in rural areas, considering that its influence and side effects can create important benefits for the regeneration and development of rural areas. This principle entails a commitment to those instruments, such as connectivity between territories and support to promotion of rural tourism, which can be translated into important opportunities. In the same manner, cultural tourism, which had become increasingly popular before the pandemics, still has an important margin for growth in Spain, besides, its wide-ranging geographical dispersion enables it to be a key factor to address the demographic challenge. Its twofold goal must be modernisation and sustainability to ensure development, and preservation and conservation of Spanish cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible.

The tourism sector as a whole is the main direct employer in Spain. As a consequence, it holds tremendous potential for contributing to issues such as labour integrations and generational diversity. Tourist services providers are the key to success for tourist companies and destinations. The sector needs to attract and retain the best talent, since employees act as the interface of visiting tourists and customer satisfaction ultimately relies on the. Training is the basis for quality tourism offer and for perceived quality, and its role is to guarantee that all employees in the tourist sector are fully capable of carrying out their functions and, by means of professional qualifications or other appropriate diplomas, guarantee a reliable environment to employees and employers.

However, in order to do so, it needs to take part in an imperative improvement of labour conditions, which have been deteriorating, in large part as a consequence of the reform of the labour market enacted in 2011, which allowed for extended outsourcing of activities and gave legal priority to collective bargaining agreements of each company over the collective bargaining agreements of each sector. In this sense, labour in the tourist sector is characterised by a highly unstable and variable demand, which requires to have flexible recruiting solutions. The information available to us reveals that this reality has been translated in widespread part-time and/or temporary jobs, creating a general impression of precariousness that impacts the reputation of an employer. As can be expected considering the situation described above, the rate of temporary contracts in tourism-related sectors reaches 35.2% compared to 24.7% throughout the entire Spanish economy, according to 2016 Labour Force Survey data. In turn, out of all temporary contracts,

Evolution of the tourist sector in Spain, represented as % of the GDP.



60.5% are part-time, according to Social Security data.¹³⁸

Spain needs to undergo a fundamental transformation and updating of its tourist model in order to create a sector that both celebrates the attractions of Spain (its famous beaches but also its interior and rural areas) and the protection of its natural heritage; a sector that becomes a reference in terms of decent work and creation of positive consequences for any related sectors. Spain boasts an important historic, cultural and natural heritage. It is the European leader in protected natural spaces adhered to the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism and ranks second worldwide in UNESCO protected heritage sites, which is an extremely important asset for the tourist sector. It is now time to commit to a tourist sector that values quality over quantity, and focuses on environmental, territorial and socioeconomic sustainability as a fundamental part of its approach.

4.3.4 Foreign trade.

As sector with growing importance in our economy is **foreign trade**. In this sense, corporate activity oriented towards international markets needs to act as an engine for growth and lever to overcome the current crisis, creating quality jobs inside and outside of Spain, in a context of transparency and with the goal of contributing to shared prosperity and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. So, promoting the internationalization of Spanish companies must go hand-in-hand with the implementation of standards which are environmentally responsible and support decent work and human rights, as cross-sectional principles that must underpin the policies and actions of all involved agents.

4.3.5 Knowledge (R&D&I)

The proposed new social and economic model must rely, fundamentally, on **knowledge economy**, two cornerstones of which are research and innovation. The multidimensional crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has evidenced the interactions played between social, economic and environmental phenomena,

¹³⁸ *ExcelTur (2018) Estudio sobre el empleo en el sector turístico español.* Accessible [here](#)

as well as the key role of applied knowledge for seeking solutions to the above. The role of knowledge is, thus, essential to address the transformations that Spain needs to undergo in order to endeavour to a reconstruction that is aligned with the principles of the 2030 Agenda.

For this, it is essential to provide unprecedented support to research and science in Spain, led by the public sector and the unflinching involvement and commitment of the private sector. This involves reinforcing public-private collaboration mechanisms that, as stated before, must seek the general interest and be led by the public sector in order to ensure that they entail a positive impact for the population as a whole. In this sense, the establishment of a new Science, Technology and Innovation System backed by unprecedented public support is a guarantee to be able to move forward and respond to any challenges with a rallying effect over the private sector, in the framework of a wide-ranging public-private collaboration and co-involvement. This also transfers to the new economic system in which the public sector endeavours to protect such enhancements and at the same time offer to support to the development of entrepreneurial initiatives (especially from SMEs and self-employed persons with limited access to financing instruments) for the purposes of supporting R&D&I based solutions within the economic sector.

4.3.6 Sports and cultural sector

Finally, the relevance of **the cultural sector** in this new model also needs to be highlighted. In this respect, it must be underlined its unmeasurable social value as a factor of freedom and independent thinking, with its capacity to induce critical judgements and its enormous emancipatory and empowering potential. Consequently, culture is a right that needs to be respected and protected as such, as well as an indispensable tool in the fight against inequality and social exclusion.

The cultural sector has close ties to sustainable development. Culture is the soundtrack of the debate happening in society and contributes to social change. And, in another level, audiences and citizens demand sustainable contents and cultural products. On top of this, the cultural sector has the capacity, through its multiple manifestations and disciplines, to help people understand the challenges faced by humankind, and communicate that it is everyone's responsibility to do something to change the world we live in. Therefore, it is inescapable to count on cultural agents (professionals from cultural management and cultural institutions, including creators, consultants, curators, technicians, etc.) so that they know closely and contribute their unique visions to the Sustainable Development Strategy, by providing narratives that link the cultural sphere with the 2030 Agenda.

In sum, a new model committed to a fair economy and social transition must reaffirm the undeniable value of culture and represent that protecting and promoting culture is an obligation for all public entities. This, of course, involves a greater support to the cultural sector by public institutions, thus creating the necessary conditions for promotion, exhibition and dissemination. For this purpose, access and consumption of

different manifestations of culture must be promoted, as well as cultural dynamics and strengthening of cultural industry. Among the latter, the tightly knit network of SMEs and self-employed workers that support the cultural sector in our country must be acknowledged.

Support to the cultural sector must not only be materialized in the issues describe above, but must also guarantee, urgently, the dignity of persons that make it possible. Precarious work must be fought, guaranteeing decent work for cultural workers, creators and other enablers.

Finally, the potential of the sport and cultural sector of Spain can also be assessed by its potential capacity for territorial structuring. Culture and sport are a potential economic engine for many regions of the country; however, besides their economic significance, they are a form of connection and of expressing diversity, our territorial diversity between languages, between regional characteristics and our own cultural expressions. Therefore, public administrations are obliged to continue to promote the value and diversity of Spain's cultural landscape and guarantee that every citizen has access to it.

The last fundamental aspect to complete the necessary transformation of offer in said sectors is supervision on the demand of products and services. Promoting more socially and ecologically sustainable consumption patterns is tremendously relevant for the achievement of an economic and productive model aligned with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. For this purpose, cultural consumers need to be empowered regarding their consumption patterns, by raising awareness of the social and environmental consequences of their decisions and removing all situations of subordinations, powerlessness or lack of protection that can arise from such patterns.

ACCELERATING POLICY 4:

A green, fair and digital new productive and economic model



a. Approach of the Accelerating Policy:

Reconstruction of the country must be based in the development of a new economic model for which people and the planet are a priority, that ensures consistence of public policies with sustainable development at all levels of political action in order to reduce the negative impact of the large transformations that need to be implemented in order not to leave anybody behind. This new system must necessarily be supported by a productive economy which promotes diversification and development of strategic sectors, with the purposes of consolidating an economic and productive framework that guarantees prosperity for all: SMEs, self-employed workers and all other workers.

For these purposes, it is essential to continue to enhance the transformation of the Spanish productive matrix until attaining a fair economic model which “by design” addresses inequalities and guarantees inclusive development by supporting out primary sector, leading a green, sustainable and circular re-industrialization, and sustainable tourism, and supporting the contribution of cultural industries to the productive system and the creation of quality employment. Besides, the firm commitment to R&D and innovation must become a reality by guaranteeing public investment in research and innovation, which has revealed as essential over the last months, and supporting private participation in supporting research and innovation talent within our country. In sum, the new economic model must be supported on the major transformations and transitions which have proved to be inescapable to comply with the 2030 Agenda goals, including the unavoidable ecological transition, a digital transformation that benefits people and a necessary social transition capable of consolidating Spain’s national and global programme in social rights protection as a worldwide reference. Particularly, this sustainable development accelerating policy and the different public policies and actions included in such policies are designed to achieve different goals for different economic sectors.

Regarding **industrial policy**, the goal is to develop and enhance a wide range of industrial sectors for the purposes of increasing their share in the GDP, as well as promoting a transformation of the industrial framework, most especially SMEs, to adapt it to the new context marked by the rapid evolution of digital technologies and an increasing international competition. Another of the priority lines of action is the implementation of actions that foster the adjustment of a particular sector to the ecological transition and digital transformation, with the purposes of maximizing the opportunities arising from such transformations, particularly committing to a more interconnected, circular model, characterised by a more intensive use of renewable technologies and a better energy efficiency of industrial processes. This requires intensifying investment and policies in R&D and innovation, 4.0 technologies and artificial intelligence, that will allow to increase quality and efficiency of industrial processes, as well to create new business opportunities and to improve competitiveness. Lastly, any development and implementation of

industrial activities must take care to follow a more balanced and decentralized plan in order to contribute to a better social and territorial cohesion.

In the primary sector, the priority will be to promote an **agricultural sector** which is financially, socially and environmentally **sustainable**. This will require a strategy with a threefold goal: promoting an intelligent, resilient and diversified agricultural sector which is capable of guaranteeing food security; promoting a progressive ecological transition of this sector as a contribution of the climatic and environmental goals set by Spain and the European Union; and contributing to the socioeconomic impulse of rural areas with demographic decline. Its development must be consistent with the different strategic frameworks linked to issues such as protection of biodiversity, management of water resources and reduction of GHG as established by accelerating policy 2.

For these purposes, actions towards a more efficient and sustainable management of water resources shall be taken, such as updating irrigation systems in order to reduce their power consumption, and granting aids to improve the overall competitiveness of this sector. The ultimate goal of this is to contribute to the global goals of reducing emissions, protecting lifestyles and promoting the best traditional practices in the rural environment. Further goals for the food and agricultural section are promoting transparency in establishing prices and protecting the weakest links in the **food chain**, and at the same time, improving transaction operability to foster trade relations.

Besides, **fishing and fish farming** are also strategic sectors both to ensure food provision to the population and to structure and bring wealth to seaside communities. Fishing and fish farming are, by definition, carried out in a natural environment that needs to be preserved in order to allow for its regeneration. Sustainable use of marine reserves needs to be a sign of identity of Spanish fisheries. The challenge is, therefore, to articulate a management plan that allow to use the national and international sea resources within sustainability parameters. This requires relying on the best available scientific knowledge, besides participation of involved actors, in order to ensure that decisions made guarantee balance between the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) to enable conservation and sustainable management. For these purposes, innovation and use of new available technologies is also an essential element to consolidate this productive activity and increase competitiveness.

On the other hand, there is an increasing amount of evidence of the impact of climate change on stocks. Consequently, adjustment measures shall be implemented to ensure resilience of the fishing sector before any threats derived from climate change, and, at the same time, actions to improve energy efficiency of the fishing fleet shall be carried out. Besides, a Network of Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest, in line with achievement of SDG 14, for the purposes of extending the surface of protected marine ecosystems, which shall also enable to have a tool to monitor climate change in a marine environment. Finally, the fight against illegal, undeclared and unregulated fishing, a fight in which Spain is an international leader, shall be further intensified.

With regard to **tourism**, it was necessary to face the existing challenges to achieve, in the medium and long term, a more sustainable tourist model based on the principles stated by World Tourism Organization based on the three sustainability principles with the purposes of setting the cornerstones of the transformation of the Spanish tourist sector. For these purposes, a progressive transition of the sector is required, based at all times in the differential natural and cultural values of many destinations, as well as considering an equitable distribution of the profits and burdens associated to tourism. For these purposes, funds shall be made available to grant loans to projects oriented to increase competitiveness and accelerate the transformation of the tourist sector into a more sustainable model.

The 2030 Agenda advises to review our productive model and consumption patterns in order to guarantee sustainability for the planet and our own lives. Currently, our productive model and production patterns which are still too anchored in our throwaway culture. Throwaway culture is based on a linear model that entails an intensive use of natural resources and creates excessive pressure on the environment, and is one of the causes of the most serious manifestations of the current environmental crisis, including climate change or loss of biodiversity. As an alternative to this model, a mainstreaming of the principles and goals that articulate the Circular Economy model throughout the entire productive model and across consumption patterns shall be advanced.

Besides, measures shall be taken to promote **Social Economy**, whose values, based on putting people first, favouring social purposes over financial gain, democratic or participatory governance or creation of stable quality jobs, are fully in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Commitment to this model is evidenced in the articulation of mechanisms for public support of this model, by creating innovative systems for the participation of social economy in strategic sectors linked to the development of circular economy and the new care economy, among others, as well as enabling the creation of new, feasible, long-term socio-economic projects focused on collective social innovation.

Besides, **Science, Technology and Innovation** constitute fundamental cornerstones on which a productive framework based on its current strengths, but more dynamic and innovative, may be built, in order to increase competitiveness and consequently create more quality jobs and sustain our social protection system in the long term. This approach entails a commitment with a continuous increase of the required public investment both in science (research centres, universities and other stakeholders) and in innovation, for the purposes of raising the Spanish science and investment sector to EU levels, and, besides, to enhance private investment in R&D in order to double the joint public-private investment in R&D&I with the purposes of achieving a 2.12% of GDP in 2027.

Finally, with regard to **culture**, reading will be encouraged with the goal to boost the publishing and bookstore sectors, by acquiring new stocks for public libraries and establishing grants for literary authors. Besides, actions towards the **protection and promotion of historical heritage** shall be taken.

The last cross-section aspect required to support the transformations of the productive and economic models is the **reinforcement of vocational education and ongoing training programmes** as fundamental means for employee empowerment, since it enables them not only to adjust and effectively take part in a continuously changing job market, but also to bring forward a transition that guarantees an inclusivity and personal and collective strengthening.

b. Action Priorities:

→ Developing a set of **Guidelines for the New Industrial Policy 2030**, which are committed to developing and enhancing the different industrial sector for the purposes of increasing their share in the Spanish GDP, promoting the transformation of industrial framework, especially in small and medium companies, and implementing actions that support the adjustment of this sector to the requirements of the ecological transition and the digital transformation, actions which shall also be committed to a more interconnected and circular model.

→ **Long term Spanish Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Economy in 2050**, which traces the roadmap to decarbonisation that will be the guidelines to make investment decisions over the coming years, with the goal of building a coherent, articulated, integrated response to the climate crisis, a response which is able to use this opportunity to make out economy more modern and competitive and which, at the same time, is inclusive and socially equitable.

→ **Support programme for digital transformation of the industrial sector (Connected Industry 4.0)**, intended to structure measures that allow Spanish industrial framework to benefit from intensive use of information and communication technologies and consulting initiatives for industrial restructuring of procedures for incorporating R&D&I, 4.0 technologies or artificial intelligence policies.

→ **Subsidies for interventions aimed to energy efficiency in SMEs and large industrial corporations** (Royal Decree-Act 1186/2020).

→ **Subsidy Funds for Productive Industrial Investments (FAIIP)**, the goal being to provide financial support to promote industrial investments that help to contribute to industrial development, or alternatively enhance its competitiveness or maintain its industrial capacities.

→ **Programme for financial support o R&D&I** for manufacturing industries through innovation and technological development projects in the manufacturing industrial sectors,

in the fields of circular economy and innovations applied to decarbonisation, energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

→ **Programme for indirect cost offsetting under the GHG emissions trading scheme (RCDE)** as a mechanism for offsetting indirect costs attributable to GHG emissions charged on electricity prices in order to prevent industrial off-shoring processes.

→ **Spanish Reserve Funds for setting warranties for electrointensive facilities (FERGEI)** in order to help electro-intensive industries in its transition towards a zero-emission model, favouring renewable energy sources.

→ **Spanish Circular Economy Strategy**, which states a series of goals to the Spanish productive framework for 2030, including a 30% reduction effort in domestic materials consumption in relation to the 2030 GDP, taking the 2010 GDP as a reference; a 15% decrease in the total amount of waste created compared to 2010; this percentage increases to a 50% decrease in the particular case of the food chain and a 20% decrease for production and supply chains from 2020, among other goals. Part of its interventions shall be inserted in the **2021-2023 Circular Economy Action Plan (PAEC)**.

→ **SMEs policies strategic framework 2030**, as a mechanism to articulate all policies of the Spanish General Administration, of Autonomous Communities and local institutions for supporting SMEs in the following scopes: entrepreneurship, business and talent management, regulatory framework, financing, innovation and digital transformation, sustainability and globalisation.

→ **Spanish Strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility 2021-2027**, which stablish a reference framework on the potential impact of companies in society by developing their corresponding activities, creating instruments for corporate social responsibility and to allow to move towards a more competitive, productive, sustainable and integrating economy and society.

→ **Digital Spain Agenda 2025**, which is the strategy for digital transformation of Spain by means of guaranteeing digital connectivity, 5G deployment, reinforcement of cybersecurity capacities, digital transformation of Public Entities and private companies, most especially SMEs, with the overall goal of closing the digital gap due to social, economic or environmental causes or between territories and generations.

→ **Strategy for promoting the development of 5G technologies**, which, inasmuch as it allows hyper connectivity, has an important disruptive effect in economy and may also be used as a vector for extending high-speed networks. This strategy is included in the policies for territorial structuring and social and economic cohesion, also allowing companies to advance towards a higher productivity.

→ **Plan for connectivity and digital infrastructures**, which is intended to continue extending high speed bandwidth

signal with the overall goal of providing 100 megabits per second to 100% of the population by 2025.

→ **National Plan for Digital Competences**, which responds to the need of enabling both employees and people in general to develop digital capacities and skills

→ **2021–2025 Digital Transformation Plan for SMEs**, intended to promote basic levels of digital literacy for SMEs, as well to provide training in digital competences for employers and employees.

→ **National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence**, intended to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) in value chains throughout the productive system and to create a general trust in the development of inclusive, sustainable AI technologies designed for people.

→ **Plan for the Promotion of the Audiovisual Sector (Spain Audiovisual Hub)**, which intends to improve the attractiveness of Spain to become a first-tier platform at international level to attract audiovisual investment, business and productions.

→ **Improvement of the implementation and, when appropriate, the regulatory reforms regarding immigration procedures** in order to adjust the relevant laws to the current needs and situation, promoting migratory paths that are both legal and safe and improving any related administrative procedures, among other things.

→ **Spanish Strategy for the Promotion of Social Economy 2021–2027** as a mechanism to structure the public support to this model, creating innovative methods for participation of social economy in strategic sector linked to the development of circular economy and the new care economy.

→ **Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy** for the financial and social recovery linked to the updating of the productive system and for enhancing the creation of quality jobs. One of these measures is the Startup Act, the creation of the Brand Spain Entrepreneurial Nation, the creation of a National Network of Entrepreneurship Centres (RNEACE) and a National Entrepreneurship Office, and the establishment of an International Programme for Attracting Female Talent and Visa Programme.

→ **Policies for advancing SMEs participation in public tenders**, with the purposes of overcoming the challenges of smaller companies in accessing public tenders, while improving the range of actual tenders.

→ **Strategic Plan for a Post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (PESPAC)**, which shall include the required instruments to impulse a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural system.

→ **Strategy for Digital Transformation of the forest, food**

and agricultural section and of rural areas, intended to close the digital gap, promote the use of data and foster industrial development and new businesses models, this is complemented by the **Second Action Plan on the Rural Digital Transformation Strategy 2021–2022** and the **Connectivity Plan 2025**. Besides, support to innovation and transfer of knowledge shall be continued through the European Innovation Partnership EIP-AGRI.

→ **Policy for updated and sustainable agricultural irrigation systems** in order to enable a more efficient management of water resources and energy use, as well as protection of traditional lifestyles and best practices of the rural world. This will be realised through a plan for the improvement of efficiency and sustainability of irrigation.

→ **Subsidy programmes for performing energy efficiency interventions in agricultural and livestock farms through the respective Autonomous Communities**, with the purposes of increasing energy savings, enhancing sector competitiveness and contributing to the global emissions reduction goals.

→ Promotion of the ecological label and the water footprint label as a mechanism for certification in environmental standards of productive processes and service provisions, and development of **advertising campaigns** in order to promote Spanish ecological products and encourage its consumptions.

→ **Foodchain Act** with the overall goal of promoting transparency in establishing prices and protecting the weakest links in the food chain, and at the same time, stimulating trade relationships through improvement of transaction operability.

→ Commitment to **Marine Reserves of Fishing Interest** as examples of protected spaces under the Fishing act, which combine protection of the fishing resources with maintenance of professional artisanal fisheries in the area, under an adaptive management scheme based on permanently updated scientific knowledge. Initiatives for modernization shall be carried out, including the study of new possible spaces and the use of new means for surveillance and monitoring.

→ Interventions **supporting fishing and fish farming related research**, including training; this reinforces a science-based approach to a sustainable fishing management, with an ecosystemic approach that integrates consulting of specific stocks, as well as a joint action on the environment and non-target species as well as assessment of climate change impact.

→ **State strategy for organic farming** promoting the use of organic fertilizers to replace synthesis fertilizers in order to achieve 25% of useful agricultural surface dedicated to organic crops. This will involve the development and implementation of implementation of fertiliser regulations that takes into account the nutrient cycle in the soil-plant-air system the nutrient cycle in the soil-plant-air system, with special attention to soil improvement. This regulation shall consider both the needs to maintain crop performance and the minimization of environmental impact,

based on the principles of ecological agriculture and technological innovations. Besides, it will promote the reduced use of synthesis plant-protection products, pursuant to the strategies adopted by the EU and paying special attention to those products classified as high-risk, which shall not be used without a specific goal. In order to achieve these goals, the Pest Integral management approach must be generalized as a basic tool.

→ **National Strategy for the Regularization and Promotion of Extensive Livestock Farming**, which establishes the conditions on which extensive livestock farming initiatives must be based, in order to use local pasture resources, considering both economic and productive aspects and the fundamental role of extensive agriculture in the environment as a factor of mitigation of emissions, prevention of forest fires and conservation of certain semi-natural habitats of a high ecological value.

→ Development and update of the **standards regarding livestock farms**, prioritizing unregulated livestock sectors, in order to promote a harmonized, ordered development of livestock farming that guarantees sustainability from an economic, social and environmental perspective, with the overall goal of contributing to productive framework based on family-owned farms in the rural environment.

→ **ECOFIEM LINE** in order to promote corporate investment in projects capable of accelerating ecological transition.

→ **CESCE lines for guarantees and working capital for SMEs and non-listed companies** which include coverage under the following modes: sureties, insurance to issuers, guarantees for exporters and working capital credits, and are associated to international contracts subscribed by SMEs and non-listed companies.

→ **Promotion of Sustainable Finance** with the twofold goal of implementing an **issue scheme for sovereign green bonds** and developing a **national plan of sustainable finance**.

→ **Code of Sustainable Financing Principles** regarding financial instruments for institutional support to globalisation; companies will be enabled to access this line of financing and shall involve an analysis of the social and environmental impacts of any project.

→ **Re-enactment of Act 11/2018 regarding non-financial information** and diversity, in order to make companies submit reliable and comparable sustainability reports according to the future European Directive on this issue.

→ **Compliance of the OECD Council Recommendation on Common approaches for officially supported export credits and environmental and social due diligence** which establishes the requirement of carrying out an analysis based on which projects can be classified according to their environmental and/ or social impacts in financing transactions.

→ **Technological Funds** of subsidies to retail SMEs for adjustment to new technologies and new consumption patterns.

→ **Tourism Modernisation and Competitiveness Plan**, which implements five strategic axes; sustainability, product development, updating of tourist ecosystems, promotion of digital transformation and tourist intelligence, strategies of resilience of the tourist sectors in insular territories and promotion of de-seasonality. It includes the following actions:

- » **Spanish Strategy for Sustainable Tourism 2030** which shall be the main instrument structuring the national agenda for the tourist sector in the medium and long term based on the three pillars of sustainability (social and economic sustainability, environmental sustainability and territorial sustainability) with the goal of establishing the bases of the transformation of the Spanish tourist sector towards a sustained and sustainable growth model.
- » **Intelligent Network of Tourist Destinations**, with the goal of promoting digital transformation and ecological transition of the tourist sector.
- » **Plans for Sustainable Tourist Destinations** as instrument for governmental intervention in the process of the transformation of the sector, as well as being a relevant collaboration mechanism between the Spanish Central Administration, Autonomous communities and local authorities.

→ **Plan for the Defence of Historic Heritage** for preventing, investigating and pursuing any crimes related to historic heritage.

→ **Pact for Science and Innovation** as a commitment for progressive increasing of required public investment both in science and in innovation, with the ultimate goal of attaining the EU average levels.

→ **Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2027** intended to promote private investment in R&D in order to double the joint public-private investment in R&D&I with the purposes of achieving a 2.12% of GDP in 2027.

→ **Reform of the Act on Science, Technology and Innovation**, intended to reinforce the knowledge generation system, increasing investment in financing agencies and public research organization in strategic areas and increasing all actions intended for knowledge transfer.

→ **Emergency Plan for Science and Innovation**, which is structured along three different lines: research and innovation in healthcare, transformation of the science and talent attraction systems, and promotion of corporate R&D+I and science industries.

→ **Open Science Strategy** in order to promote free access to knowledge and international cooperation.

→ **Creation of virtual spaces and innovation ecosystems** in order to promote exchange of knowledge in fields that are relevant

to the entire society, such as how to build safe, sustainable cities or efficient and a sustainable food and agricultural sector.

→ **Plan for Encouraging Reading 2020–2024**, intended to boost the publishing and bookstore sectors, by acquiring new stocks for public libraries and establishing grants for literary authors.

→ **First Educational Strategic Plan in Vocational Training 2019–2022**, Plan for Updating Vocational Training and adoption of a new for updating vocational training and enactment of a new **Act for Vocational Training** focused on employment, with the purposes of protecting and promoting the lifelong right to education.

2030 TARGETS

Goal for 2030: transforming the industrial framework, especially that made up by SMEs, adapting it to the challenges of ecological transition and digital transformation, and increasing its share in the Spanish GDP to 20%.

Goal for 2030: promoting digital entrepreneurship and collaboration between the different agents related to digital entrepreneurship in Spain, as well as improving the application of existing standards for globalization of Spanish start-ups and attraction of foreign talent and capital.

Goal for 2030: promoting innovative sustainable and responsible consumption patterns, based on informative transparency on the characteristics of goods and services acquired, such as durations, reparability and energy efficiency, considering as well its impact on climate change and biodiversity by implementing means such as the ecolabel and the EU-promoted Ecolabel, and deploying awareness-raising campaigns intended for the general population.

Goal for 2030: subscribing a Pact for Science and Innovation that guarantees progressive increase of public investment in R&D and innovation up to 0.75% of GDP in 2024, and 1.25% by 2030, reinforcing, in the same proportions, public policies for knowledge transfer and corporate innovation, paying special attention to SMEs and enabling public entities to decide autonomously so that their strategic policies and functioning are based on innovation and scientific excellence-

Goal for 2030: consolidating the possibilities of pursuing stable, predictable scientific careers, improving incentives to contract researchers and equivalent technical personnel, thus favouring and attracting scientific knowledge through contractual modes such as the tenure track.

Goal for 2030: promoting an Open Science Strategy which encourages free access to knowledge and can be used as a roadmap in different scopes.

Goal for 2030: promoting a sustainable tourist model for local destination, promoting an equitable distribution of both the wealth and impact created by tourism, by approving and developing Tourism Sustainability Plan and the full implementation of the Sector Plan for Biodiversity and Nature Tourism as a way to promote a system that acknowledges nature tourism sustainability under the Natura 2000 Network.

Goal for 2030: having 12,000 companies awarded with a tourism quality certification and 30,000 workers of the tourist sector certified in competences such as innovation, quality, accessibility, governance and sustainability of tourist destinations.

Goal for 2022: reducing the incidence of planned obsolescence by promoting reparability.

Goal for 2027: complying 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.

Goal for 2030: improving management of water resources by setting incentives to sustainable irrigation systems as a key element that contributes to environmental sustainability and to the future of the Spanish agricultural sector.

Goal for 2030: reducing food waste throughout the food chain, decreasing household and retail food waste by 50% per capita and food production and supply chain food waste by 20%.

Goal for 2030: significantly increasing land surface intended to organic farming, as well as organic fish farming, thus contributing to meet European goals.

By 2030, reinforcing mechanisms for conservation and sustainable use of fishing resources, management of marine reserves of fishing interest and interventions against undeclared, unregulated illegal fishing.

By 2030, promoting transition towards healthier and more sustainable diets by means of environmental prevention policies, labelling, advertising and taxing, all intended for the public in general and with a special interest in protecting children.

2030 TARGETS

Goal for 2025: having 1.5 million SMEs completed the digital transition and obtaining at least 25% of their turnover from e-commerce.

Goal for 2025: reinforcing digital competences of employees and of the general population with the goal of achieving an 80% of population with basic digital competences.

Goal for 2030: increasing the number of companies by 25% in all territories and the number of agreements between companies and public entities in the same percentage, taking special care to enhance green entrepreneurship and leverage employment opportunities created by the ecological transition.

Goal for 2025: guaranteeing connectivity of the corporate framework, ensuring that 100% of industrial parks have a gigabit-scalable Internet connection.

Goal for 2025: increasing IT installed power by 30% with respect to current parameters, by extending existing digital structures and building new ones.

Goal for 2025: having 75% of Spanish population with uninterrupted 5G coverage in the main roads and railway lines of the country and 100% of available spectrum for 5G.

Goal for 2025: 20,000 new specialists in areas such as artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

- » Actions for the promotion of entrepreneur culture and new models for services for entrepreneurs.
- » Strategic programme for corporate project modelling with the goal of supporting new business and jobs by introducing new models with the help of specialized high-performance equipment.
- » Platform for streamlining paperwork intended for small businesses and creators.
- » Plan for Improving Economic Regulations and Industrial Growth.
- » Strategy for smart specialization for Sustainability in Andalusia 2021-2027, S4 Andalusia.
- » Smart City Andalusia Programme
- » Sixth 2019/2022 Integral Plan for the Promotion of Domestic Trade in Andalusia.
- » General Plan on Sustainable Tourism META 2027.

ARAGÓN

- » Support to strategic sectors considering promotion of diversity, especially in highly technological activities.
- » Plan for the digital transformation of Aragon.
- » Subsidies to investment projects to business modernization and digitalisation.
- » Continuation of Aragón Plataforma Logística (APL).
- » Promoting social economy and cooperatives.
- » Implementing positive discrimination for SMEs and self-employed workers from rural environments on all financial and economic aids provided.

CANARY ISLANDS

- » Circular Economy and Blue Economy Strategies.
- » From S3 to S4 Canary Islands 2021-2027. Towards a smart specialization for sustainability.
- » Canarias Digital.
- » Strategy for Sustainable Tourist Development.
- » Strategy for Industrial Development in the Canary Islands (EDIC 2021-2025) and Strategic Line for Promoting 4.0 industry in the Canary Islands
- » Strategy for technological and digital updating of the Health Regional System of the Canary Islands.

CANTABRIA

- » Fine-tuning of vocational training in strategic sectors and "Talent and Employment" Programme.
- » 2030 Strategy for Bioeconomics and Circular Economy in Cantabria (*).
- » Regional Act on Science, Research and Knowledge Transference (*) and subsidy lines.
- » New Waste Plan (*).
- » Tax credits in the regional bracket of income tax reports, in order to foster investment in new companies.
- » Supporting cultural creation and expression as a tool for transformation, development and inclusion, as a fundamental element to prevent depopulation and Statute of Artist.
- » Support to sports federations, sports technicians and clubs for sport competitions.
- » Identification of new approaches for an industrial transition.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » 2019-2023 Strategy to reinforce organic production
- » 2030 Circular Economy Strategy for Castile-La Mancha.
- » 2020-2030 Tourism Strategy Plan.
- » Plan for Food and Agricultural Industry.
- » 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (PDR).
- » Act 4/2020 on promotion and coordination of the research, development and innovation system.
- » Enactment of the Statute of Consumers.
- » Regional strategy on responsible consumption (*).
- » Digital Agenda of Castile-La Mancha.
- » 2021-2027 Regional Strategy in R&D&I (*).

CASTILE AND LEÓN

- » Rural Development Plan.
- » Incentives to organic farming.
- » Monitoring intervention for the protection of health in environmental matters and water control.
- » Regional Strategy for the 2020-2030 Circular Economy.
- » Subsidies for incorporation practices linked to sustainability of tourist industries. Development of a sustainable CAP.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

- » Implementation of Act 16/2017 on Climate Change.
- » Catalan global energy strategy (PROENCAT 2050) (*).
- » Roadmap for Circular Economy in Catalonia (*)
- » 2021-2030 Strategy for Ecological Economics (EBC2030) (*)
- » Creation of committees of co-management of marine resources.
- » 2020-2025 Forest Agenda for Catalunya-Catalonia.
- » Rural agenda for Catalunya-Catalonia.
- » 2030 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy.
- » Development of the National Pact for the Knowledge Society.
- » 2018-2022 Tourism Strategy Plan for Catalunya-Catalonia.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA – – VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » 2019-2023. Strategic Plan for Entrepreneurship in Comunitat Valenciana – Valencian Community.
- » Plan for Sustainable Economy.
- » Renhata Plan.
- » Co-generation Plan.
- » Valencian 2030 Climate Change and Energy Strategy.
- » Digital Gap Observatory.
- » Chair on Gender Digital Gap as the first step in the STEM Movement.
- » INNOVA ProC-CV (subsidies for process innovation projects), and INNOVA-CV (subsidies for innovation projects for SMEs).

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

EUSKADI – BASQUE COUNTRY

- » Plan Euskadi on Food and Gastronomy, for the promotion of innovation in food industries tied to rural development.
- » Act on Rural Development (*), Rural Development Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy and Gaztenet Plan for young farmers.
- » Strategy for entrepreneurship along the food value chain and Food BIND 4.0.
- » Territorial and Sectoral Plan for the Agricultural and Forest Sectors and for the Protection and Management of Sea Shores.
- » Operational Plan for the Maritime European Funds of European Fisheries Fund of Euskadi – Basque Country (2021–2027 FEMP).
- » Strategic Plan for Industrial Development and Globalization.
- » Basque Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS 3), and Basque Digital Agenda.
- » 2030 Euskadi PCRT Strategic Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation
- » Inter-institutional Plan for Entrepreneurship.

EXTREMADURA

- » Aids for transforming and adjusting to 4.0 industry.
- » Modification of the Integrated Waste Plan of Extremadura.
- » EFES Project Cross-Border Ecosystem for the Promotion of Social Economy and Entrepreneurship.
- » Support to new companies created by young farmers and promotion of circular economy in farms.
- » 2030 Sustainable Tourism Strategy for Extremadura. (In progress).
- » List of traditional products from Extremadura.
- » Conecta Pyme 4.0 cross-border project.
- » Extremadura Network for Digital Prototyping and Manufacturing.

GALIZA – GALICIA

- » 2021–2030 Galician Strategic Plan.
- » 2021–2027 RIS3 Galician Specialization Strategy and Galician Plan for Research and Innovation (Instrumental Framework of said Strategy).
- » StartinGalicia Innovation Accelerators, to support innovating entrepreneurs.
- » Funds for financing and Hedge Capital to support innovating companies.
- » Galician HUBS Network for Digital Innovation in order to support digital transformation of companies.
- » Public Procurement of Innovative Projects.
- » 2015–2021 Master Plan for the Way of Saint James.
- » Wind power sector plan for the development of the energy policy in Galicia.

ILLES BALEARS – BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » Balearic Rural Development Programme 2014–2020
- » Carbon Footprint Records in Balearic Islands created pursuant to article 28 of Act 10/2019, of 22 February, in climate change and energy transition.
- » Plan for the promotion of local products and local businesses.
- » Plan for Sustainable Mobility.
- » 2018–2022 Balearic Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation.
- » 2020–2023 Plan for Excellence in Research.
- » Creation of the Balearic Institute for Cultural Industries.
- » 6th Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2020–2023.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

LA RIOJA

- » Inclusion of environmental and social clauses in public procurement contract, and promotion of SMEs participation in public tenders.
- » Work groups with the participation of Public Entities to accelerate the processing of self-consumption requests.
- » Support to renewable energy generation, including issuing authorisation for photovoltaic power plants over the last year.
- » Promotion of renewable energy generation in isolated towns and settlements in rural areas.
- » Promotion of energy efficiency in streetlights.
- » Support to public and private initiatives regarding R&D&I with the goal of overcoming any challenges (financial, administrative, or of any other nature) that may hinder their development.
- » La Rioja 2030 Strategy for Circular Economy.

NAFARROA – COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

- » Navarre Smart Specialization Strategy (S3), which acts as an umbrella for the following plans: Entrepreneurship Plan, Globalization Plan, Self-Employment Plan, Social Economy Plan, Tourism Plan, Retail Plan and Energy Plan of the Community of Navarre.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » Compacts for a social agreement, 2030 Industrial Strategy for Asturias, and Act on Strategic Industrial Projects.
- » Act on Environmental Quality and Circular Economy Strategy (*).
- » Agreements and Contracts for a Fair Transition in order to promote an equitable reactivation of the economy.
- » Specific plans for each county adapted to the circumstances of each concejo or municipality in order to re-frame active employment policies and vocational training in the framework of promoting equitable processes of ecological transition.
- » New financing instruments to enhance globalization and growth. Support to self-employed workers by means of implementation of training plans and business updating plans.
- » Enhancement of social economy and its different organizations and entities.
- » New Industry Act in order to adjust the regulatory framework to digital transformation and ecological transition and Plan for the digital transformation of the industrial sector.
- » Support programme for innovative companies linked to industry and extension of the Technological Parks network.
- » 2020-2030 Tourism Strategy of the Principality of Asturias.

REGIÓN OF MURCIA

- » Annual subsidies to trade associations and federations and other associations with the goal to improve productivity and competitiveness.
- » Energy efficiency programme for SMEs and large corporations.
- » Support to new social economy entities in rural or under-populated areas.
- » Support to self-employment and collective entrepreneurship among the youth in less densely-populated areas.
- » Support to organic agriculture.
- » 2021 Strategy and Action Plan for Tourism in the Region of Murcia.
- » ICT Cheque and digital transformation subsidy programmes.
- » 2019-2023 IMIB Strategic Plan which includes innovation-related goals and corporate collaboration plans.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Transitioning towards a fully circular, decarbonized economy that promotes conservation and restores biodiversity.
- » Promoting diversification of economic activities and implementation of subsidies and advancement plans for new local businesses, especially in competitive and environmentally respectful areas.
- » Furthering tourist development based on natural and cultural heritage and implementation of a network of car-free, accessible walking trails.
- » Advancing ecological transition by means of the development of circular economy initiatives and implementation of a general taxing model based on actual environmental taxes on the household waste management fees paid by individual citizens, with the ultimate goal of encouraging to recycle and sanctioning inappropriate practices.
- » Awareness-raising actions intended for specific groups (primary and secondary schools, neighbourhood associations, trade associations) in order to promote conscious consumption, considering traceability of products and the importance of purchasing local, and favour updating of the network of municipal markets. Guaranteeing that consumer's rights are protected, especially of the most vulnerable consumers.
- » Modernisation and visibility of the agricultural sector.
- » Specialized consulting services for farmers. Subsidy line intended to the creation of new agricultural cooperatives. Promotion of organic farming.
- » Favouring innovation processes (technological and management-related) within companies. Supporting the digital transition of the productive system.
- » Promoting Sustainability Reports and adhesion to initiatives that promote sustainability or environmentally correct behaviours.
- » Promotion of green consumption habits: kerbside recharging points for electric cars.
- » Replacement of bulbs for sustainable bulbs in electric lighting.
- » Sustainable forest management in order to increase its ecological, social and economic potential and its regeneration capacity and to reduce fire propagation risk.
- » Enhancement of the sanitary sector, 4.0 industry, sustainable mobility and electric cars as strategic sectors.
- » Projects to promote conservation and ecological restoration of the environment.
- » Promoting in entrepreneurship culture, technological innovation and environmental quality, and providing appropriate training in these areas to the corporate framework by implementing corporate management updating and improvement programmes. Shared offices and businesses incubators
- » Subsidies and other supports for businesses and entrepreneurs.
- » Plan for updating ICT infrastructures in those municipalities in which they may enable developing new economic activities based on new technologies, and awareness and implementation of measures to ensure that "no one is left behind" and cannot afford or otherwise access Internet services.
- » Updating Active Employment Policies as tool for incorporating new employees in the job market and as an element to transform the productive framework.
- » Aids and bonus to promote the establishment of new businesses and trades and incentives to favour hiring of unemployed workers.
- » Tax benefits and incentives for the industrial sector and for local industries.
- » Furthering a tax reform that contributes to economic recovery and job creation, achieving a more equitable, progressive, fair and efficient tax system with a higher capacity for revenue collection.
- » Promoting cooperating development through projects of global impact for the development of sustainable technologies at worldwide level.

COUNTRY CHALLENGE 5. PUT AN END TO JOB INSECURITY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Diagnosis

The Spanish labour market has carried the weight of many decades of **major structural imbalances** that aggravate the economic cycles, place a burden on attempts to increase productivity, rise precariousness and deepen territorial, social and gender gaps. The existing unemployment data in Spain has always oscillated within a broad range, reaching the current rate of 15.98%,¹³⁹ which is below the average observed over the last 40 years. An unemployment rate that affects women to a greater extent, rising to 18.13% compared to 14.7% in the case of men.

The traditional Spanish labour market model has been characterised by its duality, with one group of workers on indefinite contracts with greater protection and a second group with temporary contracts. This has resulted in a situation where changes in economic activity and business expectation in Spain have resulted in the termination of temporary contracts and severance, that is, the adjustment by means of employment in what is referred to as external flexibility. A system that explains, to a great extent, the alarming unemployment data in times of crisis or economic contraction, even reaching figures as high as 26%.¹⁴⁰

That is an unemployment rate that affects certain groups like young people, for whom it currently stands at 39.53% and has risen as high as 56.92% in the first quarter of 2013. This demonstrates that one of the priorities must, without doubt, be **the reduction of unemployment, particularly among young people** such as the mechanism to guarantee the sufficiency income and guarantee the right to professional development of the Spanish people, which at the same time must be accompanied by the protection of labour rights and the improvement of the working conditions to guarantee decent work for all.

Of course, we also cannot forget **the effects of the health, economic and social crisis arising from COVID-19**. The efforts made from the public sphere to maintain employment, and mainly the ERTE scheme (Temporary Employment Regulation), have prevented the collapse of thousands of companies and have protected more than 3.5 million workers. This shows that differentiating measures like the ERTE scheme are capable of positively altering the impact of crisis situations such as that we are experiencing on unemployment rates. In this regard, in order to **consolidate the recovery**, it is crucial to foster policies that allow us to advance in a dynamic labour market, resilient and inclusive, ready for new opportunities and global demands and capable of generating quality employment.

Situations of precariousness, abuse of temporary contracts and excessive turnover have characterised the Spanish labour market during the last decades and are surely some of the reasons that

¹³⁹ EPA-INE (1T-2021). Accessible [here](#)

¹⁴⁰ EPA-INE. Historical series. Accessible [here](#)

explain the low productivity and structural weakness of the Spanish economy. High rates of temporary contracting and rotation discourages investment in human capital and continuous training, limiting the improvement of productivity and affecting the potential growth of the economy. This is particularly relevant at a time when the application of **technological innovation** is an urgent and strategic challenge facing Spanish economy. As stated in Directive 2019/1152, “employment relationships that lead to precarious working conditions must be prevented, including by forbidding the overuse of atypical contracts, and that any probationary period is to be of a reasonable duration”. To ensure that reforms can be applied and have a lasting effect, it is necessary for actions to be addressed within the framework of social dialogue.

5.1. Unemployment rate.

Without doubt, temporary contracts are one of the distinctive features of our labour market. According to data from the OECD¹⁴¹, In 2019 Spain was the country with the second-highest

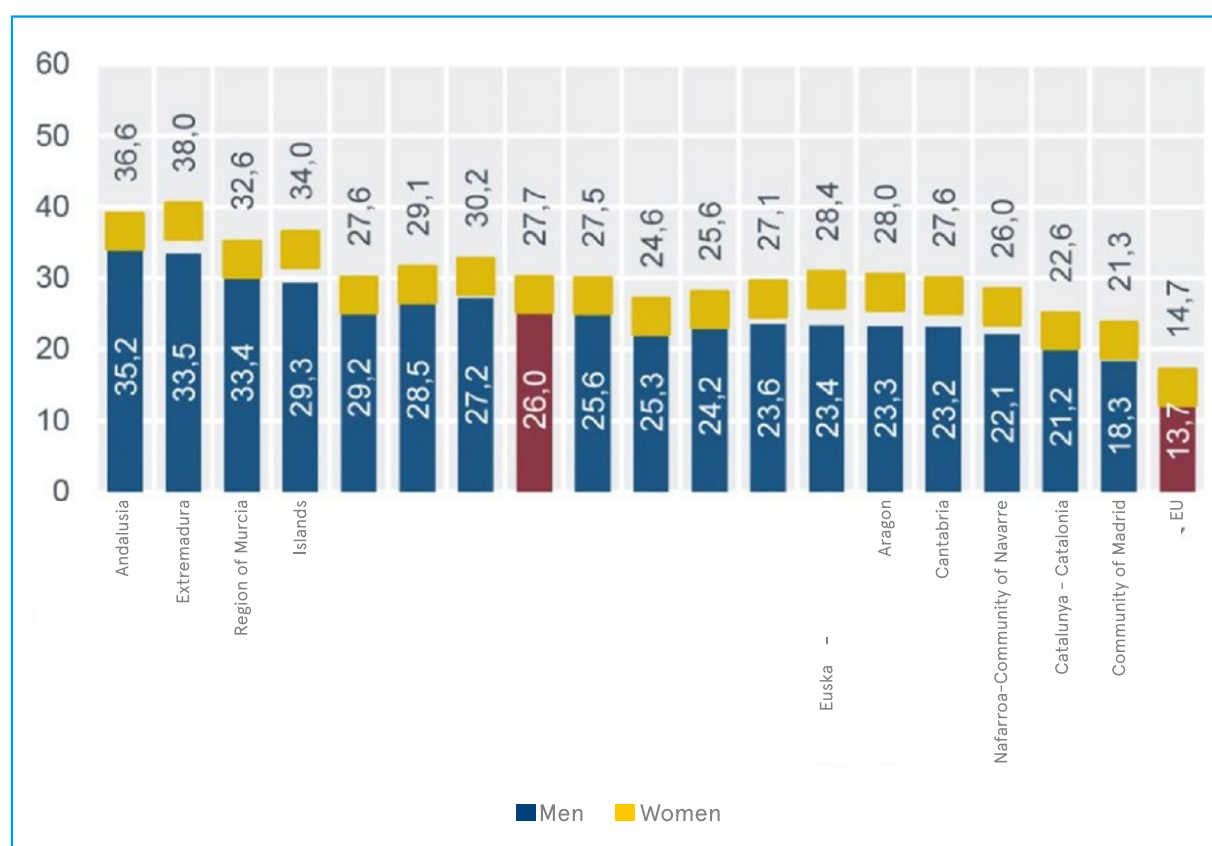
rate of unemployment rate (26.5%) just behind Chile (27.7%), a figure far from the OECD average (11%).

Spain has a **temporary employment rate 10 percentage points above the European average** (26.3% compared to 15%, according to the 2019 average), a difference that is also evident in the worst forms of temporary employment, such as the number of workers with contracts of less than 3 months’ duration (3.9% compared to 2.5%). And it is not just a problem in the private sector. The public sector has a temporary employment rate of 30.4%.

Together with that, we must not forget the data on unwanted part-time contracting, which shows that there are 1.5 million people in this situation, of whom more than 72% are women, which itself implies lower social provisions, lower salaries and underlines the work-life balance difficulties facing women.

As can be observed in Graphic 1, by gender, **temporary employment is higher among women**, both in Spain and in the EU. This fact applies across the majority of the autonomous communities, with the exception of the Balearic Islands, La Rioja and the Region of Murcia.

Graphic 1. Temporary employment rate by gender, Autonomous Community, Spain and EU 2006–2018 (%)



Source: INE, Eurostat.

¹⁴¹ OECD: OECD Employment Outlook 2019 Accessible [here](#)

According to the latest Labour Force Survey (EPA) corresponding to the first quarter of 2021¹⁴² the **temporary employment rate in Spain is 23.8%**, the highest in Europe. This data shows that **one in four workers in Spain is in temporary employment**, which means that 3.8 million workers of a total 16.2 million workers are in this situation.

Every month, 90% of the contracts signed in Spain are temporary and one in four, around 27%, last less than one week.¹⁴³ It is precisely these short-term contracts that have increased in number over the last decade to represent 17% in 2009 compared to the aforementioned 27%, a situation that affects the hospitality sector most acutely.

This **greater precariousness of temporary contracts** can be observed based on the effect of the situation on the COVID-19 health crisis, which has affected temporary jobs most acutely. Evidence of that can be found in the fact that, from 12 to 31 March 2020, 613,250 temporary jobs were destroyed in Spain, compared to 181,905 permanent jobs. That means that three of every four lost jobs during the early stages of the COVID-19 crisis and before the implementation of protection measures associated with the ERTE scheme, were temporary contracts (73%).¹⁴⁴ **In the 2020's overall balance sheet¹⁴⁵, four of every six jobs destroyed affected those on temporary contracts.**

Faced with this situation, permanent contracts should be the norm, while temporary contracts must be reserved exclusively for cases where there is a justified reason. Therefore, a sanctioning sufficiently dissuasive mechanism must be put in place prevent abuse. Widespread temporary employment damages productivity and the quality of employment and does not allow for the economic and contributory sufficiency of the workers, especially in the case of women, which further widens the gender gap.

5.2. Involuntary part-time work.

Access to part-time work not only means less income but also a lower level of social protection. **The Spanish part-time employment rate was 10.9%**¹⁴⁶ in 2019, which was somewhat below the OECD average (17%) and the EU-28 average (14.8%). The **percentage of men** in part-time employment in Spain was **7%** in 2019,¹⁴⁷ compared to **23.8% in the case of women.**

As already addressed in the diagnosis of Country Challenge 3, **temporary and part-time employment** form part of the problems impeding the reduction of the salary gap between men and women, which means that the incorporation of women into the labour market has come at the expense of accepting temporary and part-time jobs.

According to Ministry of Employment, Migration and Social Security's report "Women in the Labour Market",¹⁴⁸ the data in the case of part-time work, is overwhelming because 3 of every 4 part-time workers are women and 1 in every 4 women works part-time. **Almost 6 of every 10 part-time workers do so on an involuntary basis** and mostly point to family obligations and caring for other persons (children, sick, persons with disabilities or the elderly) as the reason for working part-time.

Part-time work doesn't have to be a negative, provided it is **voluntary**. This is the case in some countries with high rates of part-time work, such as the Netherlands, where 60% of female employment is part-time. But only 8 of every 100 women who work part-time wanted to work full-time. On the contrary, in Spain, 60 of every 100 women work part-time on an involuntary basis, a proportion behind only Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria.¹⁴⁹

Involuntary part-time work is, definitively, an issue in Spain, especially among women. With regard to the type of contracts, gender gap not only translates into **lower salaries** for women, but also, working fewer hours significantly reduces the **likelihood of promotion** within companies.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴² Labour Force Survey (LFS). First Quarter 2021. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁴³ Marcel Jansen, UAM, FEDEA.

¹⁴⁴ Data of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, March 2020.

¹⁴⁵ *Idem* note 1.

¹⁴⁶ Latest data available, INE. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁴⁷ Latest data available, INE. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁴⁸ Ministry of Employment Migration and Social Security, *Mujeres en el Mercado de Trabajo, Mujeres Pensionistas y Mujeres Migrantes en el siglo XXI*, (2019). Accessible [here](#)

¹⁴⁹ FOESSA: *El mercado de trabajo, los gozos y las sombras*. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁵⁰ Fernández et al. (2018)

5.3. Wages.

The problem of insecurity is not just a question of temporary or involuntary part-time but is also clearly reflected in wages and working conditions. According to the latest data available from the Wage Structure Survey of the INE¹⁵¹, the **average annual salary** in 2018, was **€24,009.12**, with a considerable difference between the salary **for women (21,011.89€) and for men (26,738.19€)**. This difference means that the salary gap between women and men¹⁵² showed a difference of 11.3%. Graphic no. 2 shows annually and monthly differences by gender:

Graphic 2. Annual gross salary in Spain

SEX	Gross annual salary (€)	Gross annual salary in 14 payments (€)	Gross salary per hour (€)
Women	21,011.89	1,500.85	11.24
Men	26,738.19	1,900.87	12.53
Both	24,009.12	1,714.94	11.95

Source: Wage Structure Survey. INE.

Graphic 3. Gross annual gross salary in Spain by type of contract

Type of contract	Gross annual salary (€)
Full-time	28,070.00
Part-time	11,171.49
Permanent	25,775.61
Part-time	18,056.18

Source: Wage Structure Survey. INE.

As can be appreciated in Graphic 3, **full-time workers** had an average salary of 28,070 euros compared to 11,171.49 euros for those working **part-time**. The average salary of **workers with permanent contracts** was 25,775.61 euros compared to 18,056.18 euros **for permanent contracts**.

On the other hand, the important impetus from the **increases in the Minimum Wage** in the years 2019 and 2020 has led to a change in the trend, as demonstrated, for example, by the increase of 11% in the lowest salaries seen in 2019.¹⁵³ Royal Decree 1462/2018, of 21 December¹⁵⁴ set the minimum wage at €900/month, **an increase of 22.3%, the largest increase in four decades**. The main objective of this increase was to prevent in-work poverty, which particularly affects women and young people and to foster more dynamic salary growth in line with international recommendations and the agreements reached by social partners in the 4th Employment and Collective Bargaining Agreement. The increase in the Minimum Wage was followed by a further increase of 5.5% in 2020, to set the figure at 950 euros per month. In addition to the above, there was also the positive

¹⁵¹ Wage Structure Survey (EES) 2018, publication INE 24 September 2020. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁵² The indicator "Salary gap between women and men" defined by Eurostat represents the difference between the hourly earnings of employed men and women, as a percentage of the earnings of men. Eurostat calculates only for employees who work in units of 10 or more workers and hourly earnings include payments for extra hours worked but exclude extraordinary gratuities (more information at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/labourmarket/earnings>)

¹⁵³ Labour Force Survey (November 2020). Decile of principal employment salaries. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁵⁴ BOE no. 312 of 27 December 2018. Accessible [here](#)

impact of ensuring the sustainability of the Social Security System and the reduction of the gender wage gap – as the beneficiaries were 56.74% women compared to 43.26% men and, as a result, the reduction in the gender wage gap in pensions. In absolute terms, the number of **beneficiaries** of the increase in the Minimum Wage is **close to 2,500.000 workers**: 1.3 million persons under the general regime with no special systems, between 750.000 and 800,000 under the special agricultural regime and 400.000 persons under the special domestic employees regime.¹⁵⁵

Ultimately, with this increase of the minimum wage, Spain is contributing to fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goal, which calls for ensuring the creation of employment and the economic recovery are translated into a progressive reduction of poverty and salary inequality, helping promote sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth.

5.4. Profiles of job insecurity.

The impact of job insecurity is particularly acute for **women**, as has been shown in the diagnosis of Country Challenge 3, and certain groups like young people, migrants and the gypsy community.

As referenced in that Challenge, the situation of women in the labour market is affected by conditions of insecurity that are specific to them and which must be addressed as priority to progress towards a society with equality. It is also essential to use effective measures to tackle the pay gap between women and men, which reflects the undervaluing of women's work, and which has consequences at all levels – particularly in the area of pensions. At the same time, it is necessary to foster change aimed at ensuring a balanced distribution of care, including the rollout of the regulatory frameworks that make working hours compatible with personal and family life, combine with the strengthening of control of compliance with working day and hours limits, to ensure respect for working time and the end of the working day, removing its use at the unilateral prerogative of the employer. An inclusive, stable and equal labour market is a necessary contribution to the model of decent work upheld in the 2030 Agenda.

A similar phenomenon occurs with **young people**.¹⁵⁶ According to the EPA data corresponding to the **first quarter of 2021**, unemployment affected **39.5% of the population aged 16–24**, above the percentage for women, 41.18% compared to 38.18% for men. According to the *Youth and Labour Market* Report, the **temporary employment rate** among young people, in the first quarter of 2020, was **67.5%**, and young people **occupy part-time positions** in a proportion well above the average. Among the young people working part-time, **17.3% of them do so involuntarily**.

¹⁵⁵ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁵⁶ State Secretariat for Employment and Social Enterprise, *Informe Jóvenes y Mercado de trabajo*, June 2020. Accessible [here](#)

The **foreign national population** suffers in especially serious way from the violation of the right to decent work, as they are pushed into an irregular administrative situation by the legal frameworks and feel obliged to take work in the black economy. Even when their administrative situation is regularised, salary inequality measured in terms of the salary gap results in foreign workers **earning, on average 24% lower**.¹⁵⁷ According to that report, **75% of migrants work in elementary or insecure jobs**. **Immigrant female workers** were those **most affected** by the COVID-19 crisis. 2020¹⁵⁸ ended with an **unemployment rate** among female foreigners workers with dual nationality **with of 29.4%**, practically eight points higher than the fourth quarter of 2019. On this point, it is especially necessary to take into account the **intersectional approach** presented in Country Challenge 3, revealing that women of foreign origin suffer from a dual discrimination due to the fact they are **women and foreigners**.

Along these lines, those who belong to **population groups of diverse ethnic origin** point to the existence of problems in accessing employment, and worse labour conditions, highlighting temporary contracts and work within the black economy, a situation that affects to a greater extend Afro-descendants and especially Eastern European women and the female gipsies.¹⁵⁹

The **overqualification of immigrants** in Spain is another major problem. Spain heads the EU in overqualification.¹⁶⁰ Almost 37% of the population with third level education have more training than their position requires. Among the migrant population, this problem affects more than half of EU citizens and **more than 60% of persons from third countries**. Among non-EU women migrants in Spain, the percentage rises as high as 65%.

Similarly, we must not forget the effect on **persons with disabilities** and **single-parent families**. Addressing the issue for these groups requires specific policies to help ensure decent conditions for all.

According to the Observatory of disability and the labour market in Spain¹⁶¹, the **rate of unemployment among persons with disabilities**, exceeds by 10 percentage points the percentage of people without disabilities. The data for the year 2019 show that the unemployment rate among person with disabilities is 23.9%, compared to 13.9% for people without disabilities. According to the study conducted in July 2020 by ODISMET (Observatory of Disability and the Labour Market in Spain)¹⁶², **60% of the people with disabilities currently working could lose their job**, at the same time, **the hiring of persons with disabilities has fallen 74%**.

¹⁵⁷ Caritas Spain, University Institute of Migration Studies (IUEM): *Un arraigo sobre el alambre*, 2020.

¹⁵⁸ EPA, fourth quarter 2020. *Idem* note 2.

¹⁵⁹ Ministry of Equality (2020). *Council for the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, Percepción de la discriminación por origen racial o étnico por parte de sus potenciales víctimas en 2020*. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁶⁰ Eurostat: *Foreign citizens more likely than nationals to be over-qualified*. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁶¹ Fundación Once, *Observatory on Disability and the Labour Market in Spain*. Reports accessible [here](#)

¹⁶² ODISMET, *Informe General nº5*, July 2020. Accessible [here](#)

The health emergency has lifted the lid like never before on the difficulties affecting single parent households, once again evidencing the need to develop a regulatory framework for the **protection of single-parent families**. On the one hand family and friend support networks have been drastically reduced, complicating further the challenge of work-life balance and preventing single-parent households from growing in equal conditions. On the other hand, an important part of sectors of activity have been punished by the economic crisis, increasing the risk of unemployment and job uncertainty.

80% of women leading **single-parent families** have seen a **worsening of their employment and economic situation** with the pandemic according to the 9th *Single-parenthood and Employment* Report.¹⁶³ This impact in the sphere of employment has direct repercussion on quality of life, exposing families to material deprivation, the direct result of which is poverty.

79% of those surveyed showed said they experienced some degree of **difficulty to make ends meet**. Specifically, 35.3% ends "with great difficulty" every month, 26% with difficulty and 11.7% with certain difficulty. Along similar lines, 24% state that the COVID-19 economic crisis has affected coverage of basic needs: rent, food or clothing and 52% ensure that their need for income is now "greater than ever".

Some of these weaknesses in our labour market, and especially those rooted in precarious employment, require major changes in the labour relations model, and decisive push for policies geared towards the fight against job insecurity.

¹⁶³ 9º Informe Monoparentalidad y Empleo, 2020. Accessible [here](#)

ACCELERATING POLICY 5:

Quality and stability of employment



a. Accelerating Policy Orientation:

There are two fundamental pillars for this accelerating policy. Firstly, the quality of employment, understood from a comprehensive logic that covers all aspects that encompass the concept of decent work: health and safety, fair remuneration, freedom of expression and association, collective bargaining, professional promotion, among others. Achieving this means a national and international commitment that tackles job precariousness in all its forms and establishes the conditions necessary to ensure decent jobs within and beyond our borders. Secondly, even though it encompassed the concept of employment quality, there is an urgent need to tackle the stability of employment, as a key aspect in Spain to overcome the structural crisis of unemployment and guarantee stable and lasting life projects to the population.

The actions framed within this accelerating policy are linked and closely interrelated with other country challenges and accelerating policies, particularly with the transformation of the economic model we should complete over the next decade, and the construction of a resilient welfare state and with tackling the gender gap that affects women. A task in which the implementation of the approach on policy coherence for the sustainable development must be one of the core pillars, given that, we can only move towards a new fair and sustainable economic model if this transformation is paired with the guarantee of stable and quality employment.

To achieve this, an area of capital importance in the strengthening and reform of active employment policies, as an instrument to facilitate the employment insertion of unemployed people, through the accompaniment and configuration of individualized orientation and training pathways for employment, with the aim of encouraging its adaptation to the needs of a business fabric in transformation, paying special attention to young people and to those groups that will be potentially affected by the transformation of the productive model arising from the ecological and digital transition of our economy.

The reform must have a strategic focus that encompasses the whole set of actions, and adequately identify the bodies of the administration that assumes responsibility of the execution, providing sufficient financing to tackle the objective. The central pillar must be composed of efficiency of active employment policies and fostering the necessary conditions to boost new sectors of the economy. This commitment must have a positive direct impact on the conditions to tackle the lack of employment in all sectors. Ultimately, Active Employment Policies must be made a basic mechanism to improve the employability conditions of workers and a lever for transformation with the disruptive changes already felt in our society, to guide them towards the creation of quality employability.

Similarly, as part of the fight against job insecurity, the work of Employment and Social Security Inspection, as a basic pillar to tackle abusive situations through actions to combat such behaviour and, where necessary, sanction it. Therefore, Employment and Social Security Inspection is a useful tool for the implementation

of the 2030 Agenda due to the structural connection between its activity and several Sustainable Development Goals: not just SDG 8 relating to decent work and economic growth, but also SDG 5 relating to gender quality, through its role in preventing and pursuing gender discrimination in the workplace, whether it manifests itself in access, salary, working conditions or any other aspect. Its actions are similarly linked to SDG 3 relating to *Health and wellness*, given that the specific competencies of Inspection in the sphere of workplace health and safety, and even SDG 1 *End poverty*, to the extent that this scourge sometimes takes form related to non-compliance with regulation and violations of employment rights, generating precariousness or conditions that could be deemed decent.

Similarly, the **role of collective bargaining agreements must be recovered**, through the reform of the structure, the temporal sphere and the conditions of the absence of hiring mechanisms and business subcontracting, with the aim of strengthening protection for workers and guaranteeing greater participation for worker representatives in business decision-making.

Modernising employment policies also means affording workers participation in the fruits of their work and the prosperity of the country, ensuring economic growth impacts wages, through the development of income policies to improve the life conditions of workers and drive the economy as a whole. In this regard, the increase in the national **minimum wage** has been proven to have a great effect on **driving wages up**, especially the lowest wages, while also having a positive impact on inequality, the gender gap and in-work poverty. For this reason, the objective of this legislature is for the **minimum wage to reach 60% of the average wage** to comply with Spain's international commitment **in application of the European Social Charter**. To do that, an expert commission has been set up, with the task of advising the Government to determine the best path to reach this objective.

The **work-life balance** of parents and carers is another action that will continue to be worked on, rolling out policies aimed at eliminating inequality arising from the distribution of time spent on care between men and women.

In addition, the regulation of **remote work**, for a fair balance in the use of these new forms of employment, established a framework of rights that guarantees the principles of its voluntary and reversible nature, and the principle of equal treatment in terms of working conditions, especially remuneration, including expenses, promotion and professional training. Other aspects of this regulation include the exercise of collective rights, the regulation of maximum working hours and minimum rest periods and other preventive aspects.

For its part, the situation around youth employment requires specific interventions that facilitate the employment insertion of young unemployed people, through accompaniment and the configuration of individualised orientation and training pathways for the employee.

The elimination of violence and embarrassment in the workplace, broadening the legal definition of what constitutes sexual harassment in the workplace and strengthening protection are also elements of the priorities that must guide the application of public policies aimed at ending job insecurity.

In the sphere of self-employment, a new national strategy will be defined, aimed at responding to the current needs of this sector for the recovery, creation and consolidation of activity. To achieve this, it will be based on measures focussed on the sustainable economy, digitalisation, training and workplace health and safety, among others. A commitment to the foster, drive and consolidate self-employment that is already supported through a substantial increase in the resources aimed at activities to support and promote self-employment.

Fostering social enterprise for the generation of an inclusive and sustainable economic fabric is another priority action of this accelerator policy. The aim is to boost innovation, accompany and facilitate generational replacement and youth entrepreneurship and support digitalisation as an emerging formula for online entrepreneurship, indicated for young people and for the rural world. The promotion of cooperative networks, labour companies and other social enterprise formulas accompanied by capacity-building and training measures will offer new comprehensive services to the society and will incentivise the well-being of citizen in rural areas.

Finally, making the 2030 Agenda a reality necessarily implies increasing the rate of employment to the EU average and increasing stable and quality employment. To achieve that, a number of regulatory reforms will be adopted, through social dialogues, geared towards, among other aspects, guaranteeing permanent contract as the principal instrument of hiring, and temporary contracts exclusively on valid grounds, thus improving legal certainty in hiring. Said regulatory reforms are also framed within the definition of a new Workers' Statute adapted to the social and employment conditions of the 21st century.

b. Action Priorities:

→ **Increase the rate of employment to bring it closer to the EU average and increase stable and quality employment growth**, tackling duality and insecurity in the labour market.

→ **Guarantee stability in employment through the simplification and reclassification of forms of labour contracting**, through adequate design so that the permanent contract is constitutes as the general rule and temporary contracts are limited exclusively to valid grounds.

→ **Use of fixed-discontinuous contract for cyclical and seasonal activities**, reinforcing the control of part-time hiring.

→ Give continuity to the **ERTE (Temporary Employment Regulation Schemes) format as an internal structural mechanism of flexibility and an alternative to lay-off** in response to temporary or cyclical fall-offs in the activity of the company.

→ **Address the regulation of contracting and outsourcing of business activity** to bring working conditions of subcontracted workers into line with those of the employees of the principal company and increase the responsibility of the contractors or subcontractors.

→ **Modernise the regulation of collective bargaining** to adapt it to the needs of companies and sectors and put in place a system of balanced industrial relations, reinforcing the representation of the negotiating parties, recover the ultra-activity of the collective bargaining agreements, addressing the relationship between sectoral agreements and company agreements, the mechanisms for consultation and negotiation in the event of substantial amendment of working conditions and the conditions non-applicability of collective bargaining.

→ **Improve earnings**, developing a policy of earnings that improves the workers' life conditions and drives the economy as a whole.

→ **Regulate remote working** to establish principles that guarantee the rights of workers.

→ **Regulate the activities of distribution to third parties using technology platforms (riders)** providing sufficient regulation, clarifying working patterns.

→ **Approve a law on the use of time to guarantee a co-responsible use of working time**, to foster work-life balance.

→ Regulate **transparent and foreseeable working conditions** with the aim of increasing the information obligations of the employer to the worker to prevent precarious situations with greater transparency and foresight.

→ **Update Active Employment Policies** as a tool for incorporating new employees into the labour market and as an element to transform the productive framework. This will require action tailored to the specific circumstances of the Spanish productive fabric and industrial relations system like the **Spanish Active Employment Support Strategy 2021–2024**, which will determine the conceptual and organisational framework; an **Employment Law** that provides a regulatory framework that's appropriate for new active employment policies and strategies aimed at specifically promoting youth employment such as **the Youth Guarantee and a Youth Employment Shock Plan 2019–2021**.

→ **New regulation of vocational training on the job, which will involve the reform of Law 30/2015**, aimed at regulating the general framework of vocational training on the job, from the exploration and detection of training needs to the planning and financing of training, including the scheduling and implementation of training actions, the control and monitoring of training, as well as the information system, assessment, quality and governance.

→ **Develop programmes aimed at fostering youth employment**, such as the **training programmes combined with employment**, following the model of workshop schools, especially in occupations relating to areas like the ecological, social and digital transition, programmes of **first professional experience in the public administrations** or **programmes to foster employment of young researchers**.

→ **Adopt positive action measures for the integration of persons with intellectual disabilities** to facilitate improved access to, and continuation in, the labour for this group.

→ **Develop active policies aimed especially at fostering quality employment for women**, placing the emphasis on improving skills of women and ending the gender gap, in particular among the STEM professions (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics).

→ **Modernisation and digitalisation of public employment services** and the different employment policy-management bodies and mechanisms to improve the management of profiling and monitoring of vacancies; improve the systems of information that support the provisions; bringing services closer to citizens and companies through mobile applications and strengthening the fight against fraud and incorporating data management.

→ **Strategic Plan for Labour and Social Security Inspection**, to strengthen the activity of the Inspection department in the following areas: Fight against employment fraud and undeclared work, defend stability in employment, defend equality and non-discrimination in employment and in working conditions, to guarantee equality of opportunity and non-discrimination on grounds of gender, protection against excessive working days, the right to health and safety in the workplace and protection of the freedom to join and union and the rights of worker representatives.

→ **Modernise and reinforce training for employment and the configuration of individual pathways for employment**, establishing mechanisms for adequate coordination between companies and education entities, configuring instruments to guarantee decent work for people in training, designing training for employment as an integral part of individual training and employment pathways and establishing tools for the adaptation of qualified candidates within a changing labour market, within the framework of the new Vocational Training Law.

→ **Channels of participation for workers**, to ensure greater participation of workers' representatives for the decision-making of businesses.

→ **The revised European Social Charter and additional Protocol on collective claims**, which reinforces the participation of trade union organisations, companies and social organisation in compliance with the European Social Charter and which has the objective of strengthening the social and economic rights set out in the Charter.

→ **Ratification of ILO Convention 177 on remote working (1996) and ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers (2011)**, whose objective is to make this form of work more visible, contribute to the elimination of the black economy and promote equal treatment with the other employed workers, and to advance with the alignment of the rights of this group, who have historically not enjoyed the same guarantees and protection levels with the rest of the workers in Spain.

→ **Ratification of ILO Convention on violence and harassment in the workplace**, broadening the legal definition of what constitutes sexual harassment in the workplace and strengthening due protection.

→ **Ratification of ILO Convention 188 on Work in Fishing**,

whose objective is to improve working conditions and guarantee decent work for workers in the fishing sector.

→ **Integral Plan to Boost Social Economy** for the generation of an inclusive and sustainable economic fabric that contains the following lines of action: Programme for the generation and maintenance of employment in viable companies experiencing difficulties or with no generational replacement through the conversion in social enterprise formulas (cooperatives and labour societies), managed by workers; Programme for the creation and consolidation of innovative social enterprise entities; national programme to support the digitalisation of social enterprises; Promotion of cooperative networks; labour societies and other social enterprise formulas; and the Programme to foster sustainable and inclusive transition of companies and groups in vulnerable situations.

→ **National Strategy to Foster Self-Employment 2021-2027**, which will respond to the current needs of the self-employed for the recovery, creation and consolidation of activity, supported on measures like the sustainable economy, digitalisation, training and workplace health and safety. These strategic pillars include the sustainable self-employment, which contributes to the ecological transition of our productive fabric and more efficient management of resources, the use of renewable sources and the modernisation of facilities and infrastructure of the productive fabric, among others. To achieve maximum efficiency, this is being drafted within the framework of social dialogue, with the contributions made by professional associations of self-employed workers.

→ **Subsidies for support and promotion activities for self-employment**, the social economy and corporate social responsibility, along with the partial financing of the operating costs of self-employed workers' associations, labour societies, insertion companies and other representatives of the of the state social enterprise sector.

→ **Constitution, at the heart of the Directorate General for Self-Employment**, Social Enterprise and Corporate Social Responsibility of **four dialogue panels**, with the autonomous communities and representatives from the self-employment and social enterprise sectors. The purpose of these panels is the study of the current situation and transfer the demands of all groups, so that the solutions adopted are the correct ones and are agreed with the stakeholders.

→ **Adoption of a new national strategy for health and safety in the workplace**, in cooperation with social partners, with objectives and actions articulated with the new EU Strategic Framework for Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027.

→ Approval of a **new Statute of Workers Rights** adapted to the conditions of the 21st century through the social dialogue.

→ Extension of the **Spanish Strategy for Health and Safety Workplace 2015-2020**, adopted by the Agreement of the Council of Ministers of 23 February 2021, as an essential tool for decent work.

2030 TARGETS

By 2022, to address the reform of the Statute of Workers Rights aimed at simplifying and reclassifying the forms of employment contacts, adequately designing these new types of contracts to make the permanent contract the general rule and ensure temporary contracts are limited to valid grounds; and to establish adequate regulation of training contracts to provide an adequate framework for the incorporation of young people into the labour market.

By 2022, address the reform of Article 42 of the Workers' Statute aimed at modernising the regulation of subcontracting to ensure adequate use of those situations that improve productive activity and disincentivise it in those cases where it is a mere instrument of cost reduction, with the aim of reaching an adequate level of protection of subcontracted workers and advance towards the alignment of conditions of subcontracted workers and the reinforcement of the responsibility of contract and subcontract companies and prevent the outsourcing of services via subcontracting from being used as a mechanism for the reduction of the labour standards of the persons who work for subcontracted companies.

By 2022, initiate reform of the Workers' Statute to modernise the collective bargaining architecture, tackling aspects like the ultra-activity of collective bargaining agreements, the relationship between sectoral and company collective bargaining agreements and the mechanisms for consultation and negotiation in the event of substantial amendment of working conditions, while also tackling the very structure of negotiation, strengthening the representation of the negotiating parties, enriching contents and strengthening legal certainty in its application and effects.

By 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 into a training system with the logic of the life cycle and companies involved in employability, through the approval and development of the Spanish Active Employment Support Strategy 2021-2024, the Youth Guarantee and the Employment Law in 2022.

By 2022, amend Article 47 of the Statute of Workers Rights, regulating the suspension or reduction of working hours through the ERTE scheme (Temporary Employment Regulation Schemes), with the aim of streamlining the procedure for approval of the ERTE scheme and the correct use of this instrument

By 2030, reduce the rate of structural unemployment of the Spanish economy to levels similar to those of our EU partners and increase the rate of activity to bring into line with European standards.

By 2030, increase the stability of employment, reducing seasonality to levels similar to neighbouring countries by 2030, with a special focus on the situation of population groups of migrant and/or racially diverse origin.

By 2030, eliminate wage poverty by increasing wage earnings, including the increase of the Minimum Wage to 60% of the average salary, in compliance with the European Social Charter.

Before 2030, guarantee equal pay for equal work as a mechanism to eradicate the salary gap affecting women.

By 2030, reduce the youth unemployment rate to levels equivalent to those of other EU countries.

Until 2030, increase health and safety in the workplace, eradicating workplace accidents and attending to the psychological well-being of workers, with a particular focus on the new needs arising from the transformations in the world of employment.

By 2030, reclassify and improve the set of provisions of the social protection system.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, establish measures to eliminate discrimination in access to employment for persons of migrant origin.

By 2030, improve the levels of health and safety in the workplace and improve workers' preparation for new crises and threats.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

- » Update and guarantee of access to Vocational Training for Employment, strengthening personalised provision based on the demands of the productive system.
- » Strengthen the professional training and reskilling of workers to orientate their pathways towards sectors that generate employment.
- » New integral management model of the public employment service to improve employment processes, services and programmes.
- » Specific pathways for young entrepreneurs and to establish the values of entrepreneurship among young people.
- » Employment integration of the most vulnerable through the fostering of entrepreneurship and self-employment among persons with functional diversity.
- » Strategy for the Generation of Environmental Employment in Andalusia 2030.
- » Support for socio-occupational integration of groups in situations of social exclusion through the lines of subsidies to Insertion Companies.

ARAGÓN

- » Special employment plans for vulnerable sectors such as young people, women and those over 50.
- » Improve qualifications of human capital through company-university-education centre dialogue.
- » Strengthening of training for the unemployed, especially in the rural area, adequate for new professional needs.

CANARY ISLANDS

- » Canarian Active Employment Support Strategy 2021-2024.
- » Law on Cooperatives and the Social Enterprise Law.
- » Specific Employment Plan for the long-term unemployed and for groups with insertion difficulties.
- » Extraordinary employment plan for the ecological transition.
- » Social employment plan.
- » Canarian Vocational Training Plan 2021-2024 and the Entrepreneurship, Self-Employment and SME Plan.
- » Youth Guarantee Plan and Early School Leaving Shock Plan.

CANTABRIA

- » Equality Plans in Companies and Incentives to SMEs for their implementation. (*)
- » Co-responsibility measures with perspective of intersectionality with financing from the European Recovery and Resilience Fund. (*)
- » 2nd Equality Strategy 2019-2023. (*)
- » Support women at risk of social exclusion to combat job insecurity and assistance to reduce job insecurity among women from the Roma community.
- » Programme to foster stable and quality employment.
- » "Social and Employment Activation Protocol" Programmes for the strengthening of the professional guidance service.
- » Programmes to improve employability.
- » Promotion of youth employment through assistance to companies (contracts for training and learning, contracts for internships and specific training).

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » Economic Reactivation and Employment Pact 2020-2024.
- » 3rd Agreement for Stability of Employment in Castile-La Mancha.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Regional Strategy for employment of persons with disabilities.
- » Regional Employment and Income Guarantee Plan.
- » Youth Guarantee Plan: Youth Employment Operating Plan 2014/2020.
- » “Adelante Plan” (Go ahead plan) 2020-2023.
- » 2nd Plan for Work, Personal and Family Life Balance for Public Employees of the Regional Government of Castile-La Mancha.
- » Plan to Foster Social Enterprise. (*)

CASTILE AND LEÓN

- » Guarantee a greater participation for the legal representatives of workers through their trade unions.
- » Strengthen Employment Inspection through the major trade unions.
- » Co-financed subsidies geared towards fostering stable employment.
- » Plans to Foster the Permanent Contract.
- » New Integrated Employment Strategy.
- » Youth Guarantee Programmes.

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

- » Economic and Social Protection Reactivation Plan in the aftermath of COVID-19.
- » National Basic agreement for the economic reactivation with social partners.
- » Strategic Social Services Plan 2020-2024.
- » Catalan Strategy for Quality Employment 2021-2030 (*).
- » Catalan Vocational Training and Qualification Strategy 2020-2030, which must be rolled out by the Public Vocational Training and Qualification Agency of Catalunya-Catalonia (*).

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA – – VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » Digital Gender Gap Chair (*)
- » Actions to promote STEM vocations among girls, youths and women.
- » Improvement of digital skills of persons with disabilities and functional diversity (*).
- » Strategic Plan for Valencian industry.
- » LAB-ODS.
- » LLAMP Project.
- » Digital Gap Observatory (Regulatory and Strategic Web Strategy) (*).

EUSKADI – BASQUE COUNTRY

- » Basque Employment Strategy 2030.
- » Strategic Employment Strategy 2021-2024.
- » Basque Workplace Health and Safety Strategy 2021-2026.
- » Plan to reduce the seasonality of employment and part-time working hours.
- » Plan to reduce the salary gap in Euskadi.
- » Plan for the Promotion of Labour Cooperatives/Societies.
- » Special Work Inspection Plan.
- » Youth Employment Shock Plan.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

EXTREMADURA

- » Extremadura Employment Plan 2020-2021.
- » Execution of Employment Incorporation programmes for groups with access difficulties: Crisol, Tutor, Construye tu futuro, Vives Emplea, Puerta de Empleo.
- » Programme geared towards the skills for capacity of employment, insertion and social competence of young offenders.
- » Extremadura Youth Employment Plan for the 2020-2021 period.

ILLES BALEARS – BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » Plan for the fight against job insecurity 2021-20203.
- » Quality Employment Plan 2021-2023.
- » Emergency Plan for Employment 2020-2021.
- » Programmes SOIB Visible, Dual Colectivos vulnerables, Joven, Formación dual.
- » Social Enterprise Master Plan.
- » Strategic plan for self-employment and fostering entrepreneurship 2021-2024

NAFARROA – COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

- » Active employment policies. (*)
- » Employment Plan for Navarre.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » Active policies and priority measures for fostering and incentivising youth employment for women and vulnerable groups, with special focus on the rural world.
- » Strengthening of VT and VT for employment, adapting it to the needs and evolution of the productive system, and accreditation of professional skills from the experience of working.
- » Experiential programmes, workplace insertion and training-employment, for persons with difficulties accessing employment.
- » Fostering entrepreneurship, self-employment and participative employment, fostering the development of social enterprises.
- » Special Employment Centre to foster employment for persons with disabilities.
- » Dialogue with social agents, trade unions and employers' organisation for tackling inequalities with a special focus on the salary gap.
- » Guarantee healthy and safe working environments for workers, incorporating the prevention of new environmental, technological and psychosocial risks.
- » Protocol of action against workplace and sexual harassment for implementation in companies (*).

REGIÓN OF MURCIA

- » Programmes for socio-occupational integration and for the improvement of employability of persons at risk of social exclusion.
- » Self-Employment Strategy to deal with the different needs of the group. (*)
- » Fostering the creation of participative employment through assistance for the constitution and innovation of social enterprises.
- » Digital Rights Charter to adequately foster the rights of the working and business environment. (*)
- » Continuous Training Strategies to improve the skills of the active population.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Modernisation of the public employment services. (*)
- » Regulation of persons working in the sphere of digital platforms. (*)
- » Strategies geared towards youth employment: Youth Guarantee, Emergency Plan, Fostering the Professional Practices in Europe (EURODISEA) and the Reactiva-T Programme. (*)

LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Promote youth employment through the Youth Guarantee, emergency plans and orientation programmes.
- » Dual training programmes and improvement of youth employability through support for training pathways and first contacts with the labour market.
- » Investment for stable employment creation and entrepreneurship.
- » Foster development of local companies and social enterprise.
- » Drafting of permanent training plans that help employment stability.
- » Facilitate the development of new economic activities based on new technologies and knowledge.
- » Improve the support for groups, in particular those especially affected by unemployment, facilitating local mechanisms for employment insertions, with a special focus on the most disadvantaged groups.
- » Municipal placement agencies and development of specific programmes for the long-term unemployed aged over 45 and, in general terms, to inform and guide the unemployed on finding employment.
- » Organisation and promotion of training courses and events to skill the new generations in traditional trades.
- » Collaborate in the adoption of measures against the black economy and Social Security fraud.
- » Creation of temporary job packages for internships and school holidays for young people.
- » Digital training to improve the employability of local residents.
- » Employment programmes temporary cover contract and provincial employment plans. Specific programmes for the long-term unemployed aged over 45.
- » Stabilisation of interim staff by fostering municipal employment campaigns and permanent contracts in the sphere of competence.
- » Evaluation of the cooperative economy and insertion in the labour market of persons with disabilities.
- » Ensure that workers can consult trade unions on the processes that affect working conditions.
- » Modernise and balance collective bargaining, establishing information, consultation and participation mechanisms.
- » Strengthen the role of Employment and Social Security Inspection as a guarantee of compliance with employment regulations.
- » Review and amendment of the Official Relation of Jobs (RTP in Spanish abbreviations) in local authorities and fostering of municipal employment campaigns.
- » Hiring of the long-term unemployed and unemployed due to COVID.
- » Improve the service for groups, especially those affected by unemployment and precariousness, and young people, women, and the long-term unemployed, persons with disabilities and the migrant and Roma populations and those of other ethnic origins and the rural population and others.

COUNTRY CHALLENGE 6. REVERSE THE CRISIS IN PUBLIC SERVICES

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Diagnosis

The circumstances in which people live their lives are affected by political, social and financial structural factors, and these explain most of the inequalities. Thus, the role of the welfare state and public services in particular should be focused in two ways: first, it should guarantee minimum rights for the entire population, avoiding essential matters of people's development being subordinated to the resources available to them; and second, it should ensure equality in the starting conditions, promoting social mobility and the progress of individuals regardless of their social circumstances. Unfortunately, the data show that Spain is still far from meeting both of these goals – a situation that is largely due to the underfunding that the different public services and benefits have suffered for decades. Despite having highly qualified and competent professionals in these services, they have not always had the funding necessary to undertake their work and to further strengthen these services as the pillars of our country.

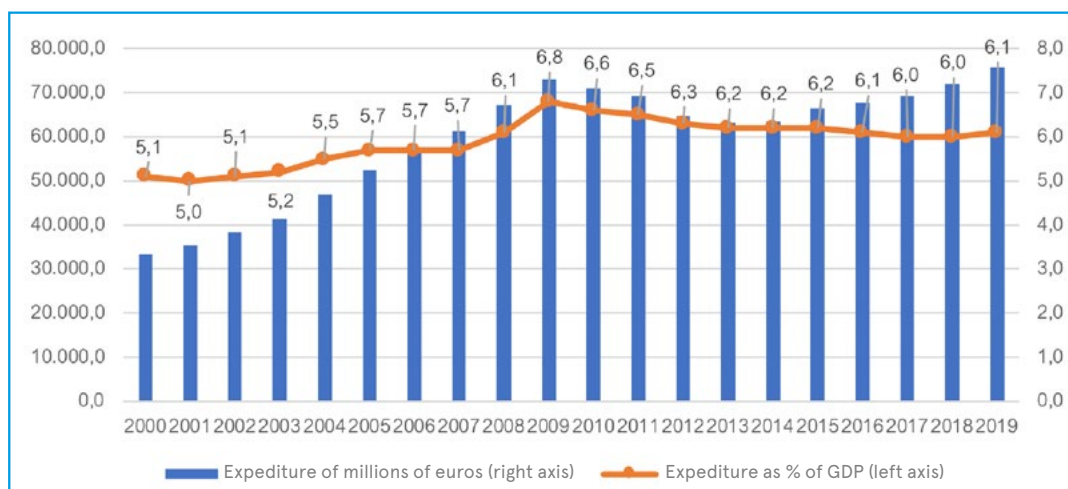
6.1. Healthcare.

One of these public services is healthcare, the importance of which has become particularly clear during the pandemic. The crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic that we are still going through has resulted in a social consensus about the need to strengthen our public health system. The pandemic is straining the system to such an extent that it has exposed its strengths as well as its weaknesses.

These weaknesses are largely a consequence of the effects of the disinvestment policies that the public health system has been through over the last decade, making it even more evident that the protection of individual and collective health can only be undertaken based on a public policy that is given sufficient resources to be able to serve the population with a quality service and bring national cohesion.

Looking at the evolution of public financing for the health sector¹⁶⁴, it can be seen that health spending being coincident

Health expenditure in Spain in absolute terms and in relation to GDP, 2000-2019.



Source: Own source based on data provided by the Eurostat.

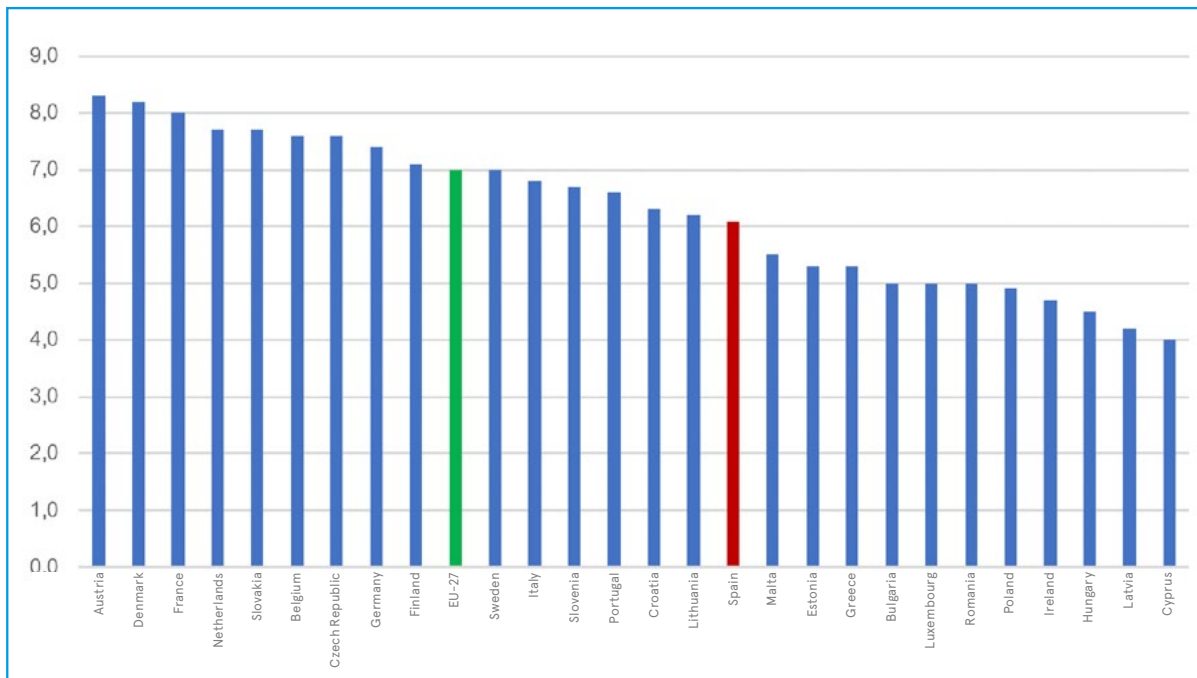
¹⁶⁴ EUROSTAT – Classification of General Government Expenditure by Function (COFOG). You can access it [here](#)

with the economy's strong expansionary phase grew significantly up until 2009 - both in total numbers (+127% between 2000 and 2009) and compared to GDP, rising from 5.1% in 2000 to 6.8% in 2009. This means health spending grew faster than GDP in the years prior to the financial crisis. After the financial crisis of 2009, health spending recorded a sharp fall both in absolute terms and in relation to GDP, and by 2014 it was 6.2% of GDP and almost 10 billion euros lower than 2009. Although this expenditure has grown again in absolute terms since 2015, coinciding with the economy's recovery, it has done so at a lower rate than GDP. Thus, although total expenditure in 2019 (at just over EUR 75.803 bn) reached an all-time high - slightly

above pre-financial crisis values - it has remained practically constant versus GDP. In fact, health spending accounted for 6.1% of GDP in 2019, below the EU-27 average of 7% and lower than before the financial crisis. Taken together this means that in recent years Spain has again moved away from the EU in terms of spending compared to GDP and health spending per capita.

Although the slight increase in health spending in relation to GDP between 2018 and 2019 (from 6 to 6.1%) is positive - and is the first time this indicator has risen after 11 years - it has not been enough to recover pre-crisis values.

Public health expenditure as % of GDP - 2018

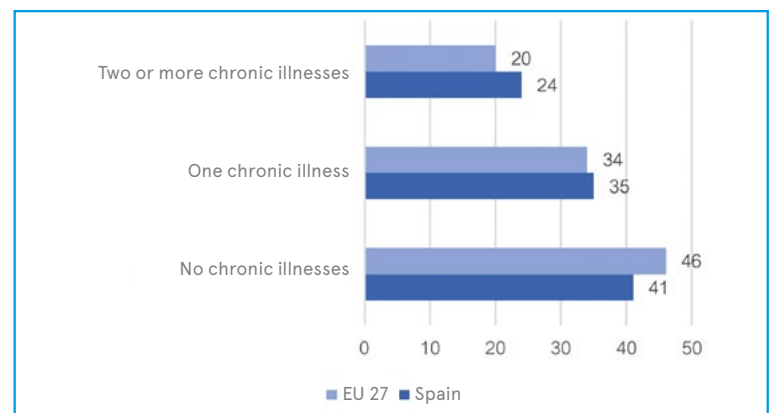


Source: Authors' own, based on Eurostat data (COFOG).

Since the pandemic started, the system has benefited from a significant injection of resources in an effort that needs to be sustained over the long term. Accordingly, the national government is committed to getting back to pre-2008 investment levels through a progressive increase in resources in order to reach investment of 7% compared to GDP. This will be accompanied by sustained planning over time in order to direct resources to the areas where they are most needed.

In addition, the **challenges associated with ageing** and the **depopulation** of large areas of Spain pose a risk to the quality of care of a high percentage of citizens. Consequently, this is a factor that may increase the risk of exclusion and inequality, which are to be avoided.

% of persons aged 65 or over who present with chronic illnesses



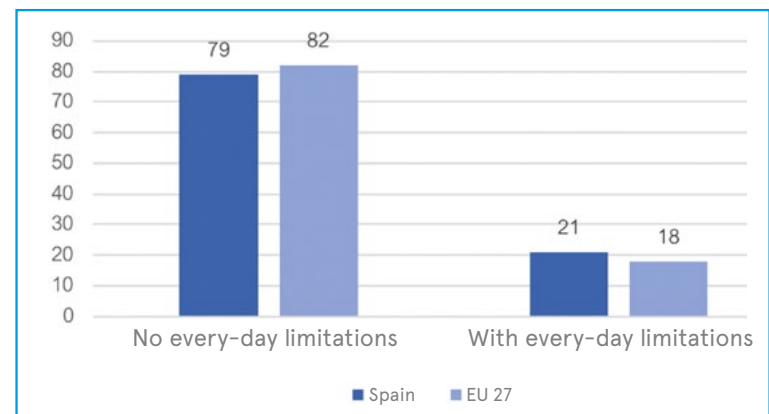
In relation to ageing, life expectancy in Spain has increased by more than four years since 2000, and averaged 83.5 years in 2019. However, almost 60% of Spaniards aged 65 and over suffer from at least one chronic illness, and more than one in five suffers from some form of limitation in terms of activities of daily living. The rates are above the European average, as can be seen in the attached charts.¹⁶⁵

The elderly makes up an increasingly large percentage of the Spanish population. In 2019, almost one in five Spaniards (19.42%) was aged 65 or older - almost double that of 1980 (11%). Furthermore, this proportion is expected to increase to more than one in three (36%) by 2050. Spaniards today can expect to live about 18.5 more years once they reach the age of 65. This is 1.3 years longer than the EU average in 2019¹⁶⁶. However, **many of those years are spent living with some health problems and disabilities.**

6.1.1 Social determinants of health.

The close relationship between **social determinants** - that is, material, labour, cultural and power-sharing factors - and people's health should not be overlooked.

% of persons aged 65 or over who suffer limitations to every-day activities



An initial relationship can be seen in the worse health conditions between women and men. Initial data is offered by looking the perception of health by age group. As can be seen in the following table, the self-perception of the state of health of women is worse across practically all age groups, although it worsens with ageing. For example, 51.5% of women aged 65-74 rate their state of health between fair and very bad; whereas the equivalent percentage is 38.4% for men.

Assessment of perceived health status in the last 12 months by age and sex

	Very good		Good		Average		Poor		Very poor	
	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
age 0-4	54.1	62.0	37.5	32.4	7.3	5.2	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.0
age 5-14	54.1	57.8	40.0	36.0	5.4	5.6	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.1
age 15-24	46.1	39.3	47.6	48.6	4.8	10.4	1.0	1.6	0.4	0.2
age 25-34	40.4	32.8	49.7	51.2	8.1	13.6	1.6	2.0	0.3	0.4
age 35-44	27.7	24.3	55.5	54.1	13.0	17.7	3.2	2.8	0.6	1.1
age 45-54	19.1	16.6	56.5	53.2	18.3	22.5	4.9	5.7	1.2	2.1
age 55-64	11.1	10.6	51.2	48.1	27.0	28.4	8.1	9.5	2.6	3.5
age 65-74	9.1	7.8	52.5	40.8	28.9	34.8	7.6	13.7	2.0	3.0
age 75-74	4.5	4.0	38.1	28.3	40.5	41.1	12.3	20.3	4.6	6.3
age 85 and over	3.3	4.4	31.1	26.9	42.7	39.8	16.9	21.2	5.9	7.7

Source: Authors' own, based on data from the National Health Survey 2017 - INE.

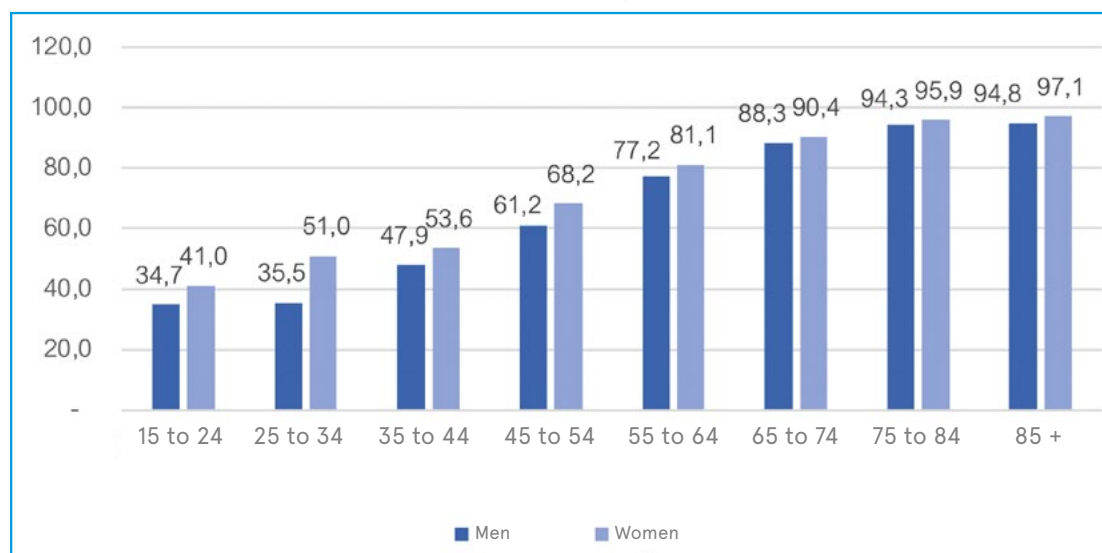
¹⁶⁵ State of Health in the UE. Spain, national health profile 2019

¹⁶⁶ Eurostat: Accessible [here](#)

Although life expectancy indicates a positive gender gap, there are two factors that need to be taken into account. First, its progressive reduction – given that in 1990 it was 7.2 years while in 2019 it was 5.4 years. In other words, women currently have a life expectancy of 86.2 years and men of 80.9 years. Second, it is important to note, as indicated above, that longer life

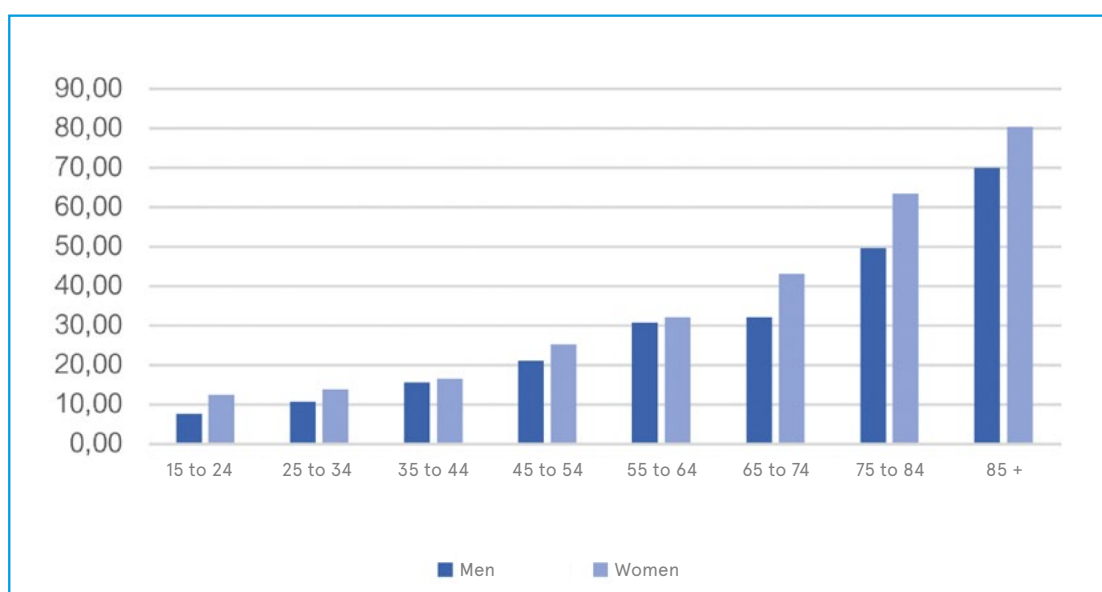
expectancy may mean that some of those years may be lived with health problems. This can be especially significant in the case of women who, to a higher proportion than men and across all age groups, report chronic health problems. This is also the case at young ages. In fact, the largest gap is in the 25–34 age group, where there is a difference of 15.5 points.

Population with a chronic health problem by sex and age.



Source: Authors' own, based on data from the National Health Survey 2017 - INE.

Population with limitations to daily activities in the last 6 months by sex and age



Similarly, women in all age groups report greater limitations in their everyday lives, although, in this case, the gender gap is greater as they age.

All in all, these data highlight the difference in women's health conditions. Living longer does not necessarily guarantee a good quality life for thousands of older people, especially women. The unequal distribution of roles and power between men and women – which results in an increased burden of domestic and care work for women¹⁶⁷ – is related to poorer health conditions.

Other socio-economic factors have a decisive influence on the health conditions of the Spanish population – in particular the level of education and social class (determined by a person's occupation¹⁶⁸). An initial detail to note is that there are almost 20 points' difference between people whose perception of their state of health is good or very good among those with professions associated with university degrees (social class I) and those who have unskilled jobs (social class VI).

¹⁶⁷ These issues are explored in more detail in Challenge 3.

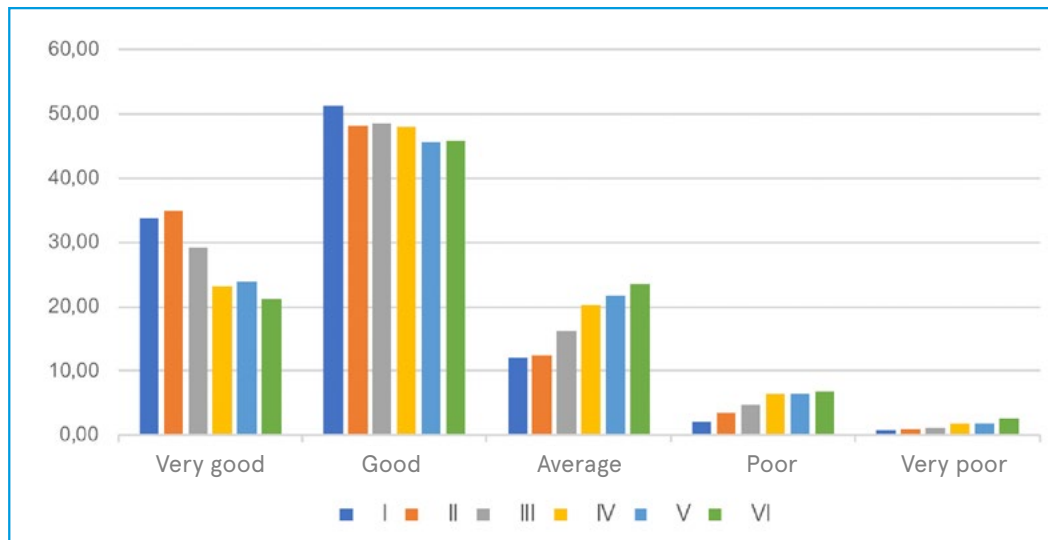
¹⁶⁸ Classification of socio-economic levels for the Spanish Epidemiology Society (on which the National Health Survey is based) is as follows: I. Directors and managers of establishments with 10 or more employees and professionals traditionally associated with university degrees; II. Directors and managers of establishments with fewer than 10 employees, professionals traditionally associated with university degrees and other technical support professionals, sportspeople and artists; III. Intermediate occupations and self-employed workers; IV. Supervisors and workers in skilled technical occupations; V. Skilled workers in the primary sector and other semi-skilled workers; VI. Unskilled workers.

This is confirmed from an evaluation of perceived state of health in the last 12 months according to the level of education. Thus, people with higher education levels state that their state of health is good or very good in 82% of cases. However, this drops to 61% for people with basic education or no education.

These differences between social classes - determined by people's occupations - can be attributed to a wide range of causes. These undoubtedly include insecure working conditions and lower income levels as well as health-related habits as key social determinants, in which the level of education has a significant influence.

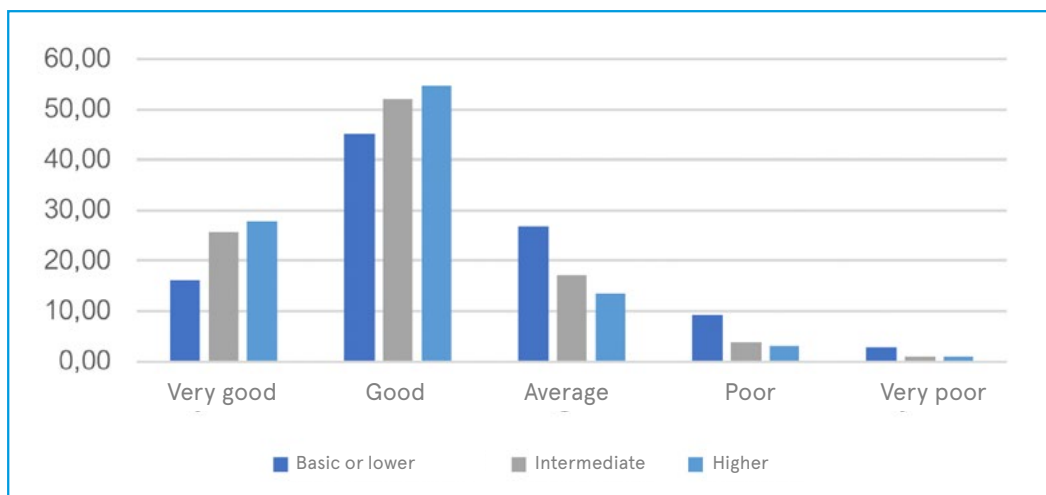
Likewise, people with lower educational levels and from lower income social classes manifest a higher incidence of chronic diseases or health problems, so that almost two-thirds of unskilled working women have at least one chronic problem or disease

Assessment of perceived health condition in the last 12 months by social class



Source: Authors' own, based on data from the National Health Survey 2017 - INE.

Assessment of perceived health condition in the last 12 months by education level



Source: Authors' own, based on data from the National Health Survey 2017 - INE.

Population with a perceived chronic disease or health problem by sex and social class based on the occupation of the reference person

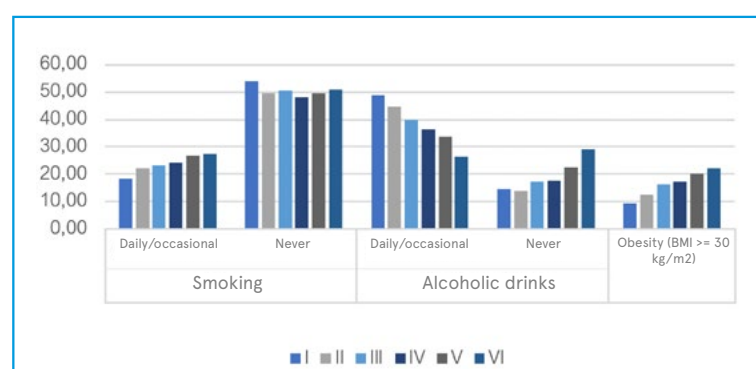


Source: Authors' own, based on data from the National Health Survey 2017 - INE.

As the attached chart indicates, there is a relationship between educational level, occupation and healthy habits. For example, there is a 10 percentage point difference between Class I and VI in regard to tobacco consumption; 18 points in terms of alcohol consumption; and more than 13 points in the incidence of obesity. All these factors undoubtedly influence people's health conditions and indicate a correlation between level of education and healthy lifestyle habits.

Thus, policies aimed at socio-economic protection and guaranteeing social rights and improving the educational level of the population as a whole also serve as measures to protect public health. A robust health system capable of providing a quality and universal public service, which goes further in incorporating the gender perspective into care, also becomes a powerful equaliser of the inequalities that affect our society.

Health determinants by social class



Source: Authors' own, based on data from the National Health Survey 2017 - INE.

6.1.2 Environmental determinants of health.

In addition to social determinants, **environmental factors** are becoming increasingly important. The environmental consequences of how we produce and consume are obvious: the transformation and destruction of habitats, loss of biodiversity, contamination of soil, aquifers and air, bad smells, ocean waste and increased greenhouse gas emissions. This model is also causing social and political disruption as well as major impacts on people's health and safety¹⁶⁹.

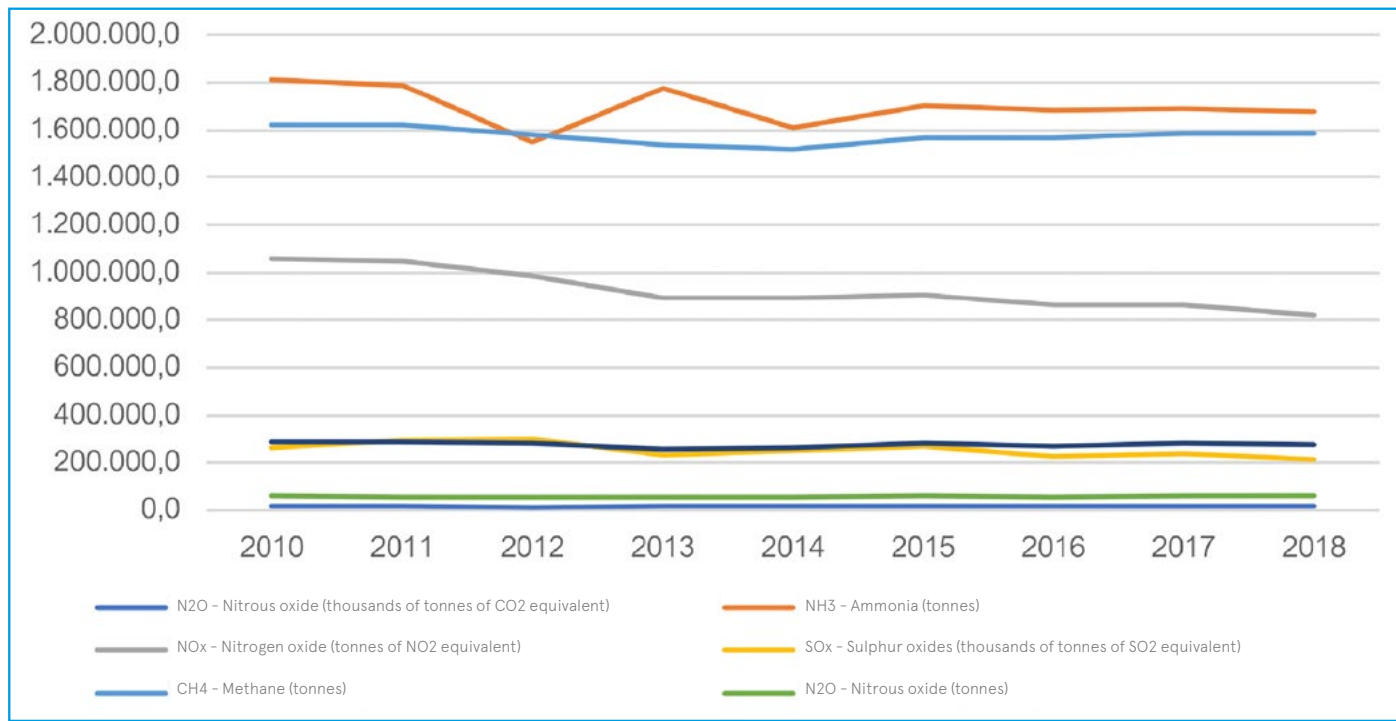
A significant proportion of disease and deterioration in the population's health is attributable to environmental pollution, loss of biodiversity and risks linked to climate change. According to the latest Report on Air Quality in Europe 2020¹⁷⁰ by the European Environment Agency (EEA), pollution causes more than 37,000 premature deaths in our country. It is therefore important to work from the concept of One Health, which shows the close interrelationship between public health, the health of ecosystems and the health of the animal world.

Emissions of polluting gases have been trending downwards in Spain over the last decade (8.11% fewer emissions since 2010, meaning over 530bn tonnes of reduced emissions). The reductions in particles more associated with health problems of the population (and responsible for about 10,000 deaths a year in Spain) - such as nitrous oxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particles in suspension (PM_{2.5}) as well as CO₂ emissions - have decreased slightly faster this past decade, declining 9% since 2010.

¹⁶⁹ A transformative Agenda 2030 for people and the planet. Civil society report. A Common Future, 2018

¹⁷⁰ You can access it [here](#)

Evolution of pollutant gas emissions



Source: Authors' own, based on data from the Air Emissions Account. Series 2008-18. INE

Compared to the evolution over this period with the EU-27 countries, we can see in the following table that this has been similar in relation to the data available in Eurostat:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CO2 EU-27	100.00	98.06	95.75	92.92	89.89	91.29	91.22	91.61	89.85	85.53
CO2 Spain	100.00	102.60	101.68	89.01	90.39	97.36	91.50	99.01	96.49	88.05
Methane EU-27	100.00	98.65	98.15	96.26	95.43	95.48	94.57	94.39	92.90	89.70
Methane Spain	100.00	100.36	97.34	94.95	93.48	96.73	96.63	97.73	98.08	98.34
NO2 EU-27	100.00	98.88	97.62	97.69	98.77	98.71	98.71	100.39	98.26	98.39
NO2 Spain	100.00	94.51	90.79	94.60	98.30	99.58	98.25	101.99	101.38	98.29

Source: Authors' own, based on Eurostat data. Air emissions accounts by NACE

In short, joint work is urgently needed to improve Public Health, in its broadest sense, along with healthcare processes as well as deepening the mechanisms for improving social and territorial cohesion, equity and quality within the National Health System, along with an integrated approach in health policies, covering all relevant Public Administrations' actions - especially those of the autonomous communities. A focus on the prevention and promotion of individual and collective health in healthy environments is needed, as well as the tackling and treatment of disease, by reaching consensus with the autonomous communities in regard to actions within the framework of health care. This should also address the strengthening and transformation of primary care, which has been shown to be the level of care that has the greatest capacity to address the wide range of health factors that affect people. This reinforcement and transformation needs to be delivered in accordance with

the forecasts of the **Strategic Framework for Primary Care of the National Health System**, and address the improvement of health professionals' working conditions, the reinforcement of the workforce at all levels of care, whilst responding to the social needs arising from the ageing population, the increase in chronic diseases, and situations of dependency and unwanted loneliness.

On this route to ensuring access to a more personalised, high quality, sustainable medicine - one that reinforces prevention as well as national and social cohesion - it is essential that communication technologies be used along with digitalisation of health processes, based on the experience and lessons learned during the pandemic. The aim is to fill the insufficient resources available in terms of data collection and analysis at national level, as well as simulation and early warning tools to

anticipate, control and manage situations that are hazardous to public health. Using these will also enable a higher quality, more efficient and more cohesive service to be offered, through mechanisms such as telemedicine, which should be developed in accordance with quality criteria when employing professionals in the sector, as well as in ancillary and complementary sectors.

6.2 Education

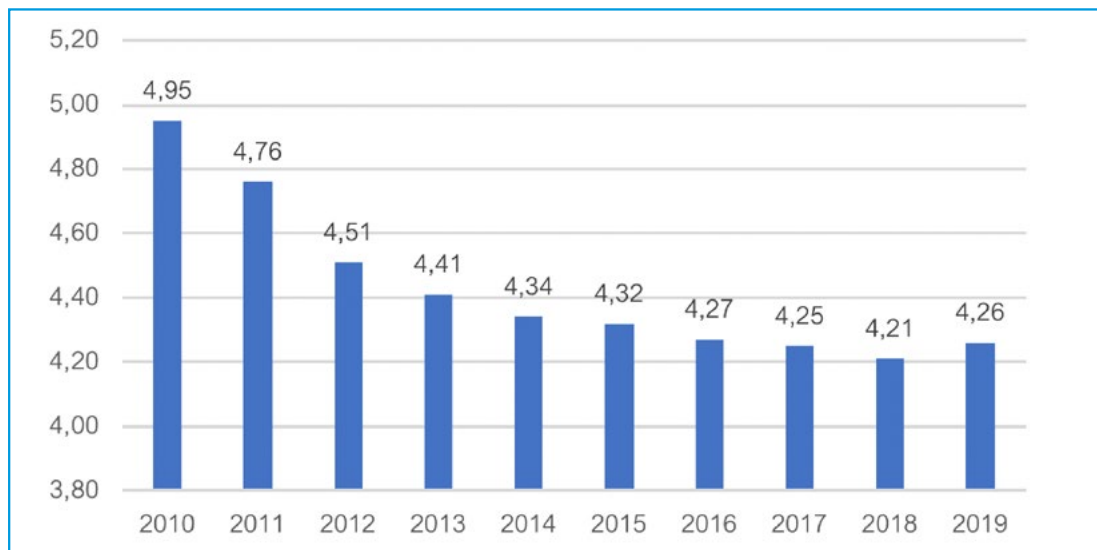
Alongside health, education is another of the pillars of the welfare state and it is a fundamental mean of bringing about the social and economic transformation that is needed to achieve 2030 Agenda. Education should not, therefore, be limited to the ten goals contained in SDG4, because it is interrelated – through lifelong learning – with the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals that make up Agenda 2030, and as a strategic objective that is aiming for individual autonomy, a critical spirit and, ultimately, empowering citizens to take action and get involved.

Spain's economic crisis that followed the 2008 global financial crisis, the effects of which were subsequently felt here, led to important changes in the role of education and society's perception of it. As with other social policies, public education has since 2011 undergone budget reductions, meaning a progressive decrease in public spending on education over the last 10 years, until this changed in more recent budgets including the 4.8% increase in educational investment compared to the previous year.

Despite this increase, the difference compared to the EU-27 remains significant. Although the Eurostat data refer to 2017, the difference with the average public expenditure of the EU-27 was almost 0.6 percentage points below and almost 3 points behind the countries with the highest public expenditure (Sweden, Denmark and Iceland) which means that investment in education still has a wide margin for improvement compared to neighbouring countries.

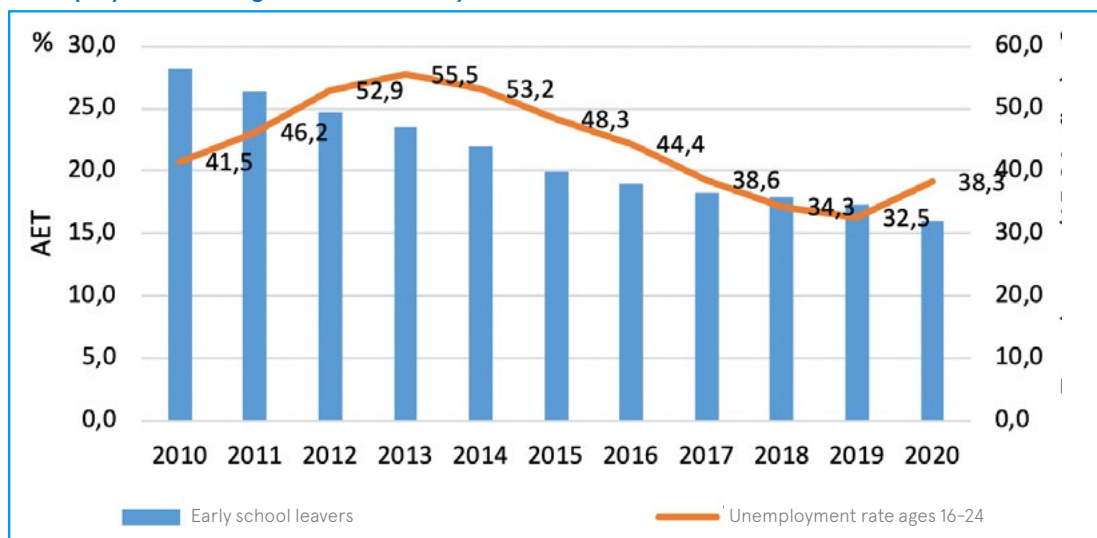
In spite of this, the social role of education was reassessed. Thus, in the context of very high youth unemployment averaging 44% during the period analysed – and being the highest in 2013 at 55.5% and the lowest in 2019 at 32.5% – the rate of dropout school early has been significantly reduced during that period –

Public expenditure on education in relation to GDP



Source: Authors' own, based on the Statistics on Public Expenditure on Education 2019

Unemployment rate ages 16-24 and early school leavers



12 percentage points, from 28.2% in 2010 to 16% in 2020 – and school enrolment rates increased for non-compulsory ages, especially in regard to vocational training.

However, despite this positive change, the school drop-out rate continues to be above the EU average, and affects men more significantly than women, at 20.2% and 11.6% respectively.

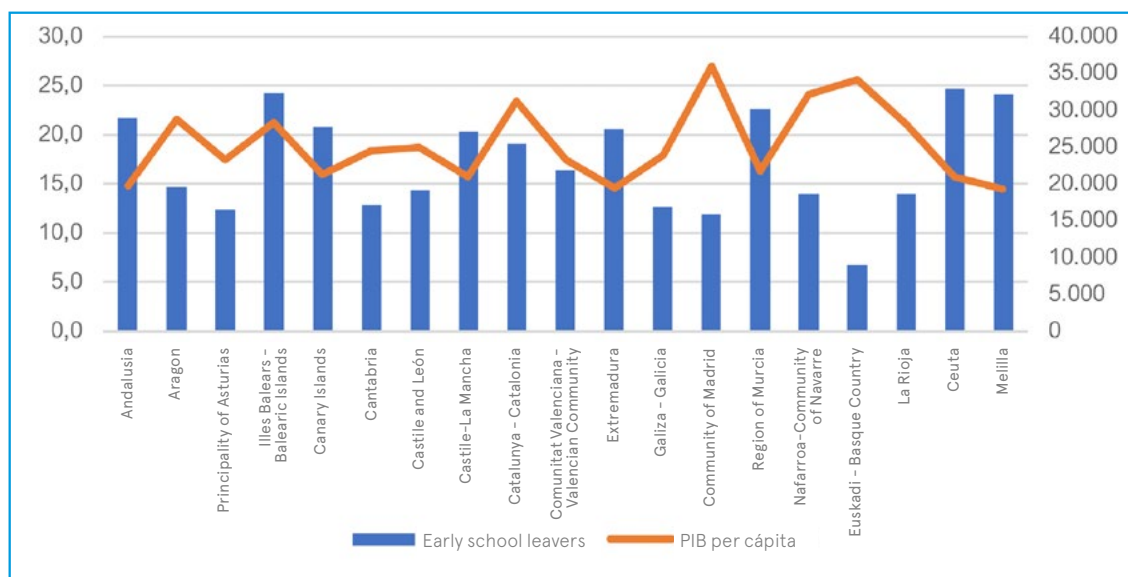
Variations by autonomous community are also significant and drop-out rates above 20% are seen in 4 of the 17 autonomous communities and autonomous cities, whereas in the Basque Country the rate is 6.5%. The relationship with per-capita GDP and investment in education is undoubtedly an influencing factor.

This shows that, even in times of economic crisis, investment in human capital and training has represented a clear commitment to help improve their chance of getting into a job. Analysis of the indicators that link poverty levels and educational characteristics still show the inverse relationship between risk of poverty and educational level, which would confirm the

Dropping out of education-training by 18-24 year olds. Spain and EU-27

		2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Spain	Women	11.6	13.0	14.0	14.5	15.1	15.8	18.1	19.8	20.5	21.5	22.6
	Men	20.2	21.4	21.7	21.8	22.7	24.0	25.6	27.2	28.9	31.0	33.6
EU-27	Women	8.1	8.4	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.4	9.4	10.0	10.6	11.1	11.6
	Men	12	11.9	12.1	12.1	12.1	12.5	12.7	13.6	14.5	15.2	15.9

Early school leaver rate in relation to GDP per capita by Autonomous Community, 2019



Source: Authors' own, based on Labour Force Survey and INE data.¹⁷¹

educational system's traditional social mobility role. As can be seen in the attached chart, people with lower levels of education (stage 1 secondary education or below) are 2.5 times more likely to be in poverty than people with higher education¹⁷²

However, this function is beginning to show significant signs of deteriorating. For example, 13.7% of people who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2019 had university level; in the case of those who had completed stage 2 secondary school education, this was 23.7%¹⁷³. In contrast, the rate of risk of

poverty or exclusion in 2008 was 9.8% for people with higher education, and 18.9% for those who had completed stage 2 secondary education.

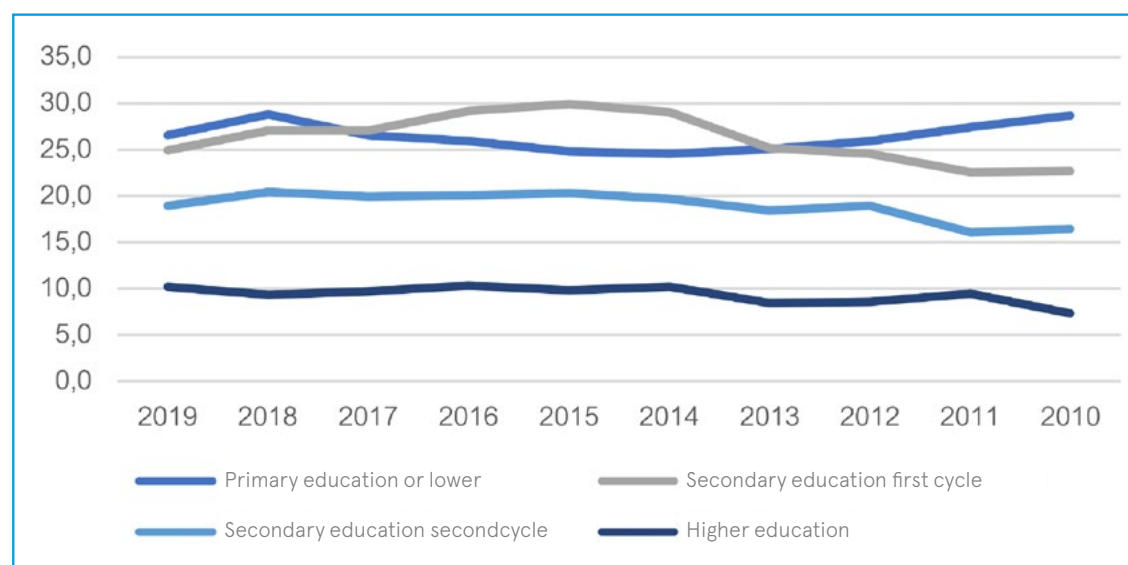
One of the main challenges of the Act that amended the LOE ("LOMLOE") as approved by Parliament on 23 December 2020, is indeed to reduce school drop-out rates to be in line with advanced European countries, among other challenges such as reducing school segregation and improving students' competence level, compensating for disadvantages in origin and recovering the equality levels lost during the years of the financial crisis.

¹⁷¹ Source: Authors' own, based on LCS-INE data.

¹⁷² Living Conditions Survey, 2019-INE.

¹⁷³ Risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE indicator) by level of education attained (people aged 16 and over).

Poverty rate by level of education reached

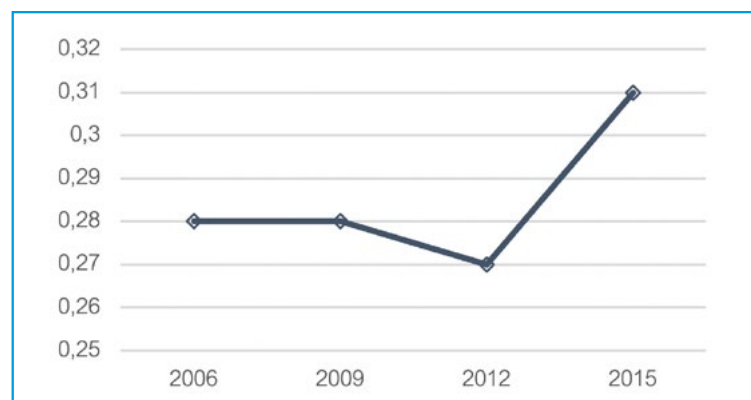


The new Education Act also aims to modernise the teaching profession in order to take the lead on curricular and teaching innovation; to promote an increase in STEAM¹⁷⁴ vocation - particularly among girls; and to guarantee a basic level of changes and economic trends. The LOMLOE also considers Agenda 2030 to be the basis for the definition of the new educational curriculum, with education that goes beyond sustainability and is introduced in a nuclear way across the whole definition of the curriculum.

The implementation of the new Education Act seeks to set as an objective improved extension of age 0-3 early childhood education and its curricular framework, by drawing up an eight-year plan for its progressive implementation, in such a way that it advances towards a sufficient and affordable public offer based on equity and quality, guaranteeing its educational nature, and prioritising the access of students at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Early childhood education has a particularly positive impact on the future educational performance of the most vulnerable children, but also on their physical and emotional health and skills development, making it a powerful tool in the fight against poverty and for equity. In addition, making this first stage of education universally available helps to facilitate work-life balance, easing the burden of providing care which falls mainly on women and promoting their equal access to professional careers, which in turn will have an impact on reducing the gender gap.

School segregation index in Spain



Source: Save The Children Report 2018¹⁷⁵

Whilst there has been a steady increase in Spain over the last 15 years in the reach of early childhood education, the schooling rate in the population under age 3 continues to be low, especially in stage 1 of early childhood education - that is, at the earliest ages where, furthermore, the least progress has been made. Thus, in the 2018-19 academic year, the level of 0-2 year-olds in school was 39.6% on average, although it dropped to 12.4% in the first year old. In other words, almost 9 out of 10 children do not attend an early childhood education centre during their first year of life.

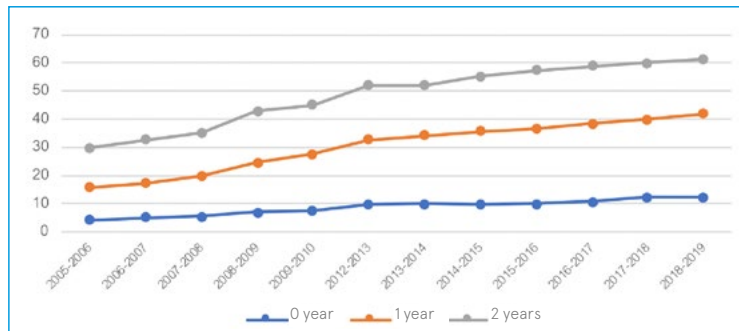
¹⁷⁵ *Mézclate Conmigo - Report on school segregation in Spain 2018*. You can access it [here](#) Save The Children collects student segregation figures based on 2015 PISA test results. Those in the lowest socio-economic groups are shown in the Gorard segregation index (G). This shows the proportion of children who would need to be transferred to other schools in order to remove school segregation. In Spain, the segregation index for children who are in an unfavourable socio-economic situation is 0.31. According to Save The Children, this means that in order to eliminate school segregation in Spain, 31% of the most vulnerable students would have to be moved from one school to another.

¹⁷⁴ Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Art Education.

Furthermore, only half of these children attend public schools (51.2%) – a figure that has remained pretty stable over the last five years.

The figures vary strikingly in different parts of the country, ranging from an enrolment rate in the first stage of infant education of barely 15% in Ceuta to over 55% in the Basque Country. The same picture emerges with the percentage of students enrolled in public centres in the first stage of early childhood education: 89% in Extremadura and almost 88% in Asturias, compared to less than 40% in Andalusia.

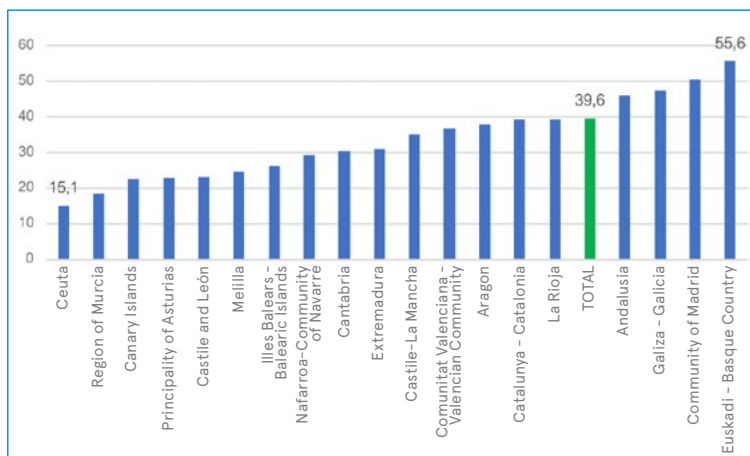
Scholarship rate in the first cycle of educational system, by age



Source: Authors' own, based on Department of Education and Vocational Training data (Spain's education figures).

But the most striking issue is that these schooling rates vary strongly depending on the income of the families to which the children belong. This implies a lack of equity that affects equal opportunities. Thus, according to data from the 2016 LCS (Living Conditions Survey), 62.5% of children under 3 from families whose income is in the highest income quintile were in school, compared to only 26.3% for families in the lowest income quintile. This is why the new Education ACT (LOMLOE) has established mechanisms to support places that are committed to this first stage of early childhood education being public, as this type of education allows equal access for the whole population, regardless of the family's income.

Scholarship rate in the first cycle of educational system (0-2 years), by regions (Autonomous communities)



Source: Authors' own, based on Department of Education and Vocational Training data (Spain's education figures).

A second education-related challenge is to transform and strengthen Vocational Training by designing an agile, modern, competitive training offer that responds to the demands of the current production model and its transition towards sustainability, backed by a new legal framework that also covers the training of students and workers. This new regulatory text will be based on the **1st Strategic Plan for Vocational Training in the education system 2019-22**¹⁷⁷.

The third area refers to the experiences and lessons learned as a result of the actions relating to the management of Covid-19. The educational transformation experienced after the outbreak of the pandemic has meant moving imminently from in-person analogue education to an online digital model, with the clear objective of preserving the right to education. Social and financial inequalities have been reflected in terms of access to and use of learning technologies. The digital gap should not become a new educational inequality. We must therefore continue to strengthen digitalisation-related initiatives, boost access to adequate connectivity and accessible orientation, reinforcement and educational support programmes. And we must improve educational methodologies that allow students to continue advancing with their education. The educational management during the pandemic designed a new educational model in which the presence of students in schools is inescapable; collaboration between public administrations becomes essential; the digitalisation of education is pressing; the transformation of teaching, learning and evaluation processes is necessary; and strengthening the educational budget is ongoing to ensure no one is left behind.

In short, a better educated society is a freer, more dynamic, critical and cohesive society. One of the crucial challenges facing our country lies in guaranteeing inclusive and equitable quality education that ensures equal opportunities in access to university education, regardless of social and financial status, gender or nationality. From this approach, university education must meet the training demands of a society that is in continual transformation, in the face of the evident impacts of globalisation, technological disruption, and the challenges and opportunities presented by social and ecological transition, readying future professionals, whilst training citizens in democratic values. On this, universities can and must contribute decisively to the collective transformation of the current economic and social model, by training future professionals, as well as by generating and transferring scientific, technological, humanistic and cultural knowledge. This response of the university system to the educational demands of society must be based on four key principles: ensuring its quality, promoting its inclusiveness in the broadest sense of the term, defending the value of academic freedom in its academic construction (as recognised in the Spanish Constitution) and guaranteeing a flexible and adaptable university education based on a dynamic and collaborative teaching-learning model.

Based on this objective, a regulatory reform needs to be

¹⁷⁶ LCS-INE (2016) You can access the data [here](#)

¹⁷⁷ You can access it [here](#)

promoted that formulates a profound transformation of the university structures, forms of governance, essential elements of the teaching and research framework, mechanisms for interacting with the various sectors and financial and social agents, the channels of international development, and funding models. A reform designed through broad participation with universities' communities, society and public administrations, and which also addresses the strengthening of teaching and research staff as well as administration and services staff. Closely related to this, reform of the organisation of university education is needed, in order to put in place, the conditions for offering a range of high-quality official bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees, based on flexible teaching-learning methodologies and the intensive use of information and communication technologies, taking an inclusive approach that guarantees equal opportunities for all citizens. A Statute for Teaching-Research Staff also needs to be established to enable a transparent teaching career path, based on merit and ability and which, with sufficient resources, contributes to generational replacement, and helps combat job insecurity, attract and/or retain national and international talent, whilst strengthening universities' teaching and research teams.

6.3 Long-term care and dependency.

The role of long-term care is another area we need to address. Spain combines one of the highest life expectancies in the world with a very low birth rate, resulting in a progressive ageing of our demographic structure. According to the diagnosis conducted for Challenge 8 (Revitalising our rural environment and tackling the demographic challenge), the ageing rate in Spain is 125.92%. This means that there are 125 people over 65 years of age for every 100 people under 16 years of age. And among the elderly, almost 1 in 3 is over 80. In addition, 50% of the more than 4.6 million people who live alone in our country are over 65 years old. In this context, the demand for long-term care will show an upward trend in the coming years, in addition to the insufficient care that currently exists. Proof of this is that we invest only 0.75% of GDP in this type of care – that is, half the average of OECD countries.

Age-related care in Spain is mainly provided through the services and financial benefits provided through the Autonomy and Dependent Care System (SAAD), regulated by the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons Act (LAPAD). This Act recognises dependency care as a universal and subjective right, and as a central part of the social protection system, along with health, social services and social security. SAAD is therefore the set of public and private services and financial benefits designed to promote personal autonomy and care for dependent persons. SAAD currently has 1,132,396¹⁷⁸ beneficiaries with effective entitlement, and includes 5,457 elderly care homes, with an average of 70 places per site, as well as 865 centres for people with disabilities, with an average of 41 places each. However, this stock of residential places is below

the threshold of 5% of the 65+ population as recommended by the WHO.

Although the Dependency Act of 2006 was an important step forward in terms of recognising rights, the austerity policies that were in place between 2012 and 2015 limited its extension and development, with needs growing in parallel with the progressive ageing of the population. Specifically, after 15 years of implementation and progressive development, various studies have highlighted the problems from which it still suffers. Thus, the report drawn up by **the Commission for Dependency Situation Analysis** identifies three major problems.

(a) The first has to do with the large number of people on waiting lists, including entitled but without subsidies beneficiaries (269,854) and pending applications that are expected to receive a favourable decision. Overall, at the end of 2019, there were about 390,000 people in this situation, accounting for more than 35% of applications. In other words, more than 1 in 3 people who have made an application have not yet received the corresponding service or financial benefit. One of the causes is the complex administrative and accounting framework created around SAAD, which makes it difficult for people to manage and access the exercise of their subjective rights.

(b) A second issue concerns the low intensity of services, with too much emphasis on family-based care. In 2012 and 2013, entitlements associated with benefits were reduced – including the number of hours of care, Financial Benefits for Care in the Family Environment (PECEF) and the abolition of social security contributions for non-professional carers, among others. These cuts have not yet been reversed – except for the contribution of non-professional caregivers – and have had a serious impact on the quality of care for dependent people, as well as on the build-up of waiting lists. As a consequence of these reforms, care tasks continue to fall to a large extent on the family environment and the current design of the PECEF tends to reproduce the high feminisation in providing care, generating few jobs and a low stimulus on the labour market and caregivers' income.

In short, it is necessary to increase SAAD funding, restoring the original meaning of this fundamental pillar of our Welfare State and providing it with adequate resources to guarantee the right to care for dependent adults as a basic aspect of social justice.

It is also urgent to address the strengthening of care policies, increasing public investment efforts, which will have a positive impact both in terms of financial efficiency and the well-being of the population, as well as on other challenges linked to the achievement of Agenda 2030. On the one hand, investment in care will reduce the structural barriers that hinder women's equal access to the labour market, linked to them taking on a disproportionate amount of care tasks. On the other hand, by creating quality employment in the formal economy, and improving their training and employment accreditation, it will help reduce the levels of precariousness in terms of the working conditions to which people who work professionally in this industry are subjected – a high percentage of whom are women of migrant origin.

¹⁷⁸ SAAD statistics as at 31 March 2021. You can access it [here](#)

(c) On the other hand, in the broader field of social services, Spain has 34 state sectoral laws that regulate certain rights in this area, 17 regional laws and a Coordinated Plan for basic benefits in local entities, offering an excessively irregular panorama of benefits, generating inequity in terms of the services provided in different parts of the country and inefficiency in how they are provided, as well as making it difficult to obtain information on the scope and protection generated. It is therefore necessary, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations, to put together a catalogue of basic benefits guaranteed for the whole population regardless of the part of the country in which they reside, as a mechanism for social and territorial cohesion, notwithstanding the competences in this area granted under the legal system to the different public administrations.

6.4 Groups in vulnerable situations

6.4.1 Child protection.

Child protection necessarily includes comprehensive protection from violence. Violence against children and adolescents generates severe emotional, social and relational consequences that hinder their full development. This damage can last a lifetime if not properly addressed, at enormous personal and social cost. According to the latest available data, 37,980 underage children were victims of some type of criminal offense in 2018. Of these, 5,382 were offences against sexual freedom and integrity. Of those who suffer from such offences, 80.9% are girls, demonstrating a greater gender vulnerability.

On the other hand, the Childhood in Data¹⁷⁹ initiative point out that minors aged 11–18 who have been victims of violence in schools have increased significantly between 2006 and 2014 as can be seen in the attached chart. However, data from the PISA report for 2018 show that students in Spain report being bullied less frequently than students in other OECD countries¹⁸⁰.

From the perspective of online crime, the **Study on Cybercrime in Spain**¹⁸¹, annually published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs indicates that 3.60% of allegations and 7.65% of arrests and indictments are related to minors.

These figures show the impact of violence against children and the true figures could in fact be even higher, given the current difficulties in determining the precise magnitude of the phenomenon.

6.4.2 Persons seeking international protection.

Making 2030 Agenda a reality in our country necessarily means complying with international and legal commitments regarding

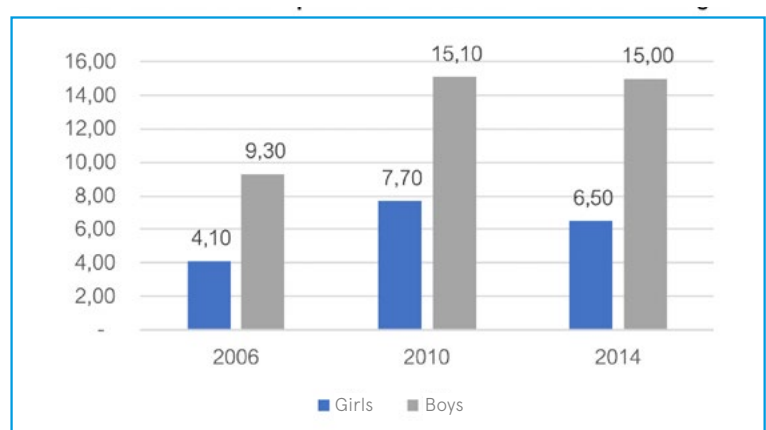
the reception and integration of people seeking international protection. Between 2017 and 2019, requests for protection increased dramatically as a result of increased causes of persecution and threat to the integrity of individuals in different countries. This has been compounded by persistent armed conflicts in other countries. Thus, in 2019, 118,264 people applied for asylum in Spain and in 2020 there were more than 88,000 applications. The trend changes abruptly in 2020 with a 25% drop in applications for international protection, mainly due to the closure of borders ordered by reasons of the global pandemic situation, which continues at the time of writing this report.

Over the last two years, 2019 and 2020, there has been a significant strengthening of the Internal Affairs Ministry and Refuge (OAR) – mainly through two key initiatives: increasing the number of officials working in that unit, and improving computer systems. These initiatives are regarded as structural, meaning that their impact on the quality of the OAR's work and on Spain's inter-national protection system as a whole will be maintained in the coming years.

The main impact from these improvements and from strengthening of the OAR can be seen in the significant increase in the number of international protection decisions. For example, 2020 is the first year since 2011 when more cases were resolved than recorded and a change in trend has therefore been created that is enabling the backlog of pending applications to be reduced. As can be seen in the following table, this trend increases significantly from 2019 and 2020 onwards.

Undoubtedly, the evolution of the applications for international protection has been influenced over the last two years by the global pandemic. We can therefore anticipate that there will be a significant increase in these applications when international borders reopen. In view of this situation, the reception system will be reinforced with the creation of around 6,000 new publicly owned places, reception procedures will be reformed at all centres (whether managed directly or through social organisations), and the mentoring programmes offered will be

Population aged 11–18 who have been the victim of violence in school



¹⁷⁹ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁸⁰ Accessible [here](#)

¹⁸¹ You can access it [here](#)

redefined and reinforced, and adapted to applicants' needs. To this end, reform is under way which, without interfering in the individual examination of the alleged circumstances and with procedural guarantees for each asylum-seeker, would define two levels of benefits. First, there are the benefits that are aimed at ensuring the basic level of services established in the Reception Directive for all applicants who lack sufficient financial resources. Second, there is the offer of reinforced protection for those who have a more vulnerable profile, determined through a system of objective indicators around the context of the country of origin, the expected inspection rate and individual circumstances, which also includes specific mechanisms for protecting children and adolescents.

The reform would be part of the long-term objective of supporting the development of capacities and infrastructures for receiving new arrivals and the procedure for the recognising international protection under the new European Pact on Migration and Asylum, which is currently being negotiated within the European Union. Lastly, in line with the judgment of the High Court of Justice of Madrid in 2018, a care system co-management and decentralisation process needs to be initiated, such that it will be the government that deals with the applicants during the first phase of reception and examination. After this, their care would be transferred to the autonomous communities, since it is they who are competent in terms of reception arrangements or programmes to ensure their full inclusion.

6.4.3 Non-discrimination and hate crime.

The right of all people to live a life free from violence manifests itself in being able to love and enjoy sexuality in freedom, not being discriminated on the basis of national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, illness, sex or any other personal or social circumstance.

The right to equal treatment is the right not to be discriminated, and any provision, conduct, act, criterion or practice that violates this right is prohibited. This right has the status of a principle that informs the legal system, government conduct and judicial practice and binds both public authorities and individuals. This is set out in Article 14 of the Spanish Constitution, which is the axis of the legal guarantee of equality.¹⁸²

This is, therefore, an unavoidable principle from the point of view of justice and fundamental rights. Moreover, if properly articulated, it also has an impact on social cohesion and sustainable development, increasing the legitimacy of public action. Social complexity requires public policies that integrate

¹⁸² *How to act in cases of discrimination, hate crimes and intolerance. Practical guide for professionals. Institute for Women and Equal Opportunities. You can access it [here](#)*

¹⁸³ *Data for the period from January to May 2021.*

¹⁸⁴ *Data for the period from January to May 2021.*

Evolution of applications for international protection in Spain

	Applications	Annual change (%)
2017	31,740	
2018	55,749	75.64
2019	118,446	112.46
2020	88,762	- 25.06
2021 ¹⁸³	21,724	

Source: Authors' own, based on OAR data.

Evolution of OAR decisions

	Decisions	Backlog
2018	12,889	42,025
2019	65,592	111,740
2020	116,614	90,594
2021 ¹⁸⁴	37,283	

Source: Authors' own, based on CEAR Annual Reports and OAR data.

this principle in a multi-faceted manner in order to reinforce the efficiency, quality, transparency, equity and responsibility of public actions and decisions. This is set out in Article 9.2 of the Spanish Constitution, which establishes the obligation of public authorities to promote the conditions for a real and effective freedom and equality of each person and the groups to which they belong.

The eradication of hate and domination must be one of the priorities for implementing Agenda 2030. Peace is one of the five pillars of this Agenda - understood as the result of peaceful, fair and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence. Therefore, the challenge is to bring about the prevention of and significant reduction in violence in all its expressions. And hate crimes and other discrimination based on national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or sex must be eliminated in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to data from the Internal Affairs Ministry, a total of 1,076 hate crimes and incidents were recorded in Spain in 2019, an increase of 6.8% over 2018¹⁸⁵. Their origin is mainly related to three areas: racism and xenophobia, ideology and those related to sexual orientation and gender identity, which together account for almost 87 per cent of the total. Those that increased the most in 2019 are linked to racism and xenophobia (20.9%) and those related to sexual orientation and gender identity (8.6%).

It is important to point out that, despite the efforts made in recent years to improve the collection and processing of data in order to offer the most complete and realistic picture possible of this serious violation of human rights, our system suffers from shortcomings similar to those of other neighbouring countries and the scale of this problem is greater, as a result of the percentage of under-reporting. According to data from the **Study on Potential Victims' Perception of Discrimination based on Racial or Ethnic Origin in 2020**¹⁸⁶, prepared by the Council for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the levels of reporting discriminatory situations continue to be very low: only 18.2% of all people who have experienced discrimination in the last year and claim to have filed a complaint, claim or report, compared to 10.2% in 2013. The phenomenon of racial and/or ethnic discrimination is rendered invisible, despite the fact that there is an increase of almost double, compared to the previous set of data. These "under-reporting" data for Spain are at similar levels to those estimated by the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA). It is therefore essential to raise awareness among citizens of the importance of reporting hate crime if they are victims or witnesses of hate crime.

6.5 Strengthening public services.

Strengthening public services also requires effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions at all levels, as called for in SDG16 of 2030 Agenda. This implies setting up a new public governance framework that guarantees the promotion of democratic, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, where access to justice is guaranteed for all.

Many of the principles and commitments contained in this SDG have been articulated in our country through open government plans, the last of which was approved in October 2020 after a co-creation process to define its commitments and measures. This process involved the participation of all public authorities and civil society through the Open Government Forum. This 4th Open Government Plan 2020-24¹⁸⁷ includes ten commitments that combine more than 100 initiatives promoted by all the public administrations: General State Administration, autonomous communities, the cities of Ceuta and Melilla and local organisations, through FEMP (Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces).

For its part, the modernising of public administrations, key actors in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, should meet the objectives of improving service to citizens and actively contribute to the success of public policies aimed at supporting major transformations in Spain. Modernising public administrations involves improving the accessibility of digital public services, adapting and making governance of the digitalisation process more efficient, eliminating bottlenecks and streamlining the processes for making public investments, helping improve public employees' efficiency and effectiveness and modernising the way they are selected and managed, as well as the system that governs the framework of relations between the different levels of public administration and strengthening the institutional architecture of financial governance.

Offering public services capable of meeting citizens' needs also requires administrative procedures to be improved, as well as quality public employment through the adoption of measures aimed at reducing temporary employment, as well as establishing effective measures to prevent and sanction the abuse of temporary public employment. For the efficient provision and management of public services and public sector staff, encouragement will be given for the incorporation of technological platforms and intelligent management into the human resources selection and management processes. This will allow public authorities to adapt the digital needs of public employees, facilitating access to the digital workplace, more agile

¹⁸⁷ Department of Territorial Policy and Civil Service (2020). You can access it [here](#)

¹⁸⁵ Report on the Evolution of Hate Crimes in Spain 2019. You can access it [here](#)

¹⁸⁶ You can access it [here](#)

selection processes, training in the use of tools and training in new digital tools, as well as the technological transformation necessary to improve and automate processes. It is a priority to strengthen the capacity of the public Administration by implementing a human resources model based on skills, which promotes the attraction and retention of talent by setting out a professional career that ensures equality between women and men, together with professional public management that avoids excessive turnover and ensures results-oriented public management. It is also necessary to develop recruitment and selection policies that ensure inter-generational replacement, aimed at attracting diverse talent and including under-represented groups.

Lastly, it is necessary to promote the modernisation and comprehensive reform of the justice system in order to contribute to solving citizens' problems in a constantly changing world that faces new challenges. Justice, as a sector and based on its constitutional function, can contribute to economic activation, ecological transition, the fight against depopulation, social cohesion, education, the exercise of human rights and preventing corruption. In this area, we need to move towards a public service of justice, with a gender perspective, that is more accessible to citizens and adjusted to everyday social demands, ensuring that no one is left behind.

ACCELERATING POLICY 6:

Reinforced public services for a democratic, resilient welfare state



a. Orientation of the Accelerating Policy:

The pandemic has highlighted the absolutely essential role of public services in our country. However, this work has always been done by health staff, teachers, social services and every public professional – often in extremely difficult conditions as a result of the disinvestment under a range of public policies during the financial crisis that began in 2008. The new country that we have to build must overcome this situation once and for all and guarantee policies and investments to embed inclusive, strong, reinforced public services. This entails building a model that consolidates public health as an essential service of the welfare state, based on research and scientific knowledge, an excellent public education for all that offers opportunities for training and growth throughout life to ensure social mobility and social services, care for dependent adults and children that have the necessary resources to meet all of the population's needs. All this must be done with the aim of ensuring that everyone in our country, regardless of where they were born or where they live, is guaranteed protection from the public sector. Regional and local governments must also play an essential role in this. A reconstruction process aligned with Agenda 2030 implies addressing the extension and deepening of the welfare state as a priority, in order to guarantee a true social transition that ensures rights by strengthening quality public services, in order to leave no one behind. A vision of a country that must also ensure alignment with international and development cooperation policies so that such equity and cohesion can be achieved both within and beyond our borders.

In order to achieve the SDGs on these matters, it is essential to have a **catalogue of basic benefits** that are guaranteed for the whole population regardless of the part of the country in which they reside, as a mechanism for social and territorial cohesion, notwithstanding the competences in this area granted under the legal system to the different public sector organisations. This will enable the organising of the public system as a whole, along with its internal coordination and coordination with other social protection systems – education, health, justice, housing, and employment, among others – in order to provide comprehensive care. This new regulatory framework will also address the participation of social initiative in the provision of services, as well as clarify and strengthen aspects such as the information exchange system, the system of competences, funding, and mechanisms to promote research, quality, innovation and evaluation of the system.

Dependency care as a universal and subjective right, and as a central part of the social protection system, along with health, social services and social security. On this, the Autonomy and Dependent Care System (SAAD) is the set of public and private services and financial benefits designed to promote personal autonomy and care for people who are dependent. Its main objectives for the coming years are to improve services and benefits and the working conditions of the people who provide services under the Autonomy and Dependent Care System.

The increase in public effort in the area of long-term care must be accompanied by the promotion of a change in the model,

promoting services that reinforce more person-centred care and encouraging deinstitutionalisation, through the implementation of a national strategy that will include various actions. It will analyse and evaluate the residential care sector across the different parts of the country and community support services or housing projects in the community, review existing legislation and policies, and identify obstacles to the development of these transformation processes, in order to make the necessary changes. Pilot projects will also be launched to demonstrate how the new policies work and as a means of learning lessons.

It will also promote the provision of new public facilities based on a new person-centred architecture focused on care in the community environments, and the remodelling and adapting of existing facilities. Changing the long-term care model means that care homes to which people need to move as a result of their needs, must have suitable characteristics. The aim is to encourage residents to take control of their own lives, focusing on personal privacy, as well as opportunities for choice and participation in activities of daily living and social interaction. These smaller environments mean they can also be built in small municipalities and rural areas, thereby helping to meet the demographic challenge.

Similarly, the change in the long-term care model can be encouraged through innovative day centres that are integrated into the community and which allow support and care near to the home of the person who needs it, as well as through new public facilities of an appropriate size and design to implement this model, or the remodelling of existing ones. Lastly, incorporating new technologies to support care should make it possible to introduce equipment into homes that enable personal autonomy through the use of advanced telecare, as well as other technological means that allow the provision of support and care in connected homes and inclusive care environments, including in rural areas.

This model also needs to be adapted to its different target groups, including **people with disabilities**, and in this way complying with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities. In this area, the reform of Article 49 of the Spanish Constitution should be noted: it no longer refers to persons with disabilities as *physically, sensorial and mentally handicapped people* and the promotion of positive action measures aimed at avoiding or compensating for the disadvantages of people with disabilities **so that they can participate fully in political, economic, cultural and social life**. We will also work to continue guaranteeing the basic conditions **of accessibility and non-discrimination in regard to access** for people with disabilities so that they have the right to use the city and all urbanised public spaces with full autonomy and on an equal footing.

A focus on health will be introduced into all public policies, so that the health implications of the decisions taken will be considered, with the goal of avoiding harmful impacts on health and improving the health of the population and equity in terms of health. The incorporation of new health-related co-payment systems like those established for medicines will be avoided, in regard to benefits where to date they have not been imposed - such as non-urgent health transport, dietary

therapy products and orthopaedic and prosthetic products.

Within the framework of **Primary Health Care**, the working conditions of health professionals will continue to be improved and the workforce at all levels of care will be reinforced, whilst responding to the social needs arising from the ageing population, the increase in chronic diseases, and situations of dependency and loneliness. Similarly, an early intervention system will be developed involving the recognition and guarantee of a subjective right to integral, universal, free and public early intervention without discrimination based on the place of residence, equally throughout the country. Special attention will be paid to Mental Health in terms of gender equality and groups from the most vulnerable environments and in particular to **specific care for children and adolescents**.

Policies will be promoted to encourage **nutrition and healthy eating** and taking the practice of physical activity, promoting educational and informative campaigns aimed at consumers, guiding them towards healthier food choices and encouraging the food industry to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply.

The new Education Act - the "LOMLOE", approved at the end of 2020 - also considers 2030 Agenda to be the basis for the definition of the new educational curriculum, with education that goes beyond sustainability and is introduced in a nuclear way across the whole definition of the curriculum. In addition, it sets out other initiatives that are aimed at modernising the teaching profession in order to take the lead on curricular and teaching innovation; to promote an increase in STEAM vocation - particularly among girls and adolescents; and to guarantee a basic level of investment in education and scholarships regardless of political changes and economic situations. The implementation of the new Education Act seeks to set as an objective improved extension of age 0-3 early childhood education and its curricular framework, by drawing up an eight-year plan for its progressive implementation, in such a way that it advances towards a sufficient and affordable public offer based on equity and quality, guaranteeing its educational nature, and prioritising the access of students at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Early childhood education has a particularly positive impact on the future educational performance of the most vulnerable children, but also on their physical and emotional health and skills development, making it a powerful tool in the fight against poverty and for equity. In addition, extending the first stage of childhood education so that moves towards being a public offering that is adequate and accessible on an equitable and quality basis will help to facilitate work-life balance, easing the burden of providing care which falls mainly on women and promoting their equal access to professional careers, which in turn will have an impact on reducing the gender gap.

Another of its objectives is the **digital transformation** of education in Spain by providing schools with equipment that offers reliable, good quality connectivity so that it can be made available to students who do not have such equipment, as part of ensuring full access to education through digital media, both at home and in school. We will also work to ensure that schooling decisions for students who have special educational

needs ensure the most appropriate response to each student's specific needs, at all times guaranteeing the child's rights.

In **universities**, a transparent **teaching career path** needs to be offered, based on merit and ability and which, with sufficient resources, contributes to generational replacement, and helps combat job insecurity, attract and/or retain national and international talent, whilst strengthening universities' teaching and research teams.

Spanish society is committed to the **maintenance, improvement and adaptation of the public Social Security system** and especially the pension system, based on solidarity between and within each generation, and through the equitable distribution of burdens and opposition to any radical transformation of the system that involves a break with the principles on which the current system is based – especially those of inter- and intra-generational solidarity, sufficient benefits, fairness in how burdens are distributed and public responsibility in managing the system.

The **comprehensive prevention and protection of children and adolescents from any situation of violence** is also one of the goals of 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG16: *Promote fair, peaceful and inclusive societies*, and Target 16.2 *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children*. To this end, the provisions contained in Act 8/2021, of 4 June, on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence, will be implemented on the basis of an approach that includes the promotion of public awareness to generate an active involvement of society as a whole in terms of prevention, detection and report. The Act guarantees a unified standard to protect and guarantee the rights for all children and adolescents, regardless of the territory in which they live. Lastly, it will respond to the requirement to protect minors as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty and Article 39 of the Spanish Constitution.

As with compliance with the requirement to protect especially vulnerable groups is the reinforcement of the reception system for people seeking international protection, by creating new publicly owned places, reforming reception procedures and redefining support programmes to adapt them to the applicants' needs. In addition, the Action Plan to Combat Hate Crimes will continue to be developed, focusing on training of National Security Forces and Corps, prevention, support for victims, and responses to this type of crime.

Another of the objectives of this accelerator policy is to improve accessibility to public sector organisations by improving administrative procedures and **digitalising** them, along with all the guarantees for the protection of personal and business data. In parallel, the digital capacities and skills of workers and the public as a whole will be developed in order to overcome potential gaps in regard to access. In addition, actions in the area of **Open Government** will continue to be strengthened, aimed at reinforcing transparency and accountability, improving participation and establishing public integrity systems, among others. These will be articulated through the combined efforts of the three levels of public Administration. A final aspect refers

to the need to address the terms and conditions attached to public employment, so that the necessary skills and resources are available to improve the delivery of services to the public.

b. Priorities for action:

→ **Social Services Framework Act**, which shall set out the catalogue of basic benefits guaranteed to the population as a whole, regardless of which part of the country they reside. Its definition will be agreed with the autonomous communities and local organisations and will enable the organisation of the public system as a whole, along with its internal coordination and coordination with other social protection systems – education, health, justice, housing, and employment, among others – in order to provide comprehensive care.

→ **Promotion of personal autonomy and care for dependent persons**, through the development of Act 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 SAAD (**the Autonomy and Dependent Care System**).

→ **Emergency Plan for Dependency 2021** which involves an increase in central government funding for SAAD of at least 600 million euros in 2021, representing a minimum 17.4% increase.

→ **National Deinstitutionalisation Strategy** to be put in place so that older people are able to remain in their homes as long as possible before going into residential care.

→ The **National Strategy for Active Ageing and Proper Treatment of Older Persons** will include measures aimed at tackling loneliness and other forms of discrimination, and will also pay special attention to the needs arising from the ageing of the rural population.

→ **Measures of positive action aimed at preventing or compensating for disadvantages for persons with disabilities to participate fully in political, economic, cultural and social life.**

→ The **Technical Document on Basic Conditions of Accessibility and Non-Discrimination in regard to Accessing and Using Urbanised Public Spaces** thus providing Spain with basic conditions of accessibility.

→ The **Reform of civil and procedural legislation to support people with disabilities in exercising their legal capacity**, to align the Spanish legal system with the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

→ The **Draft Bill of Measures for Equity, Universal Provision and Cohesion of the National Health System** to introduce the health approach under all public policies. This brings about an effective focus on health in all public policies in order that, when defining public policies systematically across all sectors,

the health implications of the decisions taken are considered, with the aim of avoiding harmful impacts on health and improving the health of the population and health equity.

→ **Strategic Framework for Primary Care of the National Health System** in order, amongst other things, to improve working conditions of health professionals and strengthen teams at all levels of care provision.

→ The drawing up of a **Law to make early care and support for child development universally available** in order to guarantee universal, free, comprehensive, intersectoral and specialist early care as a subjective right for all children aged 0-6 with developmental disorders or at risk of them.

→ **National Mental Health Strategy**, which will pay special attention to gender equity and groups from more vulnerable environments, providing "rapid and universal" care to those who need it and focused around five core areas: the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental disorders; prevention, early detection and support for suicidal behaviour; care and specific engagement with families; inter-agency, inter-sectoral and inter-team coordination within the mental health system and networks of associations; and, training in mental health.

→ **Spanish Strategy for Tailored Precision Medicine**, which includes action plans for the generation and use of genomic and molecular people's information and integrating this information with clinical, environmental and lifestyle data, with the aim of improving the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of diseases in a personalised way.

→ Nutrition Observatory to **promote healthy eating and discourage obesity**, reducing the prevalence of excess weight (overweight and obese), with a specific focus on children and disadvantaged people. Among other aspects, the Observatory promotes the study of obesity (mainly aimed at monitoring from an epidemiological perspective), as well as evaluating nutritional policies, and promoting the dissemination of scientific evidence in this area.

→ Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention Strategy ("**Naos**"), which regulates food advertising aimed initially at children under 12 years of age to promote nutrition and healthy eating, as well as the practice of physical activity, through consumer-based education and information initiatives.

→ A summarised, direct **Front-Label Nutrition System** based on the nutritional traffic light model that classifies and characterises the nutritional value of foods and beverages, guiding consumers towards healthier food choices and encouraging the food industry to improve the nutritional quality of the food offered. The implementation of this system will be backed by consumer-focused training and information campaigns, the regulation of food and drink advertising aimed at children as well as fiscal measures, thus setting out a comprehensive strategy to improve the nutritional quality of food.

→ The **Spanish Strategy for Implementing the School Fruit, Vegetables and Milk Programme from academic years 2017-18 to 2022-23** has a dual purpose. It seeks first to halt the downward trend in the consumption of these products (which is particularly marked among children) and, second, to contribute to the strategy of tackling obesity and related diseases. It also includes the distribution of fruit and vegetables to schools, among other initiatives.

→ Development of **Organic Law 3/2020 of 29 December, which modifies Organic Law 2/2006 (LOMLOE) of 3 May**, aimed at, among other initiatives, modernising the teaching profession in order to take the lead on curricular and teaching innovation; to promote an increase in STEAM vocation - particularly among girls and adolescents; and to guarantee a basic level of investment in education and scholarships regardless of political changes and economic situations. This law is also based on the principles of the right to inclusive education, identifying and assessing the needs of students with special educational needs in order to provide the most appropriate response, and developing a plan so that ordinary schools have the necessary resources to be able to support students with disabilities in the best possible conditions.

→ **Extension of the first stage of Early Childhood Education (0-3 years)** offering free access and prioritising access to students at risk of poverty and social exclusion and low school-attendance rates.

→ The "**Educate In Digital**" (**Educa en Digital**) Programme to support the digital transformation of education in Spain by providing schools with equipment that has reliable, good quality connectivity.

→ The "**School Holidays, Keep Learning**" (**VECA**) Programme is aimed at preventing situations of deprivation and social exclusion that occur during the summer holiday period among the most disadvantaged families to ensure their children's rights to food, leisure and culture.

→ From 2022, the provision of the necessary resources in ordinary schools to be able to **support students with disabilities under the best conditions within ten years** (Organic Law 3/2020 of 29 December, which modifies Organic Law 2/2006 of 3 May).

→ **Organisation and integration of Vocational Training** which is to contain the regulation of the basic regulations on vocational training within the educational system.

→ **Regulation of dual vocational training** taken to mean the set of training actions and initiatives the aim of which is to help people gain professional qualifications, through a combination of teaching and learning in companies as well as in training centres.

→ **Vocational Training Plan** the aim of which is to ensure professional training and qualifications to facilitate the incorporation and permanence of the population in the labour-market

→ As part of the continuous process of **updating the National Catalogue of Professional Qualifications**, new qualifications will be established or the existing ones will be modified, with the goal of adapting them to the new needs of the production and service provision sectors.

→ **Recognition of professional competences acquired through work experience as well as non-formal and informal training routes** (Royal Decree 143/2021, of 9 March that modifies Royal Decree 1224/2009, of 17 July) thus establishing the procedure and requirements for assessing and accrediting professional skills acquired by people through work experience and through non-formal and informal training routes, as well as the effects of this assessment and accreditation of skills.

→ **Teaching and Research Statute** that opens up transparent teaching careers based on merit and ability.

→ Boost for **coeducation at all educational stages**, through the provisions of the LOMLOE, which adopts a gender equality approach through coeducation and which at all stages encourages the learning of effective equality between men and women, the prevention of gender-based violence and respect for emotional-sexual diversity.

→ **Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence**, the aim of which is to prevent and protect children and adolescents from violence, and promoting public awareness that lead to such behaviour being rejected as well as engaging society as a whole in preventing, detecting and reporting it.

→ **Look in depth** the international standards regarding **migrant children's rights under national and regional regulatory frameworks relating to child protection**.

→ Reform of the **asylum and immigration system to incorporate a children's rights perspective**.

→ **New model for the reception of applicants for international protection**, that is respectful of the autonomous communities' integration competences. To this end, the appropriate rule will be approved in regard to criteria for distributing applicants for international protection along with the Basic Portfolio of Reception Services.

→ Commitment to maintaining, improving and adapting the public pension system in accordance with the recommendations of the **Toledo Pact Evaluation and Reform Report**.

→ **IV Open Government Plan 2020-24**, 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 sector staff.

→ **Transparency, Access to Information and Good Governance**, with regulatory implementation via Royal Decree for Act 19/2013 of December 9, which completes the legal framework that enables compliance with transparency of public activity and increases legal certainty.

→ **Strategy for reinforcing and reorganising the public system of evaluation in government organisations** which will redefine the functions of the Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies, and also aims to sponsor a culture of evaluation among public sector organisations, the formulation and dissemination of evaluation methodologies, and the monitoring of strategy implementation to strengthen the public system of evaluation in public sector organisations.

→ **Artificial Intelligence Strategy**, which includes the AI for Data-Driven Governance programme, the aim of which is to use AI to gain real insight into society and make public policy decisions based on reliable, up-to-date data.

→ Renewal of the **Official Secrets Act**.

→ **Plan for the Digitalisation Plan of the Public Sector 2021-25**, which aims to improve the accessibility of public services to citizens and companies with all the guarantees for the protection of personal and company data, overcome the digital divide in society and in different parts of the country and boost the efficiency of public sector organisations through digitalisation.

→ Promotion of the **Digital Rights Charter** as a reference framework that equates the rights of citizens in terms of digital and analogue settings, as well as putting Spain in a position of international leadership in the debate on technological humanism.

→ **National Digital Skills Plan**, which responds to the need to develop the digital skills and abilities of staff and the public in general. It includes training in digital skills for public employment in order to offer public services that are capable of meeting citizens' needs as improvements to administrative procedures and a commitment to quality public employment.

→ **Plan for Digitalisation and Digital Skills in the Educational System**, consisting of a set of actions to support the digital transformation of the educational system by providing devices to schools and students, digital educational resources, and adapting teachers' digital skills and activities by using artificial intelligence for tailored education.

→ The **Civil Service State Administration Act**, which will deploy all the innovative potential of the Basic Public Employees Statute around four key areas: revitalising the instruments of planning, organising and managing human resources; guaranteeing the effectiveness of the principles of equality, merit and capacity in access; regulating vertical and horizontal professional careers and training; and developing the role of professional public manager.

→ **General State Administration Talent Attraction Plan (AGE)**, which aims to incorporate new generations into public employment in order to achieve more modern, agile, dynamic, egalitarian and inclusive government.

→ **Action Plan to Combat Hate Crimes** to promote and strengthen a comprehensive legislative and policy framework to eradicate hate speech and hate crimes, ensuring the protection of the rights and freedoms of all.

→ New measures that extend the subjective scope of **recognising and comprehensive protection for victims of terrorism**, and equalising certain rights of victims.

→ **Centralised procurement** to promote social cohesion, environmental sustainability, the acquisition and provision of quality public goods and services and encouragement of SME participation.

→ Implementation of the **Intelligent Automation Service, GobTechLab**, for better decision making.

→ Modification of **Circular 1/2020 of the State Attorney's Office - Directorate of the State Legal Service**, on "the legal nature of resolutions issued by Committees responsible for monitoring United Nations' Human Rights treaties" so they can be adapted to International Human Rights Law, and to that end incorporating, **special protocols** for the **processing of requests for precautionary measures** by committees and for **implementing committees' rulings** resolutions (final decisions made on individual complaints), with effective redress for victims and the adoption of guarantees that they will not recur.

→ **Amendment of Act 25/2014 of 27 November, on Treaties and other International Agreements**, with the incorporation of a new heading: "On international human rights treaties" under which guarantees are contemplated to comply with the requirements of the United Nations' international treaties signed by Spain, as well as Article 10.2 of the Constitution.

→ Push forward the approval of the **2nd Plan of Human Rights**, with the participation of the relevant authorities, experts and academics, and civil society organisations, containing a list of all the measures urged by the United Nations' human rights protection mechanisms and a road map to promote their implementation.

→ Establishment of a **Committee to Monitor International Human Rights Bodies' Resolutions, using as a reference the Colombian model of Law 288 of 1996** *"Through which instruments are established for compensating damages to victims of human rights violations by virtue of the provisions of certain international human rights organisations"*, with a specific committee to carry out such follow-up and control.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, strengthen the universal public social services system, guaranteeing a minimum portfolio of shared services that are managed in a decentralised way and in agreement with the Autonomous Communities, thus strengthening community engagement.

By 2030, improve the systems for generating and processing information regarding the functioning of the universal public social services system, and make progress in its articulation with public employment services.

By 2030, modernise and strengthen the Social Services system as a whole, in particular promoting a new model of long-term care that improves its reach, intensity and quality through, among other things, increasing investment of resources and supporting the deinstitutionalisation of care, guaranteeing equitable access across the country by means of a national regulatory framework.

By 2030, ensure pensions are adequate as a basic principle of protecting citizens, and in line with Article 50 of the Spanish Constitution, based on the recommendations adopted within the Toledo Pact Parliamentary Commission - including the reinforcement of the principle of solidarity in the different areas of protection and the maintenance of pensioners' purchasing power, by updating the amount paid in line with the consumer price index.

By 2030, guarantee the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents from violence by deploying the provisions contained in the new Organic Law and developing other strategic frameworks.

By 2030, develop the provisions of the new legal framework on education, with the aim of increasing educational and training opportunities for all students, particularly taking into account the most disadvantaged population groups (population of immigrant origin or Roma), contributing to the improvement of educational outcomes, and ensuring inclusive, equitable and quality education.

By 2030, compensate for the impact of inequalities in education that are due to origin - economic, social, cultural and regional - through the expansion and reform of scholarship and study aid programmes, the elimination of school segregation based on the students' origin, promoting a sense of community in schools, and structuring guidance and school reinforcement programmes in primary and secondary education in order to prevent school failure and early dropping out from education and training.

By 2030, develop a new curricular model based on key competencies, prioritising essential learning, and the regulation of an inclusive academic system, which also guarantees that attention is paid to the special educational needs of children and adolescents, in order to enable a fully inclusive education system.

By 2030, promote an in-depth reform of the teaching profession, including initial training, access to the civil service and professional careers, and including lifelong learning.

By 2030, promote inclusive education, attention to diversity, as well as specific training on equality, harassment and ill-treatment in schools and teachers' ongoing training.

By 2030, guarantee the right of boys and girls to an accessible, affordable, inclusive and high quality place in the first stage of early childhood education, prioritising access for students in areas with a higher incidence of risk of poverty or social exclusion and extending it to rural areas.

By 2030, promote the development of digital skills and a reduction in the digital gap, paying special attention to disadvantaged population groups (women, migrants, older people) to enable equitable access to public services, as well as to employment opportunities generated from the digitalisation of the economy.

2030 TARGETS

By 2025, guarantee adequate digital connectivity for 100% of the population, by extending broadband and reaching 100% of the population with 100 Mbps coverage.

By 2030, push forward the recognition of immigrants' qualifications as a means of facilitating their social integration and to take advantage of their full potential in the labour market.

By 2030, promote the digitalisation of all administrative processes, including those relating to Spanish citizens living abroad, with the aim of facilitating their access and speeding up procedures.

By 2024, expand the supply of vocational training, creating 200,000 new places in intermediate and higher stages as well as specialist courses, to increase the level of skills of young people and improve their employability, as well as converting 3,700 groups of students in intermediate and higher training stages to bilingual.

By 2030, strengthen the universal reach of the National Health System (SNS) and include effective and equitable access for anyone residing in Spain, regardless of their criminal, legal or employment status, through the "Measures to Improve Equity, Universal Scope and Cohesion of the SNS" Act.

By 2030, advance the use of tools such as telemedicine, both for its relationship with users and for inter-consultations between health professionals in hospitals.

By 2030, improve the health and quality of life of groups of people who are in particularly vulnerable groups - people with disabilities, or deprived of liberty, former wards, people of immigrant origin, the gypsy population, people from other ethnic groups, people with HIV, or the homeless people, among others - by developing specific programmes and strategies for each group.

By 2030, establish coordination mechanisms between health and social services to work from the perspective of the social impact of health, and also promoting public participation, in order to provide a comprehensive response to the health challenges of groups in situations of particular vulnerability.

In 2022, protect public health by promoting public institutional mechanisms to control the rights of consumers in the area of consumption.

By 2025, ensure access to 50% of public services via mobile apps and other digital means.

By 2030, strengthen the evaluation of public policies by reinforcing and reorganising the public evaluation system in public sector organisations, incorporating socio-economic monitoring indicators.

By 2030, strengthen the ecological transition and compliance with social and labour rights by including social and/or environmental clauses in the different phases of public procurement.

By 2030, strengthen transparency and accountability, enhance participation and establish public integrity systems.

By 2030, reduce the temporary nature of employment in public sector organisations and establish effective measures to prevent and sanction the abuse of temporary work in the public sector.

By 2030, strengthen the capacity of employment in the public sector by implementing a human resources model based on skills, which helps attract and retain talent by setting out a professional career that ensures equality between women and men, along with professional public management that avoids excessive turnover and ensures results-oriented public management.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, improve the necessary institutional mechanisms and public tools for cooperation between public administrations along with digitalising the public sector's systems for improved design of consumer-focused public policies, paying special attention to vulnerable consumers.

By 2030, improve access to public services for migrants in vulnerable situations by financing projects that promote their personal autonomy and understanding of their environment.

By 2030, improve the protection of particularly vulnerable migrants, such as victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation or work exploitation, including their children, by strengthening the reception system specifically designed for them.

By 2030, in collaboration with the autonomous communities, improve the reception model for people seeking international protection in order to ensure their full inclusion in Spanish society.

By 2030, advance strategies and plans to prevent and combat hate crimes and hate speech by contributing to the protection of people's rights, security and democracy.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

- » Continue to provide residential care and home help services for people in a situation of dependency.
- » Decree on support for students who are 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 students who are at risk of dropping out of school.
- » Promociona Programme to encourage gypsy pupils' schooling.
- » Rural School Support Plan, and Digital Education Strategy.
- » Adapting of public services to digital channels, and supporting the implementation of the Charter Digital Rights.
- » Law on the organisation and functioning of the public system for evaluating public policies. (*)
- » Management Platform for Social Services Centres. (*)
- »

ARAGON

- » Public-private partnership with social organisation for adequate provision of services.
- » Social Infrastructures Plan. (*)
- » Shift the trend from a macro residential model to a micro residential model with complementary services.
- » Extending free education for 0-3 years.
- » Vocational training syllabuses aligned with the employment needs arising from the health crisis (Covid-19) and the climate crisis. (*)
- » Promotion of quality public university system accessible to everyone.
- » Promotion of digital administration and simplification of administrative procedures without undermining compliance with labour, health and environmental requirements.
- » Strengthen the provision of public services for civil protection and emergencies.

CANARY ISLANDS

- » 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 the Canary Islands Health Service Technological Upgrade Plan.
- » Canary Islands Health Plan.
- » Strategic plan for the implementation of early childhood education for ages 0-3.
- » Canary Islands Vocational Training Plan 2021-24, and Vocational Training Modernisation Plan.
- » Supplemental/Compensatory Educational Support Services Plan.
- » Canary Islands Smart Governance Strategy.
- » Canary Islands Open Government Act.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

CANTABRIA

- » regulation of structural, functional and accreditation requirements for care centres for dependent people and development of advanced telecare. (*)
- » Action programmes regarding health determinants.
- » Digital Transformation Plan for the Public Health System. (*)
- » Diversity management plans and programmes to rectify inequalities for full educational inclusion for educationally disadvantaged students. (*)
- » Plans and programmes to control school absenteeism, promotion of qualifications and equal opportunities and structural plans to prevent dropping out of school. (*)
- » Specialist programmes for developing student talent, and teacher training in methodologies that encourage comprehensive training. (*)
- » Vocational training by implementing an integrated educational offer with an increase in the availability of professionalism certificates and promotion of vocational training specialities. (*)

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » Castile-La Mancha Health Plan.
- » General action and training plan for educational inspections 2019-20.
- » 2nd Plan for educational success and to prevent dropping out of school early: Prepara-T, Ilusiona-T, Titula-S
- » Children and Family Plan 2018-21.
- » Plan for digitalisation, improvement and implementation of digital tools.
- » Plans to promote Public Services and to simplify and reduce government-related requirements.
- » Castile-La Mancha Participation Act 8/2019.
- » Strategic Social Services Plan. (*)
- » Universal Early Care Services Act. (*)

CASTILE AND LEÓN

- » Social Services Act.
- » Strategic plan for equal opportunities for people with disabilities.
- » Support for the Immigrant Assistance Network. (*)
- » Budgetary reinforcement of the Public Health System, and drive for research and innovation in the field of health and healthcare.
- » Educational inspection action plans and regulations regarding the protection of minors. (*)
- » Code of Ethics and Austerity for Senior Officials of the Castile and León government and affiliated organisations (*).
- » Law on Transparency, Participation and the Office for Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption. (*)
- » Public policy evaluation system: Decree for the improvement of public service quality and innovation. (*)
- » Services for citizens, through registration offices with a new multi-channel service model using the 012 service.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

CATALUNYA - CATALONIA

- » Inter-Departmental Public Health Plan (PINSAP).
- » National Primary Care and Community Health Strategy (ENAPISC) and Behavioural Drug and Addiction Plan 2019-23.
- » Strategic Social Services Plan, 2020-24.
- » 4th Support Plan for Catalonia's Third Social Sector. (*)
- » Citizenship and Migration Plan 2017-20.
- » Initiatives to avoid school segregation.
- » Implementation of the Digital Education Plan 2020-23.
- » Implementation of the STEMCat Plan to encourage scientific, technological, engineering and mathematical vocations.
- » Law 19/2020 on equal treatment and non-discrimination.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA - VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » Mapping of public and private hospitals.
- » Mapping of Social Welfare centres.
- » Viewer for monitoring the evolution of Covid-19 in the Valencia region.
- » KUMPANIA Programme, aimed at gypsy children and adolescents.
- » Biennial transparency plan.
- » Valencian Open Government Alliance
- » Generalitat Valenciana's Open Data Strategy
- » Generalitat Valenciana's Participatory Budgets. (*)

EUSKADI - BASQUE COUNTRY

- » Income Guarantee Act. (*)
- » Basque Strategy for Active and Healthy Ageing.
- » Inter-departmental Youth Emancipation Plan.
- » Strategic Health Plan 2021-28, Strategic Health Research Plan, Suicide Prevention Strategy, and Childhood Obesity Prevention Strategy.
- » 2nd Co-education Plan for the Basque Education System, on the road to equality and fair treatment 2019-23.
- » 5th Basque Vocational Training Plan 2019-21, Green Transition Plan in Basque Vocational Training and STEAM Euskadi Strategy.
- » Plan for Supporting Immigrant Students as part of the Inclusive Inter-cultural School framework 2019-22.
- » Strategic Plan for Governance, Innovation and Digital Government 2030.
- » Gogora Action Plan 2021-24 (Institute for Historical Memory).

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

EXTREMADURA

- » Strategy for changing the Residential Care Model for Dependent People.
- » Strategic Plan for Patient Safety.
- » Promotion of a university policy based on a quality public system.
- » Universal access to the first stage of Early Childhood Education.
- » Programme to improve educational success, Proyecta Programme for high-achieving students, and Ilusionarte Programme for working on divergent thinking.
- » Vocational training modernisation plan, and lifelong learning programmes.
- » Programme for the Evaluation and Treatment of Child and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Violence.
- » Expansion of the gypsy education promotion programme.
- » Regional Government of Extremadura's Design of the Digital Modernisation Strategy and implementation of a single electronic registration system.

GALIZA - GALICIA

- » Decree 97/2020 of 25 June, which regulates certain instruments for the management, evaluation, supervision and improvement of quality in Galicia's public sector.
- » General plan for managing and improving the quality of public sector services 2021-23.
- » Inter-departmental Coordination Council for the Prevention and Care of Suicidal Behaviour.
- » Galicia's post-Covid Mental Health Plan.
- » Galician strategy for the care of chronically ill people.
- » Galician social services inspection plan 2021.
- » Technological modernisation plan for mobility in Galicia (y-Mobility).
- » Recupera Plan for students to reinforce learning lost during the pandemic.

ILLES BALEARS - BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » Social services agreement for vulnerable groups with the network of third sector organisations.
- » Balearic Islands Strategic Mental Health Plan 2016-22.
- » Lunch grants 2020-21.
- » Comprehensive Vocational Training Plan 2018-21.
- » Call for applications SOIB Joven Becas de Éxito ESPA and Vocational Training 2020-21.
- » School mentoring programme for the 2021 academic year (PROA+).
- » Strategic Plan for Continuing Adult Education (2018-23).
- » Digitalisation plan to reduce the digital divide among students.

NAFARROA - AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

- » Disability Plan.
- » Navarre Health Plan 2014-20.
- » Navarre Occupational Health Action Plan (2017-20).
- » Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion 2018-21.
- » ikasNOVA educational digital transformation strategy.
- » Coeducation Plan (2017-21) for Navarre Educational Centres and Communities.
- » Open Government Plan.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » Asturian Social Services Act, Concerted Action Act for the provision of social services and Guarantee of Vital Rights and Benefits Act.
- » Extend early care by coordinating actions across health, social services and education, and Long Term Care Transition Plan.
- » Strategy for Active Ageing. (*)
- » 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 Act, and educational innovation projects. (*)
- » Children's Act. (*)
- » Promote good governance by developing transparency and participation regulations.
- » Programmes to modernise the justice system and improve judicial headquarters and equipment. (*)

REGION OF MURCIA

- » Region of Murcia Catalogue of Social Services.
- » Strengthen preventive and public health initiatives, especially the Youth in Network Programme, and promote patient participation in decision-making.
- » Regional School Community Plan 2021.
- » Comprehensive care for immigrants in vulnerable situations, in temporary accommodation.
- » Regional Child Protection Regulations. (*)
- » Public Governance Strategy.
- » LGBTI Observatory and LGBTI Hate Crimes Guide. (*)
- » Application of social and environmental clauses in public procurement and Code of Ethics.

LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Creation of dependency units and care offices for the elderly.
- » Processing of aid for dependency and disability, through Municipal Social Services.
- » Implementation of social transport services for the older population.
- » Plan for support and long-term care at home, and care in residential care homes.
- » Family Training Programme, aimed at parents and carers.
- » Increase the number of people and scope providing support from the Social Services base team.
- » Principle of universal accessibility to eliminate any physical or communication barrier that prevents the full enjoyment of activities and access to places of residence and public services.
- » Creation of a municipal service for monitoring, assessing and supporting carers. Comprehensive programme of home help for the elderly, and families with children at risk of social exclusion.
- » Increase and diversify residential and care options for the elderly in order to promote personal and community autonomy, and encourage active and healthy ageing.
- » Inclusive and diverse perspective across all public facilities.
- » Redefinition of services for the elderly according to stage in life.
- » Encourage co-responsibility of people in health care.
- » Prevent and treat addictions by intensifying initiatives among young people.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Drawing up of local health plans.
- » Expansion of primary healthcare resources.
- » Improving the integration of public health information between all government organisations and institutions working in health.
- » Development of a local strategy to make the city a laboratory for applying new models and technologies for curing emotional and mental health.
- » Designing a post-Covid city model that puts health at the core, so that all local sectoral policies incorporate the health perspective.
- » Programmes that encourage the children of immigrants to get into education, promoting inter-cultural education and preventing school absenteeism.
- » Educational support programmes through scholarships and study grants.
- » Programmes to support and promote the digitalisation of education, facilitating and generalising access to new technologies.
- » Children's Nutrition Reinforcement Programme in Public Infant and Primary Education Schools with a Canteen Service.
- » Creation of nursery schools for children aged 0-3, with bonuses for the most disadvantaged families and those at risk of social exclusion.
- » Ensure the quality of primary and secondary education through the development of educational programmes; gender equality awareness, education for environmental development and awareness in schools.
- » Specialist care for minors who are victims of gender-based violence or residents in homes where there is violence against women.
- » Promotion of transparency and citizen access through Municipal Transparency Portals.
- » Improve support and service to citizens, and digitalisation of services through the development of electronic management in order to make it more accessible to citizens.
- » Involve citizens in the process of Corporate Social Responsibility.
- » Municipal strategy for the production, exploitation, management, analysis and sharing of data across all areas and decision making.
- » Implementation of a systematic, agile, innovative and open public policy evaluation system.
- » New strategies for citizen participation and co-responsibility in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies.
- » Digitalisation of citizen services through easy and immediate technological solutions.
- » Drawing up service charters as a commitment to transparency and quality in the provision of services.
- » Programmes to promote participatory local sustainability strategies that are aligned with 2030 Agenda.
- » Sustainable Province-based Agendas as a means of fulfilling SDGs in the provinces.
- » Drawing up of a rural Action Plan as part of the Spanish Urban Agenda.
- » Support for the mediation system by maintaining Justice of the Peace Courts.
- » Drawing up of Social Responsibility Plans that help to reorder budgets and initiatives in local politics.
- » Ensure the efficiency of public spending, in line with the SDGs and CSR, providing all economic and financial information, with an ethical approach to good governance and transparency.
- » Participatory budgets on an annual basis for the general public.
- » Alignment of municipal budgets with the SDGs and their targets.

**COUNTRY CHALLENGE 7.
END GLOBAL INJUSTICE
AND THREATS TO HUMAN
RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIC
PRINCIPLES AND THE
SUSTAINABILITY OF
THE PLANET**

17 PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL



Diagnosis

The 2030 Agenda, together with the Paris Agreement, represents the most important international commitment to tackle the **social, economic and environmental challenges** of our time and to correct the course of globalisation that is the cause of the social and ecological crisis we are experiencing, and of the increase in autocratic drift and geopolitical tensions. Challenges that take us further from the objective of making the 2030 Agenda a reality, as successive United Nations reports have alerted,¹⁸⁸ and that led to the drive, in September 2020, of the Decade of Action to reach the Sustainable Development Goals: ten years to accelerate efforts and to promote sustainable solutions that put an end to poverty and inequality, to make gender equality a reality and to efficiently combat climate change and the degradation of the environment with full respect for human rights and leaving no one behind.

It was within this socio-environmental crisis, of volatility and fragmentation, that the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, worsening the existing diagnosis and generating impacts of enormous magnitude, especially in the most vulnerable countries and communities. Despite the fact that until the pandemic is overcome it will not be possible to assess the extent of its effects, many analyses and projections have alerted of the possibility of reversing the progress in poverty and hunger reduction achieved in recent decades, widening inequality gaps and pre-existing structural problem, deepening and aggravating humanitarian crises and affecting already-weakened social protection systems in many countries.

Added to this is the regression of the democratic space and human rights generated by the implementation of measures to control the spread of the virus in less robust democracies already showing worrying signs of a shrinking civic space and civil society. These factors have a particular effect on the rights of women and children and adolescents, refugees, LGBTI collectives and indigenous peoples, and could imply a substantial regression of the progress achieved with enormous effort in compliance with the different international human rights conventions.

Therefore, the recovery and reconstruction after the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic must be tackled from the principles and demanding outlook of the 2030 Agenda, starting with the analysis of the causes at the heart of the worst effects and pre-existing vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated. It is necessary to reverse these effects, promoting structural transformation on the international scale, placing the interests of the planet and of people and the heart of decision making. Decisions that cannot be separated from the interactions and synergies that arise between the different public policies and actions beyond borders, or indeed the potential contradictions which we must also tackle. In this regard, in addition to the Decade of Action, the United Nations has committed to a Call to Action for Human Rights,¹⁸⁹ which highlights the close interrelation and mutual reinforcement dynamic between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the International Framework of Human Rights and the role that the focus on the

¹⁸⁸ UN (2019). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁸⁹ UN (2020) *The Highest Aspiration. A Call to Action for Human Rights*. Accessible [here](#)

Coherence of Policies for Sustainable Development (CPDS) should be afforded to ensure coherent actions.

From this perspective, a set of international agreements is derived, both in the sphere of environmental protection and human rights, with legally binding status for States that have signed up, constituting a key tool to overcome the voluntary nature of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, Spain has signed up to all international human rights conventions¹⁹⁰ such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), among others. Spain is also part of the European Human Rights System, and its two principal instruments, the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter. In the environmental sphere, Spain is also part of the main international treaties such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – encompassing the 2015 Paris Agreement – the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention Combating Desertification, among others. All of this underlines Spain's commitment to Human Rights and environmental sustainability at global level.

Based on these international commitments assumed by Spain, the response to these global challenges must be marked by four major pillars of action.

a) *The promotion of **human rights** as a distinctive feature of our external action and cooperation, including supporting democratisation processes, and fostering a feminist policy and foreign policy that foster diversity, equality and non-discrimination.*

b) *The commitment to an **equitable economy for an integrated and inclusive society**, that reviews the parameters for growth and well-being, works for the creation a new global and intergenerational social contract, promotes fairer rules at global level and tackles the big questions affecting the development of our societies, including multiple dimensions of the demographic and migratory challenge.*

c) *The defence of a **more sustainable, habitable, resilient and green planet** through the active defence of global public goods and a fairer, more sustainable and democratic globalisation.*

d) *An active contribution to **the improvement of the mechanisms of global governance**, starting with the further development of the European project itself and the strengthening of its social dimension and proximity to citizens, supporting the convergence and integration processes in other regions of the planet, and acting as a catalyst for a more integrated, efficient and stronger form of multilateralism that reforms and adapts the instruments necessary and focuses efforts on achieving the 2030 Agenda.*

a) Socio-economic challenges.

The first great fracture is socioeconomic and has to do with the deep questioning of the economic and social model that has reigned over the last decades. Globalisation generates winners and losers. The exponential increase of exchanges and the internationalisation of value chains has contributed to the reduction of poverty in absolute terms, particularly in eastern Asia countries. Between 2010 and 2015, the world extreme poverty rate fell from 15.7% to 10.1%.¹⁹¹ However, there has, been a deceleration in the rate of reduction of extreme poverty at international level. According to the estimates of the United Nations, extreme poverty would affect 8.2% of the world's population in 2019,¹⁹² just before the outbreak of the pandemic caused by COVID-19. Moreover, poverty continues to especially affect women and children and is more acute in rural areas. In 2018, four of every five people below the international poverty line lived in rural areas. There is also a close relationship between education level and poverty vulnerability, given that of the world population in this situation, around 70% have no training or only basic instruction. Other factors such as fragility to the effects of climate change, the persistence and aggravation of conflicts and violence or weakness of social protection systems place a burden on the possibilities of significantly reducing the risk of poverty.¹⁹³

COVID-19 and its social and economic effects are reversing the progress made with great effort in the fight against global poverty, putting decades of uninterrupted progress to an end. **It is forecast that in 2020, poverty, measured using the international poverty line, will increase for the first time since 1998.** The World Bank's economic forecasts indicate that during 2020 the pandemic will cause a contraction of global GDP growth per capita of between 5 and 8%. Short term forecasts of poverty suggest that, in the reference scenario, poverty would grow by 1.2-1.5% in 2020 and 1.4-1.9% in 2021.

These scenarios translate into a poverty rate of between 9.1% and 9.4% in 2020, and between 8.9% and 9.4 % in 2021. The new results suggest that in 2020, between 88 and 115 million people globally will be pushed into poverty. That means that poverty rates forecast for 2020 will be similar to those in 2017.¹⁹⁴ Therefore, it is envisaged that the effects of the pandemic will delay the progress made towards the target of ending extreme poverty by a minimum of three years.

Even more importantly, **wealth is increasingly more concentrated:** Today, 45% of the world's wealth is in the hands of 1% of the population.¹⁹⁵ Hunger and poverty continue to affect millions of people, while inequality, both globally and domestically, continues to rise, especially in the event of those who suffer from some type of discrimination, which also implies the collapse of social justice. One of the most visible elements is the loss of the sense of general progress and the collapse of social mobility in

¹⁹⁰ With the sole exception of the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of all Migrant Workers members of their families (CRMW).

¹⁹¹ UN (2020) Sustainable Development Goals Report. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ Poverty and Shared Responsibility Report, 2020. World Bank. Accessible [here](#)

¹⁹⁴ World Bank, referenced.

¹⁹⁵ Global Wealth Report 2020. Credit Suisse. Accessible [here](#)

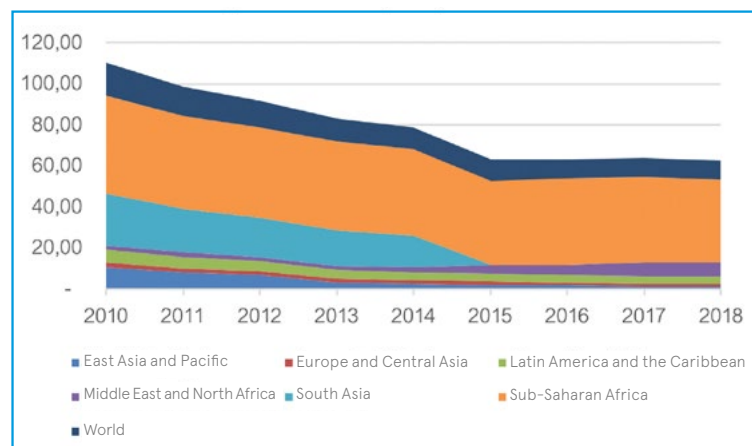
prosperous and middle-income countries, where for the first time there is no prospect of the next generation being more prosperous than the last. One example of that is that, between 2012 and 2017, 40% of the poorest population received less than 25% of the wealth generated, while the richest 10% received at least 20%.¹⁹⁶

The capacity to offer a sufficient response to the health, social and economic consequences of this crisis also show enormous imbalances between countries and regions. Before the outbreak of the pandemic, a significant number of countries, especially in continental Africa, dedicated a significant percentage of their resources to the service of their **external debt**. The situation of elevated debt, combined with the weakness of their economies, falling income from trade and remittances, and the limited physical space to mobilise additional investments makes it difficult to implement response plans and, especially, reconstruction plans by mobilising extraordinary economic resources. That can constitute a major burden on the possibilities of making progress towards the 2030 Agenda, which makes it necessary to agree additional solutions within multinational frameworks, in the form of debt relief and cancellation, and to facilitate access to financing in favourable conditions and expand the fiscal space as proposed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.¹⁹⁷

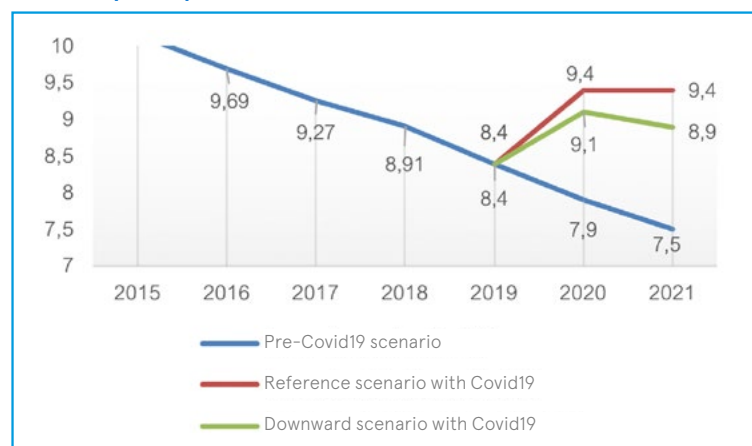
The Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), agreed in April 2020 by the member states of the G20 and the Paris Club, -Spain among them- and aimed at offering low-income countries a moratorium on servicing their debt, is an important first step. The scope of this initiatives has been extended to 31 December 2021. Moreover, the Paris Club and G20 countries have agreed to establish a common framework for the coordination of additional debt relief aimed at those countries with structural problems of excessive debt. Nevertheless, said initiatives are focussed on low-income countries so do not tackle the problem of debt of medium-income countries, many of which have been severely affected by the pandemic and whose social protection systems are weak and insufficient and have a high percentage of black economy. That is why it is considered desirable for the common debt treatment framework to extend the scope of its geographic reach to incorporate medium-income countries. On a complementary basis, it is necessary to explore solutions aimed at facilitating access for middle-income countries to financing under favourable conditions.

Since the 2008 crisis and the Great Recession, calls have been made to build a more inclusive and sustainable economy and globalisation, and to redefine the parameters of the social contract. The 2030 Agenda constitutes a paradigm shift in this regard, and is based on promoting a more human economy, focussed on well-being, inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Graphic 1. Extreme poverty rate trends by region, 2010–2018



Graphic 2. Forecast of global poverty rate based on poverty line of USD 1.90 per day



b) Ecological

The idea that we are reaching the limits of environmental sustainability and the exhaustion of the planet's resources is not a new one; but just as with the socio-economic crisis, the perception of urgency is accentuated and generates an unprecedented crisis in the model of progress and intergenerational solidarity. The fight against climate change will remain one of the greater challenges of our generation, with consequences beyond global warming: the loss of biodiversity, the sustainability of food chains and equitable and sustainable management of resources.

We are living through an unprecedented ecological crisis that predominantly affects the poor and most vulnerable people. While climate change is caused, primarily, the emissions from developed countries (the richest 10% of the population generates 50% of global emissions), 80% of those who suffer from extreme poverty in developing countries live in rural areas, more sensitive to the impact of climate change, environmental degradation and the exhaustion of natural resources.

¹⁹⁶ UN (2020) Sustainable Development Goals Report. Accessible [here](#)

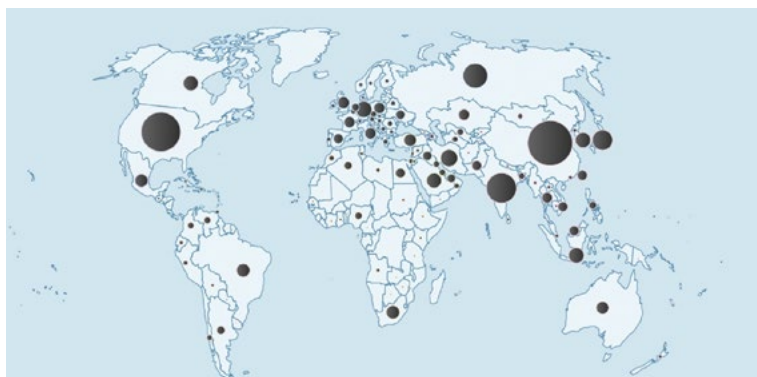
¹⁹⁷ INSERT FOOTNOTE REF Addis Ababa Action Agenda

Demographic growth, in its multiple ramifications, is the other great dimension associated with the ecological fracture. The world population is expected to increase by 2 billion people over the next 30 years, growing from 7.7 billion at present to 9.7 billion in 2050 and may reach a peak of close to 11 billion by 2100¹⁹⁸ despite the continuous reduction in the percentage growth of global population as observed in the following graphic.

Continued population growth, together with inequitable and unsustainable distribution of resources, places increasing pressure on ecosystems. The increase in life expectancy and urban concentrations, and depopulation in certain territories, are trends that affect all continents, and this presents challenges and opportunities. Over the coming years we will see an acceleration of the divergence between hemispheres that has marked the last

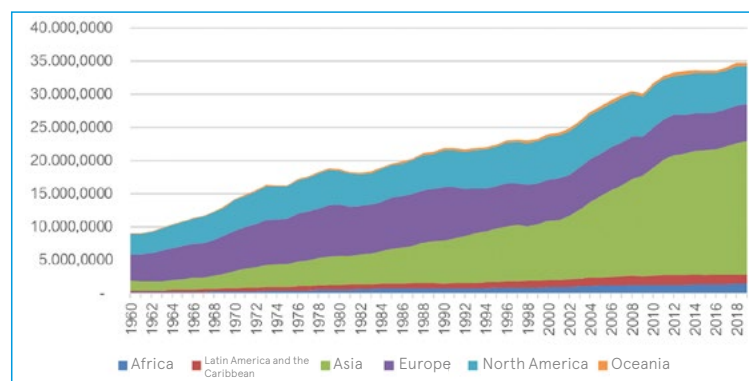
half-century: the ageing of the north and the resulting challenge for the viability of welfare systems, and the demographic explosion in the south with limited means to satisfy the demands of a young population with growing expectations. The management of migratory flows, from the safeguard of Human Rights and the principles of the 2030 Agenda, profiles as the only possible response to this dilemma and may also offer solutions to other issues such as territorial unbalances and the gap between regions and between the rural and urban world and the increase in poverty forecast for the coming years.

Graphic 3. CO₂ emissions by country



Source: Global Carbon Atlas

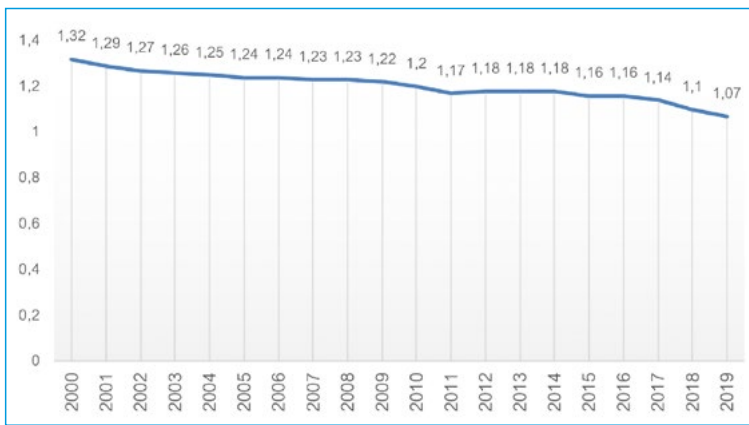
Graphic 4. Evolution of CO₂ emissions by continent in Millions of Tonnes



Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from the Global Carbon Project

¹⁹⁸United Nations Population Division.

Graphic 5. World population growth in annual %

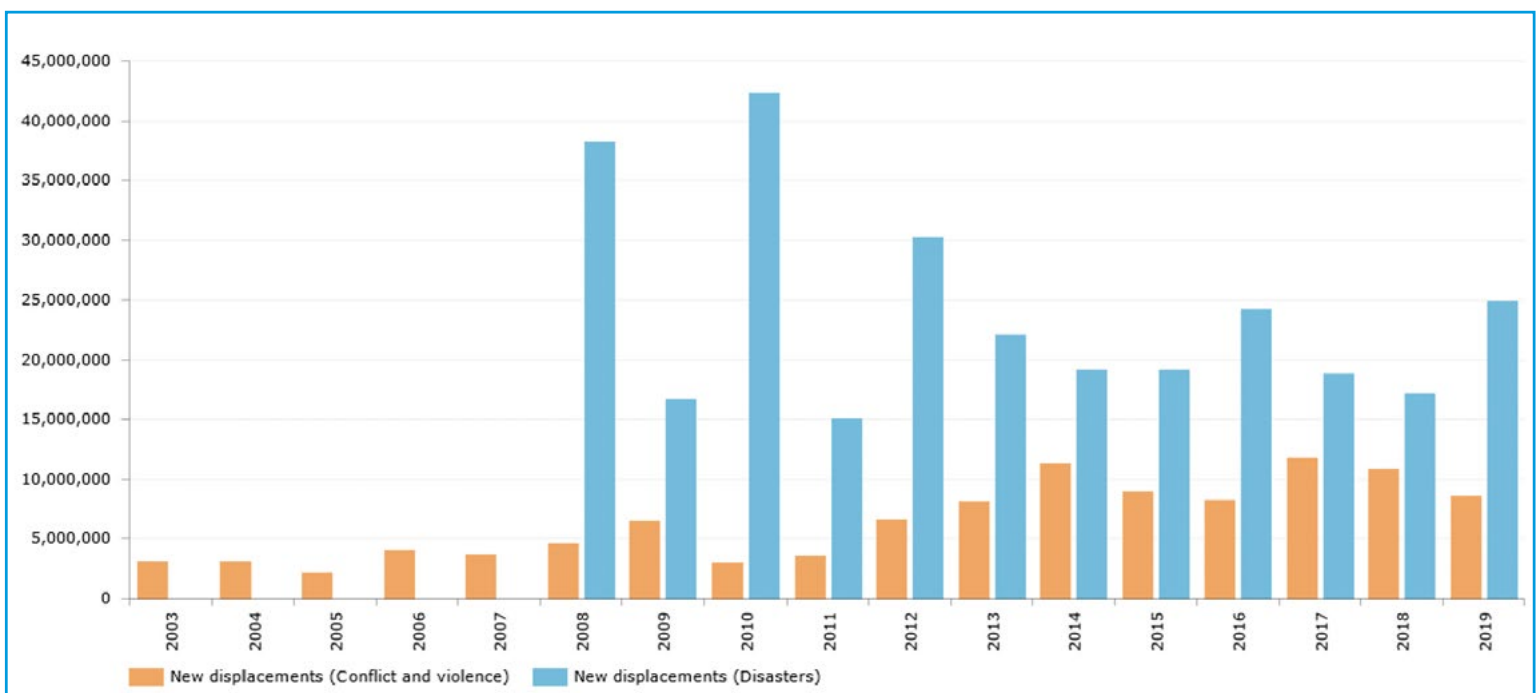


Source: Drafted by the authors based on data from the World Bank DataBank

Climate changes and the degradation of ecosystems remains the biggest threat to the sustainability of life on the planet as a whole, with impacts that generate extreme vulnerability and affect the livelihoods of millions of people. Climate change will force between 68 million and 135 million people into poverty by 2030.¹⁹⁹ It is a serious and specific threat to countries in sub-Saharan Africa South Asia, the regions with the highest

concentration of poor population. The IDCM²⁰⁰ data indicated than between 2008 and 2019, **288 million people have suffered forced migration due to environmental disasters**. In 2019 alone, 24.9 million domestic migrations in 140 countries and territories were caused by natural disasters, the highest figure since 2012 and three times the figure for migration due to conflict and violence.

Graphic 6.



Source: IDCM

¹⁹⁹ Poverty and Shared Responsibility Report, 2020. World Bank. Accessible [here](#)

²⁰⁰ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Data accessible [here](#)

Making the 2030 Agenda a reality in Spain also means complying with international commitments on migration and international protection. Spain has signed up to the Global Compact on Refugees²⁰¹ and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM),²⁰² which represent a global consensus in relation to international protection and migration, responding to the 2030 Agenda commitments, and the principles and obligations arising from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Law. Therefore, the policy for sustainable global developments means acting pro-actively to meet the commitments acquired in both frameworks. This means promoting a fair national, European and international migration policy that shows solidarity, through the development of legal and safe channels, the strengthening of cooperation with countries of origin and transit to boost their efforts for sustainable development and to strengthen solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers and host countries and first-asylum countries.

All of this takes place in the context of questioning multilateralism as the most efficient tool to tackle the global problems that affect us in an increasingly interdependent world through shared solutions and reinforced cooperation.

c) Leave no one behind: the effects of the COVID19 pandemic on the most vulnerable population groups.

Some of the most significant advances made in the 2030 Agenda at global level would be compromised by the effects of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, the impact of which is accentuating inequalities and effecting some social groups in a more pronounced manner, especially women and children.

The pandemic is **resulting in increased violence against women and girls.**²⁰³ Lockdowns have left many women and girls confined to their homes, placing them at greater risk of gender-based violence. Even before the pandemic, the figures for physical and sexual violence against women were very concerning. According to the surveys conducted across 106 countries between the years 2005 and 2017, 18% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 had been victims of violence on the part of their current or previous partner in the 12 months prior to the survey.

The data from various countries during the pandemic show an increase in reports of gender-based violence. Upon examining these data, it is important to take into account the fact that less than 40% of women who suffer violence report the crime or seek assistance. Moreover, the functioning of services for women in several countries was affected by the pandemic, making access to protection mechanisms difficult.

On the other hand, women dedicate more time than men to unpaid work,²⁰⁴ a burden that has been aggravated during the pandemic. On an average day, women dedicated approximately triple the time of men to domestic work and unpaid care. The

time dedicated to these activities tends to be greater in the case of women with dependent children. In approximately 75% of the countries for which data is available, a small reduction in the time women dedicated to unpaid care is observed compared to men. A trend that could be reversed as a result of the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

From the children's perspective, it is necessary to consider the impact the pandemic is having on the education gap. Before the outbreak, the proportion of children and young people not at school had fallen 26% in the year 2000 to 19% in 2010 and to 17% in the year 2018. It is a degree of progress that, while still insufficient, runs the risk of being affected as a consequence of the closure of schools in more than 190 countries. Despite the fact that four of every five countries declare that they have implemented distance learning alternatives, it is true that the United Nations estimate that, in 2020, at least 500 million children and adolescents did not have the opportunity to continue learning due to a lack of the necessary resources.

Furthermore, the closure of schools generates additional risks to the health and safety of those who were in vulnerable situations since, in addition to the educational function of schools per se, they serve as safe places where children can stay away from violence or receive free food and healthcare. It is estimated that 379 million children lost their school meals due to the closure of schools during the pandemic. Taking into account the experience of previous recessions, the closure of schools and the recession caused by COVID-19 may have consequences in the form of increased rates of violence, child labour and child marriage and early pregnancy.

d) Politics and governance.

Transversally, the political crisis arising from these, such as the inability of the systems of government to respond to the challenges of our time which, at the same time, feeds three other fractures. The divergences that arise around all these challenges and their transnational nature, lead to the collapse of the very space of democratic dialogue and a growing institutional fragility.

All that places economic policies, both fiscal and monetary, in view of the need to respond efficiently in a context of uncertainty and growing need. It is crucial, therefore, to foster more democratic **economic, social and environmental governance** and a better regulation at international level to achieve, through consensus, formulas to overcome the crisis and guarantee the continuation of the global sustainable and equitable development. This international collaboration must support the countries that are lagging behind to support them and improve their capacity to respond. To do so, it is important to redouble our efforts in terms of the support and democratisation of international organisations, forums and initiatives with international scope.

Definitively, starting with the lessons learned from the global management of the effects of the COVID-19, the world faces a unique opportunity to emerge from this crisis reconfiguring the social, economic, and international governance model, through structural transformations that renew the system of values and the economic and social relations and our relationship with the

²⁰¹ A/73/12 Global Compact on Refugees. Accessible [here](#)

²⁰² Resolution 73/195 of the General Assembly "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" (A/RES/73/195) of 19 December 2018. Accessible [here](#)

²⁰³ Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020. United Nations. Accessible [here](#)

²⁰⁴ See Challenge 3 which further explores these data at national and international level.

environment. We need a **new global governance** that fosters the necessary transformations to guarantee human rights, the fight against climate change, protection of biodiversity, conditions for safe migration peace building, among other challenges.

Therefore, the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy should incorporate a framework of action geared towards the country contribute to a fairer, more sustainable and inclusive globalisation that makes it possible to achieve the 2030 Agenda across the world, through new policies for sustainable global development that integrates the international cooperation policy and a foreign policy geared towards boosting cooperation and solidarity through stronger, more inclusive and more democratic form of multilateralism.

TOWARDS A POLICY OF SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

The policy for the sustainable global development will be developed in a coherent and coordinated manner to actively articulate the contribution of the set of public policies of the State and its overseas branches and all public and private stakeholders, to the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the commitment to drive the Global Alliance for Sustainable Development that promotes SDG17. That requires the mobilisation of all non-financial and financial resources - public and private - highlighting the assistance for responsible development and investment, and the coherence of all the sustainable development policies, the management of foreign debt, knowledge and technology, technical assistance and foreign trade and public-private partnerships for sustainable development. It is a policy that functions as a global redistributive mechanism, boosting global resilience against systemic risks and challenges, and establishing mechanisms to ensure that actions comply with obligations in relation to human rights. Similarly, the application of the principle of policy coherence for sustainable development also constitutes a commitment to ensuring that the set of actions in the domestic sphere are aligned with, and contribute to, the goals of the policy of global sustainable development, preventing possible tensions and contradictions or, where applicable, reducing and mitigating adverse effects.

Integrated within this policy for global development, the policy of international cooperation for the sustainable development plays a key role in making progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda beyond our borders and contributes to the protection of global public goods. Cooperation for development plays a fundamental role as a catalyst for the capacity of all public and private stakeholders to tackle challenges beyond our borders such as poverty, inequalities - in its different dimensions, but particularly the gender gap - and other violations of human rights and the climate and environmental emergency, promoting the involvement of citizens as protagonists of the changes. To do so, we must tackle a comprehensive reform of the system of cooperation that affects the institutional dimensions - governance and architecture, the regulatory dimension - through the approval of a new law and the corresponding legislative development - and the review of the priorities and the objectives from a long-term outlook that mobilises and strengthens the capacities of all stakeholders, thus reinforcing the role of decentralised cooperation. This reform must be accompanied by an increased investment in Official Development Assistance

(ODA) through the commitment to reach 0.5% of Gross National Income over the next three years and 0.7% after 2030.

Over the last 10 years, the average of the percentage of Gross National income allocated to ODA was 0.22%. If this trend were to continue, it would take until 2045 to reach the target set out in the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the average difference with respect to the EU-27 countries for the same period is 0.20%, practically the entirety of the Spanish ODA in 2019. It is therefore necessary to tackle this challenge in depth, starting by reaching the commitment contained in the Coalition Government Agreement, to allocate 0.5% of Gross National Income to the ODA by the end of the current parliamentary term.

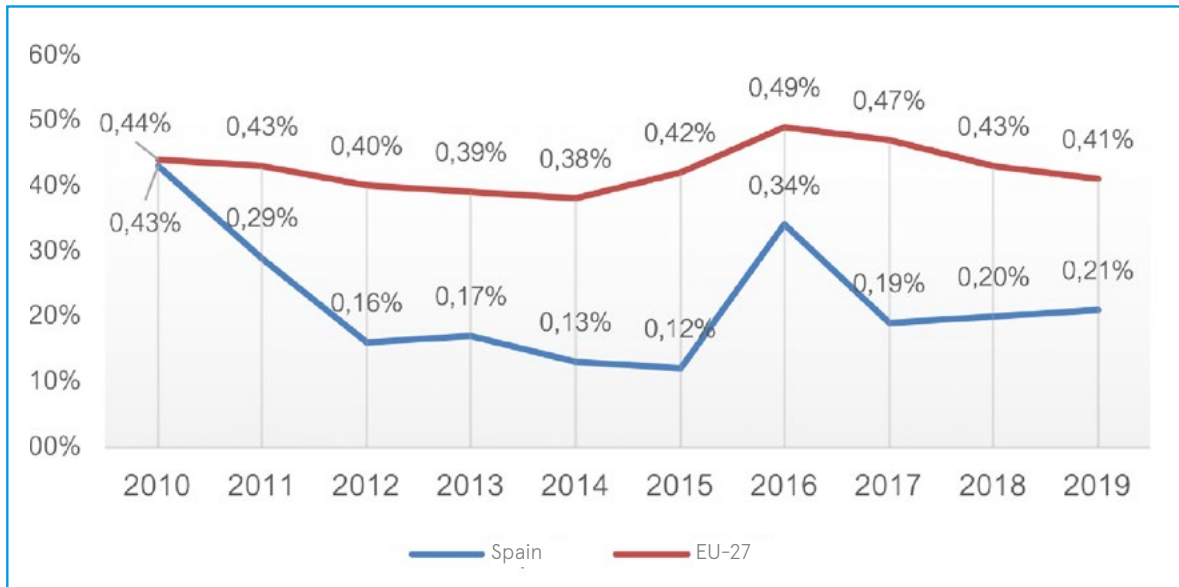
The Autonomous Communities are also a key stakeholder within the scope of Spain's decentralized cooperation due to their capillarity and ability to involve citizens in the solutions to the global challenges we are facing. Despite the slight recovery since 2015, in 2018 and 2019, decentralized cooperation seems to have suffered stagnation in terms of the resources invested in ODA. On the other hand, the recovery has been far from homogeneity across the Autonomous Communities, with significant increases in some and rather modest advances in others.

At the same time, cooperation for sustainable development is considered an integral, central, cross-cutting and defining element of external action, encompassing relations with international stakeholders with the aim of promoting a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable globalization guided by the principals of compliance with human rights and the promotion of peace. This includes peace-keeping and international security actions from a holistic approach based on human security as defined by the United Nations. This approach, incorporated into the National Defence Directive 2020,²⁰⁵ evidences the interrelations between peace, sustainable development and human rights and the right to live in freedom and with dignity. A preventive and anticipatory approach to conflicts must be prioritised, focused on diplomacy and mediation, reaffirming the commitment to principle of responsibility to protect, including the protection of persons and organisations defending human rights and the environment. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda shall form a central element, from the recognition of the essential role women play in ensuring and maintaining peace.

Even though there is a general awareness of the magnitude of the transformation necessary to tackle these challenges, the challenge lies in how to shift from theory into practice. It is essential that we take advantage of the economic recovery to rebuild the economy and the social fabric of countries, integrating the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement clearly in the recovery plans. It is understood that the exit from the pandemic offers an opportunity to build back better, placing sustainability, people and social justice at the centre of decisions. Even still, beyond the individual action of citizens and governments, a collective and responsible management of global public goods through a strengthened and renewed multilateralism.

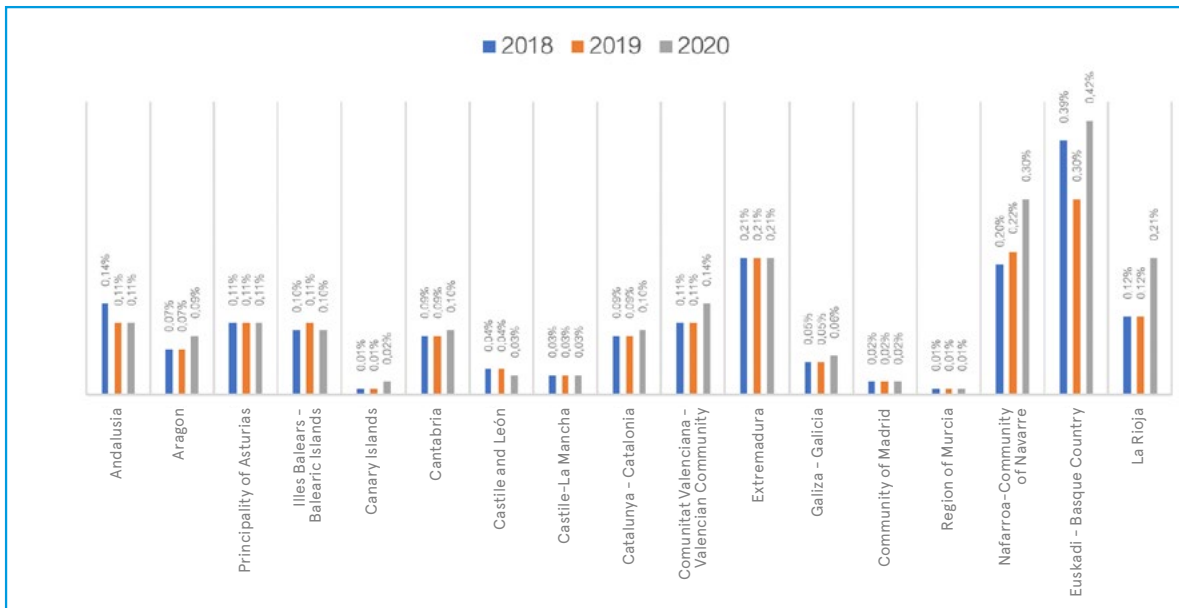
²⁰⁵ Accessible [here](#)

Graphic 7. Evolution of participation of net ODA in relation to Gross National Income of Spain and EU-27



Source: drafted by the authors based on the Report of the ODA. Monitoring of the ODA and the 2019 Official Development Assistance of the European Union.

Graphic 8. Evolution of ODA in regional budgets



Source: Report on regional Official Development Assistance. Implementation data, 2018 - 2021. CONGD March 2021

Therefore, the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 can be highlighted from a dual perspective. In addition to the alignment of domestic policies from an SDG perspective and from the focus of Coherent Policies for the Sustainable Development (CPSD), the Strategy commits to foster a policy of sustainable global development, which would encompass foreign policy along with the policy of cooperation for development, which has played an essential role in complying with SDG17, taking the fight against poverty and inequality and the defence of human rights

as central elements to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda beyond our borders, and the protection of global public assets. Our country is fully committed to placing the 2030 Agenda at the centre of the set of domestic and external efforts, firmly pushing the advance, implementation and ambition of European construction, within the framework of the United Nations and other international and regional forums and organisations of which it forms part.

ACCELERATING POLICY 7:

International leadership for a fair, sustainable, equal, democratic and human rights-based globalisation



a. Accelerating Policy Orientation:

The global pandemic was an unprecedented global shock, and it has revealed the many fractures the globalisation process has generated in the form of the overexploitation of ecosystems and exacerbation of inequalities. Furthermore, the interconnection of the challenges we face has been evidenced as global society and the need to reinforce multilateralism, solidarity and international cooperation as the principal tool for the search for inclusive and fair joint solutions for all persons, guaranteeing the gender and human rights perspective. Spain, therefore, must play a leadership role geared towards the promotion of another globalisation model, based on justice, solidarity, sustainability, inclusion, equality and reinforcing democracy, generating conditions for compliance with the 2030 Agenda from a respect for human rights perspective. We find ourselves facing a unique opportunity to exit the crisis reconfiguring the social, economic and global governance model to advance towards the construction of fairer and more resilient societies capable of tackling the systemic challenges we are facing, with the climate and social emergencies as priority challenges through the integrated mechanisms and frameworks of action in which the discourses, strategies and actions respond to the same proposition and making it possible for the stakeholders called to contribute to the global effort to do so with an approach of compliance and coherence with the principles of sustainable development and respect for human rights.

The Strategy is committed to fostering sustainable global development, which would encompass foreign policy together with the cooperation for development policy, which has played an essential role in advancing the 2030 Agenda beyond our borders, contributing to the protection of global public assets. This policy for sustainable global development implies, firstly, that the battery of public policies, and actions contributes decisively to inclusive and sustainable global development from a perspective of full articulation of the focus of Policies Coherence for Sustainable Development. We also require a robust cooperation for development policy, equipped and efficient, and to place the 2030 Agenda at the heart of Spanish identity around the world and, therefore, also in our foreign action, in our bilateral relations and geographic strategies. Finally, it is incumbent on us as a country to continue to be proactive in European and multilateral policy, using all international forum to foster the conditions that make it possible to realise the transformations necessary for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda.

Within this policy for sustainable global development, **cooperation for sustainable development**, financed with the resources of Official Development Assistance, must play a leading role as a catalyst for the mobilisation of all efforts and to define the integral commitment to SDG 17. Given its central role in Spain's contribution to global transformation, it will undergo an in-depth reform to adapt the regulatory, conceptual and methodological framework and provide a new, reformed and strengthened institutionality. To achieve that, we will undertake profound reform of the **Law on Spanish cooperation**, with the aim of responding to the

current challenges and aligning its guiding principles with the compliance of the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of coherence policy. It will also establish the basis for a renewed and coordinated institutional architecture and establish the regulatory framework of the different instruments such as financial cooperation, humanitarian action and education for sustainable development and global citizens. A law that also makes a reinforced recognition and articulation possible, with decentralized cooperation and other public administration.

Therefore, **investment in ODA will be increased progressively** to reach 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) at the end of the current parliamentary term and 0.7% by 2030, allocating at least 10% of the resources to Humanitarian Action, facilitating a flexible response to disasters and the effects of climate vulnerability.

Financial cooperation will also be reviewed and modernized, in order to ensure a more strategic focus and full integration in the priorities of Member States, multilateral financial bodies and the European Union. Compliance with the 2030 Agenda requires the mobilisation of an unprecedented volume of financial resources and financial cooperation constitutes a complementary instrument for technical cooperation, to mobilise public and private resources and contribute more efficiently to meeting the SDGs in our partner countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

Global problems can only be tackled through strong multilateralism and from the perspective of joint cooperation and articulation with efforts between countries. There are no national or unilateral solution. Therefore, we need renewed and strengthened global governance around multilateral solutions. The 2030 Agenda, together with the Paris Agreement, constitute the success of multilateralism and represent the international commitment to tackle the social, economic and environmental challenges, placing people, the planet prosperity and peace at the centre, under the principle of leaving no one behind. With this in mind, Spain has placed the 2030 Agenda at the centre of foreign policy, committing to efficient and inclusive multilateralism, through the strengthening of the role of the United Nations as the axis of a solid system of global governance, promoting the adaptation of its mandate, regulatory role and system of governance to the challenges of the present.

The country will provide itself with the mechanisms and instruments necessary to protect human rights from the ultimate negative impact of business activities beyond our borders and will address the obligations of companies to respect human rights in their activities as well as reparation in the event of violations or abuse.

The commitments established in the 2030 Agenda, and the principles and obligations arising from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Law, involve, among other aspects, promoting a fair national, European and international migration that shows solidarity, through the definition of legal and safe routes, the strengthening of cooperation with countries of origin and transit and to accompany their efforts in the area of sustainable development.

b. Action Priorities:

→ **Impetus for the policy for sustainable global development** through Official Development Assistance and the new metric of the OECD called Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) and which will act as a catalyst through a renewed policy of **cooperation for sustainable development**.

→ **New Cooperation for Sustainable Development Law**, which responds to the current challenges, aligned with fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement which facilitates the implementation of SDG17 in all its aspects, through the formulation of partnerships, the promotion of policy coherence and a recognition and articulation boosted with decentralised cooperation and other public administrations.

→ **Progressive increase in investment in ODA** to reach 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) at the end of the current parliamentary terms and 0.7% by 2030, allocating at least 10% if the resources to Humanitarian Action.

→ **Foster the ecological transition** on a multilateral scale, along with the countries and communities with whom we cooperate as one of the distinctive features of the policy for sustainable global development and international cooperation. The ecological transition is key for the eradication of poverty, the conservation of natural resources and the way of life of communities, the mitigation of climate change, making it possible to adapt to its effects.

→ Promotion of a **strategy of diplomacy and external climate and environmental action** and supported with the necessary financing.

→ **Promotion of digitalisation**, as a key element of development. The digital transformation and the reduction of the digital gap is a key mechanism for reinforcing access to health, digital education, information for agricultural production and financial inclusion.

→ **Alignment of the instruments of enterprise** with the 2030 Agenda and integration of financial cooperation in the objectives of cooperation for sustainable development of the fight against poverty and inequality, promotion of sustainability and decent work.

→ **Reform of the institutional architecture of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the articulation of a new system of Spanish Cooperation**, simplifying and harmonising existing structures and improving coordination mechanisms.

→ **Spanish Foreign Action Strategy 2021-2024**, which contains the priorities and objectives of sectoral and geographic overseas action, while identifying the major trends, establishing Spain's position and defining the response. The Strategy commits decisively to efficient and inclusive multilateralism, with a reinforced role for the United Nations and the promotion of human rights.

→ **Law on due diligence for companies and human rights**, which translates, in practical terms, into companies' responsibility to prevent and repair the ultimate impact of their business activity on human rights.

→ Commitment to **open, rules-based international trade, fair and sustainable**, committed to respect for, and promotion of human rights and the most ambitious international standards on employment and the environment.

→ Development of the commitments of the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in migration governance**, to respond, in the sphere of international protection and migration, to the commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Law. This involves, among other aspects, promoting a fair national, European and international migration policy that shows solidarity, defining legal and safe channels and strengthening cooperation with countries of origin and transit to accompany their efforts in relation to sustainable development.

→ Promotion of the transformative role of an active, critical citizenship committed to social change through the strengthening of **Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship**, and the promotion of volunteering in global affairs, allocating sufficient resources and ensuring coherence with the areas of action prioritized by UNESCO.

→ Contribute to **global health** by urgently helping to reach a consensus within the WTO on the proposal for a temporary waiver of trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) in response to COVID-19, and to shift towards a new, more collaborative, transparent and open system of biomedical research and development and to promote measures to increase the global production of vaccines to accelerate distribution throughout the world.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030, meet the commitment to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance (ODA), reaching 0.5% by 2023, and allocating a minimum of 10% to Humanitarian Action and 3% to Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

By 2022, approve a new Cooperation for Sustainable Development Law, aligned with the principles and commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the international human rights framework, developing a new architecture of the Spanish cooperation system.

By 2025, ensure the Spanish cooperation system is based on a solid, high-level, integrated and integrating institutional architecture that enables development based on efficiency, excellence and coherence.

By 2025, ensure that decentralized cooperation has a consolidated enabling environment, in institutional, administrative and financial terms, capable of enhancing its differential contribution to Spanish Cooperation as a whole.

By 2030, ensure Spain's external action and bilateral relations are fully aligned and coherent with the principles of the 2030 Agenda and Human Rights, and geared towards their fulfilment in partner nations.

By 2030, actively promote a rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and fair multilateral trading system that contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.

By 2030, help guarantee the connection of access to financing from international financial institutions and management of external debt with the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, encompassing the promotion of coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, particularly for heavily indebted poor countries.

By 2030, ensure the positive contribution of Spanish companies beyond our border, through the alignment of financial cooperation and other business instruments with the principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda, and through the adoption of a regulatory framework on human rights due diligence.

By 2030, ensure widespread use of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as an indicator of human development and a measure of progress as an alternative to per capita income in measuring the efforts of partners towards the 2030 Agenda.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

- » Design and implementation of the instrument of Technical Cooperation.
- » Cooperation Council (inclusion of FAMSI), Cooperation Council and RADCA.
- » Protocol for emergency and humanitarian action coordination.
- » Management Plan 2020-2023. (*)
- » Direct cooperation in the form of aid to NGOs Universities and humanitarian action bodies.
- » A space for reflection on decentralised cooperation with the Cooperation Council: multi-factor approach.

ARAGON

- » Compact for Cooperation in Aragon, which commits to an annual budgetary increase. (*)

CANARY ISLANDS

- » Canarian Strategy for Development Cooperation 2021-2030.
- » Development Cooperation Masterplan 2021-2023.
- » Implementation of measures for Responsible Public Procurement.
- » Fostering Corporate Social Responsibility in Public Companies.
- » Certified Body and CO2 Bank (securitise and monetise the capture of CO2 on the part of Canarian farmers).

CANTABRIA

- » 3Rd Development Cooperation Masterplan of the Education Strategy for Development and Social Transformation.
- » Commitment to an increase of ODA to 0.4% of GNI by 2023. (*)
- » Collaboration with civil society as a key stakeholder in cooperation.
- » Coordinated work with immigrant and refugee organisations.
- » Social and occupational integration programmes for immigrant women.
- » Provide SMEs with tools for the management of their social impact. (*)
- » Foster the Social and Solidarity Economy through the implementation of projects at local level as a viable and sustainable alternative for the satisfaction of global needs.
- » Women and LGBTIQ groups as a cross-cutting priority of cooperation policy. Abolitionist policies for the protection of women in the context of prostitution. (*)

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » Development cooperation program.
- » Humanitarian and emergency action program.
- » Program of assistance for refugees.
- » Regional development cooperation strategy. (*)
- » LGBTI equality law in Castile-La Mancha. (*)

CASTILE AND LEÓN

- » Reinforcement of an approach based on human rights, environmental sustainability, gender-based discrimination and sexual diversity in the Development Cooperation Masterplan.
- » Reform of the Cooperation legislation to promote multi-stakeholder alliances.
- » Direct aid to humanitarian action bodies.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

- » Development Cooperation Masterplan 2019-2022.
- » Grants from the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation to support social transformation initiatives that respond to a gender and human rights-based approach, contributing to PD priorities and improving the situation caused by COVID-19.
- » Study of the external impact of public procurement of textiles of the Regional Government of Catalunya-Catalonia and the Catalan public sector.
- » Leadership of Action 5 of the UNESCO Kazan Action Plan.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA – VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » Valencian Alliance of Cities for Sustainable Development. (*)
- » Valencian Law for the Promotion of Peace and Defence of Human Rights. (*)
- » Instruments of Humanitarian Action and human rights defenders, through the constitution of a Technical Committee within the framework of the Valencian Cooperation Council.
- » 5th Valencian Cooperation Masterplan. (*)
- » Line of financing for actions to raise awareness of human rights activists.
- » Valencian Urban Agenda.
- » Biennial Plan to Support and Promote Cooperativism, Fent Cooperatives (2021-2022).

EUSKADI – BASQUE COUNTRY

- » Internationalisation Strategy Euskadi Basque Country 2025.
- » Development Cooperation Masterplan 2018-2021.
- » Humanitarian Action Strategy of the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation 2018-2023.
- » Sustainable Development Policy Coherence Framework.
- » Education Strategy for social transformation HABIAN 2030.
- » Basque Programme for the Protection of Defenders of Human Rights.
- » Framework Programme in Education and Human Rights.

EXTREMADURA

- » General Cooperation Plan 2018-2021 of the Regional Government of Extremadura.
- » Strengthening of Extremadura's cooperation stakeholders.
- » Analysis and design of the new regulatory framework for Extremadura's cooperation aimed at strengthening public cooperation policy.

GALIZA – GALICIA

- » Law 10/2021, regulating external action and cooperation for development.
- » 4Th Galician Cooperation Masterplan 2018-2010.
- » Galician COVID response strategy, complementary to 4th Masterplan currently in force.
- » Resources from the State Compact against Gender-based Violence to finance projects to assist refugees in relation to gender-based violence.
- » Collaboration with Agenda 2030 stakeholders: universities, the Galician NGDO Coordinator, the Fondo Galego and a consortium of NGDOs in support of the Plan Proxecta.
- » Implementation with the EMAS2 system in Galicia.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ILLES BALEARS – BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » 4th Master Plan for Development Cooperation 2020–2023.
- » Comprehensive protocol for healthcare for trans persons.
- » Development cooperation aid and international solidarity.
- » Education Strategy for Social Transformation 2021–2023.
- » Annual Illes Balears - Balearic Islands Cooperation Plan 2021.

NAFARROA –COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

- » 3 Navarre Development Cooperation Plan.
- » New line of cooperation with United Nations international organisations.
- » New results framework with simpler and more realistic indicators for monitoring of actions.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » Sectoral strategies relating to education for development, gender, indigenous peoples and human rights for alignment with the 2030 Agenda. (*)
- » Economic reinforcement of the instruments of development cooperation.
- » Provide an impetus of the participation of women in peace building through the instruments of development cooperation.

REGION OF MURCIA

- » Regulatory developments to regulate the NGDO Registry of the Region of Murcia, and the composition and running of the Regional Council of International Cooperation for Development.
- » Grants for development cooperation, humanitarian aid and education for sustainable development and global citizenship. (*)
- » Regulatory framework for humanitarian action and participation in the AECID-Autonomous Communities common fund. (*)

LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Programs to foster participatory local sustainability strategies aligned with the 2030 Agenda.
- » Collaboration on campaigns organised by UNHCR.
- » Grants to NGOs for International Development Cooperation and Education projects.
- » Development Cooperation Masterplans.
- » Call for grants for Development Cooperation, both for projects in the countries of origin, raising awareness in the local sphere and aid for international emergencies.
- » Sectorial Development Cooperation Council as a body for participation, information and consultation among tertiary sector entities.
- » Financing of projects to NGDOs.
- » Drafting of the Strategic Municipal Plan based on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- » Mediation and Peace Workshops.
- » Participation tools to combat corruption.
- » Active participation in the Network of Towns and Cities for Human Rights, and the promotion of the Charter of Human Rights in the City.
- » Programs in support of cultural diversity.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Coexistence and Anti-Rumour Network.
- » Programmes to support the employment integration of immigrants.
- » Sectoral Immigration Council and the call for grants to non-profit organisations in the field of immigration.
- » Creation of the Municipal Platform for Refugees to establish priorities in this area.
- » Collaboration agreements with social entities that provide assistance to refugees and immigrants.
- » Reinforcement of the protocol for the reception of migrants in the area of municipal social services.
- » Reception workshops to welcome the newly-arrived population and foster knowledge of the language and the environment. Development of intercultural activities, condemnation of any attitude of xenophobia or racial discrimination.
- » Effective access for migrants and refugees to all municipal resources.
- » Municipal compacts for good governance and commitment to the institutional quality of policies. Charters of municipal services and mechanisms for control and assessment of the results.
- » Education for development and to raise awareness as the basis of building a citizenship sensitive to solidarity and global social justice.

COUNTRY CHALLENGE 8. REVITALIZING OUR RURAL AREAS AND TACKLING THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

2 ZERO HUNGER



Diagnosis

Spain, as well as other neighbouring countries, faces the challenge of addressing depopulation of a large part of its territories, especially rural areas, characterised by low population density and dispersed population, or effects arising from seasonal overpopulation, for preventing hazards to social and territorial cohesion. This phenomenon is tightly linked to many different aspects such as population ageing, masculinization of rural areas, decline in birth rates, or the gap between urban and rural areas with regard to access to public services and to economic opportunities, which causes migratory movements towards larger, more populated towns, and creates issues such as loneliness management, community care or public investment²⁰⁶.

This challenge is not unique to Spain, but the global context of demographic change impacts Spain particularly. For this reason, over the last years, the European Commission has started to assess the demographic challenges and to implement policies that address them, creating a Vice-presidency for Democracy and Demographics, the purpose of which is to address one of the main challenges, demographic change, by developing work lines intended to analyse the demographic impact of the different population groups and developing a long-term vision for rural areas or promoting a wide-ranging political debate on the challenges and opportunities posed by the ageing of the European society through the Green Paper on Ageing²⁰⁷. The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be complied with if there is no territorial cohesion. The demographic challenge cannot be overcome without working in medium and long term in the SDG.

Demographic change impacts economic, environmental, social and cultural balances, thus impacting the social and territorial structure and consequently to our model for coexistence and development. Disparity of opportunities between large cities and predominantly rural areas steers away from the Sustainable Development Goals, provided that its compliance will not be complete without territorial cohesion. The effect of these inequalities in the form of migration from clearly rural areas to urban environment does not necessarily lead to a more sustainable management of natural resources. On the contrary, a more balanced and structured alternative to a model based on large metropolises that eat up a large share of resources and attract people from depopulated territories need to be built, based on a network of communities, urban settlements, cities and towns.

8.1. Territorial depopulation.

²⁰⁶ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the impact of demographic change, June 2020. Accessible [here](#)

²⁰⁷ European Commission (2021) Green Paper on Ageing. Promoting inter-generational solidarity and responsibility. Accessible [here](#)

Territorial depopulation is one of the challenges that Spain is facing. Demographic changes impact rural areas in different ways, but all of them are characterised by population decline in favour of urban areas which are the target of migratory movements.

According to the Municipal report of the National Statistics Institute (INE), as of 1 January 2020, the population distribution by municipalities in Spain clearly showed a trend to residential concentration in large urban areas. Two data can be highlighted in the population distribution by municipalities:

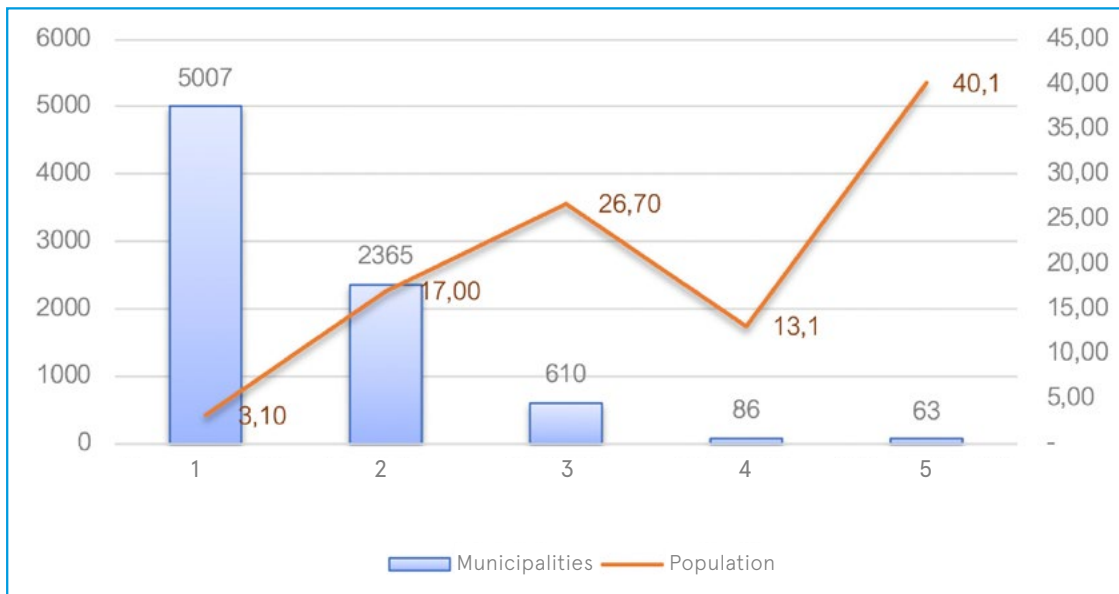
- _ 40.1% of population lives in 0.77% of municipalities (over 100,000 inhabitants) while, on the opposite extreme, barely 3.1% of population lives in villages under

1,000 people that represent 67.5% of the total number of municipalities in Spain.

_ The second figure represents that 79.9% of the Spanish population lives in barely 9.3% of Spanish municipalities (that is, those with populations over 10,000), which gives us an idea of the residential concentration of Spanish population.

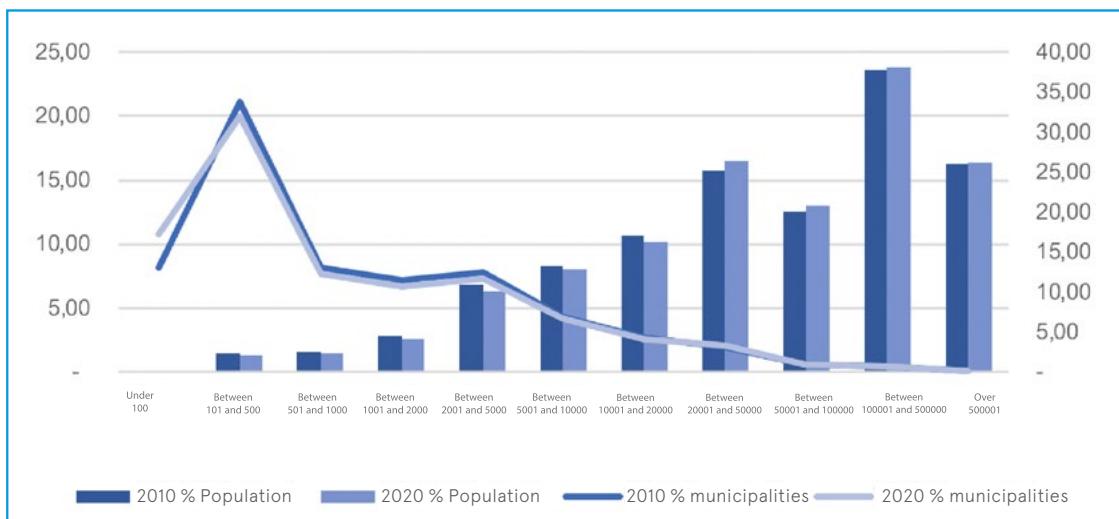
According to National Statistics Institute (INE) data, in the last decade the number of municipalities with populations over 2,000 increased, which is a clear example of the decrease of

Number of municipalities and population per municipality size



Source: Own source based on the Ongoing Municipal Population census of the National Statistics Institute.

Evolution of population per municipality size (2010-2020)

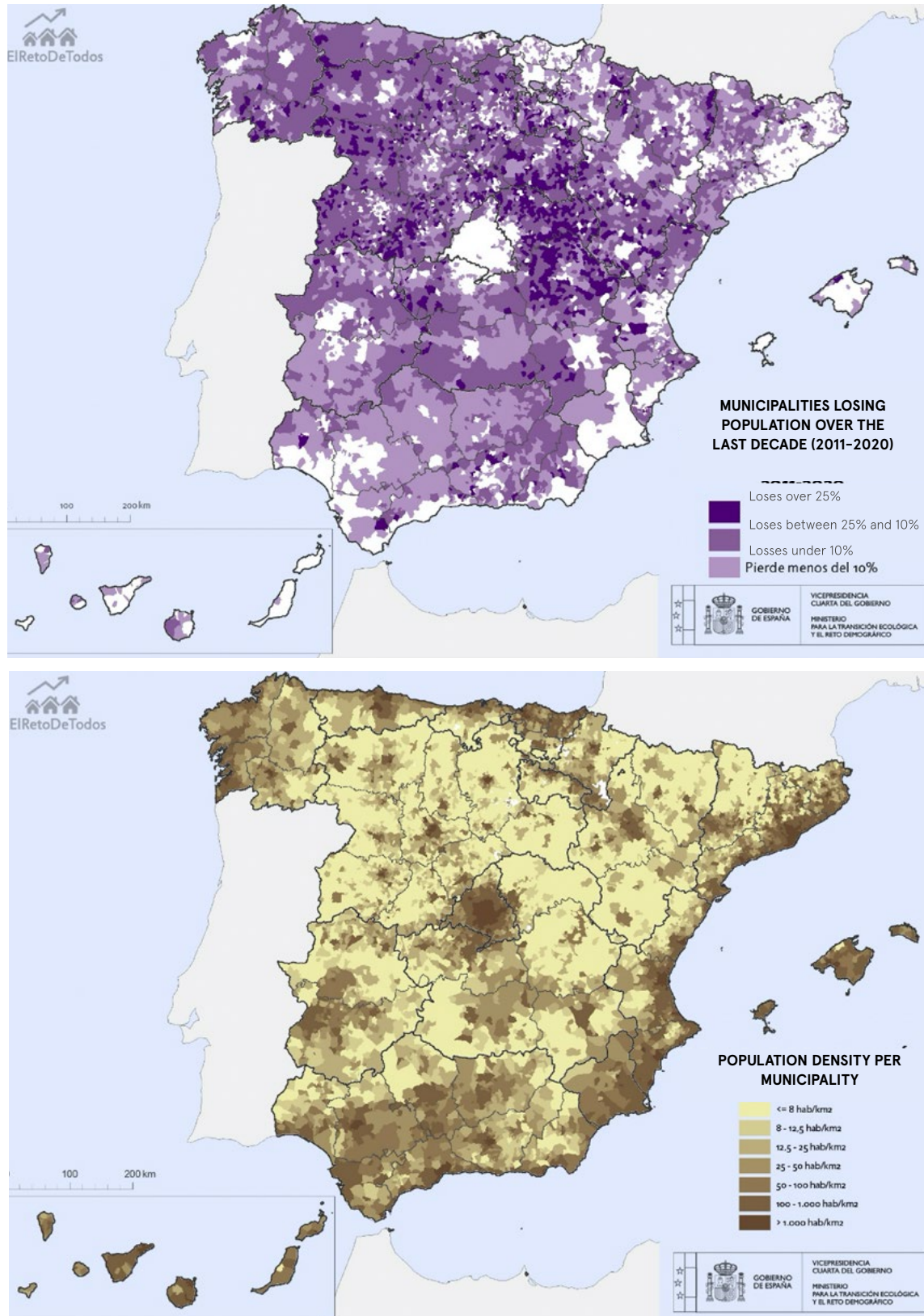


Source: Own source based on the Ongoing Municipal Population census of the National Statistics Institute.

population in rural areas, while cities with populations over 20,000 concentrate over two thirds of the population of the entire country.

According to the *General Guidelines of the National Strategy to tackle the Demographic Challenge*²⁰⁸, between 2001 and 2018, 63% of Spanish municipalities have lost population. Among them, 48.1% of municipalities have lost between 10% and 50% of their population. The evolution of the population loss in

rural area is, therefore, an ongoing trend. Specifically, in the 2010–2020 period, it can be ascertained that 77% of the total number of municipalities lost population. This trend especially impacted those municipalities with populations under 1,000, in an uneven process that does not impact all provinces with the same strength. Almost 90% of municipalities with populations under 1,000 were impacted by population losses. In 2020, Spain's average population density was 93 people by square kilometre, which was under the 2019 EU-27 average



²⁰⁸ National Strategy to tackle the Demographic Challenge. General Guidelines. Minister of Territorial Policy and Public Function. Available [here](#)

of 1009 people per square meter²⁰⁹. However, this national average does not show that while 41 million people, that is, 87% of the population, are huddled together in 1,351 municipalities that represent 27% of the country territory, the remaining 13% of people, that is, over 6 million people, live in an area that represents 73% of the territory. This means that average density in such territory barely exceeds 17 people by square kilometre.

Among the latter, 48.4% of municipalities rate under 12.5 people by square meters, a rate that has been classified by the European Union as serious risk of depopulation. Besides, out of this 48.4%, 83.5% are municipalities with populations under 500.

Low population density has an important impact on the territory and constitutes one of the factors that explains the demographic challenges that we currently face.

Considering the above thresholds, almost half of the Spanish territory, that is, 4,000 municipalities, are in a situation of demographic risk. This situation becomes increasingly concerning when it is taken into account that 38% of out municipalities do not even reach 8 people by square kilometre, a rate considered by the EU as a situation of severe risk of depopulation. This situation is aggravated by the fact that most of such municipalities are, besides, currently undergoing a process of loss of population. All this, despite the Spanish population has increased in about six million persons between 2001 and 2020, which evidences an increasing concentration of the population in urban and semi-urban areas. Over the last decade, 91% of municipalities with populations under 5,000 have lost population.

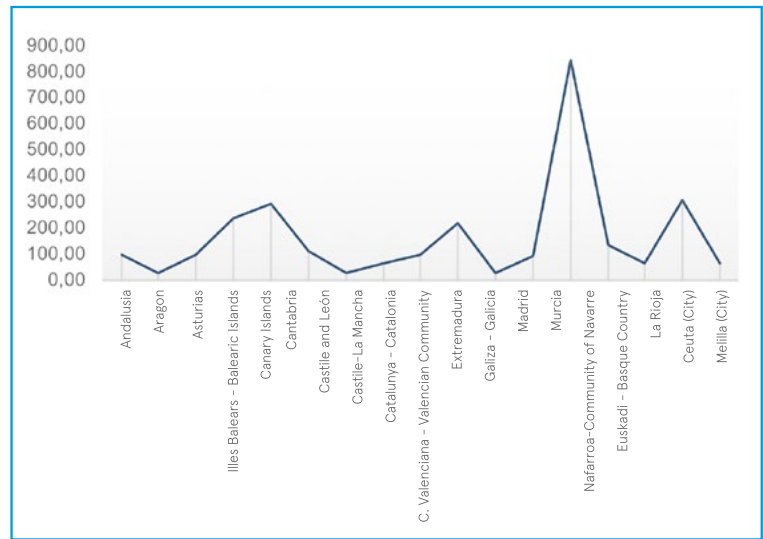
This unbalance creates inequality between territories and people, which is unsustainable from an environmental, economic or social perspective.

8.2 An ageing population

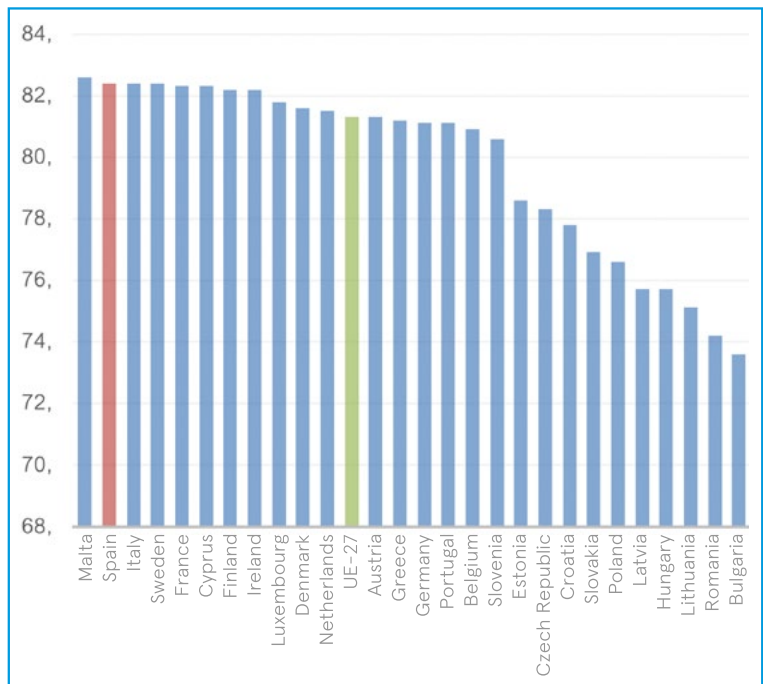
Another aspect of the demographic decline of Spain is population ageing. Spain is the country of the European Union with the **highest life expectancy** at birth, which is, of course, a huge success of our social system, but, at the same time, brings new challenges lined to meeting the needs of an increasingly ageing population, as has been extensively addressed under the Country Challenge 6. As of 2020, the ageing rate in Spain is 125.92%, which means that there are 126 people over 64 for each 100 persons under 16. The ageing process is clearly feminised, since this rate escalates to 147.07% in the case of women.

Currently, **one out of five persons is over 65**, a number that increases to one out of four in rural areas. This is a challenge for achieving a generational replacement and social and economic sustainability of such territories. Pursuant to current projections,

Average population density per Autonomous Community, 2020.



Life expectancy at birth in UE-27, 2020

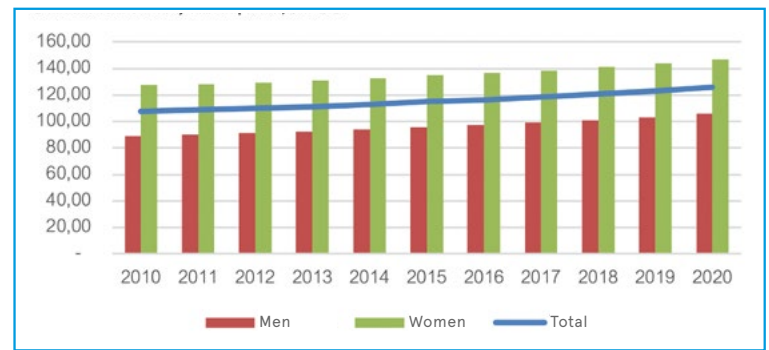


²⁰⁹ Eurostat. Available [here](#)

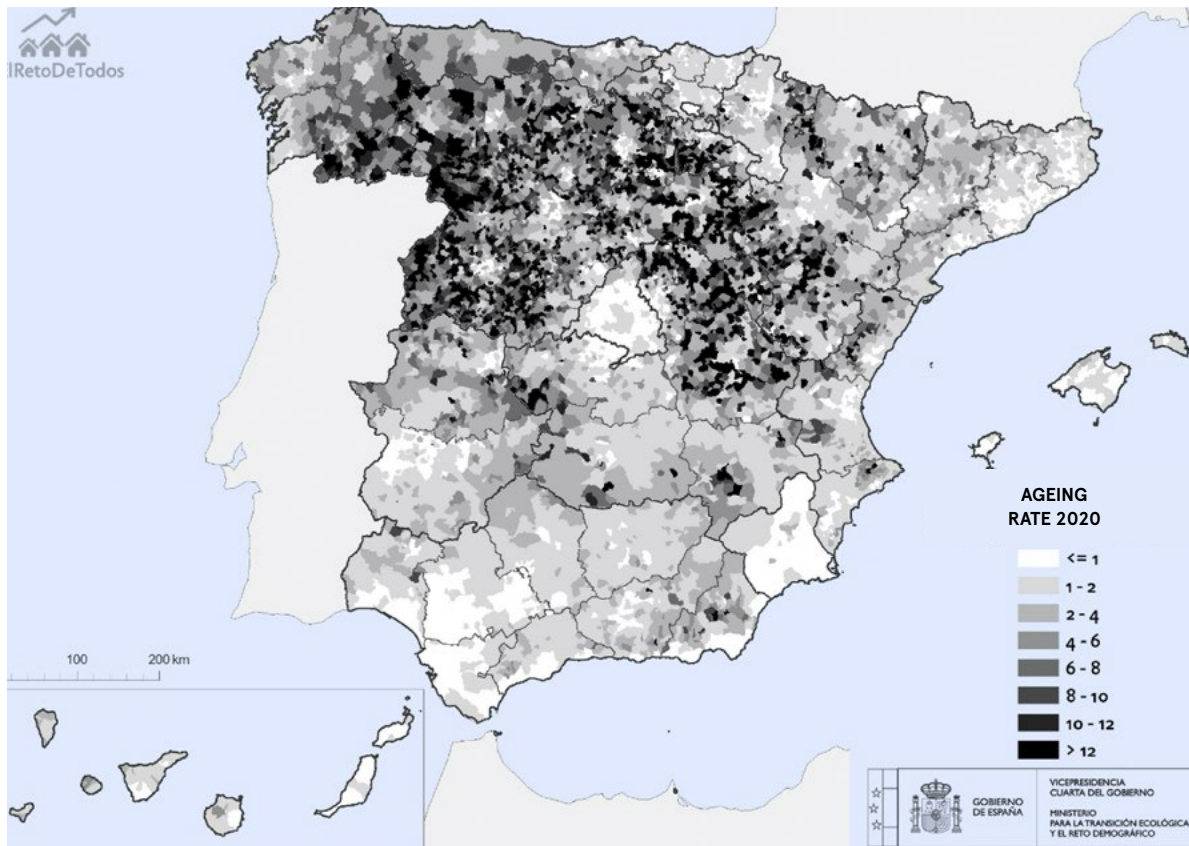
in 2050, population over 65 will amount to over fifteen million persons.

Over this decade, **the number of people over 65 has increased in almost over 16%**, and now represent almost 20% of the Spanish population. Out of them, 30% are over-80s.

Evolution of the ageing rate per gender, 2010-2020



Source: Own source based on data provided by the INE.



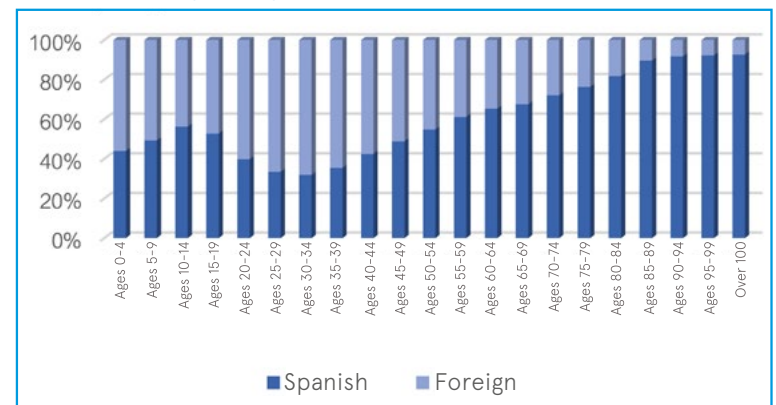
Again, as can be seen in the following table, there is a significant gender gap, in which the first row represents the percentage of persons over 65 on the total population and the second row represent the percentage of persons over 80 on the group of over 65s. It is obvious that the ageing process is much more relevant for women:

	2010		2020	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Over 65	14.52	19.15	17.15	21.62
Over 80	24.25	32.59	26.07	34.31

Source: Own source based on data provided by the INE.

Foreign population has 35.8% of under-30s; this contributes to the rejuvenating of the Spanish population, which is a key aspect of the demographic challenge.

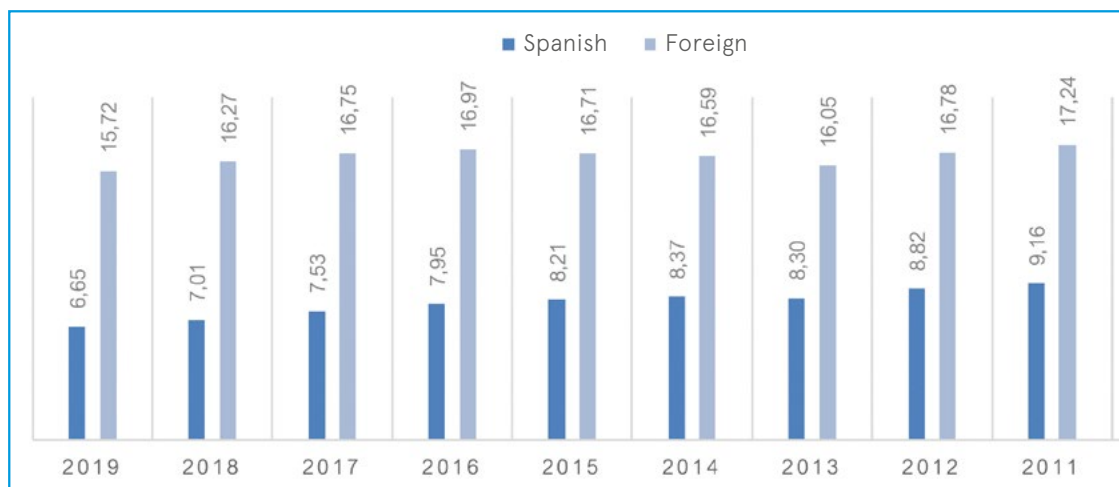
Population by age and gender in 2020



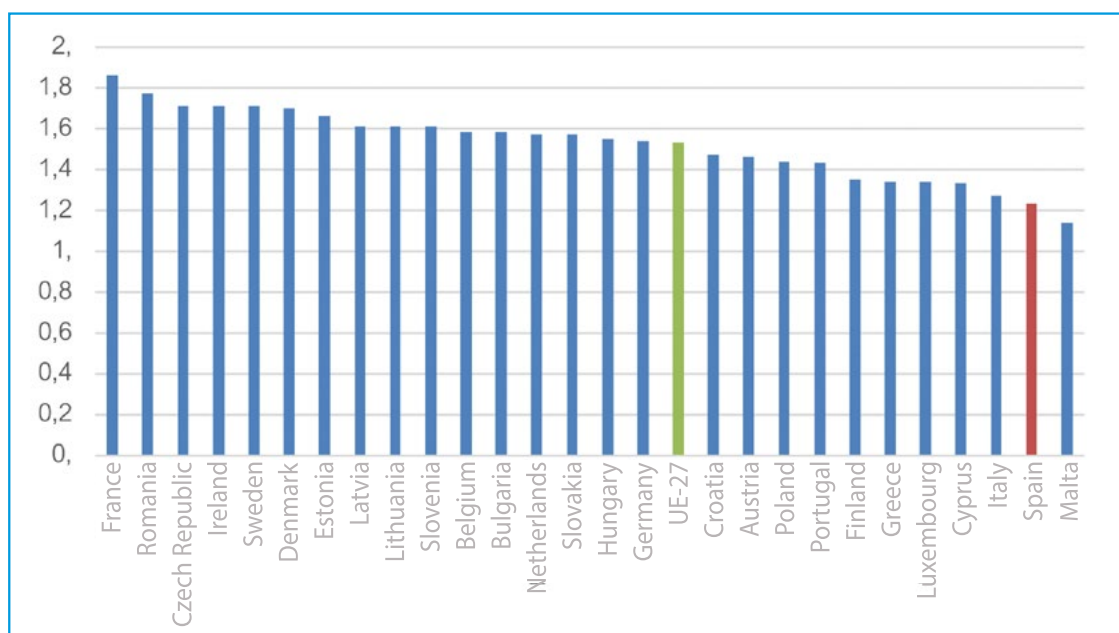
Progressive demographic ageing of the population becomes aggravated by the low fertility rate. In 2019, the **short-term fertility indicator** (or average number of children per woman) was 1.23²¹⁰, which represented a 0.03 decrease with respect to 2018. This figure places us at the bottom of the EU-27 countries, just above Malta. Besides, the average age for having the first child has been pushed back from 30.7 years in 2001 to 32.2 in 2019.

However, current actual fertility rates do not correspond to the desired fertility indicators. According to the 2018 fertility survey,²¹¹ 3 out of 4 women declared that they wished to have 2 or more children, a rate which is vastly different from current fertility rates. This survey also evidences that, from 35 years of age, the most important reasons to have less children than wished for are related to work, financial situation or to the obstacles to reach a life-work balance.

Evolution of birth gross rate by nationality 2010–2020



UE-27 short-term fertility indicator, 2019



Source: Own source based on data provided by the 2019 Eurostat.

8.3 Masculinization of the territory

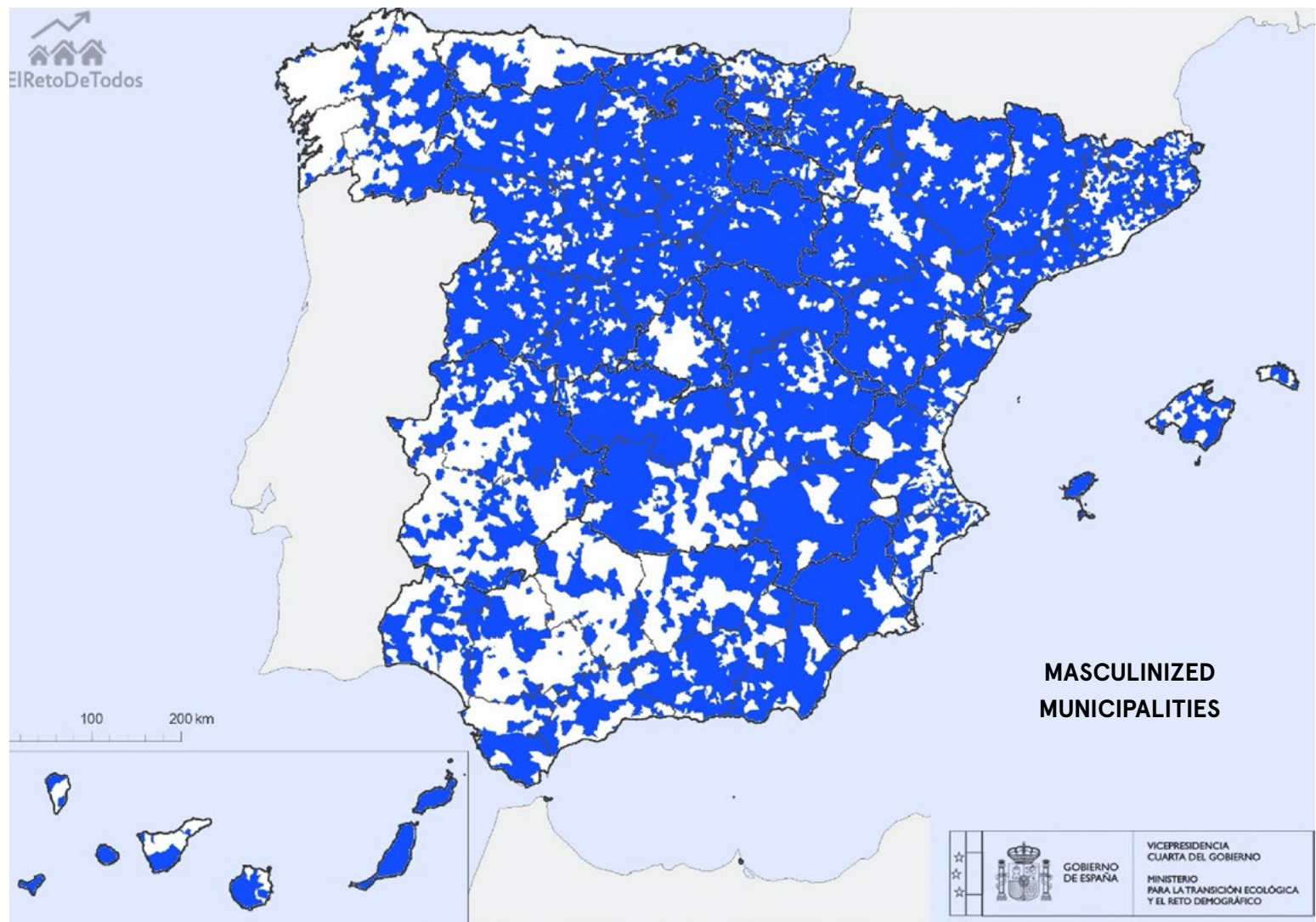
Ageing and masculinization are two differential aspects of rural demographics with respect to urban demographics, and both have important consequences for the reproduction of social fabric in rural areas. Lack of employment opportunities and public services in rural areas is the basis for the displacement of young people, especially young women, towards larger towns and urban and semi-urban areas. This progressively creates a masculinization of the territory and enlarges the gender gap

affecting those women who live and wish to develop their personal and professional projects in the rural environment.

Data shows us that in 75% of Spanish municipalities there are more men than women, and that percentage increases inversely depending on the size of the municipality. That is the smaller the town, the higher the number of men and the higher the average age of women. A proof of this is that 85% of municipalities with populations under 1,000 have more men than women, which evidences an existing direct relationship between the phenomenon of masculinization of the territory and the depopulation and demographic challenges.

²¹⁰ Eurostat (2019) Total fertility rate. Accessible [here](#)

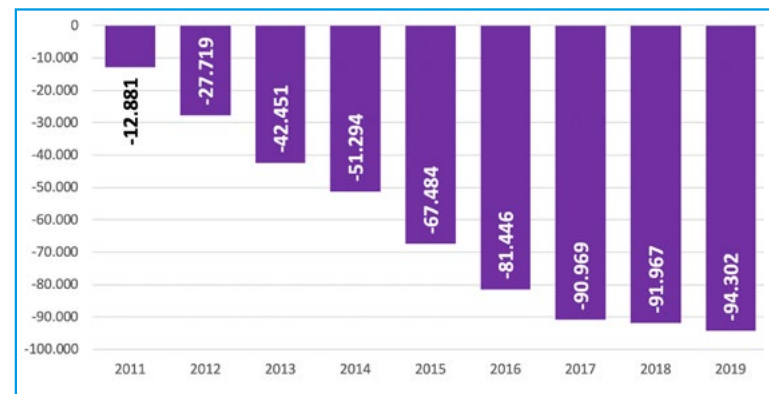
²¹¹ 2018 Fertility Rate. National Institute for Statistics. [here](#)



Besides, the figures of internal residence changes for rural municipalities²¹² (among the various municipalities) from 2011 to 2019, broken down by gender, represent an inequality gender gap that negatively impacts women. Thus, in said period, 94,302 women had left rural areas for the city.

Finally, loss of population, progressive ageing and masculinization of rural areas are differential aspects of rural demography with respect to urban demography, which has important consequences for the reproduction of rural social fabric and for retaining younger people in small towns and hamlets. This situation is not only determined by the progressive decline in birth rate generally experienced by our country over the last decade. Factors such as the equal opportunities gap and the public services access gap determined the life projects of people living in rural areas and explain, in a large deal, the attraction and concentration effects of larger towns, provincial capitals and metropolitan areas that offer more and better employment opportunities and a wider-ranging offer of public services.

Residential internal balance of women in rural municipalities. Cumulative figures 2011-2019



An example of the effects of this rights and opportunities gap is that people living in rural areas have lower income levels and face a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion. According to latest available data, the average household income in rural areas was 24% lower than in more populated areas, and 12% lower than in intermediate areas. Besides, the social exclusion and poverty risks affects 28.2% of the population in rural areas against 23.3% of urban areas²¹³. This situation compromises social and territorial cohesion and steers Spain away from complying with the Sustainable Development Goals.

²¹² Statistics on Residence Changes. National Institute for Statistics. [here](#)

²¹³ EUROSTAT. Classification of urbanization degree - Variable [DEGURBA](#)

In face of this situation, it is indispensable to implement public policies that respond to the challenges of rural areas and areas affected by demographic decline, by reinforcing public services such as healthcare, education, social protection and attention to care. A lack of specific services with a lower average quality and the existing obstacles to access them directly affect the perception of quality of life for people in rural areas and constitutes another of the objective causes for population loss, particularly of families, in rural areas²¹⁴. At the same time, efforts must be intensified to reverse the current concentration of economic and productive activities, based on using and leveraging the local resources of each territory, as well as through the improvement of accessibility and digital connectivity of the rural environment. All this, with the purposes of creating a more diverse, quality job offer in rural areas, that has the capacity to attract and retain talent, tie people to their territories and that contributes to sustainable use and care of our environment in a consistent manner with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. In this sense, the territorial development policies, in which small and medium cities have a fundamental structuring role, generate new opportunities in local and rural areas, by reinforcing relationships between the countryside and the city and by generating added value in the territories.

Lastly, it is fundamental that policies and actions to address the demographic challenge pay special attention to guarantee equal opportunities for men and women, which, in turn, is linked to access to quality public services and a guarantee of protection against gender-based violence, given the effect that the absence of public services and social protection has in the form of an overburdening of care tasks and the risk of poverty for women. Besides, it is necessary to continue enhancing participation of women in economic activities, including promoting shared ownership regime of agricultural and livestock farms and promoting self-organization of women in the rural environment, as well as women's access to self-employment and new technologies.

Finally, addressing the issue of the demographic challenge is a priority throughout the national territory, which requires the impulse of all stakeholders, both public and private, with the purposes of achieving a country fully structured and cohesive both in the social and territorial spheres, and better aligned with the principles and commitments of the 2030 Agenda.

²¹⁴ FEMP (2017) Commission on depopulation. List of measures to fight depopulation in Spain. Accessible [here](#)

ACCELERATING POLICY 8:

Social and territorial cohesion. A rural environment with equal rights and opportunities.



a. Accelerating Policy Orientation:

The sense of urgency of offering solutions to the demographic challenge, that particularly affects areas with depopulation risk, is a wide social and political consensus, and it needs to be addressed by a cross-cutting approach, and also as a country-specific challenge in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. As part of the relevant actions, a National Strategy to tackle the Demographic Challenge is under preparation, with the purposes of being used as a tool to guarantee social and territorial cohesion, as well as ensuring actual equal rights and opportunities without differences due to age or place of residence. It is intended for the entire territory with the goal of connecting rural and urban areas and searching for solutions that contribute to protect the environment, as well as to tie a population to a territory that offers sustainable opportunities of social and economic development.

Among the measures to address the demographic challenge, medium-sized cities or small province capitals have an essential role to achieve an appropriate level of revitalization of areas under demographic risk, as established by the **Spanish Urban Agenda**. The goal is to reinforce the relationships between the rural and urban communities, creating opportunities and added value as a contribution to social and territorial cohesion. Loss of population, town size or low population density cannot justify an inappropriate functionality of certain territories. The State, with the help of the entire system of Public Administration, must guarantee access to quality public services, such as healthcare services (especially primary healthcare) in areas identified as having difficult coverage due to their geographical and demographic characteristics, among other aspects.

Public Administrations, within their respective, competences must also act as leaders for the generation of economic, employment or leisure opportunities, in collaboration with private initiatives. In this sense, deployment of ecological transition in fields such as renewable energies, care and custody of the territory or reconstruction of green infrastructures, among other things, can play a fundamental role for the revitalization of all territories, regardless of their size or population. In sum, tackling the demographic challenge involves enabling the development of the personal and professional projects of everyone, guaranteeing the freedom of residence, and being particularly mindful to the disadvantageous position of rural women with regard to effective equality.

Tying population to territory is the overall goal, and it requires to pay attention to municipalities with populations up to 5,000 –which represent 84% of total municipalities, but are home to only 12.12% of the Spanish population–, which must be guaranteed basic services to their entire populations under the principle of equity. This encompasses all public services regarding education and vocational training and implementation policies for supporting care work in rural areas, paying special attention to the needs arising from an ageing population and enabling social inclusion, among other aspects. In this scope, reinforcing rural schools and guaranteeing all necessary means for their correct function are a key element to for the structuring of the territory, since it enables young people to stay in the educational system, beyond basic education.

Connectivity, digital infrastructures and impulse from new technologies shall be integral parts of the **Plan for Connectivity and Digital Infrastructures for the society, the economy and territories**, one of its goals is to continue to expand the high-speed bandwidth coverage to take it to 100% of the population, enabling digital transformation and remote access to essential services, thus favouring territorial structuring. This digitalisation strategy shall reach the **forest, food and agricultural sector**, that pursues the removal or reduction of currently existing technical, legal, economic and training barriers, in order to have a leader food and agricultural sector which is financially, socially and environmentally sustainable, and to the active population of the rural area, making it a more attractive, living, dynamic and diversified, creating wealth and quality jobs, and paying special attention to young people and women.

Offering support and consulting services to entrepreneurs for implement new economic activities and to recover traditional activities, as well as advancing active policies for stable, decent, quality jobs in the rural environment, shall be priority aspects in order to promote an endogenous social and economic development that contributes to attract population and tie it to the territory.

Another of the goals for compliance of the 2030 Agenda is the **elimination of the gender gaps arising from the demographic challenge**, related the masculinisation of the territory, lack of opportunities for women in rural areas and in areas in demographic decline, ageing of population and women overwhelmed by care work, as well as gender-based violence. This goal is to be addressed by means of setting the right conditions for the improvement of public services, including measures for protection against gender-based violence, and of interventions intended to increase participation of women in economic activities, providing training activities, as well as consulting in the digital, technological, entrepreneurship and social economy scopes, together with new financial support lines for female entrepreneurs, and pilot projects for labour integration of women and youth on their own territories.

b. Action priorities:

→ **Plan of Actions for the Demographic Challenge, along the lines and in the framework of the National Strategy to tackle the Demographic Challenge and the Plan for Recovery, Transformation and Resilience**, in order to establish an effective agenda for equality and territorial cohesion that includes and relies on small towns for agree, digital, inclusive, gender-sensitive recovery.

→ **Plan for Connectivity and Digital Infrastructures** of the society, economy and territories, whose goal is to continue enlarging the high-speed bandwidth coverage until reaching 100% of the population, and the development and execution of the **2nd Action Plan for the Strategy for the Digital Transition of Rural Areas**.

→ **Strategy for the Digital Transformation of the forest and agricultural sector and the rural environment**, which general purpose is to remove or reduce any existing technical, legal, economic and training challenges.

→ **Innovation in the territory**, promoting the collective

development of territorial intelligence, identifying local talent and implementing actions that create new economic activities.

→ **Development of actions in the advance of equal educational opportunities in the rural environment**, as stated in article 82 of the LOMLOE Act regarding schooling conditions, improvement of education offer, especially in post-compulsory education (*bachillerato* or post compulsory, pre-university education and vocational training courses) and enhancement of complementary services such as transportation and school canteens, Internet access and sufficient human and material resources to guarantee an appropriately quality education.

→ Actions regarding a **fair ecological transition** beneficial for the rural environment, placing local communities as the vanguard of the energy transition. Impulse to organic economy, promoting environmental protection to design more resilient and sustainable local communities and guaranteeing a fair transition of the territory.

→ Transforming the rural environment into a space for opportunities, by means of the economic impulse of the territory and the creation of jobs and economic activities, such as sustainable tourism and promotion of culture.

→ **Specific budgets assigned to Integral Support Plans for Rural Women**, including measures to ensure joint ownership of farms, and promoting the work of associations as a key element for the revitalization of social, economic and cultural life. This is the goal of enacting and deploying the **Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities** which incorporates cross-sectional strategic goals with regard to the subjects described, and the support to women that live and work in a rural environment, though the **Rural Women Challenge Programme** which endeavours to provide personalized training and support to rural women.

→ **Strategy for equality of rural women**, with specific support measures for women in the framework of the Spanish Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy, a new credit line for projects endeavoured by female entrepreneurs from rural environment, the revision of the joint ownership acts and excellence awards for rural women, among others.

→ **Subsidy lines for Sustainable Markets**, that shall assign part of its budget specifically to rural areas with the goals of promoting maintenance and competitiveness of commercial activity and the digital transition of such activities. Besides, short food miles are to be encouraged and promoted.

→ **A Statute of Small Towns** shall be enacted, constituting a set of legal instruments for towns of populations up to 5,000, enabling better organizations, operations and procedures in view of streamlining administrative procedures and enabling co-governance with other administrations.

→ **The Social Security Data Processing Centre** in Soria has been used as a test bed to assess the implementation of similar initiatives in other territories, creating opportunities for specialized employment in areas in risk of depopulation, contributing thus to the overall goal of structuring the territory.

→ Promotion of **access to mobility in rural areas** through short-range public transportation.

2030 TARGETS

By 2030: guaranteeing healthcare, especially primary healthcare, as well as access to other rights such as education, tending to care needs, social protection and other services in areas identified as areas of difficult coverage due to their geographical and demographic characteristics, by considering optimal proximity ratios regarding healthcare centres, educational centres, judicial centres, waste management services, processing and purification systems, water supply systems, power supply, bank services, and cultural and sports centre capable of providing optimal coverage to 100% of the population.

By 2030: leveraging on the opportunities of the ecological transition for the revitalization of rural areas and villages, by means of developing a model that considers the specific characteristics of these areas and uses local resources to create quality employment opportunities.

By 2030: promoting digital transformation of the rural environment as a mechanism for reducing the digital gap and creating opportunities for sustainable social and economic development and assisting to the ecological transition of the forest, food and agricultural transition.

By 2030: supporting female entrepreneurs and their presence in different economic sectors, promoting, among other measures, the increase of joint ownership of agricultural farms and their participation in fishing activities, for the purposes of guaranteeing equal opportunities and reverse the gender gap in the rural environment.

By 2030: helping young entrepreneurs, promoting acquisition of digital capacities, vocational training adapted to the opportunities in the territory, and favouring programmes as Rural Erasmus, as a mechanism to contribute creating economic and employment opportunities in the rural environment for young people.

By 2030: promoting sustainable and cultural tourism as the driving force of the economic activity and the glue for territorial cohesion, by means of valuing the heritage elements in a given territory.

In 2023: guaranteeing protection of the vulnerable consumers in any provider-consumer activities in rural areas with lower population densities through the development of specific instruments.

By 2025: promoting initiatives regarding Smart Territories and Smart Cities with the goal of enabling a smart provision of public services, particularly in rural areas, using the Smart Specialization Strategies (RIS 3).

By 2025: enabling the development of entrepreneurship through a network of territorial innovation centres or interconnected rural hubs, with the goal of creating new economic opportunities and quality employment.

By 2030: promoting the creation of networks for protecting cultural and intangible heritage for the protection and transfer of traditional crafts and representative manifestations of intangible cultural heritage.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

ANDALUSIA

- » Regulation and subsidies for regeneration and renovation of urban and rural areas.
- » Map of Entrepreneurship Opportunities in rural areas of Andalusia, with initiatives linked to innovation, digital transformation and circular economy.
- » Strengthening of collaboration networks between entrepreneurs and public and private entities for projects in rural areas.
- » Act for the Statute of Rural and Sea Women of Andalusia. (*)
- » 2nd Plan for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women in agricultural, fishing and environmental fields in the framework of the plan Andalucía Horizonte 2027. (*)
- » Programme *Andalucía Rural Conectada*.

ARAGON

- » Consolidation of basic services in the rural area, and creation of sustainable growth, attracting investment by means of sectoral policies and inter-sectoral understandings.
- » Establishing a different tax policy to those areas affected by depopulation.
- » Measures to enable the elderly to continue living in their environment, supporting their dignity and autonomy.
- » Provision of solutions for the mining area of Cuencas Mineras according to the Special Committee for the Assessment of Criteria for the Energy Transition in Aragon and Alternative Strategies for Social and Economic Development.

CANARY ISLANDS

- » Care Strategic Plan.
- » Irrigation Plan.
- » Food Sovereignty Plan.

CANTABRIA

- » Enabling residence in those municipalities under the risk of depopulation and developing in them economic activities through fiscal bonuses in the regional section of the personal income tax (IFPF).
- » Integral and accessible information and support systems in the rural environment and implementation of specific actions for rural women (reduction of the digital gap, awareness and valuation campaigns for rural women or pro-natality aid policies) (*)
- » Popular participation in rural environments; counting specifically on, older women for the development of new public policies. (*)
- » Regional Strategy against the Demographic Challenge. (*)
- » Measures of positive discrimination favouring economic activities and employment in rural areas (*).
- » Actions and subsidies to support the primary sector.
- » Guarantee of mobility and connectivity, especially in municipalities under the risk of depopulation.
- » Promoting sustainable, green, nature, rural tourism, and supporting it with a Tourist Quality Plan.

CASTILE-LA MANCHA

- » Pact against depopulation.
- » 201-2020 Rural Development Programme.
- » Act for Rural and Territorial Development and against Depopulation. (*)
- » 2nd Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women 2019-2024 (Axis 7. Equal opportunities in the rural environment).
- » Regional strategy against depopulation. (*)

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

CASTILE AND LEÓN

- » Incorporation of a demographic approach in the design and development of all public policies.
- » Regional Strategy for Demographic Revitalization. (*)
- » Hiring of Equal Opportunities and Rural Impulse Agents.
- » Efficient management of public services.
- » Subsidies and transfers to local entities for the purposes of reactivating local economies. (*)

CATALUNYA-CATALONIA

- » Preparation of the Rural Agenda for Catalunya-Catalonia.
- » Development of the Strategic Food Plan for Catalunya (PEAC) 2021-2026.
- » Drive of the Plan for the Promotion of Housing in the rural world.
- » Deployment of "El Planter", a virtual office for helping and supporting young new farmers.
- » Implementation of the 2016-2020 Programme Rural and Maritime Women.

COMUNITAT VALENCIANA – VALENCIAN COMMUNITY

- » *ALCEM-NOS* Social Agreement.
- » Valencian Strategy for the Recovery.
- » Digitaliza Teletrabajo (subsidies for the promotion of remote work).
- » Observatory of the Digital Gap, Network of Chairs in the Digital Gap and Digital Gender Gap Chair.
- » Promotion of the STEM Movement.
- » Combating the feminisation of poverty.
- » Valencian Observatory for Decent Work.

EUSKADI – BASQUE COUNTRY

- » Gaztenek Plan for integrating and retaining young people in the agricultural sector.
- » 2020-2023 Plan for Organic Agriculture.
- » 2021-2024 Integral Plan for Care of Temporary Workers
- » OSOA Programme for Integral Rural Development.
- » Rural Development Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy.
- » Operational Plan for the Maritime European Funds of European Fisheries Fund of Euskadi - Basque Country (2021-2027 FEMP).

EXTREMADURA

- » Development aid for smart towns.
- » Capacitation of rural dwellers in the services that may be provided to the hunting and fish farming sectors.
- » Digital transformation of tourist destinations.
- » Innovation in sustainable, responsible tourist products.
- » Provision of basic and advanced teleassistance devices.

GALIZA – GALICIA

- » 2015-2020 Galician Strategic Plan.
- » 2019-2021 Galician Strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- » Action plan for the promotion of digital contents in Galicia: Plan DICO Mindset.
- » Plan for employment stability and provision for posts of statutory Workers in the Galician Public Health Service.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Guarantee Programme for Youth.
- » Programme for Basic Digital Mentoring for employment-seekers.
- » Employment Galicia: Training with a commitment to hire.
- » Dual employment workshops.

ILLES BALEARS – BALEARIC ISLANDS

- » 2014-2020 Programme for Rural Development.
- » 2nd Plan for Support to the Primary Sector.
- » Re-structuring Plan for the Nut Production Sector (increase of surface and production value).
- » Creating Panel for Local Product in order to enhance promotion and trade and improving their positioning in the food chain.
- » Act 3/2019, of 31 January, on the Agricultural Sector.
- » "Revert" campaign: co-responsibility to advance towards equality in the primary sector.

LA RIOJA

- » Interventions to remove the gender gap arising from the demographic challenge.
- » Co-responsibility plans: professional childcare services for families with children under 14 for the purposes of enabling women access employment by enhancing life-work balance. (*)
- » "Travelling suitcases for equality": a programme designed to promote a gender-perspective approach for different social agents in the region, especially in rural environment.

NAFARROA – COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

- » COMUNAL, Social Innovation for the common good of the Community of Navarre, for the implementation of three ecosystems for entrepreneurship and social innovation.
- » Maximizing the effect of digital transformation and remote work as a tool to attract and tie people to rural environments.

PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS

- » Erasing the digital gap between the urban world and the rural world, guaranteeing integral bandwidth coverage.
- » Integrating rural municipalities in the Transports Consortium. (*)
- » Rural Communication Plan. (*)
- » Supporting the initiatives that develop any R&D&I projects in the rural environment.
- » Strengthening the public service system as the central element of territorial cohesion.
- » Autonomic Act on Sustainable Rural Development. (*)
- » Plan for Generational Replacement, including young employment programmes, internships in companies and plans for access of young people to homes.
- » Strategy for the Food and Agricultural Service.
- » Tax incentives to combat depopulation and implementation of corporate projects in rural areas.

REGION OF MURCIA

- » Public Services and Income of Rural Areas. (*)
- » Promoting self-employment and social economy as a way to tie people to a territory.
- » Promoting of the incorporation of young people to the Agricultural Sector by creating companies and providing training on efficient work management.

Contribution of the Autonomous Communities and Local Authorities

- » Modernization of agricultural farms. (*)
- » Green Ways Network as the structure underlying tourist development of inland counties. (*)
- » Establishing tourist and complementary activities in rural areas subject to population decline. (*)

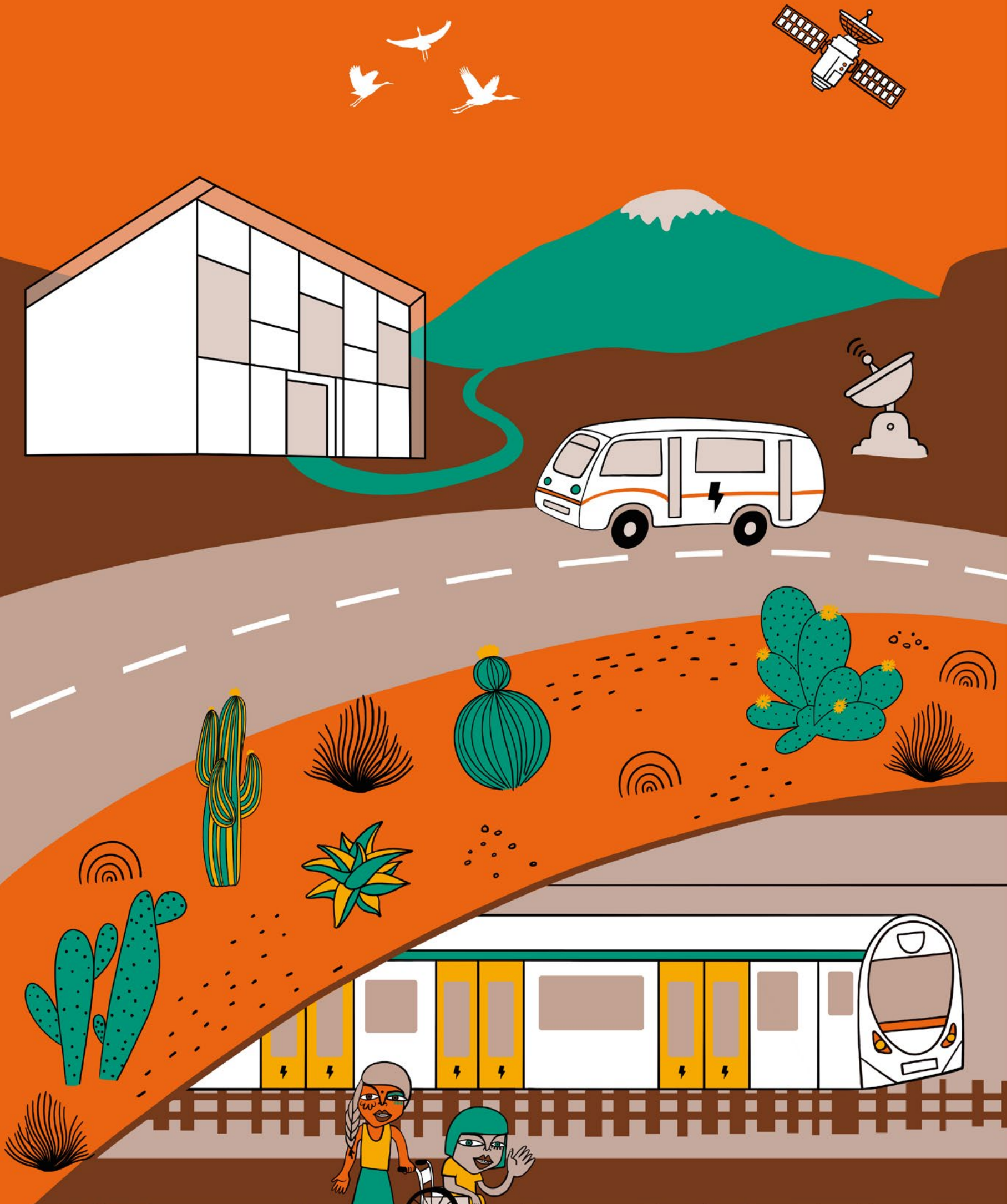
LOCAL ENTITIES

- » Enhancing the diversification of rural economy.
- » Improving competitiveness and sustainability of the agricultural and livestock sectors, through innovation, generational replacement and inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral cooperation.
- » Promoting ecological agriculture and livestock farming and resilient agricultural and livestock farming practices.
- » Promoting generational replacement and attracting young farmers to the rural environment.
- » Supporting farmers in their climate change adjustment efforts.
- » Providing rural areas with appropriate infrastructures and services that guarantee that their living conditions are equivalent to those of urban areas and the maintenance of population.
- » Reinforcing links between rural economic activities and use and social and landscape use of spaces.
- » Promoting the management and diversification of seed banks and local and native plants and establishment of Agricultural Programmes and Parks to promote agricultural activities in peri-urban areas.
- » Regulating new urban gardens for recovering degraded spaces and turning them in spaces of community coexistence and health, promoting small vegetable gardens for domestic consumption.
- » Improving functionalities in the rural environment in order to guarantee improved public services in the territory under equity criteria.
- » Favours the settlement of new settlers in rural areas, granting financial support for home rental, both for landlords and tenants.
- » Establishing a work group on the demographic challenge in each province, that promote the design of action programmes and channel the different interest demands made with regards to the Next Generation Funds.
- » Operational Programme on Employment, Training and Educations, that enables vulnerable persons to carry out integrated itineraries for training and social integration with the overall goal of improving employability in the rural environment.
- » Technical support to municipalities in creating urban planning tools which are compliant with the principles or financial, social and environmental sustainability.
- » Support to municipalities in drawing local regulations and ordinances that promote rehabilitations and occupation of empty or unused houses, and the protection of the natural and urban landscapes.
- » Promoting sustainable management of forest masses in the rural environment through the production of pellets and promotion of domestic and community composting.
- » Supporting the agricultural sector's adoption and integration of digital tools for monitoring operations.
- » Subsidies for city councils to implement environmental equipment, networks of paths and environmental educational programmes.
- » Developing socio-economic development actions in rural areas to reduce the inequality gap.
- » Improving Internet connectivity in rural environments with the ultimate goal of reducing the digital gap and wi-fi access free of charge and with sufficient quality in public spaces.
- » Increasing the birth rate in rural areas by means of subsidies per birth or adoption of children.
- » Helping new populations to settle in rural environment, enabling access to new technologies in areas of difficult access and favouring remote working and shared offices.

A NATIONAL PROJECT TO MAKE THE 2030 AGENDA A REALITY

III. OTHER TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Making the 2030 Agenda a reality requires the commitment and joint effort of all key institutions and actors: from the social and economic agents to each of the public administrations and citizens. Within this framework, this section includes other actions with a transformative profile, which will complement the implementation of the commitments set out for each of the eight prioritised sustainable development accelerating policies. Many of these measures were committed to in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain, but their development has had an uneven profile. They are therefore taken up from a vision of renewed momentum, in order to ensure a comprehensive and coherent implementation of efforts to drive the commitments derived from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Budgetary Alignment: Economic Commitment to Sustainable Development Policies.

Budget alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals is a paradigm shift and reflects the political and economic commitment of budget practice to sustainable development policies. It is essential to know quantitatively the means of implementation dedicated to the achievement of the different SDGs, in terms of public investment and spending, and to accompany this information with a qualitative assessment. In short, the 2030 Agenda demands the definition of a methodology that allows us to measure how public policies contribute to each of the SDGs, from a multidimensional and cross-cutting perspective. This will enable us to ensure consistency between all public efforts with regards the achievement of the SDGs.

In this regard, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda included transformative action number 7: “Budgeting for the SDGs: Aligning Domestic Budgets with the 2030 Agenda”. A measure to promote a functional analysis of expenditure, which in turn allows for the incorporation of the strategic vision of sustainable development in the terms foreseen in the Action Plan.

With the aim of advancing in the aforementioned measure, the Ministry of Finance has been leading, since 2019, an exceptional exercise of aligning the General State Budgets (PGE, as per the Spanish) bills with the 2030 Agenda in cooperation with all ministerial departments. As a result of this effort, the Draft General State Budget for 2021 has been accompanied by the First Report on Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals²¹⁵, prepared by the State Secretariat for Budgets and Spending, based on the information submitted by the various ministries.

To this end, a methodology has been developed, using a double quantitative and qualitative approach, which has made it possible to measure, from a multidimensional and cross-cutting perspective, the budgetary effort of each spending policy to achieve the SDGs. This allows for determining the degree of alignment of budgetary programmes with the SDGs, as well as specifying the main measures and actions carried out by ministries that contribute to their achievement.

Likewise, and with the aim of institutionally consolidating this task of aligning the General State Budgets with the 2030 Agenda Goals, article 37.2 d) of the General Budgetary Act 47/2003 has been modified, incorporating, as complementary documentation that must accompany the General State Budgets bill, the Report on the Alignment of the General State Budgets with the SDGs, together with the Gender Impact Report and the Report on the Impact on Children, Adolescents, and the Family.

This budgetary alignment report aims to guide public policy planning towards Sustainable Development, which in turn will contribute to progress on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), and also seeks to become a reference for other national and international administrations as a contribution to the exercises recommended by the United Nations to align public budgets with the 2030 Agenda.

In addition, a new Gender Impact Report has been presented together with the 2021 Budgets: Reality Analysis, Representation and Resources-Results²¹⁶. This Gender Impact Report accompanying the General State Budgets for 2021 transforms the budget under a gender point of view into a crucial project that can decisively influence the acquisition of a new culture and the change of working procedures and routines. It is an essential instrument that, in addition to detecting inequalities in order to address them, can help to design more effective policies, thus gaining efficiency. The incorporation of the gender perspective in the General State Budgets becomes one of the guiding principles based on which all spending policies are defined. In this way, it helps to transform reality from its own conception, while seeking to monitor progress on equality, which is essential for this Government. This report contributes to achieving targets 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities Target 8.5 Equal pay for equal value work, 10.4: Adopt policies mainly fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality and Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

²¹⁵ Government of Spain (2020) Draft General State Budget 2021. Sustainable Development Goals Alignment Report. Accessible [here](#)

²¹⁶ Government of Spain (2020) Draft General State Budget 2021. Gender Impact Report. Accessible [here](#)

Regulations Alignment: Transformative Engagement and Policy Impact.

Ensuring the achievement of the SDGs requires that all public actions are aligned with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. In this spirit, the Congress of Deputies urged the Government, via non Law Proposition No. 161/00262 approved in December 2017, to accompany all legislation processed in Parliament with a Regulatory Impact Report on compliance with the 2030 Agenda. This proposal is included as a commitment in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as part of the transformative measures necessary for the progress of the 2030 Agenda in Spain.

At the same time, one of the great challenges of regulatory policy is to develop effective and efficient regulations that stimulate sustainable and inclusive economic growth and promote social welfare while guaranteeing human rights and the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, a number of initiatives have been developed in our immediate environment. In 2012, the European Commission launched the Better Regulation Programme²¹⁷ which aims to support evidence-based law-making, to develop and evaluate policies and legislation in a transparent way, taking into account the views of stakeholders and the impact that new rules will have on them, and to focus efforts on delivering results where they are most needed. The Commission's efforts have been internationally recognised by the OECD²¹⁸, which has ranked the EU's regulatory policy among the best.

In short, this commitment will take the form of the obligation to accompany all legislation that is processed in the Parliament, in the case of being produced at the Government's initiative, with an analysis of the regulatory impact on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in a similar manner to the gender or children's impact report. The aim is therefore to ensure a comprehensive view capable of identifying the contribution of the promoted legislation to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. This will make it easier to capture both the intended effects and those that may be less obvious a priori but may still be contributing to progress on one or more SDGs.

Furthermore, in the need to advance in terms of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, which is one of the principles of the 2030 Agenda, articulated through its SDG17, this regulatory impact report should favour the identification of undesired effects that could erode the necessary balance between the three dimensions of sustainability –social, economic and environmental–, or generate undesired impacts

outside our borders, so that they can be addressed in an informed manner and, if necessary, redirected to mitigate such impact.

The implementation and materialisation of this commitment will be one of the tasks to be addressed in the framework of the inter-ministerial dialogue and, specifically, as part of the development of the functions of the Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda, through the Technical Support Working Group. In this regard, it should be noted that one of the functions of this Commission is to agree on and promote mechanisms for analysing the impact of ongoing draft legislation on the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

Alignment of Public Procurement and Purchasing: Commitment to Environment and Social Sustainability.

SDG12 encourages Public Administrations to promote sustainable public procurement and purchasing practices (target 12.7) as a mechanism to guarantee consumption and production practices that respect the limits of the planet and human rights, based on the exemplary role that Public Administrations should play. On this basis, progress has been made in recent years in aligning public procurement with the SDGs. In this respect, the existence of two commissions should be highlighted.

On the one hand, the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the incorporation of green criteria in public procurement, whose work has led to the approval of the 2018-2025 Green Public Procurement Plan of the General State Administration²¹⁹. On the other hand, as a result of the work of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the incorporation of social criteria in public procurement, the Council of Ministers approved in April 2019 the Plan for the promotion of socially responsible procurement²²⁰, which is linked to strategic public procurement, and which addresses the principles promoted by the 2030 Agenda to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

In addition, in October 2020, the process of drafting the National Public Procurement Strategy (ENCP, as per the Spanish acronym) was initiated, which, among its general lines, includes the promotion of strategic public procurement that includes both socially responsible public procurement

²¹⁷ Accessible [here](#)

²¹⁸ OECD Evaluation of EU Regulatory Policies (2020). Accessible [here](#)

²¹⁹ Green Public Procurement Plan of the General State Administration, its autonomous bodies, and Social Security management bodies (2018-2025). Accessible [here](#)

²²⁰ Plan for the promotion of socially responsible procurement. Accessible [here](#)

and environmentally sustainable public procurement, which ensures its alignment with the SDGs. It will also involve the professionalisation of public purchasers and other actors involved, the improvement of data and information available on public procurement, and the digital transformation of public procurement.

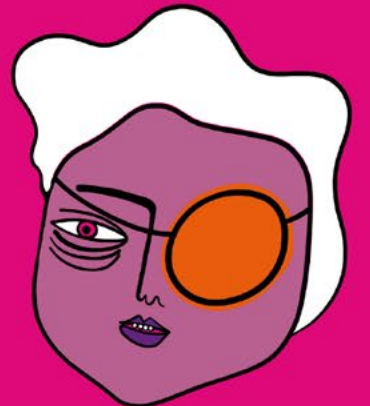
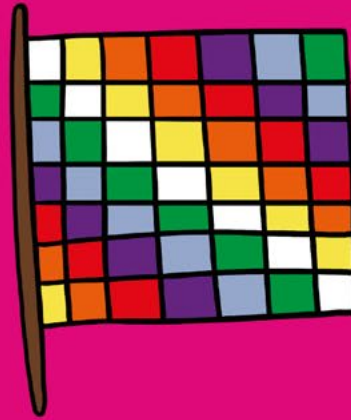
In short, public procurement and purchasing can play a very important role in mobilising efforts towards a more sustainable and social performance of economic activities, and in accompanying efforts to transform our production model by encouraging the use of social and environmental clauses, while promoting greater participation in public tendering processes by self-employed workers, SMEs, and social economy entities. These social and environmental clauses must meet criteria for guaranteeing compliance with labour rights, special conditions for people with difficulties in accessing the labour market, fair trade, knowledge transfer and social return, environmental impact – including carbon footprint, waste generation and energy efficiency – among other criteria, not only of an ex ante nature, but also as reference criteria in the monitoring of the execution of public contracts.

**IV. MULTI-ACTOR AND
MULTI-LEVEL APPROACH:
ALL PERSONS AND ALL
EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE
SUSTAINABILITY OF LIFE AND
THE PLANET**

10 REDUCED INEQUALITY



POWER
TO THE
PEOPLE



Achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda undoubtedly poses a global challenge that involves not only all structures and levels of government but also fully extends to the economic, social, labour, academic and cultural fabric of our country. Therefore, as suggested by the United Nations, it is necessary to conceive of each and every highlighted actor and organisation as key parties for achieving the 2030 Agenda, with a specific weight in their key areas of activity and taking into account their abilities, knowledge and practices that enable and enrich the processes of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thus, as we focus on the critical nature of the commitment and the actions of all these key actors, we must also analyse and understand the processes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from a multi-actor and multi-level perspective, as the role played by these organisations and actors as well their contributions are essential for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

The role of the Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities

A unique feature of the 2030 Agenda is the importance it gives to finding solutions at administrative levels that are closest touch with citizenship. This bottom-up approach encouraged by the United Nations, acquires, if possible, even greater significance as a substantial part of the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda rely on powers that, according to our legal system, are at the level of the autonomous regions and cities.

The autonomous communities and cities are fundamental actors in achieving the 2030 Agenda and in rebuilding our nation. Regional administrations have, over the years, performed an essential task which is a territorial and grassroots contribution to fighting the problems faced by citizens in their progress towards a more sustainable and inclusive development in our territory.

It is necessary to highlight that the crisis and the health, social and economic post-crisis has made this joint work at the regional and local level even more important. These actors have once again focused their efforts on attending to citizens' needs, with special focus on persons in situations of greater vulnerability.

Undoubtedly a large part of the global and local challenges to sustainable development are due to transformation at and from the territorial and local levels. The territorial and "bottom-up" approach acquires unprecedented relevance when it comes to accelerating the implementation and localisation of the 2030 Agenda. As a matter of fact, a considerable part of the of its implementation are dependent largely on regional policy planning regional as far as they are consistent and coordinated with state and local policies are from the start of the 2030 Agenda.

Regional administrations, in their adoption of the 2030 Agenda as a roadmap to guaranteeing the welfare of all persons and the

transition to a development model that is more inclusive, fair and sustainable, have launched a series of mechanisms for dialogue and collaboration, both internal and external, with a wide variety of key social, economic and academic actors, as well as local bodies.

This has meant setting in motion different strategic planning and governance mechanisms at the territorial level in order to achieve the vital coordination of the different departments involved, and to promote the alignment of their policies with the SDGs. Thus, the drafting of implementation plans and strategies has been boosted, these being constant in the regional management of the 2030 Agenda, with the added value of their presentation in different national and international forums. Secondly, they have made a commitment to accountability, by means of progress reports and follow up of statistical indicators reports that enable the assessment of the challenges and advancements in the process of achieving the SDG. A third element is the use of tools to generate awareness to promote public dissemination and awareness regarding the goals and commitments arising from this international Agenda, as well as the participation of the regional parliaments in the follow-up and accountability of the 2030 Agenda.

One of the aspects that characterises the 2030 Agenda is its cross-cutting nature at all territorial levels both nationally and internationally. This is the reason behind the efforts made by some autonomous regions that have participated in the voluntary national review process in the United Nations High Level Political Forum. Therefore, the Sustainable Development Strategy will contribute to highlight the important international role to be played by the autonomous regions in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda and the United Nations' New Urban Agenda on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development have shown the importance of regional and local governments in ensuring an effective implementation of the sought-after goals. The SDGs must be achieved from a new perspective of institutional and inter-sectoral cooperation where dialogue and complementarity at the local, national and international level is essential, as is collaboration with the public and private sectors, and with civil society.

The Government has made the commitment to ensure dialogue and coordination of tasks between the Executive and the regional and local governments with regard to the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda, along with the Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Council, is a central element of co-governance of the Agenda in Spain, and it is a faithful reflection of the jurisdictional reality of the regional and local governments. Thus, public managers are endowed with an institutional dialogue and coordination forum for the coordination and localisation of the SDGs in all institutional actions and at different territorial levels, with the purpose of bringing the 2030 Agenda closer to the citizens.

The regional and local political commitment with the 2030 Agenda and its implementation has been demonstrated with the creation and launch of clear and defined inter-departmental mechanisms for governance and coordination. The established tools and processes enable regional and local governments to develop their powers for the implementation of policies centred and aligned with the SDGs. Generally, these governments are coordinating the different departments and also with other territorial, political, social and economic actors, building alliances in the territory to delegate and localise the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There is no doubt that the 2030 Agenda constitutes a key territorial tool to progress in and implement the sustainable development paradigm.

The information reported both by the 17 autonomous regions, and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, representing local councils, displays a clear political stake in defining and setting in motion government structures with executive offices and departments for the 2030 Agenda. Another common element is the existence of commissions and working groups for interdepartmental coordination and mainstreaming where key tools for cross-cutting inclusion of the Agenda are developed as part of government action, such as budgetary and regulatory alignment.

As a result of the commitment of the regional governments and the adaptation to each territorial reality, in the interests of facilitating the implementation of the SDGs, we encounter a variety of mechanisms for the delegation of responsibilities with regard to the 2030 Agenda by the administrations of the 17 Autonomous Regions and the 2 Autonomous Cities. Consequently, these cases are expressed as departments or regional ministries associated with the Presidency, sectoral Councillors Office, inter-departmental councillor Office and Advisory Boards.

In 17 cases, the autonomous administration has governmental structures with specific powers related to the 2030 Agenda, mostly intended to boost, coordinate and monitor policies related to the 2030 Agenda. On some occasions, these actions are undertaken through cross-departmental coordination, as in the Autonomous City of Melilla, where the seven councils have powers in this regard, or through an inter-departmental committee headed by the President of the regional Government, as in the case of the Autonomous Region of Navarre.

In most cases, governmental structures with powers relating to the 2030 Agenda have been established. In half of them, the power lies in the departments of the President's Office, either directly related to the President, or the existing President's Council. This occurs in eight of the reported cases, while in eight others, the power is delegated to councils for a specific area. In some cases, there is shared governance, such as in Galicia where the Council for the Environment, Territory and Housing heads the 2030 Agenda at the same time that it develops its area of competence and coordinates the three established working groups: environmental, social and economic. This is

also the case for the Valencian Region, where the Directorate-General for Social Dialogue has a coordinating role and each department develops its competences in the area of the 2030 Agenda, and in the Autonomous Region of the Canary Islands, where the Directorate-General of Research and Coordination for Sustainable Development, operating under the President's Office of the regional government is supported by the departments of Modernisation, Transparency and Participation, and Telecommunications and New Technologies. Co-leadership is an example of the multidisciplinary work that is required by the Agenda and which is necessary for an effective approach to the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs through departments with direct powers. On other occasions, leaderships have also been appointed by means of other mechanisms, such as in Catalonia where the power is assigned to the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development, created as a strategic advisory body of the Generalitat, within the area of sustainability. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda is organisationally linked to other related topics such as cooperation for development, environmental sustainability, equality, social policies or citizen participation.

It is also worth highlighting that in 15 cases, the Autonomous Regions already have interdepartmental committees or commissions within their administrations whose main function is to coordinate the alignment and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in all government actions.

Within the series of mechanisms for collaboration and dialogue developed by the regional administrations to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to mention those conducted by social and economic actors: civil society, the private sector and academia. The autonomous communities also stand out for their efforts with regard to collaboration with these entities and actors, in addition to implementing other mechanisms for public participation open to all citizens. Generally, local and regional governments acknowledge and promote the key labour and role of social, economic, cultural and environmental actors in the process of defining, boosting and monitoring policies aimed at fulfilling the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, there are numerous regional forums and bodies all over the territory. Cases such as the Autonomous Region of Aragón and its Council for the Future of Aragón which also plays an advisory role with regard to the 2030 Agenda, or the Region of Madrid and the Advisory Council for the Development of the 2030 Agenda, are some examples of multi-actor dialogue at the regional level. In those territories where these forums still do not exist, they are in the process of being established. This is the case of the Principality of Asturias, where the Asturian Council for the 2030 Agenda is being set up.

The 2020 Progress Report, *Rebuilding the Common*²²¹ specifically lists the series of mechanisms for dialogue with social and economic actors identified in the different autonomous communities and autonomous cities.

²²¹ Government of Spain. 2020. *Progress Report 2020. Rebuilding the Common. 2030 Agenda Implementation in Spain*. Accessible [here](#)

The SDGs constitute a common language to launch and strengthen multi-actor and multi-level associations, lead to more integrated work within regional administrations, and boost the drafting of policies based on data.

Commitments to be Promoted with the Autonomous Regions and Autonomous Cities:

- » To boost and strengthen the Sectoral Commission and the Sectoral Conference.
- » To promote information exchange and good practices.
- » To continue the development of regional indicators to measure progress related to the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with regional and national statistics institutes, and other relevant agents.

Role of Local Bodies in the Localisation of the 2030 Agenda

Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda depends largely on the active participation of local governments, as all the SDGs have goals linked to powers and responsibilities of the local and municipal domain, mainly in the provision of basic services and the promotion of an endogenous, inclusive and sustainable territorial development. A large part of the global and local challenges for sustainable development in the planet and in our country, that does not leave anyone or any territory behind, are via transformation at and from the local level. The territorial and “bottom-up” approach acquires unprecedented relevance when it comes to accelerating the implementation and localisation of the 2030 Agenda.

The importance given by the 2030 Agenda to the local level is precisely, one of its unique characteristics. Proof of this is that more than 68% of the 17 goals must reach the local level²²². For this reason, local bodies and the associations that represent them are active participants in designing the 2030 Agenda at the global level. The fruit of this labour is the United Nations and the European Commission's acknowledgement of the essential role played by local governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This acknowledgement has also been declared by the Spanish Government and included in the 2030 Agenda Reinforced System for Governance, as well as the Action Plan for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

The local administration has the capacity to translate a universal and extensive agenda into concrete and tangible public policies. This reality justifies the conviction that local action is indispensable for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to achieve the involvement of all remaining actors and citizens as well. In this regard, it is necessary to continue strengthening and legitimising the strategic role of Local Governments in planning, execution and accountability as accelerating agents of the development of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. Given that 95% of the towns in our country have less than 20,000 inhabitants, small towns become especially relevant for the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as the attention that must be paid to their specific characteristics and needs.

Apart from the efforts made by many town councils, provincial councils, and insular councils, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), as the state body with the highest inclusion and representation of the local governments in our country, is acting as coordinator to channel joint work in order to promote the localisation of the 2030 Agenda and for post-COVID-19 rebuilding aligned with its principles.

The FEMP has mechanisms to promote coordination, information exchange, good practices and joint work with regard to the 2030 Agenda. One example is the 2030 Agenda SDG Commission, constituted in May 2020 and which is currently working to align the SDGs with the extraordinary measures that the rest of the Work Committees are developing in order to respond to the social, economic and health crisis provoked by Covid-19. Another noteworthy mechanism is the Network of Local Bodies for the 2030 Agenda²²³, constituted in October 2020, and which currently includes 317 entities of which 296 are town councils, 18 provincial councils and 3 insular councils²²⁴. The goal of this Network is to promote the coordination of actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level and to jointly represent a population of almost 24 million individuals.

Boosting the localisation of the 2030 Agenda is one of the priorities of the framework of institutional collaboration established between the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda and the FEMP, as provided for in the Framework Agreement for Collaboration signed by both agencies. A concrete result of this collaboration is also the document Guidelines for the Localisation of the 2030 Agenda²²⁵, a support tool for political representatives and technical personnel of local bodies that facilitates the alignment of their municipal planning to the principles, goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, paying special attention to the unique features of small towns, insular towns and areas at risk of depopulation. A bid that has been reinforced by the launching of a public consultation aimed at uniting the visions and contributions of local bodies to the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and a grant scheme for local governments aimed at accompanying municipal efforts in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

²²² *The 2030 Agenda: Through the eyes of local and regional governments' associations.* Accessible [here](#)

²²³ *Complete list of Local Bodies affiliated to the Network of Local Bodies.* Accessible [here](#)

²²⁴ *Information as of 30 March 2021.*

²²⁵ *Second Vice Presidency for Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda (2020).* *Guidelines for the Localisation of the 2030 Agenda.* Accessible [here](#)

Although the results of the public consultation to local bodies is analysed in a specific section, it is worth highlighting the existence of a strong political commitment by local governments to work for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including those that are of smaller size. In terms of the level of knowledge of this international agenda, the situation varies according to the size of the town councils, where 94% of the local bodies that are unaware of it have less than 20,000 inhabitants, which demonstrates the importance of redoubling our efforts to bring closer the 2030 Agenda and its guiding principles for sustainable development, from the local perspective in those towns with smaller populations.

Different actions have been designed and launched in order to generate an adequate framework for its implementation, all of them in reference to designing the governance of the 2030 Agenda. The established tools and processes enable local governments to develop their powers for the implementation of policies centred on and aligned with the SDGs. In this regard, it is worth highlighting, the approval of strategic planning figures for developing political action on the 2030 Agenda. Likewise, reports that use statistical indicators to monitor the evolution of the management of the different goals and policies have been drafted, even though this is an area of work that requires further encouragement.

Commitments to be Promoted with Local Bodies:

- » To strengthen the action of Local Bodies in the development, implementation, alignment and localisation of the 2030 Agenda by allocating economic and technical resources.
- » To generate work synergies jointly with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) to develop SDG indicators at the local level.
- » To promote awareness of the 2030 Agenda at the local level, both within Local Bodies as well as from their essential role in distributing this knowledge and information on the 2030 Agenda to the public.

The Role of Civil Society

Civil society has participated extensively and constructively in the creation of the 2030 Agenda, in its objectives and goals, fully assuming the challenges of a transformative agenda. Their mobilisation and political advocacy are crucial in order to ensure inclusive and effective policies for the Agenda to be workable at all levels.

Our nation possesses a committed, rigorous and diverse social movements and civil society that have played and continue to play a key role in the mobilisation of efforts at all levels to boost the 2030 Agenda. Prior to its approval in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda was assumed by civil organisations as the framework of action to promote the transformations required by our country, promoting an exercise of political and social advocacy with the goal of influencing and promoting public policies that deal with the structural problems faced by our country. Its drive to transform society and work for a fairer, equal and inclusive society, makes civil bodies the catalysts of change, through an in-depth and rigorous analysis of the reality and from an approach based on human rights.

Civic organisations have also not remained outside the difficult situation created by the outbreak of COVID-19. In this regard, non-governmental actors have worked to respond to the social emergency and to promote the transformations required by our country to deal with structural problems such as poverty, economic and gender inequality, job precariousness or the unsustainability of our economic and production system, both inside and outside our borders, and to enable a fairer rebuilding after the impact of the pandemic.

The contributions of civic organisations to creating more inclusive and sustainable public policies and their role of raising awareness of the importance of the 2030 Agenda among citizens, are key to promoting sustainable development in our country and to strengthen our democracy. Within this framework, the work of rigorous analysis performed on the multiple interactions and the contradictions between policies and interests that hinder solutions for sustainable development, are an advancement for the implementation of policy coherence for sustainable development in public policies of the 2030 Agenda in our country.

The 2030 Agenda has also motivated different organisations to adopt processes for reflection on their practices, revising and re-directing their programmes and actions to reinforce their alignment with the SDG principles and to knit multi-sectoral alliances to contribute more effectively to the systemic challenges of the 2030 Agenda. All of this has led to a greater opening and interaction of their sectoral agendas with other actors' agenda by means of strategic alliances that contribute to reinforcing their goals and strengthening the internal consistency of their actions.

There are several platforms and citizen networks that contribute, from their area of representation, to deal with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Platforms and networks that include specific collectives and which play an essential role in the education, training and dissemination of the 2030 Agenda among the citizens and in the progress of intersectoral proposals that facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. Some of these entities and social organisations have encouraged studies and reports, established indicators and alliances to create a common space for reflection and debate around the 2030 Agenda.

Ultimately, the institutional commitment which frames the process of drafting the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy would not have been possible without the encouragement of the collectives and organisations of the wider and plural civil society. These organisations are key actors in approaching and uniting the global action frameworks for sustainable development with the concerns of citizens, increasing their knowledge and generating greater awareness that can promote transformative behaviours towards sustainable development, as well as initiatives and practices such as volunteering, in a sort of action that advances from the local to the global.

Now in order to incorporate these elements in a more effective manner, what is necessary, from the perspective of social entities and movements, is that the Sustainable Development Strategy should consider actions intended to support and strengthen initiatives and actions undertaken by organisations, platforms and social movements for and to implement the 2030 Agenda and their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals as a means to channel citizen's energy in favour of the SDGs and to establish a stable and secure framework for sustainability. Within the framework of implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda will develop, for this reason, a series of grants to be awarded on a competitive basis, that are aimed at boosting the work of associations, foundations, social economy bodies and other private non-profit entities, addressed to projects or initiatives to support, strengthen or promote the development of public policies that are aligned to the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of pilot projects and good practices for fulfilling the SDGs. The promotion of multi-actor alliances aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda as well as the development of innovative R&D&I projects that propose new methodologies, scenarios and approaches to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda may also be encouraged.

Commitments to be Promoted with Civil Society:

- » To strengthen the Sustainable Development Council, as a privileged space for collaboration and channel for the participation of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, as well as establishing mechanisms to strengthen mutual awareness and the interactions between the different agents represented, by means of an increasingly structured work schedule that enables their active contribution throughout the entire process of implementation, including the drafting of an annual follow-up report.
- » To provide resources and grants to promote the increase of capacities and their contribution to promoting the 2030 Agenda.
- » To make visible the role of NGOs and civic bodies in fulfilling the SDGs.

Academia, knowledge and R&D&I to implement the 2030 Agenda

Education, knowledge, research and transfer, essential University functions are explicitly acknowledged in the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, which makes it necessary for them to be involved and to adopt an active role of social leadership for their implementation. This requires the contents of the 2030 Agenda to be included with an integrated and cross-cutting approach, designing university policies aimed at assuming a pre-eminent position in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

Education, at all levels, must include education to promote the 2030 Agenda, given its inter-generational projection. Universities hold a special place in the stimulus and promotion of education for SDGs, for knowledge and values transfer and for the paradigm change demanded by the 2030 Agenda. The contribution of education and research is not limited to the SDGs that are recognised explicitly rather it extends further, given its societal role, the university must be involved in the implementation, practice and development of each goal. Beyond formal education, institutions for higher education must offer different lifelong educational options both for professionals and for citizens in general. That is to say, a formal, non-formal and informal education that is not only aimed at 1.5 million students who are educated on a yearly basis in all Spanish universities, but also their teaching, research and management staff, in addition to other social agents with whom the university collaborates and who are included in continued learning programmes, university extension programmes and programmes for all ages. In the same way, public educational institutes and schools may contribute to the dissemination and sensitisation regarding the 2030 Agenda among public employees through selection processes and training plans.

The application of the 2030 Agenda as an agent of change requires a high-quality and inclusive education that adopts a lifelong approach to learning, that trains in skills for the future, in order to deal with the social and environmental needs in their communities, and which promote lifestyles consistent with sustainable development.

With regard to the Spanish university community, there are several initiatives for promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that have been launched, mainly through the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE). One of them is the creation of the CRUE Commission for the 2030 Agenda in March 2019, established as a space for cross-cutting coordination of the activity of the sectoral commissions of CRUE to boost SDG implementation in the university system and their transfer to society.

CRUE has also worked actively to launch the 2030 Agenda in its own areas: education, research, transfer, extension and university management. Additionally, it has contributed to the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, providing seven commitments that include the cross-cutting incorporation of the principles, values and goals of sustainable

development into the mission, the policies and the activities of the universities and of the CRUE itself; the inclusion of powers linked to sustainable and inclusive development, which are necessary to build a global citizenry; the training of all students, teaching and research personnel and the administration and services personnel; the generation and transfer of a knowledge that is committed to sustainable development; strengthening the links between the university and other agents of society; the unfolding of a public and open debate on sustainable development and on the 2030 Agenda, or the dissemination and reporting of the impacts of universities in terms of teaching, research and transfer in line with the SDGs.

Together, the centres and institutions of higher education and research and particularly, all the professionals and agents who are part of the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation, play a crucial role in boosting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A key step is to take advantage of and to boost the capacity and scope of the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation, in order to transfer the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are required to face the complex challenges of sustainable development and, specifically, the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, by means of any degree or educational career. It is therefore essential that, within the framework of the actions contemplated in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, the requisite channels are provided for the academic community to develop their teaching, research and knowledge transfer potential to the fullest extent, thus reinforcing their contribution to the required transformation of our society at the global level.

This commitment by the universities, research centres and the scientific community of our country with the 2030 Agenda has likewise been translated into the development of good practices, in the generation of applied knowledge and multi-actor alliances. The COVID-19 crisis demands that different actors and institutions share the best of their abilities and act in a coordinated way with a global view of the problems that we face. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the key role of the scientific community and the R&D&I sector who have raced against the clock to find a vaccine against COVID-19 and have simultaneously provided knowledge to guide the policies that have been started up to face the worst effects of the pandemic. Besides, the contribution of the social sciences and humanities, crucial in mitigating the effects of the pandemic at both individual and collective levels, will be essential in the future to face the challenges of the post-pandemic rebuilding.

Commitments to be Promoted with Academia:

- » To promote actions for dialogue, debate and exchange on the key role of higher education and research to fulfil the 2030 Agenda and its important inter-relations and links.

- » To coordinate and incorporate the knowledge generated by academia to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and to monitor and assess progress.
- » To support the promotion of R&D&I developments and technologies that facilitate, aligned and consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- » To support the social transfer of knowledge and the dissemination of science, as an essential part of a sustainable society.

The role of trade unions in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda

While the defence of economic, social and political rights is fundamental to understand the trade union agenda, it is equally true that the work of trade unions is crucial to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the active engagement of trade unions will be key to make possible the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and, most especially, SDG 8, dedicated to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

With regard to the role of trade unions as warrantors of decent work, there is a clear link and alignment between the different SDGs and the lines of work that guide the actions of trade unions, such as defending and achieving the rights of workers, improving their living conditions and their environment as a social group, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind. It is clear that defining elements of trade union action, such as social dialogue and collective bargaining, play a key role in managing social change in our country. Without strong and active trade union organisations it will be impossible to achieve the decent work goals and targets promoted by the 2030 Agenda. From this perspective, the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 values bipartite social dialogue between trade unions and employers' organisations, as established by law, or tripartite, which includes the Government, and considers it to be the driving force and instrument of governance of sustainable development in the different prioritised country challenges, as well as in several accelerating policies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. On the basis of this recognition, the Government will promote –as it has been doing– social dialogue and the participation of the social partners in order to achieve the priorities defined in the Strategy.

Likewise, in the context of our country, the trade union organisations themselves have highlighted the need to link the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda with political decisions that go in the direction of promoting labour reforms that reduce precariousness and guarantee decent work, reversing labour reforms, which in their opinion have been responsible for

worsening the precariousness of employment in Spain, and other problems that affect our labour market.

Moreover, one of the main tasks of these organisations is to analyse, understand and provide solutions to the problem of inequality. It is precisely the growth of inequalities to which people are exposed in a country, it is accompanied by the worsening of the fracture between countries in an increasingly globalised world. The fight against inequality advocated by the trade unions implies having an impact on the improvement of working conditions, a firm commitment to innovation and, beyond that, defending an increasingly democratic nature of our institutions.

The trade unions have also highlighted other key aspects that require a determined effort to correct existing social inequalities. Thus, the increase in the Minimum Wage, the regulation in terms of rights of the new models of work organisation (such as digital platforms), the establishment of a tax reform to address sufficient funding for public services and to facilitate the transformation of the production model based on quality jobs and a fair transition for all people, the guarantee of decent pensions that address the gender gap or, finally, the demand for a housing policy that guarantees the constitutional right of citizens and tackles speculative interests, are domains that have attracted the interest and efforts of trade union organisations.

It is worth noting that trade unions, while orienting and aligning their action with the SDGs, are promoting an important exercise of localisation and internationalisation of the 2030 Agenda in the reality of our country. Its mission goes much further, promoting a new development model that prioritises environmental sustainability, equality between women and men and the strengthening of our welfare state in order to guarantee rights and social protection for all citizens.

Commitments to be Promoted with Trade Unions:

- » To contribute to the strengthening of the processes of alignment of trade union organisations to the 2030 Agenda.
- » To strengthen social dialogue processes for the observance of labour rights.

The Role of the business sector in the promotion and implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The business sector is undergoing unprecedented change. Technology, connectivity, innovation and digitalisation are becoming indispensable for the vast majority of sectors. In addition, the most recent context of health, economic and social crisis has led to a situation of great difficulties for many companies and professionals. Undoubtedly, companies have a key role to play in the recovery of the pandemic through the generation of quality, stable employment with rights, but also, in the fair ecological transition, in the transformation of the consumption and production model towards a more sustainable one, in the strengthening and boosting of innovation or in the promotion of gender equality and the reduction of the pay gap. Business associations that represent them also contribute, together with the trade unions, to sustainable development through tripartite social dialogue. A dialogue whose positive impact has become even more evident in the framework of the response to the effects of the multidimensional crisis caused by COVID-19.

Special mention should also be made of the role of small and medium-sized enterprises and the self-employed in our country. Their impact is key both in economic and social development –SMEs generate almost twice as much employment as large companies²²⁶– and in the permeability of sustainability throughout the private sector.

Furthermore, the business model that governs the Social Economy should be highlighted, based on the primacy of the individual, on the equitable distribution of profits or their reinvestment in the company's social purpose, combining efficiency and business competitiveness with progress and social responsibility. The values, objectives and system of governance that characterise the Social Economy bring us especially close to the vision proposed by the SDGs, making it necessary to encourage and promote the Social Economy as a key agent that contributes to more inclusive and sustainable growth, creating stable and quality employment.

The above shows that an engaged and active business sector is fundamental to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, which calls for the consolidation of a more sustainable economic system that respects people and our environment. The business sector plays a key role in many of the crucial issues we need to address to meet the SDGs, such as the process of a fair ecological transition, the consolidation of sustainability in economic sectors and the role of business innovation in developing new solutions and tools for the future.

²²⁶ MINCOTUR (2021). SME figures, March 2021. Accessible [here](#)

It should be kept in mind that, facing the health, economic and social crisis caused by COVID-19, many companies shared that this crisis gives us the opportunity to rethink, reconnect and rebuild our country, while advancing both in the reconstruction process and on the road to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda.

If we are to be able to put ourselves on the path of sustainable development in line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to seek synergies and work together. This includes public-private collaboration mechanisms, initiatives based on the search for the general interest and materialised in public leadership and the essential and committed collaboration of the private sector, in such a way that the union between both sectors results in benefits for society as a whole and the generation of positive impacts on the economic fabric of our country. Complementary to this is the leadership that must be assumed by the public sector, for example, in the strong commitment to public procurement that prioritises sustainability.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy reflects this willingness to work together with a business sector that takes co-responsibility for the achievement of the SDGs and human rights for all people at home and abroad. A clear example of this is the public consultation with the private sector that the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has carried out jointly with the Spanish Network of the United Nations Global Compact between July and November 2020, with the aim of gathering their contributions and vision for the definition of an ambitious Strategy that determines how to face the great challenges of our time.

As a result of this public consultation, in which more than 1,900 companies participated, we now have a clearer diagnosis of the degree of knowledge and contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in our country. 81% of the companies surveyed are aware of the SDGs and 89% say that their activity can have an impact on the 2030 Agenda. It is important to underline that in 2018 the percentage of Spanish companies that were aware of the SDGs was 69%, so there has been significant progress in this regard.

A relevant fact to take into account in the design of the Strategy is that 60% of the SMEs consulted and 40% of the self-employed workers are developing specific implementation measures related to the SDGs. This reflects an important effort by these sectors in favour of sustainable development, with numerous private entities, platforms and business groups developing actions aimed at achieving the transformations proposed by the Sustainable Development Goals. The areas of the 2030 Agenda to which Spanish companies are contributing the most are gender equality (SDG 5), health and well-being (SDG 3), the fight against climate change (SDG 13) and decent employment (SDG 8).

Consistent with the will expressed by the United Nations, companies in our country are prepared to move from commitment to action in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals by aligning their activities with international frameworks such as the Ten Principles of the United Nations

Global Compact, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. These frameworks are already included in Act 11/2018, of 28 December, regarding non-financial information and diversity, and the update of the future European Union Directive on the same subject, which may also be complemented by new regulatory frameworks aimed at strengthening their contribution and alignment with the commitments and principles of the 2030 Agenda. Given the nature of our business fabric, this Strategy recognises the contribution capacity of the Spanish business fabric as a whole and pays special attention to the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises and the self-employed, while articulating the necessary measures so that the economic development of companies allows us, at the same time, to place our country on the path to sustainable development aligned to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

Commitments to be Promoted with the Business Sector:

- » To promote dialogue, debate and exchange on the key role of the business sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and compliance with the international human rights framework.
- » To promote training and dissemination actions on the 2030 Agenda, with special attention to the situation and needs of SMEs and the self-employed workers, in order to promote and strengthen the incorporation of the principles of the 2030 Agenda in their business activity.
- » To enhance international initiatives based on business sustainability through the already consolidated UN articulation structures.
- » To support efforts to establish quantitative and qualitative business-related indicators to assess their contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

V. POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS AN INEXCUSABLE COMMITMENT: TOWARDS AN COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM

17 PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL



The 2030 Agenda is a framework for action that highlights the complex interactions and trade-offs among the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development, in an increasingly interconnected world where the challenges we face transcend our borders. Recognising this systemic complexity, the 2030 Agenda is also a call for improved policy coherence towards sustainable development. The explicit inclusion of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), which is manifested through SDG17, places obligations on governments to fully incorporate it as a principle that should guide all their actions throughout the policy cycle, so that all policies put in place contribute to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and none detract from efforts. It also requires that the multiple public actors – the whole of the General State Administration, regional and local government – and the private sector must cooperate to this end.

Our country is making progress in thinking about the implications of the PCSD for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This consideration and first steps have been carried out in line with the conceptual framework that the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) has been promoting since the 1990s, the latest development of which is the Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development adopted by its Council in December 2019²²⁷. This valuable tool addresses the institutional mechanisms and regulatory instruments necessary for the proper integration of the PCSD. Policy coherence has also been the subject of extensive analysis in the framework of Spanish cooperation policy objectives.

According to the OECD, the PCSD is a process for integrating sustainable development dimensions into the national and international policy-making process²²⁸. Its objective in the context of the 2030 Agenda is to foster the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through actions that promote synergies and maximise benefits across economic, social, and environmental policy sectors, as well as seeking to balance domestic policy objectives with internationally recognised sustainable development goals, addressing cross-border and long-term impacts that could particularly affect developing countries. On this basis, the PCSD is a call to public institutions and other stakeholders to align their sectoral mandates, policies, and targets with the SDGs, and to make decisions taking into account the interactions – synergies and trade-offs – among the three dimensions of sustainable development in as balanced way as possible²²⁹.

For its part, the Council of the European Union has also stressed the importance of adopting the PCSD approach to achieving the SDGs, recognising the importance of efforts that address the interactions and synergies between different sectoral policies at the European level²³⁰. The Council has also invited the Commission to broaden its approach beyond the

five areas traditionally addressed (trade, climate change, food security, migration, and security) to cover all future initiatives. This approach is also reflected in the latest EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development²³¹.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy is an opportunity to look at public policies based on the transformative principles of the 2030 Agenda, which implies horizontal coherence, where a global, feminist, and human rights perspective are fundamental to public policies. Moreover, action is unequivocally multi-level and needs the participation of all actors. In short, a policy culture where interactions, tensions and synergies between policies are detected and recognised.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy is a key programmatic milestone for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. It constitutes the beginning of a change in the development paradigm in our country with respect to what was understood in past decades. The 2030 Agenda calls for changes in the consideration of goals, so that progress is understood in a multidimensional way, adequately integrating the social, economic, environmental, and political spheres.

In the strategic sphere of public policy, the demand is to formulate and implement policies based on an inter-sectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach. This strategy must be conceived and developed in coherence with the solutions to be adopted and agreed at international level in the environmental, social, and economic dimensions, where international cooperation and agreements play an essential role.

Ultimately, progress on PCSD is a necessary condition for the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy to effectively contribute to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within and beyond our borders. To achieve this, a multi-stakeholder work process is being promoted, based on a comprehensive approach to government action, with the aim of developing a proposal in the coming months that will allow us to make a qualitative leap in guaranteeing the PCSD. In this process, the Policy Coherence with Sustainable Development Working Group of the Council for Sustainable Development and the Expanded Ministries Working Group have been playing and will play a key role. In addition, expert technical and academic support will be provided to ensure the best possible proposal in terms of policy and feasibility.

This proposal, which we advance as a first exercise and approximation in this document, and which will be specifically developed in the coming months, intends to address elements that should configure the framework of analysis, governance and monitoring that will help to consolidate this approach in the whole of government action:

²²⁷ OECD (2019). *Council Recommendation on policy coherence for sustainable development*. OECD/LEGAL/0381. Accessible [here](#)

²²⁸ OECD (2019).

²²⁹ *Ibid.*

²³⁰ Council of the EU (2019). 14835/19 *Building a sustainable Europe by 2030 – Progress thus far and next steps, Council conclusions, adopted by the Council at its 3739th meeting on 10 December 2019*. Accessible [here](#)

²³¹ European Commission (2019) *2019 EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development*. Accessible [here](#)

- » An analytical framework, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches, from which studies and analyses would be carried out and, prominently, the report on the alignment of the General State Budgets with the SDGs, which will allow understanding the different interactions between policies and their contribution or otherwise to the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, as well as identifying potential cross-border and long-term impacts. This requires interaction between public administrations and multidisciplinary scientific research, establishing mechanisms for knowing and disseminating the results of these analyses, as well as the recommendations derived therefrom. As a complementary tool, progress will continue to be made in incorporating SDG impact analysis into new policy frameworks.
- » An institutional framework that articulates, on the basis of the governance system for the 2030 Agenda, the competences, coordination, processes and mechanisms necessary to implement the PCSD, contributing to its incorporation in the processes of defining public policies at all levels of administration. An institutional framework that can be expanded and complemented in order to enable its full incorporation into the processes of defining and evaluating public policies.
- » A monitoring framework with specific tools and indicators to assess progress on PCSD in a cross-cutting manner across all actions at all levels. This implies defining PCSD indicators for inclusion in the monitoring and indicator framework to be defined for monitoring progress on the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. These indicators will be aimed at analysing coherence not only from the perspective of processes and results, but also from the perspective of impacts (positive or negative) at the national and international levels, in the medium and long term.

The methodology agreed at the end of 2019 in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) establishes a number of key elements for the deployment of a comprehensive PCSD system within the Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy framework. Such a methodology suggests the need for:

- » A long-term strategic component committed to the transformations synthesised in the 'country challenges';
- » a set of institutional and governance arrangements, in terms of policy and stakeholder coordination; and
- » a set of tools for the analysis of impacts and effects of policies and for the monitoring and evaluation of the PCSD system and its functioning within the framework of Sustainable Development Strategy.

In summary, it is essential that the process of implementing Sustainable Development Strategy and the corresponding PCSD system takes into account the specific Spanish context, as well as the institutional characteristics of the country and society,

both in terms of its socio-economic and territorial context and its institutional capacities and culture.

The process of adapting and territorialising a PCSD system to the Spanish context requires the identification of the particular transformations that define the challenges for Spain and the priorities that are included in the 'country challenges' of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and that are at the heart of these transformations. To this end, the PCSD perspective and system needs to take into account the following approaches:

- » **Political leadership at the highest level:** analyses the coherence between the sustainable development targets of the 2030 Agenda and the government's main programmatic and strategic documents, as well as the time consistency between short- and long-term dynamics, from a strategic and forward-looking vision.
- » **Multidimensional and cross-sectoral development:** analyses the interactions between the social, economic, and environmental dimensions, as well as the interactions between different sectoral policies.
- » **Multi-level articulation (vertical coherence):** links the competency, funding, and governance frameworks of different administration levels.
- » **Global perspective:** analyses the effects and impacts that each public policy has on the main transnational dynamics at the economic, environmental, and social levels. This analysis incorporates the criterion of shared and collective responsibility for the reproduction, obstruction, or reorientation of the main transnational dynamics.
- » **Feminist and human rights lens:** Gender and human rights interactions cut across all other interactions. their analysis reveals the mechanisms and logics that act in a systemic way, reproducing gender-based discrimination and impacts on the enjoyment of human rights.

In the **analytical dimension**, the definition and selection of the main interactions between political actions and their impacts, differentiated into collectives, territories, and dimensions, is fundamental as a starting point. In this sense, it will be necessary to carry out a mapping of interactions based on a comprehensive vision of the 2030 Agenda, analysing the different types of interactions. The aim is to identify the interactions that may exist between different SDGs, targets, or sectoral policies, assessing the synergies or contradictions that this creates for the achievement of an inclusive and sustainable development.

In addition, the importance, urgency, and priority of the interactions identified should be determined, reinforcing those that are most certain to enable determined progress towards inclusive and sustainable development. This should help to ensure policy coherence both vertically and horizontally, domestically and internationally.

The governance system is one of the key issues of the 2030 Agenda. This is reflected in the OECD recommendations, underlining the need for a robust, effective and inclusive system capable of addressing cross-cutting interactions and the alignment of government policies with the objective of meeting the goals and targets of the Agenda. The governance of the 2030 Agenda is key to the development of an **analytical framework** for a PCSD system.

The governance of the 2030 Agenda, which has been elaborated in detail at the beginning of the document, is the right starting point to push for the monitoring of an adequate and robust PCSD system. It is important to note that efforts to advance in Policy Coherence for Development have so far been made by the Directorate General for Development Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation. The Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda has been working jointly with the Directorate General for Development Policies in this area. This coordination and work will be strengthened in this new phase.

In concrete terms, the Government Delegate Commission for the 2030 Agenda represents the space for inter-ministerial coordination in accordance with its mandate and in which all ministries participate. It seeks to ensure the intersectorality and multidimensionality of the 2030 Agenda as it encompasses all government action. In this regulated mechanism, together with its technical working group, it can provide a space for analysing the interactions between policies and their effects, as well as addressing possible tensions between policies and monitoring the implementation and impacts of policies on sustainable development.

In addition, the necessary mechanisms and processes need to be put in place at ministerial level to ensure a PCSD approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Only the internal work of each ministry at the technical and policy level ensures intra-ministry coherence and makes it possible to identify interactions that may arise between policies. This exercise should be accompanied by training and capacity building in PCSD, promoting knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and its approach among members of the public administration through continuous training.

The second level of connection is the Sectoral Conference for the 2030 Agenda, which allows for vertical coordination (multilevel) between the General State Administration, the Autonomous Communities, and the Local Administration, represented by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This coordination space should contribute to promoting the integration of the sustainable development perspective in government policies and practices at all levels, as well as coordinating and articulating the work of implementing the 2030 Agenda at the different territorial levels. In addition, this governance mechanism should ensure the participation of sub-state actors in the design, elaboration, and implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and the future PCSD system.

The third level of articulation is the Sustainable Development Council, which brings together a broad representation of sectors – academia, the business sector, trade unions, environmental, social, human rights and peace organisations, and international cooperation organisations – as well as 13 state-level consultative councils. As an advisory body, it ensures the multi-stakeholder participation and democratic participation that is so important in the PCSD, enabling coordination and exchange. This Council can analyse the interactions and divergent interests between different sectors and actors, incorporating the different effects, impacts and outcomes of their actions; promote dialogue and debate with different actors around the 2030 Agenda and the role of each actor on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities; follow up and monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by governments; conduct monitoring reports on state and sub-state government actions from a sustainable development perspective; promote partnerships between actors and promote education and awareness-raising on the 2030 Agenda and the PCSD model.

The monitoring and accountability framework represents an up-to-date and reliable source of inputs needed to analyse policies from the holistic, cross-cutting, and interdisciplinary view required for the coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This framework must be understood within the 2030 Agenda's own monitoring and accountability system, as the PCSD approach promotes decision-making processes that take into account existing interactions (at sectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder levels) and potential cross-border and intergenerational impacts at all times.

The concrete design of the monitoring system will be carried out in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure ownership and sustainability. To this end, there are a number of best practices and relevant experiences at the international level that could be adapted to our context, such as:

- » The creation of specific working groups for the monitoring and evaluation of the PCSD within the existing coordination mechanisms between ministries and between the different levels of the General State Administration.
- » The implementation of a network of policy coherence focal points across ministries and government levels to monitor the policies put in place in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- » A Based on the system of indicators developed, regular reporting (annual or biennial) to account for progress on policy coherence in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The link between the PCSD and the SDGs needs to be strengthened, as they feed into and require each other in order to achieve compliance with the Agenda.

Commitments with regards to Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development:

- » To promote the participatory definition of a Comprehensive System of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, adapting existing best practices at the international level to the state context, which accompanies the process of implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy in order to enable a progressive integration of this approach in the whole of government action.

VI. COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY: Sustainable Development Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Measuring Progress: the International Indicator Framework for the 2030 Agenda and its Adaptation to our Country's Context

The United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution A/RES/71/313 adopted the global indicator framework for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and stressed that official statistics and data from national statistical systems constitute the necessary basis for the global indicator framework, and recommended that national statistical systems explore ways to integrate new data sources into their systems to meet the emerging data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and also highlighted the role of national statistical offices as focal points of the national statistical system.

Act, 12/1989 of 9 May 1989 on the Public Statistical Function (LFEP, as per the Spanish acronym) assigns to the National Statistics Institute (INE), among other functions, the general coordination of the statistical services of the State Administration and the execution of the statistical operations entrusted to it by the National Statistical Plan. In particular, through the 2018 Annual Programme, a new statistical operation called Indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was included in the National Statistical Plan, whose objective is to constitute a framework of statistical indicators for the national monitoring of the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This statistical operation, for which the INE is responsible, is carried out in collaboration with the statistical services of the ministries, which are responsible for the compilation of numerous indicators. It is a synthesis statistic that uses data and results from various sources to obtain the indicators.

The production of the SDG indicators for Spain takes the United Nations Global Indicator Framework as a starting point and through the analysis of the metadata developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) the most appropriate statistical operation to be used as a source to produce each indicator is identified. In this way, indicators are allocated to the responsible body and both available indicators and data gaps can be visualised. To enhance the wide dissemination of the 2030 Agenda Indicators, following international guidelines, INE launched in December 2018 a national SDG platform²³².

In the first phase, only indicators from INE statistics were disseminated. In a second phase, which started in May 2019, indicators developed by ministerial departments within the framework of the National Statistical Plan also started to be disseminated. Subsequently, to provide information on non-statistical indicators, results from administrative records of ministerial departments, which could not be obtained from

official statistics, and which conformed to UN metadata, were incorporated in the third quarter of 2020.

Over the past year, indicators and breakdowns have continued to be added to the platform, with 146 indicators and 370 sub-indicators now published. The coverage rate is estimated at 60% of the total indicators of the global framework. This figure is in line with neighbouring countries, slightly above average. Likewise, in February 2021, notable improvements have been introduced: the situation of each indicator is shown (available, exploring data sources or not applicable), graphs have been added by variables and maps by autonomous communities, depending on the information available and the characteristics of each indicator. Information is provided at least since 2015 in the time series, as this is the year in which the 2030 Agenda was adopted, although in general, data is included since 2008 in order to better analyse the evolution towards the fulfilment of the goals and targets.

INE has attached the utmost importance to this project from the outset. As such, since 2015 it has participated as an observer country in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which is responsible for developing and implementing the global indicator framework. In 2016, it created an internal INE working group on the 2030 Agenda indicators to coordinate the different projects within the Institute. Moreover, from the outset, it has been actively participating in various international fora and meetings, such as those organised by Eurostat and UNECE. For example, it is collaborating in the drafting of the second edition of the "Roadmap on Statistics for SDGs", which will be presented for adoption at the 69th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2021.

At the national level, coordination has taken place through the collegiate statistical bodies. Thus, the Permanent Commission of the Higher Statistical Council, which unanimously approved the methodology of this statistical operation, the Inter-Ministerial Statistics Commission (CIME) and the Interterritorial Statistics Committee (CITE) have been regularly informed.

The representatives of the ministerial departments in the CIME are the focal point for communications on the SDG Indicators and through whom the indicators under the remit of each agency have been identified and data has been provided for their inclusion in the platform. To this end, an availability analysis was carried out in each agency by means of a questionnaire, and a series of meetings and contacts were held to clarify and resolve the issues raised.

Within the framework of the CITE, a working group was created in 2018, comprising the INE, the statistics offices of some of the autonomous communities, the Ministry for Social Rights and Agenda 2030 and the Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Parliament and Democratic Memory. Thus, the National Statistical System has been developing important collaborative work with the autonomous statistical institutes for the definition of indicators that help to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their areas of competence.

²³² Accessible [here](#)

On the other hand, the National Statistical System is collaborating with the Secretary of State for the 2030 Agenda in the definition of the set of indicators for monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. The first milestone of this project was the holding of the 2030 Agenda Indicators Workshop in December 2020, with the participation of the ministerial teams in charge of statistical production, as well as the focal points for the 2030 Agenda in each ministry. Subsequently, bilateral meetings have been held with different ministries to discuss the most appropriate indicators for monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy to form the set of national SDG indicators. These are presented in the following section.

Regarding the statistical work for the 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR), INE and the Ministry for Social Rights and for the 2030 Agenda have participated in the preparatory workshops for Spain's VNR convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In addition, the INE has prepared the statistical annex that will accompany the VNR based on the data available on the electronic platform. This annex compiles information on 146 indicators and 370 sub-indicators presented in the form of tables, graphs, and maps. They show the evolution of these sub-indicators since 2015. In addition, there is an annex with information on the impact of COVID 19 on demographic and economic statistics and population mobility. Both documents are included as Annex X.

Future work will include further exploration of data sources and the development of pilot projects to increase the availability and level of detail of global and national indicators.

Indicator Framework for Monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and Commitment to Accountability

Unlike other international declarations, one of the substantial aspects of the 2030 Agenda is that it has a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the progress made, recognising that measurement is a key aspect to identify positive trends, areas for improvement or needs for adjustments in the implementation of policies aligned to the SDGs and their targets. This monitoring mechanism is embodied in a global indicator framework that relies, among other things, on a sufficient disaggregation of data to be able to identify areas of action and groups that are lagging behind, thus transcending national averages.

This requires continuous efforts from the producers of official statistics, both in methodological areas and in the dissemination to society and transmission to the custodian agencies. The National Statistics Institute (INE) is Spain's representative in the workspaces established at the international level and the body in charge of coordinating the localisation and adaptation of the International Indicator Framework for the 2030 Agenda to the our country's context. This work has been carried out in collaboration

with the different ministries, as well as with the contribution of the regional statistical institutes, as described in detail in the previous section. A task whose challenges include the availability of information, its coverage and level of disaggregation, as well as the prospecting of new methodologies and sources capable of providing information that will make it possible to measure aspects and areas for which there is still no data with sufficient methodological robustness to inform and guide public actions or whose measurement may have room for improvement.

From this premise, the identification of the indicators that make up the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy Monitoring System is conceived as a process of work and continuous improvement, so that it can be enriched in the coming years with new sources of official statistical information whose preparation or adaptation is identified as necessary to cover potential gaps that currently exist in the measurement of aspects related to the established priorities, and may also cover aspects such as the level of disaggregation by sex and territory, as well as the seasonality of the available data. All in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations to give effect to the principle of leaving no one behind and adapting the Global Framework with indicators that are considered more relevant to our social, economic, and environmental context.

The Framework of Indicators for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Sustainable Development Strategy will serve as a reference for the drafting of an annual Progress Report to be prepared by the Government as a mechanism of accountability to all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including Citizenship. This report will also be presented in Parliament and discussed in the governance bodies for the 2030 Agenda. In addition, a comprehensive mid-term evaluation will be carried out in 2024 in order to assess the degree of compliance and to evaluate the need for adjustments and/or reorientation of the committed actions. Complementarily, the elements derived from the implementation of the Integrated Policy Coherence System for Sustainable Development that are relevant to strengthen the evaluation and accountability commitments of this Sustainable Development Strategy will be integrated. Finally, given the intergenerational nature of the 2030 Agenda, annual progress reports will be presented in the framework of the Council for Children's Participation.

The proposed indicators for measuring progress for each of the 8 accelerating policies for sustainable development are listed below.

ACCELERATING POLICY 1. The Social Transition. Redistribute Wealth and Guarantee Rights:

- » AROPE RATE - Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, broken down by sex, nationality, type of household, degree of urbanisation and Autonomous Community.

- » At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers.
- » Population at risk of persistent poverty.
- » Population at risk of relative poverty (threshold 40% and 70% of median income)
- » Child poverty rate (population aged 0-17)
- » Income distribution S80/S20.
- » GINI coefficient before and after social transfers.
- » Population with high expenditure on housing, broken down by age, nationality, household type and degree of urbanisation.
- » Evolution of the Rental Housing Price Index.
- » Population with inadequate dwelling temperature in winter by income decile and nationality.
- » Percentage of households whose energy expenditure relative to income is more than twice the national median.
- » Percentage of population in arrears in the payment of household utility bills.
- » Electricity prices for domestic consumers, before and after taxation.
- » Cultural participation. Percentage of people in a year.
- » Percentage of pupils in Pre-school and Primary Education centres with a school canteen allowance granted and the amount of such aid.
- » Ratio of degraded land to total land area.
- » Red List Index: 1. total, 2. amphibians, 3. birds, 4. invertebrates, 5. mammals, 6. fish, 7. non-vascular flora, 8. vascular flora, 9. Reptiles.
- » Proportion of sites important for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity included in protected areas, in: .1 cropland, .2 forest, .3 grassland, .4 other land, .5 settlements, .6 wetlands.
- » Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas.
- » Proportion of sites important for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity included in protected areas.
- » Population trends of common birds.
- » Area of forest as a proportion of total area.
- » Forest area with current sustainable forest management planning instrument in place in: .1 hectares, .2 %.
- » Annual average over the last decade of the proportion of forest area burned by forest fires as a proportion of total forest area.
- » Proportion of water bodies of good quality.
- » Degree of integrated water resources management
- » WEI+ exploitation rate
- » Annual average levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (weighted by population).
- » Spanish Circular Economy Strategy Indicators.

ACCELERATING POLICY 2. A Country that Respects the Limits of the Planet:

- » GHG emissions compared to 1990 (index 1990=100) and 2005 (index 2005=100) by sector.
- » GHG emissions from resident units per capita.
- » GHG emissions per GDP.
- » Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption.
- » Share of renewable energy in energy consumed in households.
- » Percentage penetration of renewables in electricity generation.
- » Percentage of energy dependence.
- » Population living in households with pollution and other environmental problems.
- » Annual number of heatwave days.
- » Meteorological drought.
- » Deaths due to excessive heat.
- » Primary energy consumed from renewable and indigenous energy.

ACCELERATING POLICY 3. Free and Equal Lives for All:

- » AROPE RATE—Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, broken down by sex.
- » Employment rates by age group and education levels. Gender gap.
- » Unemployment rate by age group and education levels. Gender gap.
- » Long-term unemployed by age group and sex.
- » Share of part-time and temporary contract workers by gender.
- » Men and women living in households with very low labour intensity by age group.
- » Inactive persons according to reasons for inactivity and age groups by sex.
- » Persons not seeking employment due to caring for dependants by reason, age group and sex.
- » Gender pay gap (not adjusted for individual characteristics) in hourly wage, age, and period.

- » Gender pay gap (not adjusted for individual characteristics) in hourly wages by nature of employer (public/private sector) and period.
- » Annual salary percentiles. Women's wages relative to men's by period.
- » Relative income of the elderly. Gender gap.
- » Percentage of female students in science and technology in bachillerato (post-compulsory secondary education).
- » Percentage of female students in university degrees linked to STEAM studies.
- » Percentage of female students in higher vocational training cycles linked to STEAM studies.
- » Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, broken down by sex, age and location.
- » Employed persons, average time spent on different activities, by sex.
- » Employed persons, care of dependent persons, by sex.
- » Proportion of women and girls aged 15 and over who have experienced physical, sexual, or psychological violence at the hands of a current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months, by form of violence and age.
- » Proportion of women and girls aged 15 and over who experienced sexual violence at the hands of a non-partner in the last 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.
- » Fatalities due to gender violence.
- » Proportion of seats held by women in a) national parliaments (Congress and Senate) and b) local governments (councils, mayors, and councillors).
- » Proportion of women in management positions, broken down by type of position: senior management, board members, entrepreneur women.
- » Proportion of the population reporting having felt personally discriminated against or harassed in the last 12 months on grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law, disaggregated by sex.
- » Evolution of hate crimes, by type of crime and sex.
- » Evolution of employment by productive sectors.
- » Total cultural employment as a percentage of total employment by gender.
- » Employment in high-and medium-high technology manufacturing sectors and knowledge-intensive service sectors.
- » Innovation intensity (expenditure Innovative act./turnover) x100.
- » Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP.
- » Number of researchers (full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants.
- » Information Society Indicators.
- » Area under organic farming.
- » Proportion of the total agricultural population with ownership rights or secure rights to agricultural land, disaggregated by sex. Registrations in Shared Ownership Holdings.
- » Percentage of women in cooperatives.
- » Percentage of women in management positions in cooperatives.
- » Proportion of local livestock breeds with reproductive material stored in medium to long term conservation facilities.
- » Number of phylogenetic resources stored in medium and long-term conservation facilities.
- » Ratio of degraded land to total land area. Evolution of water consumption by irrigated agriculture.
- » Proportion of groundwater stations reported with nitrate concentration below 50Mg NO₃.
- » Proportion of river stations reported with phosphate concentration below 0.20 mg P-PO₄/l.
- » Harmonised pesticide risk indicator.
- » Proportion of fish stocks whose levels are biologically sustainable.
- » Number of VMEs (Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) and new additions to VMEs compared to existing ones.
- » Food waste in large-scale retail (kg/litre evolution), recipe waste and unused products wasted.
- » Indicators of the environmental goods and services sector by economic activities (% GDP and % FTE Employment).
- » Number of eco-label licences.

ACCELERATING POLICY 4. A Green, Fair and Digital New Productive and Economic Model.

- » Evolution of contribution to GDP by productive sectors.
- » Percentage contribution to GDP of cultural activities, including intellectual property.
- » Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita.
- » Annual productivity growth rate.
- » Industry expenditure on environmental protection.

ACCELERATING POLICY 5. Quality and Stability of Employment:

- » Unemployment rate by age, sex, nationality, and Autonomous Community.

- » Households with low labour intensity.
- » Long-term unemployed by sex, age, nationality, and Autonomous Community.
- » Temporary employment rate by sex, age, nationality, and Autonomous Community.
- » Part-time employment rate by sex, age, and Autonomous Community.
- » Percentage of persons reporting involuntary part-time work by age and gender.
- » Evolution of gross annual salary by sex, type of working day and type of contract.
- » Share of wages in Gross National Income.
- » Share of GDP generated by labour income.

ACCELERATING POLICY 6. Strengthened Public Services for a Democratic and Resilient Welfare State:

- » Enrolment rate in the first cycle of pre-primary education by type of centre, sex, and Autonomous Community (0–2 years)
- » Enrolment rate in the first cycle of pre-primary education by household income quintile.
- » Enrolment rate in the second cycle of pre-primary education by type of school, sex, and Autonomous Community (3–5 years)
- » Suitability rates (Percentage of students enrolled in the course that theoretically corresponds to their age group) by sex and Autonomous Community.
- » Completion rate (primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education), by sex and Autonomous Community.
- » Early drop-out rate of 18–24-year-olds, by sex, nationality, educational level, and Autonomous Community.
- » Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases (rate per 100,000 population)
- » Surgical waiting lists
- » Unmet need for medical care.
- » Public spending on education, health, and social protection in relation to GDP.
- » Proportion of children aged 2–4 and 5–9 who are obese, overweight, or underweight.
- » Population with a perceived chronic disease or health problem by sex and social class based on the occupation of the reference person.
- » Assessment of perceived health status in the last 12 months according to level of education, social class, and sex.

- » Beneficiaries of the system for autonomy and care for dependant persons with benefits by sex, age, Autonomous Community, and degree of dependency.
- » Persons benefiting from the system for autonomy and care for dependant persons and pending receipt of benefits by sex, age, Autonomous Community, and degree of dependency.

ACCELERATING POLICY 7. International Leadership for a Fair, Sustainable, Equal, Democratic and Human Rights-Based Globalisation:

- » Total net Official Development Assistance.
- » Total gross Official Development Assistance.
- » Official Development Assistance as a percentage of Gross National Income.
- » ODA by sector.
- » ODA by recipient country.
- » Percentage of ODA allocated to Humanitarian Action.
- » Percentage of ODA allocated to OМУDES and OFIMУDES.
- » Percentage of ODA channelled through civil society organisations.
- » Percentage of ODA channelled through financial cooperation instruments.
- » Percentage of linked aid.
- » Extent of use of countries' own results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development co-operation.

ACCELERATING POLICY 8. Social and Territorial Cohesion. A Rural Environment with Equal Rights and Opportunities:

- » At-risk-of-poverty rate (DEGURBA variable)
- » Birth rate.
- » Evolution of the population according to the size of the municipality.
- » Average density by Autonomous Community
- » Evolution of the ageing index by sex.
- » Broadband coverage via the fixed telecom network by transmission speed.



GOBIERNO
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MINISTERIO
DE DERECHOS SOCIALES
Y AGENDA 2030

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO
PARA LA AGENDA 2030